

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Finance Committee Terms of Reference</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Finance Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>11 September 2025</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For decision</b>
<b>To be discussed In Committee YES/NO</b>	<b>No</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council has agreed policies and procedures and decision making is consistent with them.
Lead Officer	Chief Finance Officer

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES/NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>YES/NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>YES/NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	<del>Yes</del> /No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	<del>Yes</del> /No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	<del>Yes</del> /No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	<del>Yes</del> /No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	<del>Yes</del> /No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	<del>Yes</del> /No	Date:

## 1.1 Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council adopted the traditional committee system as its preferred form of governance and, at its Special Council Meeting in September 2019, decided to form a Finance Committee. This report sets out the Terms of Reference for that Committee. Part of the implementation of the extraordinary audit requires that these terms be reviewed annually, the last review occurred at the June 2024 committee.

## 1.2 Scope

The Finance Committee (“the Committee”) will be responsible for recommending to Council the key decisions and actions required to be taken specifically in relation to the work of the Finance function within Council. This will include:

### Finance

- Recommendations on financial policies and guidelines, overseeing financial management and control, and ensuring compliance with relevant regulations.
- Assess financial risks or concerns that may impact materially on the financial performance or position of Council
- Co-ordinating/Consider/Review the annual Rates Estimate setting process, including recommendation of an annual budget and Capital Plan to the February Council rates strike meeting;
- Monitor the Council’s financial performance and position against Plan and budget via Monthly review of the management accounts; to include a summary by service area of both Capital and Revenue income and expenditure, with commentary of positive or negative variances on budgets, and projected year-end position (after period 6);
- To implement and review a 4-year business plan and supporting financial plan and forecast
- Oversee and make appropriate recommendations to Council on matters pertaining to the:
  - a) Financial strategy and management;
  - b) Capital structure and funding;
  - c) Matters or business activities that may have a material impact on the Council’s financial position.

### Investment

- Recommend for approval the Council’s overall Investment strategy and Investment principles including the Investment Governance Framework, and Investment Policy.
- Monitor the governance, ~~and~~ management and performance of the Council’s investment portfolio. Consider changes to the Investment Strategy and make appropriate recommendations as required.
- Banking – Review banking arrangements/supervision of Council’s banking arrangements/ approve signatories on the Council’s Bank Accounts

## **Other**

- Setting key finance targets and monitoring their delivery, including efficiency and income generation;
- All capital and resource expenditure to be reviewed by the committee before going to full council

## **Procurement**

- To revise and manage the limits of authority on Officer spend;
- To consider and award contracts as required
- To investigate, review and set targets for efficiencies and income for each department.

## **Capital Structure and Funding**

- Recommend the annual limit of capital expenditure and reviewing debt/borrowing on a quarterly basis;
- To raise loans and other financial arrangements as required and subject to Full Council approval.
- Oversight of Council's treasury management;
- Seek external expertise as required;

## **Finance (Operations)**

- The future development of the organisational structure for the Finance Service;
- Approving and overseeing the delivery of any relevant service strategies for the Finance Service;
- Approving relevant policies and procedures for the Finance Service;
- Monitoring and reviewing business and service delivery plans for the Finance Service;
- To vire funds between budget allocations, except staff costs, and bring forward funds from reserves as necessary
- Approving the establishment of external partnerships where considered relevant to the Finance Service, including procurement of advice, review and investigation of Council finances, recommending efficiencies where appropriate;
- Approving and monitoring the implementation of any capital projects by the Finance Service, including related ICT systems;
- Approving and monitoring funding sources and mechanisms to assist with various initiatives, projects and actions within the remit of the Finance Service;
- Recommending to Council the resolution of any associated issues;
- Considering the resource implications of any recommendations;
- To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council;
- Require the attendance of any officers as required;

- Receive a rolling programme of finance related presentations from all service areas.

### **1.3 Membership**

The Committee is comprised of the sixteen Elected Members appointed to the Committee using the quota greatest remainder formula.

#### **Chair**

The Committee will be chaired according to the D'Hondt formula for positions of responsibility. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Committee will be chaired by the Deputy Chairperson. In the absence of the Deputy Chairperson, a chair for the meeting will be agreed by the Members present.

### **1.5 Meetings**

Meetings of the Committee will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

All meetings of the Committee will be governed by the Council's Standing Orders and the Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.

### **1.6 Communication and Reporting**

The Minutes of the Committee will be noted and confirmed at each meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council by the Chair of the Committee.

### **1.7 Review of Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference are to be reviewed after on an annual basis.

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that the Finance Committee approve the Terms of Reference as set out in this report.