

**FINANCE COMMITTEE (RATES ESTIMATES) MEETING HELD THURSDAY 22
JANUARY 2026**

No	Item	Summary of Key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	<i>Councillors Mairs and Wisener</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>	<i>N/A</i>
3.	Rates Estimates for 2026/2027	<i>To recommend that Council consider the rates estimates as presented and recommend the proposed budgets and associated district rate factors to the Rates Strike meeting on 12 February 2026.</i>	
4.	Any Other Relevant Business (notified in accordance with Standing Order 12 (0))	<i>Nil</i>	

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE (RATES ESTIMATES) HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE,
ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2026 AT 7.45PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Kyle (C)

Members Present: Alderman Callan (R), Coyle (C), Knight-McQuillan (C), Scott (C), Councillors Huggins (C), Kane (C), McQuillan (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Schenning (R)

Officers Present: D Jackson, Chief Executive (R)
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (C)
L Clyde, Financial Accountant (C)
J Culkin, Management Accountant (C)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

A Lennox, ICT Operations Manager (Interim) (C)
L Boyd, ICT Officer (C)

The Chief Finance Officer undertook a roll call.

The Chair advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillors Mairs and Wisener.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Huggins

Seconded by Councillor Kane and

AGREED – to recommend that Finance Committee move *'In Committee'*.

The information contained in the following items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

- * **The meeting moved ‘In Committee’ at 7:47pm**
- * **The Chief Executive joined the meeting remotely at 8:00pm, during consideration of the following item.**

3. RATES ESTIMATES FOR 2026/2027

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

Councils are required to consider their budgetary position annually and agree these budgets which are then converted into a domestic rating factor and non-domestic rating factor by 15 February annually.

Recommendations

It is further recommended that the Finance Committee consider the rates estimates as presented and recommend an agreed budget to the Rates Strike meeting on 12 February 2026

In response to questions the Chief Finance Officer explained decoupling in the rates setting process and stated that it would not be an option for this year's rates due to disparity. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed he would calculate the average increase for domestic rates and circulate this to Elected Members.

In response to questions regarding press coverage surrounding the rates strike the Chief Finance Officer advised that there will be a press release issued as in previous years.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that there is a link on the Department of Finance website regarding revaluation of business rates which can be used to obtain further information.

Proposed by Councillor Huggins
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

AGREED – to recommend that Council consider the rates estimates as presented and recommend the proposed budgets and associated district rate factors to the Rates Strike meeting on 12 February 2026.

4. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS (NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 12 (O))

There were no items of Any Other Relevant Business.

MOTION TO PROCEED '*IN PUBLIC*'

Proposed by Councillor Kane

Seconded by Alderman Scott and

AGREED – to recommend that Finance Committee move '*In Public*'

This being all the business, the Chair thanked Elected Members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8:09pm

Chair