

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022
RECONVENED ON THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

Table of Contents

No	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies	Councillors P McShane, Mulholland
2.	Declarations of Members' Interests	Nil
3.	Strike the Domestic and Non-Domestic Rate 2022-23	Increase of 3.49% with the required balance being applied using £1.258 million additional Rates Support Grant, plus Reserves of £0.5 million.
3.1	Corporate Policy & Resources Savings	
	(No. 1) ICT and Business Continuity	Approve
	(No. 2) Land and Property	Approve
	(No. 3) Policy & Community Planning	Approve
	(No. 4) Centrally Managed	Approve
3.2	Leisure & Development Savings	
	(No. 5) Apply a 6% increase to all ticket sales, room hire, course fees, commission etc for arts centres	Approve
	(No. 6) Implement Price increase in Sport and Community Facilities in line with an agreed RPI/CPI uplift on daily ticket/booking charges – indoor and outdoor, (circa 6%)	Approve
	(No. 7) Implement price realignment on Membership packages	Approve
	(No. 8) Town and Village Management – potential cut of 10% to programme delivery within the newly established Town Forums and place management interventions	Approve

	(No. 9) Spring Marketing Campaign	Approve
	(No. 10) Coast and Countryside Project Management Costs	Approve
	(No. 11) Do not recruit the Coast and Countryside Outdoor recreation Officer post	Approve
	(No. 12) Reduce expenditure in Foreshore and Beach Management Signage	Approve
	(No. 13) Rhythm of the Bann	Approve
	(No. 14) Easter Seasonal Events	Approve
	(No. 15) North West 200 Festival	Do not approve
3.3	Environmental Services Savings	
	(No. 16) Charge cost recovery for kitchen caddie bags	Do not approve
	(No. 17) Restructure Environmental Services Service Areas	Approve
	(No. 18) Resource Officer Reduction	Approve
	(No. 19) Increase commercial waste collection charges.	Approve Motion lost <i>(increase commercial waste collection charges by 15% and review on a regular basis)</i>
	(No. 20) Westbay, Ballycastle Marina, Waterside.	Do not approve (No.20) Motion lost <i>(approve saving for Westbay and Ballycastle Marina; do not approve saving for Waterside).</i>
	(No. 21) Increase car parking tariffs	Do not approve
	(No. 22) Additional Trading concessions	Approve
	(No. 23) Increase Harbour fees	Approve
	(No. 24) Reduce bedding plants and increase wildflower area	Approve
	(No. 25) Reduce Estates staff by not filling a number of vacant posts in 2022/23 by 10. Add back. Business Support Officer and Health and Safety Officers.	Approve
	(No. 26) Restructure Environmental Services Service Areas	Bring report to Environmental

		Services Committee on the proposed saving with more detailed discussion and employment law advice.
3.4	Further Environmental Services Savings	Move brown bin collections to 3-weekly, four months of the year; that staff are relocated during this period; as a trial for one year and to be evaluated.
(i)	Report of the Chief Financial Officer on the 2022/23 estimates	Information
(ii)	Report by Chief Financial Officer on the Reserve	Information
(iii)	Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement 2022-23	Approve the MRP statement 2022-23

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON
WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY AT 7:06PM,
RECONVENED ON THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.22PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Holmes (C)

Members Present : Alderman Baird (R), Boyle (C), Duddy (R), Fielding (R), Finlay (C), Hillis (C), Knight-McQuillan (R), McKeown (C), Robinson (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Beattie (R), Callan (R), Chivers (R), Dallat O'Driscoll (R), Hunter (R), McAuley (C), McCandless (C), McCaw (R), McCorkell (R), McGurk (R) MA McKillop (R), McLaughlin (R), McLean (C), McMullan (R), McQuillan (C), C McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (C), Schenning (R), Scott (C), Wallace (R), Watton (C) and Wilson (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Smyth, Director of Finance (Interim) (C)
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (R)
R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (R)
P Donaghy, Democratic & Central Services Manager (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

Officers In Attendance: J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing (R)
G Doyle, Head of Estates (R)
A Ruddy, Audit, Risk & Governance Manager (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
E Callaghan, Accountant (R)
A McAuley, PR Manager (R)

A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (R)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)
J Winfield, ICT Operations Manager (C)

Press (2 No) (R)

Key – C = Attended In The Chamber
R = Attended Remotely

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded; and with the remote meetings protocol.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillors P McShane and Mulholland.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. STRIKE THE DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC RATES 2022-23

Confidential report, previously circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members accept the recommendations and approve the budget to strike the domestic and non-domestic rate at 3.49%.

The Mayor sought clarification of the proposed savings, that Council may note or defer to Committees.

The Chief Executive clarified proposals were brought to Committees in December and January, and ideally Council would achieve a consensus, however it would be acceptable for the savings to come back to Committees over the coming month and urged Council to achieve savings as the preferred option of £1.53M.

In response to questions, the Chief Finance Officer clarified the cost of servicing the debt payment of loans and interest, an annual charge of £9.7M minimum revenue provision and interest. The Finance Director (Interim) advised of a projected underspend this year £1.5M at Period 9, projected an additional £0.5M potentially at year end.

Members debated the rate setting process, cognisant of a cost of living crises for rate payers, noting some of the savings proposals were not supported.

During debate, it was proposed by Councillor McGurk, seconded by Councillor McMullan; That a Working Group is set up over the next couple of days to meet with each Director and Head of Service, to go through a detailed analysis of proposed savings made, and to bring back the consensus to Council to agree a rate based on more detail.

The Mayor declared a recess at 7.32pm to meet with Group Leads.

*** The meeting reconvened at 7.49pm.**

The Chief Executive advised the meeting was quorate.

The Mayor provided options for Council to adjourn, he advised a Working Group could not make decisions, and would be required to bring recommendations back to Council, or, Council can move In Committee, and go through the proposed savings proposals line by line.

Councillor McGurk, in agreement with her seconder withdrew her proposal.

In response to questions in relation to Standing Orders, the Mayor clarified Council can set aside Standing Orders to move past 12midnight, and advised the Chief Executive had received Legal Opinion, in an event, the Council meeting may adjourn and reconvene to the following evening.

The Mayor advised Council may move 'In Committee' as there were staffing matters presented.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Hillis
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

AGREED- That Council move 'In Committee'.

- * **Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.05pm.**

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

The Mayor declared a recess at 8.05pm for five minutes.

- * **The meeting reconvened at 8.10pm.**

The Chief Executive advised the meeting was quorate.

AGREED – that the Mayor would put each proposed saving to Council to vote.

The Mayor observed there was no dissent.

The Finance Director (Interim) shared proposed savings proposals via Powerpoint presentation.

3.1 Corporate Policy and Resources Savings

The Director of Corporate Services responded in detail to queries surrounding the suggestions for savings.

Head of Service	Suggestions for Savings	£
(No. 1) ICT and Business Continuity	1 x agency member of staff being coded to COVID reserve from 1 April, and removing 1 x Agency cover for maternity.	99,992

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 1).

Head of Service	Suggestions for Savings	£
(No. 2) Land and Property.	Valuation reviews and Insurance, increase income by £5k.	5,000

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 2).

Head of Service	Suggestions for Savings	£
(No. 3) Policy & Community Planning	Community Planning reduce expenditure by £5k.	5,000

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 3).

Head of Service	Suggestions for Savings	£
(No. 4) Centrally Managed	Reduce mileage by £4k.	4,000

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 4).

The Director of Corporate Services agreed to further look at savings regarding reducing mileage.

3.2 Leisure and Development Savings

The Director of Leisure and Development responded in detail to queries surrounding the proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation.

Community and Culture

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 5) Apply a 6% increase to all ricket sales, room hire, course fees, commission etc for arts centres.	£7,000	<p>This increase is dependent on post-covid recovery as the arts service is currently rebuilding audiences and venue-based participation and hence levels of sales, uptake of course, appetite for toom fire are still negatively impacted.</p> <p>Ticket sales, workshop income and venue hire also impacted due to covid safety social distancing which may continue until 22/23. 4.5% does not apply to leases at this stage – to be reviewed in terms of least terms.</p>

The Mayor put the proposed saving to the Council to vote.

21 Members voted For; 13 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 5).

Sport and Wellbeing

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 6) Implement Price increase in Sport and Community Facilities in line with an agreed RPI/CPI uplift on daily ticket/booking charges – indoor & outdoor, (circa 6%).	£60,000	<p>Risk of discouraging users, especially If household bills are increasing and people tool to priorities recreational spend.</p> <p>Price increase would not include the Membership package for Gym/Swim/Classes. Proposal for this element is to maintain current charge and investigate other membership packages which may encourage increased take-up eg Family Membership.</p>

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 6).

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 7) Implement price realignment on Membership packages	£20,000	<p>Realignment on legacy membership may result in £5 increase per month for some individuals but the individual is gaining multi-site access.</p> <p>SWB has always aimed for harmonisation of prices across all sites. This will help complete that exercise.</p>

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 7).

Prosperity and Place

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 8) Town and Village Management – potential cut of 10% to programme delivery within the newly established Town Forums and place management interventions.	£9,914	Less town centre businesses supported. EG the retail development programme 20 places reduced to 15. Reduction in town Spend local promotion by 10%.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 8).

Tourism and Recreation

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 9) Spring Marketing Campaign	£25,000	Impact reduced in 2022 due NI/GB 'Staycation' Situation.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 9).

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 10) Coast and Countryside Project Management Costs	£5,000	Reduction in development activities and minimise maintenance requirements across the Coast and Countryside portfolio.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 10).

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 11) Do not recruit the Coast and Countryside Outdoor recreation Officer post	£45,000	Delay the development and outworking of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

The Mayor put the proposed saving to the Council to vote.

21 Members voted For; 11 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 11).

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 12) Reduce expenditure in Foreshore and Beach Management Signage	£5,000	Reduce planned activities to replace damaged and degraded threshold and interpretative signage across Council managed beaches. No safety implications.

The Mayor put the proposed saving to the Council to vote.

19 Members voted For; 15 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 12).

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 13) Rhythm of the Bann	£25,000	Removal of a Coleraine Town specific event, which is in the early stages of development.

The Mayor put the proposed saving to the Council to vote.

Councillor C McShane requested a Recorded Vote.

22 Members voted For; 11 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 13).

Recorded Vote Table (proposed saving no. 13)

For (22)	Alderman Baird, Boyle, Duddy, Fielding, Finlay, Hillis, Knight-McQuillan, McKeown, Robinson
	Councillors Callan, Holmes, Hunter, McAuley, McCandless, McCorkell, McLean, McQuillan, Quigley, Scott, Wallace, Watton, Wilson
Against (11)	Councillors Beattie, Chivers, Dallat O'Driscoll, McGurk, MA McKillop, McLaughlin, McMullan, C McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Schenning

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 14) Easter Seasonal Events	£16,050	Impact upon Town Centres economy, plus community detriment.

The Mayor put the saving to the Council to vote.

Councillor C McShane requested a Recorded Vote.

21 Members voted For; 12 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 14).

Recorded Vote Table (proposed saving no. 14)

For (21)	Alderman Baird, Boyle, Duddy, Fielding, Finlay, Hillis, Knight-McQuillan, McKeown, Robinson
	Councillors Callan, Holmes, Hunter, McAuley, McCandless, McCorkell, McLean, McQuillan, Scott, Wallace, Watton, Wilson
Against (12)	Councillors Bateson, Beattie, Chivers, Dallat O'Driscoll, McGurk, MA McKillop, McLaughlin, McMullan, C McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Schenning

Proposals for Cost Savings and Income Generation	Estimated Value	Implications
(No. 15) North West 200 Festival	£24,800	Remove of the animation that supports the NW200.

The Mayor put the proposed saving to the Council to vote.

Councillor Wilson requested a Recorded Vote.

2 Members voted For; 32 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.

RESOLVED – that Council do not approve the saving (no. 15).

Recorded Vote Table (proposed Saving No. 15)

For (2)	Alderman Baird, Boyle
Against (32)	Alderman Duddy, Fielding, Finlay, Hillis, Knight-McQuillan, McKeown, Robinson
	Councillors Anderson, Beattie, Callan, Chivers, Dallat O'Driscoll, Holmes, Hunter, McAuley, McCandless, McCorkell, McGurk, MA McKillop, McLaughlin, McLean, McMullan, McQuillan, C McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Quigley, Schenning, Scott, Wallace, Watton, Wilson

The Mayor invited Elected Members to put forward suggestions for savings to the Director of Leisure and Development.

Councillor Quigley sought clarification of the figures for the Air Show. The Director of Leisure and Development advised the outline net figure was £400,000 and provided further detail on grant, sponsorship and costs. In response to Councillor C McShane the Mayor advised further costs would be brought to the reconvened Council meeting.

The Director of Leisure and Development provided responses to Councillor Peacock's queries previously submitted surrounding individual budgets.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SAVINGS

The Director of Environmental Services responded in detail to queries surrounding the suggestions for savings.

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 16) Charge cost recovery for kitchen caddie bags.	Charge £1 per roll for caddie bags	80,000

The Mayor put the proposed saving to the Council to vote.

8 Members voted For; 25 Members voted Against; 1 member abstained

RESOLVED – that Council do not approve the saving (no. 16).

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 17) Restructure Environmental Services Service Areas.	Amendments to Operations Management Structure	35,000

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 17).

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 18) Resource Officer Reduction.	Do not replace vacant Resource Officer post	40,000

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 18).

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 19) Increase commercial waste collection charges.	Increase current costs by 6% (inflation).	22,800

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

– that Council increase commercial waste collection charges by 15% and review on a regular basis.

The Mayor put the proposal to the Council to vote.
 8 Members voted For; 21 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.
 The Mayor declared the motion lost.

The Mayor put proposed saving no. 19 to Council, increase current costs by 6% (inflation).

AGREED – that Council approve saving no. 19.

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 20) Westbay, Ballycastle Marina, Waterside.	Additional Car Park charges	185,520

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
 Seconded by Councillor Watton

- that Council approve the saving for Westbay and Ballycastle Marina;
 that Council do not approve the saving for Waterside.

Councillor Watton requested a Recorded Vote.

13 Members voted For; 17 Members voted Against; 0 members Abstained.
 The Mayor declared the motion lost.

Recorded Vote Table (proposed Saving No. 20, excluding Waterside)

For (13)	Alderman Duddy, Finlay, Knight-McQuillan, Robinson
	Councillors Anderson, Callan, McAuley, McCorkell, McLean, McQuillan, Scott, Wallace, Watton
Against (17)	Alderman Baird, Hillis, McKeown
	Councillors Bateson, Chivers, Dallat O'Driscoll, Holmes, Hunter, McCandless, McGurk, MA McKillop, McLaughlin, C McShane, Peacock, Quigley, Schenning, Wilson

The Mayor put proposed saving, no. 20, to the Council to vote, Westbay, Ballycastle Marina and Waterside Additional Car Park Charges.
 The Mayor advised Members had requested a Recorded Vote.
 The Mayor declared Council voted unanimously against.

RESOLVED- that Council do not approve saving no. 20.

Recorded Vote Table (proposed Saving No. 20)

Against (unanimous)	Alderman Baird, Duddy, Finlay, Hillis, Knight-McQuillan, McKeown, Robinson
----------------------------	--

	Councillors Anderson, Bateson, Callan, Chivers, Dallat O'Driscoll, Holmes, Hunter, McAuley, McCandless, McCaw, McCorkell, McGurk, MA McKillop, McLaughlin, McLean, McQuillan, C McShane, Peacock, Quigley, Schenning, Scott, Wallace, Watton, Wilson
--	--

The Mayor advised under Standing Order 16.2 and nearing the time of midnight, the meeting would adjourn.

The Mayor requested Elected Members submit proposed savings to the Directors, in order that information would be brought to the reconvened Council meeting.

Members put forward suggestions for savings to the Director of Environmental Services.

Proposed by Alderman Hillis
Seconded by Councillor Watton

- that Council move '*In Public*'.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McCandless and

AGREED – that the Council meeting adjourn and reconvene to the following evening at 7.15pm, with the view the Finance Committee scheduled for that evening opens, adjourns, and reconvenes to a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 11.46pm.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE RECONVENED MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7:22PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Holmes (C)

Members Present : Alderman Baird (R), Boyle (C), Duddy (R), Finlay (C), Fielding (R), Hillis (C), Knight-McQuillan (R), McKeown (R), Robinson (C);

Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Beattie (R), Callan (R), Chivers (R), Dallat O'Driscoll (R), Hunter (R), McAuley (C), McCandless (C), McCaw (C), McCorkell (R), McGurk (R) MA McKillop (R), McLaughlin (R), McLean (C), McMullan (R), McQuillan (C), C McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (R), Schenning (R), Scott (C), Wallace (C), Watton (C) and Wilson (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Smyth, Director of Finance (Interim) (C)
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (R)
R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
P Donaghy, Democratic & Central Services Manager (R)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

Officers In Attendance J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing (R)
G Doyle, Head of Estates (R)
A Ruddy, Audit, Risk & Governance Manager (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
J Culkin, Management Accountant (R)
E Callaghan, Accountant (R)
A McAuley, PR Manager (R)

A Lennox, Mobile Operations officer (R)
C Ballentine, ICT Officer (C)
J Winfield, ICT Operations Manager (C)

In Attendance: Press (1no.) (R)
Public (1no.) (R)

Key – C = Attended In The Chamber

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded; and with the remote meetings protocol.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman S McKillop, Councillors P McShane and Mulholland.

Proposed by Councillor Scott
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

AGREED – that Council move ‘In Committee’.

- * **Press and Public were disconnected from the meeting at 7.29pm.**
- * ***The information contained in the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014***

The Finance Director (Interim) shared proposed savings proposals via Powerpoint presentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SAVINGS (continued)

The Director of Environmental Services responded in detail to queries surrounding the suggestions for savings.

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 21) Increase car parking tariffs.	Option 1 – Increase all tariffs by 10p - £229K; Option 2 – Charge all car parks at 50p - £156k; Option 3 – Minimum charge of 50p except those over 50p remain same; The Mall, Abbey Street & Portrush Harbour - £241k	241,064

AGREED – that Council do not approve the saving (no. 21).

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 22) Additional Trading concessions.	New trading concession proposed for Portrush, Lansdowne Car Park, Portrush, Christie park, Coleraine, Atlantic Circle Portstewart, Garvagh Forest	8,500

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 22).

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 23) Increase harbour fees	Increase by inflation (6%)	20,000

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 23).

The Director of Environmental Services advised a report would be brought back to the Environmental Services Committee on slipway fees.

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 24) Reduce bedding plants and increase wildflower area.	Balance with traditional planting	12,000

The Mayor put the saving to Council to vote.

24 Members voted For; 12 Members voted against; 0 Members Abstained.

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 24).

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 25) Reduce Estates staff by not filling a number of vacant posts in 2022/23 by 10. Add back Business Support Officer and Health and Safety Officers.	Reduce number of Estates posts in 2022/23 by 10.	279,000

AGREED – that Council approve the saving (no. 25).

Objective	Key actions	£
(No. 26) (Objective) Restructure Environmental Services Service Areas; (Key Action) Merge functions of Estates &	Merge functions of Estates & Infrastructure into single Service Area	60,000

Infrastructure into single Services Area. (£60,000		
--	--	--

The Mayor declared a recess at 8.55pm.

* **The meeting reconvened at 9.01PM.**

The Chief Executive advised the meeting was quorate.

AGREED – that Council bring a report on the proposed saving no. 26 to the Environmental Services Committee, with more detailed discussion and employment law advice.

The Director of Corporate Services advised of possible further savings, however, felt they were not beneficial.

The Director of Leisure and Development provided a summary of the detail of proposed savings submitted by Elected Members concerning the Leisure and Development directorate.

The Director of Leisure and Development detailed the cost of the animation at the NW200 and Air Show, advising a Letter of Offer was expected regarding funding.

3.4 Further Environmental Services Savings

Proposed by Councillor Watton
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – that Council move brown bin collections to 3-weekly, four months of the year; that staff are relocated during this period; as a trial for one year and to be evaluated.

The Chief Executive provided a summary of the current position. He stated pressures of £2,542,147, that Council had made agreed savings of £784,492, the Chief Executive proposed a Reserve of £500,000 to off set large events expenditure discussed, and suggested using the Rates Support Grant of £1,257,655 from the £1.33M to strike at 3.49%. The Chief Executive advised useable Reserves at the year end forecast to be in excess of £20M, improved and robust.

Members debated application of the Reserve and some Members stated they were unaware of the Rates Support Grant top up. The Finance Director (Interim) clarified the Rates Support Grant was within the information supplied at the Rates workshops.

The Mayor declared a recess at 10.34pm.

* **The meeting reconvened at 10.50pm.**

The Chief Executive advised the meeting was quorate.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor McLean and

AGREED – that Council move ‘*In Public*’.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive clarified decisions made the previous evening would require a rescission motion to be considered again, and clarified arrangements in the event of a further adjournment and in the event of not setting a rate.

The Mayor declared a recess at 11.12pm to meet with Group Leads.

* **The meeting reconvened at 11.35pm.**

The Chief Executive advised the meeting was quorate.

Proposed by Councillor McCandless

Seconded by Councillor Watton

AGREED– that having reached a consensus with the DUP, UUP, Alliance Party, PUP and Councillor McCorkell, we propose a Rates increase of 3.49% (Domestic and Non-Domestic Rate 2022-‘23), with the required balance being applied using £1.258 million additional Rates Support Grant, plus Reserves of £0.5 million.

Councillor McGurk stated broad support of a 3.49% increase and application of the Rates Support Grant, advised she could not support £0.5M from Reserves to fund one event not broadly support across the Council area and not costed to date.

22 Members voted For; 11 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

(i) CE Report on Estimates

Confidential report, previously circulated.

Purpose of the report

To provide Members with an update in relation to the robustness of the 2022/23 Rate estimates.

Background

This report is prepared to facilitate Council’s duty under Section 4 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 which states:

(1) The chief financial officer of a council shall submit to the council a report on the robustness of the estimates.

(2) A council shall have regard to that report when considering the estimates under section 3(2)(a).

(3) In this section “the estimates” means the estimates submitted to the council under section 3(1).

(i) Report of the Chief Financial Officer on the 2022/23 estimates

Confidential report, previously circulated.

(ii) Report by Chief Financial Officer on the Reserves

Confidential report, previously circulated.

(iii) Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement 2022-23

Confidential report, previously circulated.

Recommendation

Members are asked to review the policy detailed in Appendix 1 (circulated) and approve the statement.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

AGREED – that Council review the policy detailed in Appendix 1 (circulated) and approve the statement.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 11.44pm.

Mayor