

**CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024**

No	Item	Summary of Key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>Councillor Wallace</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Alderman Callan Councillor Archibald</i>
3.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 28 November 2023	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
4.	Minute of Coronation Sub-Committee meeting held 28 th November 2023	<i>To recommend that Council adopt the minutes of the Coronation Sub-Committee meeting held 28 November 2023 and recommendations therein approved</i>
5.	Minute of Coronation Sub-Committee meeting held 5 th December 2023	<i>To recommend that Council adopt the minutes of the Coronation Sub-Committee meeting held 5 December 2023 and recommendations therein approved</i>
6.	Freedom of The Borough Report	<i>to recommend to Council that the event is held on Friday 19th April and that the format for the event is as outlined in Option 3</i>
7.	Timetable of Meetings April 2024-March 2025 inclusive	<i>to recommend that Council shall hold its Annual Meeting on Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.00pm; that Council approve the scheduling of the 2025 Rates Meeting on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7pm and hold Thursday 13th February</i>

		2025 at 7pm in the event of any adjournment; that Council approve the Timetable of Meetings Schedule, April 2024-March 2025 inclusive, attached as Appendix I.
8.	Consultation Response - LGSC Trans Equality Policy	<p>to recommend that Council responds to the LGCS consultation on its Trans Equality Policy, raising the following three points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for elected representatives should be included in the policy. - The policy should include guidance on the process for social transitioning and informal approaches. - LGSC should be asked whether the 2021 research carried out by Queen's University Belfast at the request of the Finance Minister, was taken into consideration when drafting the policy.
9.	Conferences	Noted
10.	Consultation - Correspondence on Consultation Water and sewerage charges – options for revenue raising referred from Council Meeting held Tuesday 9 January 2024	to recommend that Council responds to the Department for Infrastructure's consultation indicating the Council's opposition to the imposition of water and sewerage charges.
11.	Matters for Reporting to the Partnership Panel	None
12.	Notice of Motion proposed by Proposed Councillor Peacock, Seconded by Councillor Bateson referred from Council Meeting 7 November 2023 (abbrev) (Middle East conflict)	to recommend that this Council stresses that there is no justification for the targeted killing of civilians, the use of civilians as human shields, or the taking of civilian hostages, all of whom must be urgently released. Further, we recognise that Hamas is a

		<p><i>proscribed organisation in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the European Union and the United States. Therefore we support Israel's right to defend itself and its population from acts of international terrorism and to pursue the release of innocent civilian hostages through military action that is proportionate and lawful. There is also no moral equivalence between the brutal and indiscriminate actions of Hamas and those taken by the Israel Defence Forces to root out those responsible. As a Council we deeply regret the loss of all innocent life in this and previous conflicts in the Middle East. We support humanitarian corridors for those civilians in Gaza who are in desperate need of basic supplies and medical treatment. This Council believes there is a duty incumbent on all parties and political representative in Northern Ireland to act in a responsible way, disavow the promotion of violence and take a clear stand on antisemitism.</i></p>
13.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Kyle, Seconded by Councillor Jonathan McAuley referred from Council Meeting 12 December 2013 (abbrev) (memorial to Queen Elizabeth II)	<i>to recommend that the Notice of Motion is referred to the Coronation Sub-Committee.</i>
	<i>'In Committee' (Items 14-20 inclusive)</i>	
14.	Harbour Commissioners	<p><i>to recommend that Council approve the recommendation of the Harbour Commissioners Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• to appoint Mr R. Skelly as Chair for a 2-year period; and</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>to appoint Mr J. Blaney as Vice Chair for a further 2-year period.</i>
15.	Business Case for Permanent Planning Staff	<i>to recommend that Council considers the report and resolves to agree Option 1: recruit 1no. Development Management Manager, 1no. Senior Planning Officer and 2no. Planning officers on a permanent basis.</i>
16.	Population of the Organisation Structure	<i>Noted</i>
17.	Corporate Services Management Accounts Month 8	<i>Noted</i>
18.	Minutes of the Land and Property Sub Committee meeting held Wednesday 10 January 2024	<i>To recommend that Council adopt the Minutes of the Land and Property Sub Committee meeting held Wednesday 10 January 2024 and recommendations therein approved</i>
19.	Transformation Plan – Implementation Oversight Panel	<p><i>To recommend that:</i></p> <p><i>Council notes the nominations to the Implementation Oversight Panel and the request from the Permanent Secretary to meet with the Mayor and Chair of the Implementation Oversight Panel.</i></p> <p><i>Council notes the methodology to progress and keep track of the Transformation Programme recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>Council approves, the Terms of Reference for the Transformation Programme Working Group and Transformation Programme Steering Group.</i></p> <p><i>Council notes the timescale and methodology for the completion of the Organisational Health Check.</i></p>

		<p><i>Council agrees the funding mechanism to finance any expenditure associated with the implementation of the Transformation Programme via the Reorganisation Reserve, and regular updates will be provided to the Implementation Oversight Panel on expenditure.</i></p> <p><i>Audit Committee is provided with quarterly progress and assurance reports on the Transformation Programme by the Independent Advisor.</i></p>
20.	Transformation Programme - Records Management and Information Management Procedures	<i>to recommend that Council approves the Transformation Programme – Record Keeping and Information Management Procedures and the actions contained therein.</i>
21.	Any Other Relevant Business (notified in accordance with Standing Order 12(o))	<i>None</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
CORPORATE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HEADQUARTERS,
AND VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024
AT 7.00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Nicholl (C)

Present: Alderman Boyle (C), Callan (C), Coyle (C), Fielding (C),
Knight-McQuillan (C)
Councillors C Archibald (C), Huggins (C), Jonathan McAuley
(C), McCully (C), McShane (R), Peacock (R), Storey (C),
Watson (R), Watton (C), Wilson (R)

**Non-Committee
Members in**

Attendance: Alderman Stewart (R), Councillor Kyle (R)

Officers Present: M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (C)
P Donaghy, Democratic and Central Services Manager (R)
D Dickson, Head of Planning (R)
U Harper, Committee and Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)

Press 1 no. (R) Public 2 no. (R)

Key: (C) Attended in the Chamber
(R) Attended Remotely

Substitutions: Alderman Callan substituted for Councillor Wallace.

The Director of Corporate Services undertook a roll call.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Wallace.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Alderman Callan declared an Interest on Agenda Item 14, Harbour Commissioners. Having declared an interest, Alderman Callan left the Chamber and did not participate in the Item.

Councillor C Archibald declared an Interest on Agenda Item 14, Harbour Commissioners. Having declared an interest, Councillor C Archibald left the Chamber and did not participate in the Item.

3. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023

AGREED – to recommend that the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 28 November 2023 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. MINUTE OF CORONATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 28TH NOVEMBER 2023

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that the Minutes of Coronation Sub-Committee meeting held 28th November 2023 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

5. MINUTE OF CORONATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5TH DECEMBER 2023

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that the Minutes of Coronation Sub-Committee meeting held 5th December 2023 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

6. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH REPORT

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on arrangements for the Freedom of the Borough to be conferred on health and care workers and to seek approval for the arrangements.

Background

The Notice of Motion below was agreed at a Special Council meeting on 30th October:

“This Council awards the Freedom of the Borough to all health and care workers who have and continue to provide selfless, dedicated and high-quality lifesaving care to patients and family members in NHS facilities, community settings and households across Causeway Coast and Glens Borough.”

In agreeing the motion, Council has asked that a cross section of the Trust workforce is represented at any such event including medical, nursing, auxiliary, administrative, domestic and domiciliary staff.

A letter to this effect has been issued to the Chief Executive of the Northern and Western Trusts and both Trusts have confirmed their willingness to

ensure that a cross section of staff from across the Trust are represented at the event.

Proposal

There have been six Freedom of the Borough ceremonies held since 2015. All of the events have been hosted at Cloonavin with the exception of the Royal Portrush Golf Club event in 2021, which was held in the golf club in order to comply with COVID restrictions, and the RAF event in 2022 which was held in Roe Valley Arts Centre given the RAF's association with Limavady and Ballykelly.

The recommended date for the event is Friday 19th April in one of the formats outlined below:

	Location	No of Guests				Comments
		Council	NHSCT	WHSCT	Total	
Option 1 (Approx £6,500)	Council Chamber/ Bann Gallery	40	30	15	85	Ceremony in Council Chamber followed by a seated civic lunch in the Bann Gallery.
Option 2 (Approx £5,750)	Bann Gallery	40	75	35	150	Ceremony in the Bann Gallery, theatre style seating, refreshments in the Bann View/Large Committee Room while the Bann Gallery is reset for a canape reception.
Option 3 (Approx £6,500)	Coleraine Town Hall	40	100	60	200	Ceremony on the stage of the Main Hall, theatre style seating for guests, refreshments in the Council Chamber while the Main Hall is reset for a canape reception.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the event is held on Friday 19th April and that the format for the event is as outlined in Option 3.

Alderman Callan stated that this event is an opportunity to celebrate the vital work of health workers during the Covid period and since then.

In response to a question from Alderman Knight-McQuillan, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the Council is working with representatives of the Northern and Western Health Trusts to ensure that the event has representation from all roles.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that the event is held on Friday 19th April and that the format for the event is as outlined in Option 3.

* **Councillor Watton joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.09pm**

7. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS APRIL 2024-MARCH 2025 INCLUSIVE

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present the Schedule of Council, Committee and Sub Committee Meetings April 2024 – March 2025 inclusive, for Council decision.

Background

The day and frequency of Council, Committee and Sub Committee meetings each month previously agreed, is presented as follows:

- Council Meeting – 1st Tuesday at 7pm;¹
- Land and Property Sub Committee – 1st Wednesday at 7pm;
- Environmental Service Committee – 2nd Tuesday at 7pm;
- Audit Committee - Quarterly on 2nd Wednesday at 7pm;²
- Finance Committee – 2nd Thursday at 7pm;
- Leisure and Development Committee – 3rd Tuesday at 7pm;
- Corporate Policy and Resources Committee – 4th Tuesday at 7pm;
- Planning Committee (with full Council powers) – 4th Wednesday at 10.30am;

The Annual Meeting 2024

In accordance with Council's Standing Orders, 1 (1) *In every year that is not a local election year the Council shall hold an Annual Meeting in the month of June.*

It is proposed that Council shall hold its Annual Meeting on **Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.00pm.**

Rate Strike Meeting 2025

Councils are legally required to strike the rate no later than 15th February each year.

It is proposed that Council shall hold its Rate Strike Meeting on **Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7pm.** It is further proposed that Council shall hold Thursday 13th February 2025 at 7pm, in the event of allowing time for any potential adjournment and enable Council to strike within the appointed timeframe.

Proposed Schedule of Council, Committee and Sub Committee Meetings April 2024 – March 2025 inclusive

¹ Convene a Special Council Meeting annually following the September Audit meeting (Ref AC 220309 / CM 220405).

² September Audit Committee meeting is permanently changed from Wednesday Week 2 to Wednesday Week 3 to facilitate Audit deadlines (Ref AC 220309 / CM 220405).

The proposed Timetable of Meetings Schedule (attached Appendix I) has been presented taking into account the Annual July recess³ and key public holiday periods. Rescheduled meeting dates/times have been presented throughout for Council decision, where appropriate.

Planning Committee

In accordance with Council's Standing Orders, Protocol for The Operation of the Planning Committee, Annex D, 4.1, "*No meeting will take place in the month of July*". Note there was no Planning Committee meeting scheduled in December 2023, therefore there is no Planning meeting proposed to be scheduled in December 2024.

Corporate Policy and Resources Committee / Land and Property Sub Committee

Note Corporate, Policy and Resources Committee meetings are not scheduled during December, therefore there is no Land and Property Sub Committee meeting proposed to be scheduled.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Corporate Policy and Resources consider that Council shall hold its Annual Meeting on Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.00pm; that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee consider scheduling the 2025 Rates Meeting on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7pm and hold Thursday 13th February 2025 at 7pm in the event of any adjournment; that Corporate Policy and Resources consider the Timetable of Meetings Schedule, April 2024-March 2025 inclusive, attached as Appendix I (previously circulated).

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

AGREED – to recommend that Council shall hold its Annual Meeting on Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.00pm; that Council approve the scheduling of the 2025 Rates Meeting on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7pm and hold Thursday 13th February 2025 at 7pm in the event of any adjournment; that Council approve the Timetable of Meetings Schedule, April 2024-March 2025 inclusive, attached as Appendix I.

8. CONSULTATION RESPONSE - LGSC TRANS EQUALITY POLICY

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

³ Council extend its Committee meeting recess from July 2022 to include August 2022, that Council does schedule its Council Meeting and Planning Committee in August 2022 (Ref CM 211005).

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with the opportunity to formulate a response to the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Trans Equality Policy.

Background

Following CPR Committee meeting on 28th November 2023, Council resolved:

“To recommend to Council that the Director of Corporate Services request an extension to the deadline of 19th January 2024 in order to allow the Committee to fully consider the consultation”

LGSC confirmed that the consultation period and invite for feedback period on the Trans Equality Policy has been extended until COB Tuesday 13th February 2024.

Further Information

Appendix 2 (previously circulated) provides details of the ODHR response to the consultation, previously submitted.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, in line with the decision of Council on 5th December 2023, *consider the consultation to facilitate further discussion and to formulate a response.*

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that the LGSC policy, when agreed, will be provided to Councils as a model policy, and it will be up to individual Councils to then decide whether they wish to adopt it.

Councillor McShane stated that, as diversity champion for the Council, she welcomed the policy. She raised three points that she felt should be included in a response from Council:

- Training for elected representatives should be included in the policy.
- The policy should include guidance on the process for social transitioning and informal approaches.
- LGSC should be asked whether the 2021 research carried out by Queen’s University Belfast at the request of the Finance Minister, was taken into consideration when drafting the policy.

There was a discussion between Committee Members regarding aspects of the policy and Council’s duties with regard to such a policy, and whether Members would wish to respond on an individual or party basis, rather than submitting a corporate response.

Proposed by Councillor McShane
Seconded by Councillor C Archibald

- to recommend that Council responds to the LGCS consultation on its Trans Equality Policy, raising the following three points:

- Training for elected representatives should be included in the policy.

- The policy should include guidance on the process for social transitioning and informal approaches.
- LGSC should be asked whether the 2021 research carried out by Queen’s University Belfast at the request of the Finance Minister, was taken into consideration when drafting the policy.

Councillor McShane requested a Recorded vote.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to Vote.

8 Members voted For; 8 Members voted Against.

As the Chair had the casting vote, the Chair declared the Proposal passed.

Recorded Vote Table

For (8)	Alderman Boyle, Coyle
	Councillors C Archibald, McCully, McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Watson
Against (8)	Alderman Callan, Fielding, Knight-McQuillan,
	Councillors Huggins, Jonathan McAuley, Storey, Watton, Wilson.

9. CONFERENCES

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to inform Elected Members of conferences and courses they may wish to attend.

Background

Please see below changes to the NILGA Regional Programme:

- Employment Issues, Recruitment/Selection and Negotiation with Trade Unions has been postponed to 17 April 2024 12-2pm (from 11 January 2024)
- Economic Development and the Role of Councillors originally scheduled for 17 April 2024 is no longer taking place.

Hosted by NILGA with support from the LGTG (Local Government Training Group), these FREE events are open to all Elected Members.

Interested members should contact Fiona Douglas: f.douglas@nilga.org

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the Conference report.

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the report.

10. CONSULTATION - CORRESPONDENCE ON CONSULTATION WATER AND SEWERAGE CHARGES

Consultation Schedule, previously circulated, was presented by the Chair.

Following a discussion by the Committee, it was agreed that Members felt it was important for the Committee to respond stating the Council's opposition to the imposition of water and sewerage charges. Members noted that such costs are already paid via rates, and also stated that there is a need for investment in water and sewerage infrastructure.

AGREED – that Council responds to the Department for Infrastructure's consultation indicating the Council's opposition to the imposition of water and sewerage charges.

11. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY PROPOSED COUNCILLOR PEACOCK, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BATESON

"This council condemns all attacks and suffering inflicted against civilians in the Middle East. We recognise that there is no justification for the killing of civilians or the taking of civilian hostages who must be urgently released. All acts of violence must end immediately.

I propose that this council condemns the killing that has taken place on all sides, and that we call for a full and immediate ceasefires, the opening of a humanitarian corridor into Gaza; and, full adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law; an international intervention with leadership brought to bear in securing dialogue, a lasting peace, and a long-term solution that ends this crisis"

The Chair invited Councillor Peacock to speak on the Notice of Motion as follows:-

"The people of the world are witnessing a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Israel has unleashed the weight of its military might upon a beleaguered refugee population. It rains its arsenal of missiles down upon 2 million impoverished people, hemmed into an area only 25 miles long. With only part of one hospital left in the entire area and as children drink unsanitised water in a desperate attempt to survive, more than 26,000 people have perished in the last 3 months.

Our hearts break for the loss of Israeli lives on that fateful night of October 7th as scenes of horror were witnessed around the world. This has been rightly and roundly fully condemned. We say: release the hostages. But we must remember that the Israeli offences against Palestine predate that fateful night of horrific loss.

The truth is that the people of Palestine, just like the innocent people of Israel, do not need the International Community to tell them that their leaders have the right to inflict more bombings, more pain and more suffering.

They need the International Community to say stop. Release the hostages, to say stop the bombings, stop the siege and stop the slaughter.

I am contacted daily by constituents who are horrified, traumatised, by what they are seeing on their TV screens day and daily, feeling helpless, and reaching out to us as their only currently functioning political chamber to reflect their horror and speak out. I know that there are people in this chamber I have already heard it, that will say that this issue is not relevant to us here in Causeway Coast and Glens but tell that to the hundreds of constituents who look to us as political leaders and expect us to reflect their horror. We are human beings and having a view on such human suffering and depravity is as relevant here as it is anywhere.

Our people here have known conflict and suffering. We have known war, and we now know peace.

We still work to this day to reconcile, heal divisions and bring people together. It is for this reason that our people champion peace building around the world.

As the people of Gaza cling to their very existence, the leadership of the international community, which includes us as political representatives here in this very chamber, must now resurrect the values that they claim to hold dear.

With one voice, we must call for immediate, full and lasting ceasefires. Unified, we must call on Israel to end its bombardment of Gaza and stop the indiscriminate slaughter, and we must call on Hamas to release every single hostage.

Together, with one voice, we must assert the primacy of international law and dialogue as the only basis for a just resolution and a foundation for a lasting and transformational peace. We cannot allow the rule book to be thrown out the window.

This is the only way that the children of Gaza, of Tel Aviv and beyond will see the future they deserve, free of conflict, free of hatred, leading a life of peace as full and equal citizens. I trust that tonight we can come together as human beings and call for an end to all suffering inflicted in the middle east. To call for peace and lasting peace. Peace is not confrontational; peace is calling for all sides to put a stop to the madness. That is the aim of this motion this evening; a unified voice for peace. I trust that, as colleagues, you will support this motion.”

Councillor C Archibald seconded the motion.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor McCully

- To recommend that this council condemns all attacks and suffering inflicted against civilians in the Middle East, expresses its horror at Israel's collective punishment of Palestinians in Gaza, and in recognising the International Court of Justice's interim ruling, calls for an immediate, permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the opening of a sustained humanitarian corridor into Gaza; and full adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law; and an international intervention with leadership brought to bear in securing dialogue, a lasting peace and a just political agreement that ends the devastating cycle of violence in the region.

Councillor Peacock stated that she was content to accept Alderman Boyle's amendment into the substantive motion. Alderman Boyle and her seconder, Councillor McCully agreed.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Fielding
Seconded by Alderman Callan

- To recommend that this Council stresses that there is no justification for the targeted killing of civilians, the use of civilians as human shields, or the taking of civilian hostages, all of whom must be urgently released. Further, we recognise that Hamas is a proscribed organisation in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the European Union and the United States. Therefore we support Israel's right to defend itself and its population from acts of international terrorism and to pursue the release of innocent civilian hostages through military action that is proportionate and lawful. There is also no moral equivalence between the brutal and indiscriminate actions of Hamas and those taken by the Israel Defence Forces to root out those responsible. As a Council we deeply regret the loss of all innocent life in this and previous conflicts in the Middle East. We support humanitarian corridors for those civilians in Gaza who are in desperate need of basic supplies and medical treatment. This Council believes there is a duty incumbent on all parties and political representative in Northern Ireland to act in a responsible way, disavow the promotion of violence and take a clear stand on antisemitism.

A discussion ensued during which Members expressed their collective horror at the events in the Middle East since the 7 October attacks and their opposition to the murder of children and civilians. Members reflected on how residents in the Causeway Coast and Glens area wished to express their distress at the reports of violence from the Middle East. Councillor Wilson clearly stated his opposition to the violence but questioned the impact of the motion on the conflict. Alderman Fielding stated that there is a duty incumbent on all parties to condemn the growth in antisemitism. Alderman Coyle noted the increase in flags going up here in response to the conflict. Councillor Storey highlighted the wider impact of the conflict.

The Chair put the amendment proposed by Alderman Fielding, seconded by Alderman Callan to the Committee to vote.

7 Members voted For; 5 Members voted Against; 4 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the amended motion carried.

AGREED – to recommend that this Council stresses that there is no justification for the targeted killing of civilians, the use of civilians as human shields, or the taking of civilian hostages, all of whom must be urgently released. Further, we recognise that Hamas is a proscribed organisation in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the European Union and the United States. Therefore we support Israel's right to defend itself and its population from acts of international terrorism and to pursue the release of innocent civilian hostages through military action that is proportionate and lawful. There is also no moral equivalence between the brutal and indiscriminate actions of Hamas and those taken by the Israel Defence Forces to root out those responsible. As a Council we deeply regret the loss of all innocent life in this and previous conflicts in the Middle East. We support humanitarian corridors for those civilians in Gaza who are in desperate need of basic supplies and medical treatment. This Council believes there is a duty incumbent on all parties and political representative in Northern Ireland to act in a responsible way, disavow the promotion of violence and take a clear stand on antisemitism.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR KYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MCAULEY

"That Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council recognises the exemplary 70 years of service rendered by the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as the United Kingdom's longest reigning monarch.

We are also very proud that the Late Monarch visited our Borough 5 times between 1953 and 2016, in which she included the unveiling of the sergeant Robert Quigg VC statue in Bushmills, within my own constituency, which was to be her last visit.

In recognition of her shining example of exemplary selfless service, we the undersigned propose that a substantial permanent memorial be commissioned and located within the Borough and be in situ before or during 2026. We believe that the memorial should depict Queen Elizabeth II during her coronation and that ideally it would be located in a prominent and visible location.

We further propose that officers prepare a report, taking this matter forward, to include options for design, location, consultation with appropriate groups and identification of a suitable budget as part of the estimates process.

This Statue will be a fitting tribute by the people of the Borough to the late Monarch, whose service to our country may never be matched again"

Councillor Kyle noted that he was aware that a Notice of Motion was passed in the last mandate to form a committee to look into commemorations for the late Monarch and that the subcommittee was recently reconvened, but stated that

he was advised by officials that his Notice of Motion was not in conflict with that Notice of Motion, as this is for a specific memorial.

Councillor Jonathan McAuley seconded Councillor Kyle's motion.

Following a discussion, Members agreed that the motion should be referred to the Coronation Sub-Committee, to be considered as part of its work.

AGREED – to recommend that the Notice of Motion is referred to the Coronation Sub-Committee.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Storey and

AGREED – to recommend that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee move 'In Committee'.

- * **Press/Public were disconnected from the meeting at 8.12 pm.**
- * **Councillor Kyle left the meeting remotely at 8.12 pm.**

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 Chair advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded, and with the remote meetings protocol.

- * **Alderman Callan, having declared an interest, left the Chamber at 8.13pm.**
- * **Councillor C Archibald, having declared an interest, left the Chamber at 8.13pm.**

14. HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

Confidential report by virtue of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council Under the terms of Section 4(a) of The River Bann Navigation Order (N.I.) 2002, where the "Council shall designate a Commissioner as Chairman of the Commissioners and may designate another Commissioner as Deputy Chairman".

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the recommendation of the Harbour Commissioners Board:

- to appoint Mr R. Skelly as Chair for a 2-year period; and
- to appoint Mr J. Blaney as Vice Chair for a further 2-year period.

Proposed by Alderman Fielding
 Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the recommendation of the Harbour Commissioners Board:

- to appoint Mr R. Skelly as Chair for a 2-year period; and
- to appoint Mr J. Blaney as Vice Chair for a further 2-year period.

* **Alderman Callan and Councillor C Archibald returned to the Chamber at 8.15pm.**

15. BUSINESS CASE FOR PERMANENT PLANNING STAFF

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

This Report is to seek agreement to make permanent the existing fixed term contracts for 1no. Senior Planning and 2no. permanent Planning Officers Officer within the Single Rural Dwellings Team; the existing fixed term contracts end on 30 April 2024. The report also seeks the recruitment of an additional Principal Planning Officer for within the Development Management Section.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee considers the report and resolves to agree Option 1: recruit 1no. Development Management Manager, 1no. Senior Planning Officer and 2no. Planning officers on a permanent basis.

* **Alderman Stewart left the meeting remotely at 8.20 pm.**

In response to questions from Alderman Callan, the Head of Planning advised that she is currently looking at issues around the planning process and there will be a workshop with Councillors to further examine the matter.

Councillor McShane and Alderman Boyle commended the work of the Planning department.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
 Seconded by Councillor McShane and

AGREED – to recommend that Council considers the report and resolves to agree Option 1: recruit 1no. Development Management Manager, 1no. Senior Planning Officer and 2no. Planning officers on a permanent basis.

16. POPULATION OF THE ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

Confidential report by virtue of paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a Progress report on the implementation of the locally agreed terms and conditions and population of the Organisation Structures from the Leisure and Development and Environmental Services Directorates.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee note this report.

Councillor Watton queried why a driving licence is a requirement of the general operative post. He noted that some posts remain vacant and that he was aware of people who were interested in applying for the posts but were unable to, due to the requirement for a driving licence. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to look into the matter and follow up with Councillor Watton.

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the report.

17. CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS MONTH 8

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report to provide Members with information on the current financial position of Corporate Services Directorate at the end of Period 8.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee notes the information presented.

Alderman Callen noted that the Finance Committee lists the Planning budget under Corporate Services. The Director of Corporate Services advised that this can be done with these accounts in future for consistency.

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the report.

18. MINUTES OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2024

Confidential by virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Copy minutes previously circulated, presented by the Director of Environmental Services.

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that Council adopt the Minutes of the Land and Property Sub Committee meeting held Wednesday 10 January 2024 and recommendations therein approved.

* **Councillor Wilson left the meeting remotely at 8.38 pm.**

19. TRANSFORMATION PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT PANEL

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Council on progress in relation to the implementation of the Council's decisions arising from the outcome of the Extraordinary Audit implementation process and to seek approval for a number of recommendations associated with the Transformation Programme Implementation Oversight Panel.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- Council notes the nominations to the Implementation Oversight Panel and the request from the Permanent Secretary to meet with the Mayor and Chair of the Implementation Oversight Panel.
- Council notes the methodology to progress and keep track of the Transformation Programme recommendations.
- Council approves, the Terms of Reference for the Transformation Programme Working Group and Transformation Programme Steering Group.
- Council notes the timescale and methodology for the completion of the Organisational Health Check.
- Council agrees the funding mechanism to finance any expenditure associated with the implementation of the Transformation Programme via the Reorganisation Reserve, and regular updates will be provided to the Implementation Oversight Panel on expenditure.

- Audit Committee is provided with quarterly progress and assurance reports on the Transformation Programme by the Independent Advisor.

Alderman Knight-McQuillan indicated a preference for hybrid meetings, rather than online-only, at least initially.

Alderman Callan expressed concern regarding meeting the deadline of October 2024 for implementation, particularly with regard to staff restructuring.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

AGREED – to recommend that:

- Council notes the nominations to the Implementation Oversight Panel and the request from the Permanent Secretary to meet with the Mayor and Chair of the Implementation Oversight Panel.
- Council notes the methodology to progress and keep track of the Transformation Programme recommendations.
- Council approves, the Terms of Reference for the Transformation Programme Working Group and Transformation Programme Steering Group.
- Council notes the timescale and methodology for the completion of the Organisational Health Check.
- Council agrees the funding mechanism to finance any expenditure associated with the implementation of the Transformation Programme via the Reorganisation Reserve, and regular updates will be provided to the Implementation Oversight Panel on expenditure.
- Audit Committee is provided with quarterly progress and assurance reports on the Transformation Programme by the Independent Advisor.

20. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME - RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with information on the recommendations arising from the implementation of the Extraordinary Audit

Independent Reports into Record Keeping and Information Management Procedures and to present an Action Plan for consideration detailing how the recommendations related to Record Keeping and Information Management Procedures will be implemented.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee recommends to Council to approve the Transformation Programme – Record Keeping and Information Management Procedures and the actions contained therein.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approves the Transformation Programme – Record Keeping and Information Management Procedures and the actions contained therein.

21. 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 Alderman Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

RESOLVED – that Council move ‘*In Public*’

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting concluded at 8.52 pm.

Chair