Minutes of the Bangor City Council Finance Committee Meeting held at 5.30 pm in Penrhyn Hall, Bangor on the **4th November 2025**.

PRESENT: - Cllr. John Wyn Jones (Chair), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr. Jackie Spence, Cllr John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director).

F10/25 APOLOGIES
Cllr. Medwyn Hughes, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr Gareth Parry.

F11/25 TO APPOINT THE COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR FOR THE 2025-2026 MUNICIPAL YEAR
Cllr. Gwynant Roberts was nominated to the position of Committee Deputy Chair for the 2025 -2026 and agreed to accept the role. No other nominations were received.
Resolved: to appoint Cllr Gwynant Roberts as Committee Deputy Chair for the 2025 2026 Municipal year.

F12/25 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION
None

F13/25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 14th JULY 2025
The minutes of the meeting of the 14th July 2025 had been pre-circulated.
Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 14th July as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

In response to a question from a Member, the City Director reported that, as this committee was a non-executive committee, it could approve its own minutes and there was no requirement for this to be approved by full Council. However, while it was not a requirement, Finance Committee minutes could be presented to full Council if either the council or the Committee requested it.

F14/25 TO APPROVE THE NEW GRANT MATRIX & DOCUMENTS.
The proposed new Grant Matrix had been pre-circulated.
The City Director/RFO reported that the Grant Matrix proposal would allow the Committee to record its assessment of grant application in an empirical manner. He further reported that this proposal had been presented to the February meeting and had been widely welcomed. However, no decision had been made at that time as one Member (who has since resigned) offered to make amendments to streamline the proposals.

Resolved:
i) To adopt the proposed grant matrix to assess grant applications
ii) To implement a restriction on the number of grant applications from any given organisation to one within a three-year period, unless in exceptional circumstances. This restriction does not include organisations that the Council supports annually and specified in the Budget.
iii) To formalise the current custom & practice that the City Director consult the Mayor and Chair of Finance before using his delegated authority to approve grants under £2,000.

F15/25 TO APPROVE NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND CONDITIONS OF GRANT RECEIPT.

The proposed new Grant Matrix had been pre-circulated.

It was reported that the proposed new Grant Terms & Conditions and Conditions of Grant Receipt would give applicants clearer guidelines and allow the Council greater flexibility. Furthermore, they formalise the process.

Resolved: i) To adopt the new documents.

ii) To implement a restriction on the number of grant applications from any given organisation to one within a three-year period, unless in exceptional circumstances. This restriction does not include organisations that the Council supports annually and specified in the Budget.

iii) To formalise the current custom & practice that the City Director consult the Mayor and Chair of Finance before using his delegated authority to approve grants under £2,000.

iv) To remove the £10,000 limit printed at the head of the grant application form.

v) To include a stipulation that all grants awarded for greater than £5,000 to include the requirement for the applicant to submit a report to the Council detailing the actual expenditure and success or otherwise of the project.

vi) To amend Financial Regulations and other documents to reflect the changes listed and present to Council for approval.

F16/25 TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE NORTH WALES AFRICAN SOCIETY

Details of the application and associated documents had been pre-circulated.

The grant application was discussed by the committee. A number of issue were raised including that much of the grant expenditure overlaps noticeable with the services and facilities offered by the Council's Community Hub, which works closely with the North Wales African Society. Another issue was that, using the new Council grant matrix showed that the application scored low on more than half of the categories.

Resolved: To not recommend the current application, and discuss various elements within the application with the Society.

F17/25 TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE BANK SIGNATORIES TO THE CHARITY ACCOUNTS AND MAIN BANK ACCOUNT.

The Committee were advised that the Bank accounts for two now dormant Charities, established by the Council many years previously, required updating. The currently approved bank signatories on these accounts had either passed away or had left the Council. It was proposed that the bank signatories on these Charity Accounts be brought into line with the current City Council main bank account signatories. This should also be considered for the Penrhyn Hall Charity Account (243801). Furthermore, the newly appointed Deputy City Director should be added to the Main Bank account signatories, and those of all these the Charity Accounts.

Resolved: i) To approve the amendment of the Bank Signatories for The Welcome Home Fund (217017) and Bangor Community Service Club Fund (217016) to match the signatories of the main City Council Bank Account.

ii) To approve amending the signatories of the Penrhyn Hall Charity Account (243801) to match the main Bangor City Council Bank Account
iii) To confirm that the current City Director, Martin Hanks, is the Trustee of all three Chrity Accounts.
iv) To approve adding the new Deputy City Director, Lisa Goodier, to the main City Council Bank Account and all three Charity Accounts listed above.

F18/25 TO APPROVE THE PAYMENTS LIST FOR

i) July.
ii) August.
iii) September.

These *payments lists had been pre-circulated to Members*
The Committee analysed the payment lists for all three months and requested clarity on a number of items from the City Director/RFO. A detailed discussion ensured on a number of payments.

Resolved: i) to approve the payments list for July August & September 2025.
ii) to acknowledge that the high expenses payments to Lisa Goodier related to Community Hub running costs. This situation has arisen due to the rapid expansion and success of the Hub. The Committee accepted that this was a temporary arrangement until the Hub's bank account could be established and bank card issued.
iii) the committee accepted that in future the hub accounts would be presented as a separate report to that of the other Council expenditure.

F18/25 TO ACCEPT THE 6 MONTHS BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL REPORT.

The Six Months Budget Versus Actual Report had been pre-circulated to Members
The Committee discussed the 6 months Budget versus Actual Report and scrutinised a number of budget lines.

Resolved: i) to accept the Six Months Budget Versus Actual Report.
ii) the committee acknowledged that there was likely to be an overspend on the Council wages budget, due primarily to the Council's decision to appoint a Deputy City Director and the temporary staff appointed to assist with Bangor 1500 event programme.

F19/25 TO ACCEPT THE SEPTEMBER BANK RECONCILIATION REPORT.

The Bank Reconciliation Report for September was evaluated by two committee members and signed and dated as correct by both.
Resolved: to accept the Bank Reconciliation report for September.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm
CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR