

## Ballymoney Borough Council

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<b>892.3</b>	Health & Environmental Services Committee -Timing of December Meetings	<i>That the December meeting take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, rather than on the stated date, 23<sup>rd</sup> December.</i>
<b>892.4</b>	Rates Estimate 2009-10	<i>Review additional information provided in party groupings before the next rates meeting.</i>
<b>892.5</b>	Date & Time of Next Meeting	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2009

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Council Meeting No 892 held 'in committee' in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 6.30 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR**

Councillor J Finlay, Mayor

**PRESENT****Aldermen**

C Cousley, Deputy Mayor

F Campbell

H Connolly

J Simpson

**Councillors**

A Cavlan

B Kennedy

M McCamphill

T McKeown

A Patterson

E Robinson

I Stevenson

**APOLOGIES****Councillors**

P McGuigan

D McKay, MLA

M Storey, MLA

R Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Executive

Director of Borough Services

Director of Central & Leisure Services

Head of Corporate & Development Services

Committee Clerk

**892.1 HANDLING NORTHERN IRELAND PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS**

Latest information on pork and pork products, issued by the Food Standards Agency, was circulated to members. At the request of Alderman Campbell, the Director of Borough Services clarified Council's position on issuing verification for insurance claims, to those disposing of pork products.

## 892.2 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2008-2011 – STATUS REPORT

The Chief Executive requested that members review capital projects, as detailed in status report dated 21/11/2008, circulated. The purpose of the review, as requested by members, was to consider how realistic the programme of work was in terms of delivery within the timescale and within the limited resources available.

### 2.1 2008-09 Capital Expenditure Programme (including projects funded from reserves.

No comments were offered.

### 2.2 Possible Capital Expenditure Programme 2009-11 (prioritised as agreed at member workshop on Corporate Plan)

- **Councillor Patterson and Councillor Robinson arrived during the discussion on item 2.2, at 6.40 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. respectively.**

The various project priority schedules were discussed, as follows:-

#### Priority 1 Schemes

A number of members supported the implementation of the Cloughmills scheme in view of the lack of facilities in the village. Responding to questions from members, the Director of Borough Services advised that further information on the scheme would be made available at the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December to allow committee to consider what can be provided on Council's land at the Old Mill site.

It was **AGREED**

***that priority 1 schemes be retained and reviewed at the next rates meeting.***

#### Priority 2 Schemes

The following projects/issues were discussed.

- Rasharkin Cemetery – estimated costs, extent of works required, flooding and drainage problems, traffic management issues and reductions to original contract;
- Upgrade of ICT equipment pre RPA;
- Establishment of global budget;

- Rationale and timescale – outright purchase of RCV's v. leasing, age of current fleet and extent of borrowing/hire of vehicles to maintain service delivery during vehicle breakdowns;
- Need to identify projects that will benefit Ballymoney in the future and carry out preparatory work to enable these to move forward should funding become available.

It was **AGREED (8 members voting for, no member voting against):**

***that a replacement Refuse Collection Vehicle and Rasharkin Cemetery Improvement Scheme remain under consideration, with all other priority 2 schemes being eliminated from consideration.***

### **Priority 3 Schemes**

It was **AGREED**

***that projects identified as priority 3 be eliminated from consideration with the exception of Carnany Kickabout Area Upgrade, deferred to allow Councillor Stevenson additional time to consider and to report to next rates meeting.***

### **2.3 Projects added to Capital/Revenue Expenditure Programme after Corporate Plan adopted and 2008-09 rates approved.**

It was **AGREED**

***that these projects be retained on schedule to be considered at next rates meeting with amended priority proposals already agreed at 2.1 and 2.2 above.***

### **892.3 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – TIMING OF DECEMBER MEETING**

At the request of Councillor Robinson (Chair), it was **AGREED**

***that the December meeting of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, rather than on the stated date, 23<sup>rd</sup> December.***

### **892.4 RATE ESTIMATE 2009-10**

Schedule of budget increases included in the Rate Estimate Book (version 2) showing impact on rates in each service area, was circulated to members, together with revised rates summary sheet and previous year's comparison

sheet, taking account of management revisions – reducing additional posts to 3 and capital schemes to 3 (attached as appendices 1, 2 & 3).

The Director of Central and Leisure Services referred to the schedule of areas of service increase above inflation and explained the management reductions of additional posts and capital schemes. The Chief Executive indicated that management considered the posts and schemes retained as the minimum necessary to maintain and deliver existing services. The revised rate, taking account of the management revisions, was 0.3739 (domestic), an increase of 29.92%.

The Chief Executive and Directors responded to members' questions, giving further information and clarification on a range of budgets. Issues which engaged members attention included:

- loss of building control income due to the downturn in the economy
- reductions in investments and bank interest rate
- maintenance costs for increased land and property
- reductions in income from some services
- inescapable increases in salaries and wages, penny product reduction and utility increases
- potential to increase service charges
- redundancy/reduction in services
- level of members allowances
- optional works included in services which Council could decide to abandon
- decision to apply £200,000 from reserves to rates in 2008-09

It was **AGREED**

***that members review the additional information provided in party groupings before the next rates meeting.***

#### **892.5 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in the Council Chamber.

**The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.**

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – 2009-2010 Budget Increases – Rate Book V.2

Appendix 2 – 2009-2010 General Estimate of Rates

Appendix 3 – General Estimate of Rates comparison 2008-2009 / 2009-2010