

**Ballymoney Borough Council**  
**Corporate & Central Services Meeting No 378 – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

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**CORPORATE SERVICES**

<b>379.6</b>	Review of Public Administration	<i>Meeting to be held – date to be agreed</i>
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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No. 379 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 10.00 am.

**IN THE CHAIR** Alderman J Simpson

**PRESENT**

**Aldermen**  
F Campbell, Mayor  
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor  
H Connolly

**Councillors**  
J Finlay  
R Halliday  
M McCamphill  
E Robinson  
I Stevenson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Director of Central and Leisure Services  
Chief Executive  
Head of Corporate & Development Services  
Councillor A Cavlan  
Committee Clerk

**379.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 378 – 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Connolly and  
**AGREED:**

***that minutes of Meeting No 378 – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009, as circulated,  
be confirmed as a correct record.***

## CENTRAL SERVICES

### 379.2 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Treasury advice schedules detailing payments for Period 7 2009/10 drawn on the Councils Capital & Revenue Bank Accounts were circulated at the meeting.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the payments are made.

The Director of Central & Leisure Services responded to members' questions relating to the accounts and clarified a number of payments.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

*to recommend that accounts to the value of £644,076.20 from the Revenue Account and £84,091.62 from the Capital Account for period 7 2009/2010 be approved for payment.*

\* **Alderman Campbell arrived during discussion of this item at 10.35 am.**

### 379.3 COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES – SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE

This matter was deferred for one month at the September Committee Meeting.

The Department had advised of revised rates of Special Responsibility Allowance effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

The total amount payable in a financial year by District Council with a population not exceeding 50,000 is £20,500 with one fifth of this amount being the maximum amount payable to individual members.

Members are asked to consider the level of allowance to be paid in 2009/10.

Responding to Councillor McCamphill's query relating to members holding more than one speciality post, the Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that each individual Committee is responsible for electing the Chair and Vice Chair of Committees.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Finlay and **AGREED:**

***to recommend that the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Mayor be increased by £500.00 to £4,000 and that all other allowances remain unchanged.***

- \* **Alderman Campbell left the meeting during the discussion at 10.40 am and returned at 10.45 am.**

#### **379.4 DEPENDENTS' CARERS' ALLOWANCE**

The Department has determined new maximum rates of dependents' carers' allowance effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. Details of the revised rates were circulated.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the revised rates be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Finlay and **AGREED:**

***to recommend that the revised rates for dependents' carers' allowance be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.***

#### **379.5 RATES ESTIMATES 2010/2011 – DATES FOR MEETINGS**

The Director suggested the following dates for Council to meet to consider the estimates of income and expenditure for 2010/2011 and to set the District Rates for 2010/2011. -

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 @2.00pm.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 @2.00pm.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 @7.00pm to strike the District Rates for 2010/11.

A discussion ensued on the number of meetings held prior to striking the rate. Councillor Finlay expressed disappointment at the length of time taken to achieve the rate for 2009/2010 and requested consideration of an alternative method to achieve the task such as a two-day workshop. The Chairman advised that rates information would be tabled for discussion at Resource Task Meetings to facilitate a further opportunity for discussion

It was **AGREED**

***that a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 2.00 pm will be held and that meetings on 11<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 remain provisional pending the view of the Resources Task Group.***

- \* **The Chief Executive and Head of Corporate & Development Services joined the meeting at 11.05 am.**

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **379.6 REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

The Environment Minister made a statement to the Assembly on 20<sup>th</sup> October on the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Phase 2 Report on the Assessment of Options for Local Government service delivery. The report runs to some 293 pages. A copy of the Executive Summary was circulated together with a copy of the Press Release.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that committee give consideration as to how Council might deal with this report eg, by way of a member workshop or leave for party groups to comment.

The Chief Executive advised members that whilst there is no formal public consultation process, a period of time until the end of November has been set aside for MLAs, local government and other stakeholders to comment on the report, before the SLB and the Minister decide whether to accept it.

Giving an overview of the report the Chief Executive outlined the four options costed for restructuring the councils, ranging from do as little as possible to allow amalgamation to complete transformation, with many support services delivered by a separate Business Unit with its own management structure. This Business Unit would not be fully operational by 2011 but would assume more powers by 2015. This option is the one being recommended. The report shows that it would produce an annual saving of £42M compared with current costs for the 26 council structure and a total net saving over 25 years of £438M. While there is no clarity over how the costs will be met (estimated cost is £118M) the Minister has made the point that the report is even more relevant now than 18 months ago, as all parts of government are focused on ways to reduce costs and do more with less.

The Chief Executive advised members that Solace will be holding a workshop during week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> October and that a document will be produced for consideration at a meeting of Solace on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

During discussion the Chief Executive responded to members' questions.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

***to recommend that a date for a meeting to consider a response be decided at the meeting of Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and that the consultation document be made available to members on request.***

\* **Councillor Cavlan arrived during discussion of this item at 11.17 am.**

### **379.7 DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING**

The December committee falls on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December. Members may wish to give consideration to rescheduling this meeting. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December is suggested.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Halliday and **AGREED:**

***to recommend that the December meeting of Committee will take place on the morning of Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.00 am.***

**The meeting closed at 11.30 am.**