

RESOURCES TASK GROUP

Minutes of Meeting of Resources Task Group held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, on **Thursday, 28th August 2008 at 3.00 pm.**

In the Chair Ald J Simpson

Present Ald H Connolly
Cllrs: J Finlay, E Robinson, M McCamphill

In Attendance Ald C Cousley

Apologies: Ald F Campbell & Cllr A Cavlan

1. Minutes

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

that the minutes of the last meeting on 3/4/08, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

2. Vacant Posts

Committee considered report and recommendations, circulated, on the following three vacancies, in accordance with the policy on filling new and existing vacant posts.

1. **Energy Efficiency Advisor**, resigned 29/8/08, (shared post with Coleraine, and Moyle Councils) 100% funded from Northern Investing for Health Partnership.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Connolly agreed:

to RECOMMENDED that the post be filled for the remainder of the grant funding period (estimated 10 months) and that recruitment be via the Council's preferred employee provider.

2. **Home Safety Officer (Job Share)**, resigned 30/11/08, (shared post with Coleraine and Moyle Councils) funded by the Councils and the Northern Investing for Health Partnership.

It was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Councillor Finlay and agreed:

to RECOMMEND that the post revert to a full time position (estimated 6 months) and that recruitment be either a secondment opportunity from within the funding partners or via the Council's preferred employee provider.

3. **Development Officer**, resigned 30/9/08, full-time post within the Office of the Chief Executive.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor McCamphill and agreed:

to RECOMMEND that the post be filled by public advertisement, based on a revised job description to take account of new programmes and operating arrangements.

3. Absenteeism Statistics 2007/08

A copy of the Council's annual return to the Local Government Auditor, not yet validated by the Auditor, was circulated and discussed and efforts by management to address the high level of days lost through absence were noted. The Auditor will produce a league table in due course.

Arising from discussion members were concerned to note that a report implementing a successful change programme in local government, commissioned by Solace and funded by DOE had not received any funding from DFP towards implementation, leaving the burden on district councils, although a bid was now being prepared under monitoring round at the mid term review.

It was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Alderman Connolly and agreed:

to RECOMMEND that Council write to DoE conveying Council's concern if the burden of funding for the implementation of the imposed local government reform was to lie with Councils and requesting that the necessary funding be provided by central government.

4. Loans Outstanding at 31 March 2008

A report on loans outstanding at 31 March 2008, circulated, was tabled.

5. Fixed Assets at 31 March 2008

A report on assets at 31st March 2008, circulated, was tabled.

6. Member Training – Budget Awareness Session

8 members had attended the in-house awareness session on budgets on 3rd July. Any further training identified by RTG can be included in the member training/briefing sessions organized by OCE.

7. Date of next meeting - 2 pm 24th September.

Variance reports will be considered.