

**Ballymoney Borough Council  
Resources Task Group  
Monday 28<sup>TH</sup> September 2009**

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**Ballymoney Borough Council  
RESOURCES TASK GROUP**

**Monday 28<sup>TH</sup> September, 2009**

Report of Resources Task Group held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 2.00 p.m. in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney.

**In the Chair:** Ald J Simpson

**Present:** Ald F Campbell (Mayor), C Cousley MBE  
Cllrs J Finlay, E Robinson

**Apology:** Cllr A Cavlan

**In Attendance:** Chief Executive, Director of Borough Services,  
Director of Central & Leisure Services, Head of Corporate  
& Development Services

**1. Minutes of Meetings 19/5/09, 22/6/09, 1/7/09 (summary herewith)**

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

***That the minutes of meeting on 19 May 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.***

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

***That the minutes of meeting on 22 June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record***

In response to a question the Director of Central & Leisure Services confirmed that the Part-time Leisure Attendant post had been filled from the reserve list of candidates from a previous recruitment campaign.

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

***That the minutes of meeting on 1 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.***

**2. Vacant Posts**

The group considered report from the Chief Executive, circulated, on posts which had become vacant which were recommended by CMT to be filled on the basis they were essential to service delivery.

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

***That authority be granted to fill vacant posts as follows:***

- a) Full-time Receptionist Cashier, via recruitment options (maternity cover employee, ref 50151, 52 weeks from 7/12/09);***
- b) Full-time Clerical Officer, vacant from 23/10/09, post ref 50009 – 2 part-time employees 50803 & 50131 having acted up during long term sickness be assimilated into the post on a job-share basis;***
- c) Full-time Receptionist/Clerical Officer, temporary employee 50154 having covered vacancy of 2 part-time clerical officer posts, 50803 & 50131, be assimilated into the post on a permanent basis;***
- d) Full-time Groundsperson, via recruitment options. (vacant from 23 October 2009 following long term sick – employee ref 20703)***

With regard to recruitment options Members were reminded of opportunities available for placements and filling of posts under the DEL Welfare to Work Scheme, as outlined in recent presentation to Development Committee, and that further report on this option would be presented to Corporate & Central Services Committee.

### **3. Fixed term contracts**

The Chief Executive reported on this subject to RTG on 9/4/09 and 19/5/09. Further advice requested, set out in report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009, as circulated, was presented by the Chief Executive who responded to questions.

### **4. Rates – Letter of representation**

Letter from a town resident (name and address supplied) regarding issues arising from rate setting, with particular regard to the impact on the older residents who do not qualify for government rebates or full pension, when coupled with low interest rates, increasing fuel and other essential household costs; also rate contribution to events and facilities for sections of the community vis-à-vis for facilities for elderly residents, circulated, was tabled and the issues discussed and noted for consideration.

### **5. Variance Reports**

- [a] Profiled variance report 2008/09 (copy herewith)
- [b] Profiled variance report 2009/10 – April – June 2009

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the level of explanatory notes in the 2008/09 year end variance report and the substantial impact on budgets of fuel and utility increases and the adverse budget position on some service budget headings in first quarter of 2009/10, albeit that every detailed budget may not be profiled to match the timing of expenditure. Director of Central & Leisure Services pointed out that Council had lived within its budget for the 2008/09 year and had not required to uptake all the balance applied from reserves. She gave an explanation of the reasons for the overspend in certain services. The impact on building control income in the current construction industry downturn, national wage increases, reduction in interest rates, over which Council had no control, also engaged members attention.

Arising from discussion on the format of the variance reports the meeting confirmed that the format, as presented was adequate for the purposes of monitoring of budgets by the group and as agreed the next variance report would cover five months (to end of August) and monthly thereafter and include explanatory notes on variances.

In response to a request lodged by a member for further information on the impact of the pay award the cost information provided by the Director of Central & Leisure Services was tabled, it being noted that the cost of 1% increase and 1.25% on points 4 - 10 is £41k, not including the cost of the Job Evaluation Appeals regradings and that the cost of the additional days leave for employees currently on 20 days is £2,572. A total of 45 employees (full time and part time) will receive the additional leave.

## **6. Future Meetings**

The Group **AGREED:**

***that it meet on a regular monthly basis on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 2.00 p.m. – next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October.***

**The meeting concluded at 4.15 p.m.**