

**Ballymoney Borough Council  
Council Meeting No 953 – 20th January 2012**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Council Meeting No 953 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Friday 20th January 2012 at 3.00 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor I Stevenson, Mayor

**PRESENT:**

**Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
H Connolly  
C Cousley, MBE  
B Kennedy

**Councillors**  
J Atkinson  
A Cavlan  
J Finlay  
R McAfee  
P McGuigan  
C McLaughlin  
E Robinson  
M Storey, MLA

**APOLOGIES:**

**Councillors**  
R Halliday  
T McKeown, Deputy Mayor

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive  
Director of Borough Services  
Director of Central & Leisure Services  
Head of Corporate & Development Services

**953.1 RATE ESTIMATE 2012/13**

The Chief Executive advised that this additional meeting had been arranged by members and its purpose was to consider possible budget savings towards a target increase over last year of no more than 5%. There was a further planned rates meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

The analysis of revisions to be presented was based on the details contained in Version 2 of the rates book which was issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011. The Chief Executive indicated that management had not looked at any cuts which would impact on jobs and drew attention to the need for Council to agree a capital programme for next year (2012/13) and the two following years to allow Prudential Indicators to be calculated. He illustrated the maximum financial value and % increase which could be allowed in respect of the Office of the Chief Executive, Borough Services

and Central & Leisure Services to achieve the 5% target set and that more work was required.

The Officers in turn dealt with the revisions within their remit.

**Director of Central & Leisure Services:**

- Loan charges under MRP policy
- Salaries & wages
- Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre
- Tourism, TIC

**Head of Corporate & Development Services:**

- Tourism marketing
- Economic development

**Chief Executive's Office:**

- Official & courtesy visits
- Democratic representation and management
- Corporate management
- Election expenses

**Director of Borough Services:**

- Essential basic services such as waste collection and street cleansing, service underfunding in 2011/12, budget
- vehicle maintenance
- provision for fuel stamps scheme
- landfill tax increase.

Version 2 budget increases not included for: -

- inevitable increases in utility prices and other charges
- budgets for new facilities
- marina, de-silting
- Dervock 2012
- new staff and outsourced, technical expertise.

During the ensuing discussion, officers responded to a range of questions by members. Specific areas which engaged members' attention included:

- Aged vehicle fleet
- New legislative requirements to comply with vehicle operator licences
- Impact on operation
- Fuel stamp scheme
- Increase in landfill tax
- Recycling initiatives

With regard to recycling, Council's decision to divert textile recycling to support community enterprises was noted as were arrangements in place for scrap metal and the contract for dry recyclables. The efficient performance of certain of the Council's services, as ranked by external evaluation, was noted.

#### **953.2 NI FAIR RATES CAMPAIGN**

Correspondence received on 10<sup>th</sup> January from the NI Fair Rates Campaign was tabled.

**The meeting concluded at 4.30 pm.**