

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
2 FEBRUARY 2004

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Carten, J Dolan, G Robinson, Councillors M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy (in the chair), D Lowry, M McGuigan, J Rankin, E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk, Economic Development Officer, Clerk, Mr Seamus Devine, Manager – City of Derry Airport

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Brolly, F Brolly, B Brown, B Douglas, G Mullan

MINUTES:

The Minutes of meeting held on 5 January were approved and signed, on the proposal of Councillor L Cubitt, seconded by Alderman J Dolan.

MATTERS ARISING

Broadband: Councillor M Coyle reported that Dungiven and Bellarena had reached the required trigger level of expressions of interest in the Broadband campaign of 500 and 100 respectively.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2004:

The Town Clerk & Chief Executive presented the report for February 2004 and enlarged on it as follows:

Community Development & Funding Support Officer: The Town Clerk paid tribute to the work of the Community Development & Funding Support Officer but recommended that due to the ongoing appraisal audit it would be inappropriate to

proceed with the recommendation to extend this project for a further two years at the present time.

Following discussion, Councillor L Cubitt proposed, seconded by Councillor M McGuigan, to adopt the Economic Development Officer's report for February 2004, subject to the Town Clerk's recommended amendment.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Audit Report of Council Services: Councillor L Cubitt expressed concern that a copy of the confidential audit of Council services report had been distributed to the media. He asked that the member of Council should admit this action and as a result should resign from Council. Members concurred with Councillor L Cubitt's concern and expressed bitter disappointment about a leak of this magnitude.

Councillor D Lowry stated that it had been alleged that Councillor L Cubitt had accused him of leaking this document to the press. He asked him to explain why he would make such defamatory comments about him. He categorically denied that he distributed the document to anyone. He added that if the allegations persisted he would have no recourse but to seek his own legal advice for potential libellous comments. Councillor L Cubitt said that he had not mentioned Councillor D Lowry's name.

Councillor L Cubitt recommended that, in light of the possible publication of this report in the local newspapers, further discussion should take place as soon as possible. Councillor J Rankin proposed, seconded by Councillor L Cubitt, that this matter be included in the agenda for the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18 February and that the meeting should commence at 7.00pm.

Data Projector: Councillor M Coyle proposed, seconded by Councillor D Lowry, that Council should purchase a new data projector for Council use. Agreed.

DERRY CITY AIRPORT – MAJOR EXTENSION – TO RECEIVE A REPRESENTATIVE OF DERRY CITY COUNCIL:

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Seamus Devine, Manager of City of Derry Airport to the meeting.

Mr S Devine presented a comprehensive report detailing the history, past trends and future proposals for a major extension of the City of Derry Airport.

Mr S Devine answered members' questions and the responses were noted as follows:

- City of Derry Airport would continue to operate to the highest standard of safety;
- the flying school contributed less than 2% to the airport and the club would be accommodated within the costs available;

- extension of the runway together with a phased upgrading of all other airport facilities would have to be considered in order to meet future markets requirements;
- 17 family homes were situated 250 metres from the end of the runway and would be affected by the proposed extension;
- management would continue to liaise with residents;
- Ryanair could not guarantee to operate from the airport after 2005.

The Chairperson thanked Mr S Devine for attending and he left the meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

1 March 2004.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.00 pm)