

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH**

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**02 MAY 2006**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady which commenced at 7.00 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

Aldermen G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly (chair), P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and the Director of Support Services.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Cubitt.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 4 April 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Audit Committee:** The Director of Support Services informed members that the Audit Committee meeting had been brought forward to Thursday 18 May 2006 at 2 pm.

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

The payment of accounts for the month of March 2006 was tabled and noted. The Director of Support Services agreed to provide information on payments for disposal of paint and transport of Christmas trees at the next Support Services meeting.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**IN COMMITTEE:** The Director of Support Services presented the Human Resources Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

**AUDIT REPORT & ACCOUNTS:**

The Director of Support Services presented reports from the Local Government Auditor on the audit of accounts of Limavady Borough Council for year ending 31 March 2004 and the 31 March 2005.

Members noted comments made in the 2004 and 2005 reports regarding:

- Financial out-turn and closing balance in District Fund
- landfill closure costs and ownership of site at Drumaduff
- waste reduction and recycling targets achieved
- appraisal audit cost savings
- tribunal cases and resultant legal costs and
- concern at high level of absenteeism in the year 2004/2005.

**NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BROLLY:**

Councillor Brolly requested that her notice of motion relating to political policing be deferred until a future meeting. Agreed.

**CONSULTATION – STUDY FOR IMPROVING ECONOMY, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS (ABSENTEEISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCILS 2005-06):**

The Director of Support Services informed members that the Local Government Auditor intended to undertake comparative and other studies to make recommendations for improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of services by local government bodies. He said the Auditor had requested that Council comment by 5 May 2006 to the proposed first study on review of “Absenteeism in Northern Ireland Councils 2005-06”.

Members noted that the report would include:

- actual absence rates and draw comparisons between the relative performance of Northern Ireland councils and
- have a three yearly absenteeism average.

In the debate that followed, the Director of Support Services explained that although Council had procedures in place to reduce absenteeism, targets on absenteeism would be set in Council’s business plan for 2007/08.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**NILGA Seminar – National Strategic Reference Framework:** It was agreed that Councillor Coyle would attend the Northern Ireland Local Government Association seminar on the National Strategic Reference Framework to be held 9 May 2006 in the Guildhall, Derry.

**NEXT MEETING:**

6 June 2006.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS  
(The meeting ended at 7.30 pm)**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Meeting**