

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

SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2007

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and Director of Support Services.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Douglas, Councillor Donaghy and Councillor Carten.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 4 September 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 1 – Bluetooth Mobile Phones: The Director of Support Services outlined that mobile phones with Bluetooth capability were now available. It was agreed that a new phone would be provided to Councillor Brolly at the next meeting of Council.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

The payment of accounts for the months of August 2007 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

IN COMMITTEE: The Human Resource Report dated 2 October 2007 was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Chivers subject to the following:

Waste Management Recycling Officer: The Director of Support Services outlined that Council's Recycling Officer post had previously been joint funding with ARENA. He said that funding was no longer available but given the importance of the area of Council activity and issues associated with it, recommended that Council proceed to replace the post. Agreed.

Absenteeism: The Director of Support Services explained that the Council's year to date absence per full time equivalent employee was 9.72 days against a target of 11 days annualized. He stated that if the current level of absenteeism continued Council might not meet its 2007/08 11 day target at 31 March 2008.

A brief summary from the Chief Executive of the Director of Environmental Services position was presented to Council. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that a former Chief Executive would be engaged to carry out a short scoping exercise of the Environmental Directive to assess if the structure and staffing capability were capable of delivering its requirements as approved by the Local Government Staff Commission.

Alderman Rankin requested that his annoyance at comments made by members on officers being off sick be recorded. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Closure of Pathology Unit: Councillor McElhinney reminded members that a petition of objection to closure of the pathology unit at Altnagelvin had been circulated to Churches & Health Centres in the Borough but the signatures had not been delivered to Minister Michael McGimpsey who had refused to meet a deputation of Councillors from the cross border region. He stated that he intended to give details of the petition to the press and requested that Alderman Robinson MLA, lobby the minister regarding the unit closure.

Alderman Robinson outlined that Minister McGimpsey had confirmed in writing that the unit was to be retained. It was agreed that a copy of the letter would be distributed to members at the October 2007 Planning & Services meeting.

Traffic Calming Measures – Roemill Road: The chair reminded members that maps by Roads Service on proposed traffic calming measures to be introduced at Roemill Road were on display on the notice boards for comment at the Planning & Services meeting.

NEXT MEETING: - 6 November 2007.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

Chair: _____