

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

**4 MAY 2010**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.00 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor Ó hOisín.

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin and Alderman Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, G Mullan, J F McElhinney and A Robinson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - Councillor Stevenson.

**PRESENTATION ON NORTH WEST GATEWAY INITIATIVE:**

The Chair welcomed Mr John Meehan, Derry City Council to the meeting.

Mr Meehan explained that recent developments in the cross border context required a focused approach to strategic planning and a more effective engagement in areas of service delivery. He said that the announcement of the North West Gateway Initiative in 2005 was welcomed as it could provide a framework for strategic planning in a cross border context.

Mr Meehan stated that in 2006 the two Governments had committed to working together to explore ways in which they could more closely cooperate to maximise the potential of the North West region. He said it has been agreed within the context of the all Ireland collaborative spatial framework, that the North West Gateway Initiative would be supported to provide co-ordinated, cross border approach to the development of the region, which comprised of a non statutory integrated spatial planning and development framework focusing on the Derry-Letterkenny gateway and the four local council areas of Derry, Strabane, Limavady and Donegal.

It was noted that the framework outlined recommendations relating to economic development, labour force, tourism, environmental issues, transport & energy development and a North West settlement strategy.

Mr Meehan highlighted that it was proposed that a Cross Border Executive Forum made up of relevant executives from local government, departments & agencies would drive forward policy formulation and proposal preparation for consideration by the Cross Border Partnership Board. He said that in putting this new arrangement in place it was proposed that Strabane District Council would take its place within the Strategy Board and on any Partnership Board and that

Limavady Borough Council would also be included in the overall Gateway designation by being represented by Executive participation on either the Partnership Board or the Executive Board.

Alderman Coyle formally proposed that Council endorse the proposals to establish a North West Partnership Board and an Executive Forum with support from an enhanced Cross Border Secretariat. This was seconded by Councillor Butcher and declared carried.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 8 APRIL 2010:**

The minutes of meeting held 8 April 2010 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

**NILGA Representatives:** It was agreed that Councillor Butcher would be an additional substitute in the event of a member not being able to attend the NILGA meetings.

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2010:**

**Loan Sanction Approval:** It was agreed that loan sanction approval would be sought from the DOE for refurbishment works at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to improve centre access, safety and customer satisfaction at a cost of £371,000.

**RPA Update:** The Chief Executive reported that no decision had been taken by the Executive on the Boundary Commissioner's Report and that other key pieces of legislation appeared not to be progressing. He circulated to members a copy of the Transition Committee minutes from meeting held 25 March 2010 and a Joint Communication Bulletin from the Local Government Reform Joint Forum for members' information.

**Integrated Business Plan Objectives 2010/11:** The Chief Executive presented the Integrated Business Plan for 2010/11 which outlined key objectives, performance indicators and outcomes for the years drawn up from themes identified in the Corporate Plan 2009/11. Approved.

**Draft Regeneration and Housing Bill Consultation:** Members approved the draft full response to the Regeneration and Housing Bill Consultation.

**Local Partnership Working on Policing and Community Safety Consultation:** Members approved the draft response to the consultation on Local Partnership Working on Policing and Community Safety. It was also agreed that non payment would be acceptable for members who sat on the new Crime Reduction Partnership.

**Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 (Amendment) Order 2010:** The Chief Executive explained that the above order which came into force on 1 April 2010 amended the method of filling casual vacancies on district Councils. He said up to April 2010, a casual vacancy could be filled by Council agreeing to co-opt or by holding a bi-election. Under the new law, the party the previous person stood for at the last election would be able to nominate a replacement and that those who stood as an Independent would be able to name up to six substitutes.

Those who stood for a political party and have since changed to another party or an Independent, the party they stood for in the previous election shall be able to nominate a replacement. Noted.

**Peace III, Phase II, 2010-2013:** Council was agreeable for Coleraine Borough Council to continue in the role as lead Council for the delivery of Phase 2 of the Peace III programme.

**Presentation to Council:** It was agreed that the NIHE would present their annual District Housing Plan to Council at the Planning & Services Committee on 15 June 2010.

**EXTERNAL MINUTES:** -None.

### **CONSULTATIONS:**

Members reviewed the following consultation documents and the responses were noted as followed:

- Alderman Brian Wilson, MLA – Assembly Bill, Ban on Hunting on Wild Mammals with Hounds in NI: Submission by 14 May 2010: *No response.*
- NI Law Commission – Vulnerable Witnesses in Civil Proceedings: Submission by 30 June 2010: *Council agreed with the proposals in the consultation.*
- DETI and Her Majesty's Treasury – Credit Unions Consultation: Submission by 24 May 2010: *Council agreed with the proposals in the consultation.*
- DRD – Transposition of the Revised Railway Safety Directive and Common Safety Indicator Directive: Submission by 4 June 2010: *No response.*
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency – Criteria for Listing Buildings, Proposed Revisions to Annex C of Planning Policy Statement 6: Submission by 6 July 2010: *No views were given on the consultation.*
- Department of the Environment – A Northern Ireland Marine Bill, Policy Proposals: Submission by 9 July 2010. *Members was of the view that no windmills should be allowed on the coast.*
- Daithi McKey, MLA – Private Members Bill, Levy on Plastic Bags: Submission by 14 May 2010: *It was agreed that charges should be imposed for plastic bags and that 15p was not enough.*

**COURSES/CONFERENCES:** - None.

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** - None

### **FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Shared Space – A research journal on peace conflict and community relations in Northern Ireland
- Co-operation and Working Together – Annual Report 2009
- ASPE – More Bang for the Public Buck
- The Consumer Council – Complain, Campaign and Gain: Championing Consumers 2006/09
- Northern Ireland Housing Council – Why the Private Sector should Build to Lifetime Homes Standards

- DPP News – Policing Plan Launch
- Connectvision – British Gas Case Study
- Making Chronic Conditions Count: A systematic approach to estimating and forecasting population prevalence on the island of Ireland
- Northern Ireland Policy Unit – Keep Trade Local, Rates Relief – a helping hand for SME's
- Age Concern – Older People's experiences of accessing benefits and services in Northern Ireland
- HM Government: The Planning System and Counter Terrorism
- HM Government: Design and Technical Issues
- HM Government: Working together to protect crowded places
- HM Government: Crowded Places – a response to the consultation

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Reference was made to the fact that NIE were not paying a large number of their customers for loss of fridge contents when the power was off in early April 2010. It was felt that the loss of power could have been prevented if the lines had been better looked after and that NIE should rethink strategy for restoring power if a similar emergency occurred.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 1 June 2010.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.05 pm)**

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