

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2008**

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Clerical Officer and the Director of Support Services.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor B Douglas to arrive later.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 7 October 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

MOD Refund – Councillor’s Questions: The Director of Support Services tabled a copy of an e-mail received from Gail Fryer, Department of Finance, which answered queries raised by members at the previous meeting in relation to the issue of the MOD refund.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

The payment of accounts for the month of September 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

IN COMMITTEE : The Director of Support Services presented the Human Resources Report dated 4 November 2008, which detailed current staff levels, recruitment & selection, employee training & development, absenteeism and single status implementation. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín subject to the following:

Current Staffing Levels: A member queried if the current staffing levels could be reduced given the downturn in the economy. After discussion it was agreed that if Council were to continue to deliver the same level of service provision then the same staffing levels were required. It was felt that this was not the right time to be looking at the issue in light of RPA in 3 years time when the whole Causeway Coast structure will be reviewed.

Single Status Implementation: The Director advised that a response was still awaited from NIPSA and T&G Unite on Single Status Agreement. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

ACCOUNTS FOR 6 MONTHS ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

The Director of Support Services presented the accounts for 6 months ended 30 September 2008 which showed a surplus of £174k, however, as a budget surplus of £205k was forecast, there was an adverse variance of £31k. The main variances were explained as follows:-

- Technical Services Salaries & Wages - £55k Favourable due to i) Technical services manager not being replaced, ii) using employees for capital projects instead of contractors and iii) Brown Bin Collection starting in June not April.
- Vehicle Costs - £46k Adverse due to higher than expected vehicle hire costs.
- Energy Costs - £62k Adverse due to higher than expected DERV, electricity and heating oil costs.
- Waste Disposal Gate Fees - £62k favourable due to less Civic Amenity Waste tonnage than expected.

The accounts as presented were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carten and seconded by Alderman Rankin.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- ◆ It was suggested that the Chief Executive look at Council's committee structures, with a view to possibly combining two of the standing committees. It was agreed that the Chief Executive bring forward a number of recommendations to the November 2008 Monthly meeting.
- ◆ It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for St Aidan's GAC, Magilligan to celebrate their 70th anniversary.

NEXT MEETING: -2 December 2008.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 7.20 pm)

Chair: _____