

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

05 FEBRUARY 2008

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

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor Stevenson

Other Members: Aldermen G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín and A Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Support Services and the Chief Executive.

APOLIGIES:

Councillors B Douglas and M Donaghy.

RATES ESTIMATES 2008/2009:

Following on from the meeting of Council's Support Services Committee on 16 January 2008, Councillor Coyle Chairperson of the committee proposed the adoption of the projected net expenditure of £8,402,603 for 2008/2009; the authorisation of expenditure as set out in the Estimates; and the adoption of a Domestic Rate of 0.3555 pence and a Non-Domestic Rate of 24.3376 pence for the year 2008/2009, which represented an increase of 6.60% from the previous year.

Councillor Coyle stated that Council would implement its corporate plan for the period 2007-09 with the overall mission of serving the community of Limavady Borough in a way that meets its needs for service provision, economic prosperity, sustainable development and quality of life. He said that in so doing Council was most conscious of the need to maintain tight and effective budgetary control and strike a reasonable rate for the incoming year.

Councillor Coyle outlined that in order to improve services and facilities, Council will be involved in provision of 5 new play areas; undertaking various works to improve access for the disabled to our services and our facilities; implementation of Tourism Strategy for the Borough; implementation of a Good Relations Strategy; production and distribution of two half yearly newsletters for residents; introduction of organic waste collection ('brown' bins); provision of additional civic amenity site; development of a recycling education and awareness programme; carrying out improvements to Benone Tourist Complex and Roe Valley Leisure Centre and provision of toilet facilities in Ballykelly. He added that many of these activities attract other

sources of funding to support the ratepayers contribution thus helping to provide better value for money.

Councillor Coyle explained that the rates estimate for 2008/2009 consisted of loan charges of £854k, a increase of £13k or 1.51% due to improvements being carried out at Roe Valley Leisure Centre and Benone Tourist Complex costing £28k in loan charges, provision of 5 play areas costing £22k and provision of a civic amenity site costing £11k. Off set against the loan charges was a saving from 2007/2008 of £51k as a result of the decision not to proceed with the provision of a new Multi-purpose Civic Centre until all other options had been explored. He added that wages and salaries amounted to £4,698k, an increase of £447k or 10.52% and was due mainly to a cost of living increase of 2.5% costing £112k, an increase in employer's pension contributions rate from 13% to 15% costing £81k, implementation of single status for all employees costing £151k, additional employees required for 'brown' bin collections £53k, a waste management officer and sports development officer costing £61k for which there is £15k grant aid. Members noted that other expenses were £4,587k, an increase of £137k or 3.09% was mainly due to a contribution of £50k for the provision of an all weather pitch, increased derf and gas oil costing £32k and landfill tax associated with the disposal of 8,885 tonnes of waste costing £59k.

Councillor Coyle reported an income of £1,736k, a decrease of £55k or 3.05%, mainly due to Building Control income being down as a result of the downturn in the property market costing £70k, with the loss being offset by an increase in income at Roe Valley Leisure Centre. He said that this resulted in a net expenditure of £8,403k, an increase of £652k or 8.41% and after allowing for the General Grant of £1,650k, an increase of £14k and a balance applied of £64k which was equal to an increase in the rate of 1% and would be used to increase Council's reserves, the amount to be raised by the rates is £6,816k, which is equivalent to a Domestic Rate of 0.3555 pence in the pound, an increase of 6.60% and a Non-Domestic Rate of 24.3376 pence in the pound, an increase of 6.58%.

Councillor Cubitt welcomed the provision of toilet facilities for Ballykelly. Alderman Rankin welcomed the provision of a play area for Bovally and Councillor Chivers suggested that the work commence as soon as possible.

Alderman Mullan seconded Councillor Coyle's proposal and members unanimously agreed to this. It was noted that this was the first time in many years that Council was unanimous in this issue. Appreciation was voiced to the hard work of the Director of Support Services in preparing the estimates that all members were happy with.

Reference was made to the power cut in Council offices earlier in the day and it was suggested that quotations be sought for a generator. The Director of Support Services indicated that this matter would be dealt with in the Business Continuity Planning Process.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 7.15 pm)