

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

SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

5 MAY 2009

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 P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Coyle, M Donaghy (chair), B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, E Stevenson and A Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APOLOGIES: - Councillors A Brolly and J F McElhinney.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 7 April 2009 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

MATTERS ARISING:

- Page 1 – Payment of Accounts: The Director of Support Services explained that the 4 unusual payments made in February 2009 were for tourist promotion; a home safety initiative; history talks and emergency first aid.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

The Director of Support Services answered a number of questions relating to the payment of accounts for March 2009 which were approved by members.

ECONOMIC APPRAISAL – PROVISION OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:

The Director of Support Services outlined details of Economic Appraisal which had been compiled for procurement of 1 beach cleaner, 1 tractor, 1 hedge cutter, 1 sprayer, 1 manually operated lawn mower and 1 frail mower. The Economic Appraisal for the provision of the plant and equipment was approved on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Human Resource Report: IN COMMITTEE on the proposal of Councillor Chivers seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

The Director of Support Services presented the Human Resources Report dated 5 May 2009, which detailed recruitment & selection, issues under Investors in

People and Gender Action Plan. The recommendations were agreed subject to the following:

- It was stressed that it was important that the Events & Cultural Officers post be re-appointed as soon as possible to plan for the opening of the town hall.
- A member highlighted that there were discrepancies in pay scale for officers administrating the Rural Development Programme in the North West cluster of Councils. He requested that members who sit on the Local Action Group attend a meeting with NIPSA to discuss the matter.

The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten.

Learning & Development Needs Questionnaire: Councillors were given a Learning & Development needs questionnaire for completion and return to the Human Resources Manager. Various development categories were listed in the questionnaire to enable Councillors to perform a wide range of duties. The training could relate to the period 2009/2011 or post 2011 and would be delivered by the Local Government Staff Commission, staff internally or other external bodies. A member suggested that Councillors receive training on Recruitment & Selection in the lead up to RPA.

Draft Vacancy Control System – Detailed Guidance: The Director of Support Services tabled update bulletin from the LGSC for Councils and other stakeholders on responses to the consultation on the Draft Vacancy Control System – Detailed Guidance. The main issues raised during the consultation and points made by the Commission on the way forward were noted. It was also noted that the implementation date for the Vacancy Control System was postponed until the Autumn of 2009.

Policy Statement on Council’s Discretionary Powers on the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007: The Director of Support Services gave an overview of the above policy statement. He drew members attention to the fact that in adopting the policy Council would be taking the least risky route in terms of challenge by following statute and thus rely on the same justification as the government is using, ie that it is justifiable to expect some measure of loyalty to be taken into account when deciding on an employees entitlement to compensation. Regulation 35 of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 allows Council to enhance redundancy payments to employees provided that it does so by consistently multiplying elements of the statutory payment and that it does so consistently for every employee who has access to compensation. The policy was adopted by members.

It was agreed to go **OUT OF COMMITTEE** on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None.

NEXT MEETING: - 2 June 2009.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 7.35 PM

Chair: _____