

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
6 NOVEMBER 2012**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor C McLaughlin.

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin, G Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, G Mullan, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors B Chivers and D Nicholl.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 2 October 2012 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor S McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor G Mullan.

**MATTERS ARISING: -**

**Page 1 – Jason Smith – Civic Reception:** Jason Smith has been in contact with the Chief Executive's department to advise that he would be returning to America and would not be available for a civic reception but thanked Council for their kind offer.

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT PLAN MID-YEAR REVIEW –  
30 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The Head of Finance presented the first Mid Year Review of the Council's Treasury Management Policy which included schedules showing Council's Investment Banking, Operational Banking and Borrowing balances as at 30 September 2012. He added that as per the Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13 the Council's investment priorities would be:

- a) Security of capital
- b) Liquidity of its investments
- c) Return on investments

He stated that the Council's bank balance at 30 September 2012 was £3.54m (Investment banking -£2.76m and Operational Banking - £0.78m) and advised that £3.33m had been set aside to cover landfill closure and aftercare costs but these funds could now be spent on capital projects and when expenditure would be incurred in closing the landfill sites loans would be taken out to fund this. He informed members that as at 30 September 2012 Council had invested £2.4m in

Santander and Barclays, with a further £1.14m was invested in the Northern Bank and advised that Council intended to spend the money on capital projects until Council's bank balance was between £300k and £500k.

Members were of the opinion that this money must be used on capital projects which would give maximum benefits to ratepayers especially in areas of deprivation.

The Treasury Management Plan Mid-Year Review – 30 September 2012 was approved on the proposal of Alderman Jack Rankin, seconded by Councillor G Mullan.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:**

The Chief Executive presented his report for November 2012 as follows:

**RPA Update:** The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on the Regional Transition Committee which met on 1 November 2012 when the Minister stated that they had now passed “the point of no return” with regard to RPA and advised that there were only 550 days to go the Shadow Council which would be elected in June 2014. The Minister also felt that there had been good progress across the various work streams and that by the next Regional Transition Committee meeting there should be some concrete information and proposals regarding:

1. The funding bid within the Executive.
2. Proposals for Councillor Severance arrangements.
3. Rates Convergence options developed.

It was felt that December would see the sign off by the Executive on:

- a) The Re-organisation Bill
- b) Functions to be transferred
- c) Funding arrangements/Rates Convergence options

The Chief Executive continued by updating members on issues raised by the Voluntary Transition Committee representatives whose concerns were principally over funding issues. He added that the Minister and Mr I Maye confirmed that the funding bid going before the Executive on 7 November was made on the principle of addressing costs for which Councils will have no future ability to make efficiencies from and therefore no question of addressing staff severance which is designed to produce efficiencies on a 3.52 year payback basis. Councils have been advised to build in funding to the estimates for transition costs. The Chief Executive confirmed that responsibility for Planning Services will definitely be transferred to Councils with Councillors having the power to make Planning decisions.

**Social Investment Fund:** The Chief Executive informed members that the establishment of the Social Investment Fund (SIF) was agreed by the Executive on 22 March 2011 with monies totalling £80m over a four year period allocated in the Budget. The £80m fund shall be split 50:50 between revenue based projects and capital projects and must be spent by March 2015. The Chief Executive went on to detail the SIF's strategic objectives which were described through 4 main themes:

1. Pathways to Employment.
2. Systemic issues linked to deprivation
3. Increase community services
4. Dereliction in area of deprivation

The SIF will be applicable to 9 identified zones across Northern Ireland with Limavady being included with Fermanagh, Omagh and Strabane Councils in the

Western zone. He explained that each social investment zone had an appointed Steering Group assisted by an identified Technical Assistance provider – for the western zone the Technical Assistance will be provided by RSM McClure Waters consultants.

Alderman G Robinson joined the meeting at 8.05pm

The Chief Executive stated that each Steering Group had to develop an Area Plan which was expected to contain 8-10 strategic projects for their zone by the end of January 2013 would be implemented between April 2013 and March 2015. He advised members that notification had been received concerning 2 Social Investment Fund workshops which had been arranged for 6 November in the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre/Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Gleann na Ró and for 15 November in Dungiven Library. In response members expressed their concerns regarding:

- The timing of the first workshop which coincided with Council's Monthly meeting (6<sup>th</sup> November 2012).
- The inclusion of Limavady Borough Council with Fermanagh, Omagh and Strabane Councils in the western zone as Limavady will have no direct involvement with these councils post 2015.
- Would it be achievable to have 8-10 projects identified by January 2013.

The Chief Executive agreed to provide members with details of the representatives on the Steering Group for the western zone.

**Magilligan Prison Update:** The Chief Executive updated members on the meeting with the Minister for Justice, Mr David Ford which took place on 24 October 2012 concerning the proposed closure of Magilligan Prison. The delegation was encouraged by assurances from the Minister that no final decision had been made and that there was a desire to fully explore options for a prison service continuing at Magilligan including a strategy on how to provide work experience opportunities for prisoners nearing release. Members felt that it had been a very useful meeting and agreed that a further meeting should take place between the Chief Executives and prison officials and that the Chief Executive would report back to Council.

**Local Government Staff Commission Review:** Retrospective approval for the response to the consultation on the Review of Local Government Staff review was agreed.

**Dungiven Castle – Right of Way Issue:** The Chief Executive explained the background to the Dungiven Castle right of way issue and following a discussion on the matter members agreed to await the outcome of the solicitor's letter which was sent to all relevant parties before bringing it back to Council.

**January Meeting Dates:** As previously reported the Council Offices will be closed over the Christmas period on Monday 24 December 2012, Tuesday 25 December 2012, Wednesday 26 December 2012 and Tuesday 1 January 2013. Given the above closures it was agreed that the January meetings would be put back by one week and rescheduled as follows:

Monthly Council Meeting/Support Services Committee	- 8 January 2013
Special Support Services Committee meeting (Estimates)	- 10 January 2013
Development Committee	- 15 January 2013

Environmental Services/Planning & Development Committee - 22 January 2013.

**PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL:**

**RNLI:** Agreed that representatives from the RNLI would present an end of season brief at Development Committee meeting on 11 December 2012.

The Chief Executive's report was approved on the proposal of Councillor S McGlinchey, seconded by Alderman Michael Coyle.

**EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:**

- Western Group Environmental Health Committee, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
- Northern Group Building Control Committee, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**RESOLUTION FROM MOYLE DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The resolution submitted by Moyle District Council expressing concern over the increasing level of charges levied by the Crown Estates for the lease of the seabed at various locations throughout the district and the belief that all income derived by the Crown Estates from Northern Ireland should be devolved for the benefit of the local community was noted.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

Members reviewed and noted the consultation list for November 2012.

**COURSES/CONFERENCES:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Jack Rankin, seconded by Alderman G Robinson that 3 officers from the Senior Management Team could attend the SOLACE Northern Ireland "Making the Change – Towards 2015 and Beyond" Conference on Friday 16 November 2012 in the Ramada Hotel, Shaw's Bridge Belfast – Delegate fee £114 incl. VAT.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The Planning and Water Appeals Commissions – Chief Commissioner's Annual Report April 2011 to March 2012.
- Western Health and Social Care Trust Annual Report 2011/12.
- NILGOSC Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12
- Children with Disabilities Manifesto Review and Update 2012

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** Following approval at the Environmental Services meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 it was proposed by Councillor S McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor G Mullan that the following contract agreements be signed and sealed:

- a) Provision for the haulage, treatment and disposal of NWRWMG collected Local Authority Residual Municipal Waste (Short Term Contract) – Tender OJEU Contract Notice Number 2012/S 101-168791
- b) Provision for the Treatment of NWRWMG collected commingled waste from HWRC's and from other Council services – Tender OJEU Contract Notice Reference Number 2012/S 101-168790

**APPLICATION FOR THE TRANSFER AND RENEWAL OF A LIQUOR LICENCE:** Council had no objection to the application for the transfer and renewal of a liquor licence for Mr Canice Millar for premises at 104 Main Street Dungiven.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Business Waste Disposal:** Councillor Mullan advised that he had been approached by a retailer in Limavady who had sourced an alternative and cheaper provider for the disposal of his business waste. Councillor G Mullan asked for information on:

- a) The number of businesses Council was responsible for regarding the disposal of their waste.
- b) The number of businesses who have decided recently not to use Council's services for the disposal of their waste.

The Chief Executive agreed to refer these queries to the appropriate department and bring the information back to the next meeting.

**Sperrins Tourism Ltd:** The Chief Executive informed members that following a special meeting of Sperrins Tourism Ltd it was agreed to wind up the company because of a financial insolvency issue.

**Irish Language Signs:** Members were advised that a request had been received from a local community group "Glor Dhun Geimhin" from Dungiven who had requested that Council pay for and erect:

- 1) A banner in Irish for Christmas to be put up in Dungiven with the greeting "NOLLAIG SHONA DAOIBH".
- 2) A permanent welcome sign coming into Dungiven from the Belfast side stating "Fáilte go Dún Geimhin".

When questioned about the costs to Council the Chief Executive informed members that he did not know the exactly but it might cost £100 or so to purchase the banner and the welcome plate might cost in the region of £100 to £150 and it was proposed to erect them at the same time as the Christmas decorations so as to minimise any additional costs. A member expressed his concern over the number of requests which have been received to erect banners and street names in Irish and the subsequent cost to ratepayers. The Chief Executive reminded members that all Councils had signed up to the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages which requires the promotion of the language. Councillor A Brolly proposed, seconded by Alderman Michael Coyle that Council would pay for and erect and signs as requested by Glor Dhun Geimhin. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried 7 for, 5 against.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 4 December 2012.

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.55 PM**

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