

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

SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

7 JUNE 2011

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Head of Finance, Head of Human Resources and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - None.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON:

The Mayor, Councillor McGlinchey took the chair the sought nominations for the chair of the Support Services Committee for the year 2011/12. He reminded members that it had been agreed at the 2011 AGM that Sinn Féin would chair this committee.

Councillor McCaul was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Chivers. Councillor McCaul thanked those who had nominated him and said he intended to conduct council business in the fairest way.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 5 April 2011 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Brolly.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

The Head of Finance answered queries put to him by a member on payments towards entertainment for the opening of the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró. He agreed to clarify to a member payments towards the 3G pitch at Scroggy Road. The payment of accounts for March and April 2011 were approved by Council.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

A discussion took place on whether the Human Resource Report should be held IN COMMITTEE. The Head of Human Resources indicated that the style of the report would have to be amended to protect staff if future reports were to be discussed OUT OF COMMITTEE.

Following debate it was agreed to discuss the report **IN COMMITTEE** on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Brolly.

Human Resource Report: The Head of Human Resources presented the Human Resource Report for June 2011, which detailed the total number of employees & temporary workers, requests for career breaks, recruitment & selection, absenteeism and cause of absence and sponsorship requests under investors in people. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

OUT OF COMMITTEE on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

ACCOUNTS FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 MARCH 2011:

The Head of Finance presented the accounts for 12 months ending 31 March 2011, which showed a deficit of £32k for the year. As a budget deficit of £230k had been forecast, this resulted in a favourable variance of £198k. The large net variances were summarised as follows:

- ◆ Redundancy/pension added years - £126k adverse due to staff being made redundant during the year.
- ◆ Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - £88k favourable due to the centre opening 4 months later than expected.
- ◆ Technical Services Wages - £82k favourable due to efficiency work practices and reduction in overtime.
- ◆ Loan/Lease charges - £69k favourable due to no loans being taken out in 2010/11 until the last quarter.
- ◆ General Grant - £55k favourable as Council had been notified by the DoE that the original grant allocation had been increased by £55k after the rates had been struck.
- ◆ District Rates - £242k favourable. Council had been informed by Land and Property Services (LPS) that additional rates of £292k were due to Council as at 31 March 2011. However the MoD were appealing an assessment which if successful, would result in reduction in additional rates to nil. The LPS valuer did not foresee any significant financial implications for Council but in the accounts the additional rates had been reduced by £50k.
- ◆ Rate Reserve Clawback - £109 adverse. As at 31 March 2010 Council owned the Mod and BT £326k due to successful rates appeals. The DoE allows Council to spread this liability over three years up to 2013.

The accounts as presented were approved by members.

COUNCIL EXPENDITURE 2010/11:

The Head of Finance outlined details of Councillors allowances & expenditure for the year 2010/11. This included details of basic allowance, special responsibility allowance, mileage allowance, DPP allowance, Transition Committee allowance, conference costs and other expenses. It was suggested that the allowance for Mayor and Deputy Mayor should not be included in the figures. It was agreed that the expenditure for the year and members attendance at meetings would be put on Council website.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- The Head of Finance requested that members return as soon as possible any outstanding forms in relation to signing up or not joining the pension scheme.
- The Chief Executive agreed to pass on a query on room hire charges at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró to the Director of Development.

NEXT MEETING: - 2 August 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 7.40 PM.

Chair: _____