

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
8 JANUARY 2013**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.00 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

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

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor J McCorkell.

**PRESENTATION ON MODERNISING OF THE POST OFFICE NETWORK:**

*Councillor B Chivers declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.*

The Chair welcomed Mr Mark Gibson, Senior Stakeholder Manager Northern Ireland, Post Office Services to the meeting.

Mr Gibson explained that the Post Office was an independent business, publicly owned and separate from Royal Mail. It was the largest retail network in the UK, with over 11,800 branches and that it invested in thousands of local communities. It also was investing in cutting edge new technology and bringing a human touch in digital world to meet the needs of the nation.

In referring to the modernising of the Post Office, Mr Gibson outlined that £1.34 billion would be invested in support programmes; 6,000 branches would be modernised over the next three years; the network would remain the same, with no planned branch closures; branches would be made more secure, with improved access & customer service; longer opening hours; additional automated transactions and complimented by a strong retail business operated by retail assistants instead of dedicated Post Office staff. He said that these changes would lead to increased customer satisfaction, 22% of customers using local branches outside of core house, a 9% increase in customer visits to local branches and an 9% increase in retail sales.

In the discussion which followed, members welcomed that the Post Office was embracing technology and expanding to provide a wide variety of online services. The provision of passports, travel money, insurance and verification of identification for young people was also welcomed. The Chair thanked Mr Gibson for his informative presentation.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 4 December 2012 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman G Robinson, seconded by Alderman M Coyle.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

Page 6 – Civic Reception: It was agreed that Councillor A Robinson would be updated on date for the Civic Reception for Ryan O'Neill and Leigh Harrison.

Page 3 – Dungiven Right of Way Issue: The Chief Executive updated members with regard to Interim Injunction against the lessee of Dungiven Castle. He said that the matter was subject to discussion on the exact right of way pathway and when it would be open for public use.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 26 September 2012 were tabled and noted. Staff were congratulated on recent audits in which a substantive level of assurance had been achieved in the Audit Reports from various departments.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:**

The Chief Executive presented his report for January 2013 as follows:

**RPA/ICE:** Chief Executive gave an update on the RPA process. He said that at a meeting of the Causeway Coast and Glens Voluntary Transition Committee held 3 January 2013 members had received a briefing on the work being undertaken on reform and a paper had been presented on potential funding options regarding the allocation of any costs across the cluster councils. Following discussion members were in agreement that this year's rates would not be adjusted to fund RPA.

**EU Structural Fund Programme 2014-20:** The suggested response by Council to the NILGA paper on EU Structural Fund Programme 2014/20 was approved by Council.

**Magilligan Prison Update:** Approval was agreed by Council for a Liaison Group to be established between Derry, Limavady, Coleraine and Ballymoney Councils to contribute to the planning of the service of Magilligan Prison and provide a forum for discussion on appropriate issues as needed. Alderman G Robinson, Councillor B Douglas, Councillor E Stevenson and Councillor G Mullan were nominated to the Liaison Group. The Chief Executive agreed to contact the prison with regard to a study visit for all elected members from Limavady Borough Council. In the meantime Councillor B Douglas and Councillor E Stevenson expressed an interest in attending the organised study visit with the 4 Councils being held in February 2013, which would include a round table discussion with prison officials on the way forward.

**Review of Procurement Policy:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor G Mullan, seconded by Alderman M Coyle that the Procurement Policy would be amended so that limits for quotations and tenders would be in line with that of Government's Central Procurement Directorate. Members noted the benefits to agreeing to this change, which included less costs and time delays, ability to seek

quotations locally and continuity making procurement rules easier to understand for suppliers & local businesses.

**North West Region Waste Management Group Waste Infrastructure Project:** It was stressed that it was importance of members attend one of the two workshops on the NWRWMG Waste Infrastructure Project being held on 10 January 2013 as this would ensure members were in a position to made a fully decision when the tenders for the project were brought before Council.

**April Meeting Dates:** It was agreed that the Council meetings scheduled for April 2013 would be put back by one week due to the Easter Holidays.

**Declaration of Interest Form:** The Declaration of Interest Form to be used by elected members and senior officers was adopted by Council.

**EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:** - None.

#### **CONSULTATIONS:**

Members reviewed the consultation list for January 2013. There were no comments made by members for submission by the consultation deadlines.

#### **COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

**Clare National Tourism Conference:** It was agreed that the Director of Development would attend the Clare National Tourism Conference being held on 17 – 19 January 2013 in Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare at a cost of €349.

**Northern Ireland Waste Conference:** Alderman M Coyle expressed an interest in attending the NI Waste Conference being held in Titanic Belfast on 6 February 2013 at a cost of £175. He agreed to confirm his attendance with the Chief Executives office. It was also agreed that 2 Officers would attend the conference.

**NILGA Consultation on European Union Structural Funds 2014-20:** Alderman M Coyle expressed an interest in attending the NILGA consultation event on European Union Structural Funds 2014-20 being held in Larne Town Hall on 23 January 2013. He agreed to confirm his attendance with the Chief Executives office.

#### **FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Oaklee Homes Group Annual Report 2011-12
- Equality Commission – Fair Employment Monitoring Report No22
- Equality Commission – A Profile of the Monitored Northern Ireland Workforce
- The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland – How the CF for NI invested £5.7 million in communities in 2011-12
- Patient and Client Council – The Peoples Priorities for Transforming Your Care, November 2012
- Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament Report 2012
- Children in Northern Ireland – Annual Report 2012
- NISMP – A Migration Information Portal for Northern Ireland November 2012

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** - None.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Dungiven Police Station:** The Chief Executive outlined that the PSNI had confirmed that disposal of Police Stations was managed by their Estate Services Branch. He said that the process for disposal was well defined through the issue of a “D1” notice which would be issued shortly, after which other public bodies could submit an expression of interest in the site. He added that the PSNI had also confirmed that it was not possible to “gift” the site to another party.

**Roads Service – Autumn Consultation:** The Chief Executive explained that following on from comments made to Roads Service during their Autumn Consultation, it was confirmed that there were no plans to carry out any street lighting alterations at Catherine Street/Linenhall Street junction. It was also confirmed that there was currently no plans for additional traffic management measures at Bovally Health Centre.

**400 Years – Limavady Town Charter:** The Chief Executive informed members that a programme of events throughout the year was being organised to celebrate 400 years of Limavady Town Charter.

**Planning Consultation on Hydro Electric Application on Gelvin River B/2011/0102/F:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor B Douglas, seconded by Councillor B Chivers that Council would support the application for construction of hydroelectric renewable energy system on the Gelvin River consisting of an intake weir, leat, buried pipeline and turbine house.

**Civic Reception:** It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for three 14 year old Girls Guides from 1<sup>st</sup> Ballykelly Guides who had achieved the Baden Powell Challenge Award.

**Capital Projects:** Council reaffirmed its decision of October 2011 for Design Consultants to be approached to take forward Capital Works Projects proposed for Burnfoot, Dungiven and Benone.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 5 February 2013

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 10.05 PM**

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