

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**16 NOVEMBER 2005**

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

**PRESENT:**

Aldermen G Mullan, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, L Cubitt, B Chivers, M Coyle, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, J F McElhinney, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and Director of Support Services.

**APOLOGIES:**

None

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 19 October 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Mobile Phones:** The Director of Support Services reported that various mobile phone packages with free call options had been investigated but the costs were prohibitive. He said that Council's latest contract through the Office of General Commerce is with the Orange Network, who would supply a Nokia 3120 phone, with a £3 per month line rental, 4p per minute calls and 3p texts. Members noted that you could keep your own number with this option.

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

The Director of Support Services answered a number of queries put to him by members after which the payments for the month of October 2005 were signed and approved.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The Director of Support Services presented the Human Resource Report dated 16 November 2005, which was adopted by members subject to the following:

**Current Recruitment:** In noting the number of staff being recruited, Alderman Rankin said he had been against the Change Management process and queried if there had been actual cost savings resulting from the Appraisal Audit. The Director of Support Services explained that there would be no cost savings in year one and whilst Council might see savings in the long term, it would be useful to

carry out a future exercise to ascertain costs and savings as a result of the restructuring resulting from recommendations in the Appraisal Audit.

**Internet Policy:** The Director of Support Services reported that NIPSA had been requested to respond by the end of November 2005 on Council's proposed Internet and E Mail Policy and that the Policy would be brought to Council in December 2005 for approval.

#### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005:**

The Director of Support Services submitted Income and expenditure Accounts for the 6 month ended 30 September 2005 in respect of Limavady Borough Council, Roe Valley Leisure Centre, Benone Tourist Complex and Vehicle Repairs/Hire/Loans. He explained variances from budgeted figures and answered members' questions on tender for insurance and fuel contracts. The Director of Support Services clarified to Councillor Butcher that there had been a previous request to tender Councils' legal services and although this had been deferred due to an ongoing legal case, the situation could be reviewed.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION COSTS:**

Statement of Expenditure for the 2005 Local Government Election was tabled and noted.

#### **PRICING STRUCTURE – BENONE TOURIST COMPLEX:**

The Director of Support Services tabled a proposed pricing structure for Benone Tourist Complex. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten that the prices would be effective from 2 January 2006.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Wireless Networking in Council Chamber:** Councillor Coyle requested that Council have access to the network when meetings took place and said this would be beneficial for viewing presentations or for checking archive documents. Councillor Douglas objected and said the majority of Councillors had no interest in laptops and would prefer to have a hard copy of reports rather than these being sent electronically.

After discussion, it was agreed that wireless access for laptops would be provided in the Council Chamber and that those Councillors not wishing to avail of computer facilities would continue to be provided with paper based information.

It was also agreed that a computer terminal would be provided in the old smoking room and a docking station for a laptop in the Mayors' Parlour.

**Request for Funding:** The Director of Support Services informed members that the William Keown Trust had requested support from Council towards the work of the group. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Council would make a contribution of £500 towards the Trust who helped those with a disability.

**Audit Committee:** The Director of Support Services sought nominations from 3 unionist members to sit on Councils Internal Audit Committee. In the debate that followed, Alderman Robinson, Councillor Cubitt and Councillor Douglas voiced their aversion at being dictated to by nationalist members.

The Director of Support Services pointed out that in the future the Audit Committee would be dealing with issues such as Corporate Governance and Risk Management and that a cross representation of Council would be useful as the Local Government Auditor may be attending some of these meetings.

On their being no nominations, it was agreed that the Audit Committee members who included Councillors Coyle and Butcher would meet at 2 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Members noted that the Audit Committee would be serviced by the Chief Executive and the Director of Support Services.

Councillor Butcher requested that the ice cream franchise at Benone be an item on the agenda of the first meeting. Agreed.

**General Grant:** The Director of Support Services informed members that the total General Grant Resources Element from Central Government to the 26 Councils may be cut from 20.5 million to 19.5 million next year. He said if this were to be pro-rated it would mean a loss to Council of approximately £70K or 2p in the pound.

**Regional Rate:** The Director of Support Services explained to members that the Regional Domestic Rate would be raised by 19% for the next year and that this would have a significant effect on the total Domestic Rate regardless of what District Domestic Rate was struck by Council in February 2006.

**Western Health Action Zone - Home Safe Home Presentation:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin that the Western Health Action Zone would present their Home Safe Home presentation at the Monthly meeting of Council.

**NEXT MEETING:**  
21 December 2005

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**

**(The meeting ended at 8.50 pm)**