

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**17 JANUARY 2007**

Minutes of special 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 A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Coyle (chair), M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Development, Director of Environmental Services, Director of Support Services, Finance Manager, Finance Assistant and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - None

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 5 December 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Confidential Summary of Investigation Conducted on Behalf of Limavady Borough Council by Alistair Joynes:** At member's request, the Chief Executive agreed to forward to members copies of the above confidential, report, which would include appendices 13 and 4F.

Councillor Cubitt expressed disappointment that a 'Councillor' had leaked the confidential report to the press. He said he knew who was responsible and it was not a unionist member and that he had confidence in all Council staff. Councillor Butcher objected to the presumption that a Councillor had been responsible and stated that the leak had not come from Sinn Féin. Councillor Coyle reiterated the same comments regarding the SDLP.

Councillor Cubitt was asked to identify the Councillor who had leaked the report and to retract his statement but refused to do so.

**RATES ESTIMATES 2007/2008:**

The Director of Support Services gave a detailed presentation on the main elements of the rates which were loan charges, other expenses, salaries & wages and income. He highlighted areas where there were variances from last year and/or from the previous two years actual figures. He then gave a supplementary explanation of the main areas that were causing an increase in the rates as follows:

**Loan Charges** of £841k – represents an increase of £65k or 8.32% due to loans being taken out to finance the construction of a new multi purpose Civic Centre of £1.5m, (total cost £4m) and the provision of 5 new play areas at £350k.

**Wages and Salaries** of £4,251k - represents an increase of £464k due mainly to the cost of living increase of 2.75% costing £110k, an increase in employer's pension contributions rate from 11% to 13% costing £83k, implementation of single status for all employees costing £129k, an additional week costing £35k and additional staff costing £59k for which there is 100% grant aid.

**Other Expenses** of £4,449k - represents an increase of £360k or 8.8%. The increase in Other Expenses is due to increased oil and electricity prices costing £110k, hiring of replacement vehicles costing £57k, gate fees and landfill tax associated with the disposal of 19,648 tonnes of waste costing £148k and sports development initiatives costing £42k.

**Income** of £1,791k - represents an increase of £74k which will be generated by Roe Valley Leisure Centre £25k, Building Control fees of £20k and bank interest of £25k.

This resulted in net expenditure of £7,751k - an increase of £814k or 11.74%.

The General Grant generated £1,636k - an increase of £184k. Therefore, the amount to be raised by the rates is £6,114k which is equivalent to a Domestic Rate of 0.3335 pence in the pound - an increase of 8.63% and a Non-Domestic Rate of 22.8353 pence in the pound - an increase of 8.64%.

Officers answered members' queries in relation to the presentation and clarified issues relating to landfill tax; waste management; oil as a fuel source; cost/benefits following the Appraisal Audit; play-park provision; programmes to commence in 2007/08 and the cost of Single Status. Comments were made that Council needed to be forwarding thinking in light of RPA and if it was possible to lower costs by reducing staff. The Chief Executive advised that whilst officers could provide an extensive list of services, there was a need to be careful and set a rate that was politically acceptable and that reducing staff would be difficult when there was a demand for additional services.

Members indicated that officers had been prudent in ensuring costs were kept to a minimum and it was agreed that whenever possible budgets would be adhered to.

It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Chivers that the estimated expenditure would be adopted and approved and that the domestic & non domestic rates of 0.3335pence and 22.8353 respectively would be struck at the Monthly meeting of Council on 23 January 2007.

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

**Capital Projects - Loan Sanction Approval:** The Director of Support Services recommended that once spend was agreed on capital projects that Loan Sanction approval be sought from Council at the next Monthly meeting so that funding

could be drawn down as soon as possible from the DOE to finance the projects.  
Agreed.

**Traffic Calming - Edenmore Road:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Roads Service would be informed that Council had no objection to traffic calming measures being introduced at Edenmore Road.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 6 February 2007.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.45 pm)**

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_