

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

SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2006

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, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Coyle, 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 Officer, Finance Assistant and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Carten

WELCOME:

The Chair welcomed Mr John Culkin, newly appointed Finance Assistant to the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 21 December 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

MATTERS ARISING:

Wireless Networking: At the request of Alderman Mullan, the Director of Support Services agreed to investigate providing a permanent screen for presentations in Council Chamber.

RATES ESTIMATES 2006/2007:

The Director of Support Services presented the rates estimates for 2006/2007 and enlarged thereon. At the outset, he pointed out that the tabled estimates were subject to change as Council had recently been advised that the £140,000 set off against revenue costs had now been ring fenced for capital projects and this would have an effect by increasing the rates estimate by 2.62%. He also advised that £5,000 needed to be included in the estimates for the Irish Language Sub Committee. This would represent 0.1% of an increase

The Director of Development explained to members elected in 2005 how the rates were calculated, changes in general grant and the penny product. Members noted

that from 2007 rates would be calculated on the capital value of the house rather than NAV.

The Director of Support Services stated that the net expenditure for the year had been calculated at £6,799,558, an increase of £474,396 on the proceeding year. After allowing for a general grant of £1,452,389, the net amount to be raised by the district rate was £5,347,169, which on application of the penny product, resulted in a recommended domestic district rate of 148.52, an increase of 7.82p (5.56%) and a non domestic rate of 20.50, an increase of 1.08p (5.56%).

The Director of Support Services detailed the main elements of the rates estimates. He gave a breakdown of income and expenditure by service, highlighting that loan charges had decreased by £52,125 (6.23%).

Members noted that wages and salaries had increased by £258,645 (7.33%) and represented 43.75% of Council's gross expenditure, compared to 42.91% the previous year. Of the increase, £106,000 related to the 2.95% annual pay increase, £93,000 (2.6%) increase in employers pension contributions, £24,000 as part of the Appraisal Audit re-organisation and £28,000 on job evaluations.

A breakdown of Council's other expenses were presented and members were advised that the increase of £226,459 (5.87%) was due, inter alia, to increase in Roe Valley Leisure Centre costs, Waste Management, Sports Development and Community Safety. This was offset by a decrease in insurance and members allowances.

The Director of Development stated that total income was projected to be £1,856,522, a decrease of some £41,417 (2.18%). Members noted that the sources of additional income were from waste collection, Building Control fees and grants. Members noted that this resulted in £6,799,558 net expenditure, an increase of £474,396 (7.5%) and that the general grant would generate £1,452,389, a decrease of £19,461 (1.32%). As there was no balance applied for the year 2006/07, the amount to be raised by the rates was £5,347,169, subject to amendments set out in paragraph 1.

After applying a penny product of £260,870, the result was a domestic rate of 148.52 pence and a non domestic rate of 20.5 pence, an increase of 5.56%.

Officers answered members' queries in relation to the presentation and clarified issues relating to Waste Management & proposed Civic Amenity site at Aghanloo, provision of playareas and cost of Multi Cultural Civic Centre. After discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy that Council endorse in principle, including the additional 2.63% already referred to and in so doing would delay striking the rate until Council received additional information regarding the £140,000 waste management grant.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Local Government Budget Protest: The Chief Executive tabled NILGA letter dated 16 January 2006, which sought members support for a protest to be held between 11.45 am and 12.30 pm at Stormont Estate on Thursday 26 January 2006

regarding the failure by Lord Rookers to amend recent budget proposals despite lobbying from the sector and to express outrage at the news that the already reduced waste management grant would be ring fenced for capital expenditure only. Noted.

NEXT MEETING:

7 February 2006.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.45 pm)