

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

**22 APRIL 2008**

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

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor E Stevenson

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Douglas.

**NORTHERN IRELAND SEX OFFENDERS STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

The Chair welcomed Mr William McAuley, Strategy & Policy Co-ordinator and Mr Nick Carson, Head of Communications, Multi-Agency Sex Offenders, Risk Assessment & Management (MASRAM) Northern Ireland to the meeting.

Mr McAuley explained that the primary purpose of MASRAM was to reduce the sex offenders' opportunity or inclination to re-offend by assessing the risk posed by every offender and having appropriate risk management plans prepared and delivered. He said that sex offenders were categorised as either 1 - low; 2 - medium or 3 - high risk and in Northern Ireland there were a total of 893 known offenders located in prison or living in the community. He added that as at 1 April 2008 there were 14 offenders in Limavady Borough Council area, 6 in the low risk category and 8 in the medium risk.

Mr McAuley and Mr Carson reinforced that the principal message was that most sex offenders do not re-offend; the compliance rate for offenders in relation to the MASRAM process was over 98% and the longer offenders remained offence-free in the community, the less likely they were to re-offend.

The representatives from MASRAM answered a number of queries in relation to legislation & cross border working; treatment; publicity; disclosure of offenders and statistics on offenders/victims. The Chair thanked the deputation for the informative presentation.

**MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 18 MARCH 2008:**

The minutes of meeting held 18 March 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

- **Members Training:** Members were informed that Disability Awareness Training for members would take place at 6 pm before the Support Services meeting on 6 May 2008.
- **Vesting of Land Catherine Street – IN COMMITTEE:** Concern was voiced by a member at legal advice received to vesting of land at Catherine Street. Others members felt that the best option would be to wait for outcome of advice from the Independent Retail Advisor. The Chief Executive agreed to report to Council on how much the advice cost. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING DATED 11 MARCH 2008**

The minutes of special meeting held 11 March 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Brolly.

**MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE DATED 13 DECEMBER 2007:**

The minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 13 December 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

Staff were thanked for their assistance and hard work during the course of the audits and it was requested that this be noted in the minutes.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – APRIL 2008:**

**Integrated Business Plan for 2008/09:** The Chief Executive presented the Integrated Business Plan for 2008/09 which outlined key objectives, performance indicators and outcomes for the last year of Councils Corporate Plan. Approved.

**RPA Announcement:** The Chief Executive presented an overview of the Minister's announcement regarding RPA, which included proposals for Implementation Structures arising from the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB). He said the new SLB would be driving forward the arrangements to bring the new Councils, with their enhanced power and functions into being by 2011 and that three Policy Development Panels (PDP's) would be established to advise the work of the SLB in Governance & Relationships, Service Delivery and Structure Reform. He added that by June 2008 Transitional Committees would also be established in each of the new Council areas and they would co-ordinate activities in preparation of the new Council; oversee issues such as estates, staffing, policies, procedures and asset management.

Approval was given for the Chief Executive and other senior officers to meet with counterparts in the other four Councils to be amalgamated under the new 11 Council formation.

**Post Office Closure Programme:** Members were tabled with a draft response to the consultation on proposals to close Bolea & Drumraighland Post Offices and to close Ardgarvan, Boveva & Feeny Post Offices but to provide an outreach service under the Post Office Closure Programme. The response which highlighted the importance of the Post Office to rural communities and called for Post Office Ltd to reconsider the proposals was approved by members for submission by 12 May 2008.

**Performance Indicators:** A copy of the 2006/07 Best Value Performance Indicators prepared by the Department of the Environment was tabled for member's information.

**Sustainable Development Policy:** It was agreed that Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Coyle, Councillor Ó hOisín and one officer from each Directorate would sit on the Sustainable Development Working Group to progress the actions contained within the Sustainable Development Policy and Action Plan.

**Aras an Uachtarian Garden Party:** The Chief Executive advised that President Mary McAleese wished to publicly recognise the valuable work carried out by carers of frail older people, people with severe disabilities, terminally ill and children with special need in the home by hosting a Garden Party on Tuesday 8 July 2008 from 2 – 5 pm. It was agreed that members would put forward nominations to the Chief Executive's office.

**Roads Service – Spring Consultation:** Members were advised that Roads Service had requested that their spring consultation with Council be deferred until the Monthly Council Meeting on 27 May 2008. Agreed.

#### **EXTERNAL MINUTES – NOTED:**

- NILGA Monthly Update – February 2008
- Western Health & Social Care Trust – 7 February 2008
- Western Group Environmental Health Committee – 11 December 2007
- Western Health & Social Services Board – 31 January 2008.

#### **NOTICES OF MOTION:**

##### *Submitted by Councillor Butcher:*

“This Council notes the increase in agency workers throughout the North. We are aware of the increasing number of workers from home and abroad are being redirected to agencies before they can find employment and that some agencies offer less money and fewer entitlements than the workers would receive if they were directly employed.

We understand that trade unions have raised concerns about agency workers being exploited by some employers to undercut current wage and entitlement agreements.

We ask this Council to call on the Executive to introduce legislation, based on the principle of equal treatment, as a matter of urgency. In addition we call on the British and Irish governments to support the introduction of the long promised EU Directive on Temporary Agency Workers.”

In support for the motion, he said Council employed agency workers and thus, had a duty of care to ensure the workers had severance, holiday pay and overtime. He called for the Executive to fast track legislation for both men and woman. The motion was seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín and declared carried.

Submitted by Councillor McElhinney:

“This Council expresses concern at the levels of underage drinking and calls on the Minister for Social Development to introduce effective measures to help combat alcohol misuse, including the clear and identifiable marking of carrier bags provided by off-licenses.”

Councillor McElhinney referred to the problems associated with alcohol misuse and said teenagers as young as 12 could be seen roaming the streets intoxicated and that statistics showed that Ireland's highest drinkers were 15/16 year olds. Councillor Butcher seconded the motion.

In the discussion which followed problems were highlighted:

- difficulty associated with marking bags
- proof of identify when buying alcohol
- older individuals buying alcohol for young people
- parents not keeping tabs on their children
- the marketing of alcoholic drink to resemble soft drinks
- PSNI ignoring terms of license for opening hours and
- drinking being glorified through sponsorship from sporting bodies

The motion was declared carried.

**RESOLUTIONS NOTED:**Submitted by Ballymena Borough Council:

“Ballymena Borough Council deplores the concerted campaign, launched by Sinn Fein/IRA, supported by SDLP to purge Councils of revered symbols relating to our British heritage, unionist convictions and our Protestant culture.”

Submitted by Carrickfergus Borough:

“Carrickfergus Borough Council calls upon the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to ensure that his Department and all relevant Trusts implement as a matter of extreme urgency all the recommendations in the Report issued on 27 March 2008, by the Western and Eastern Health & Social Services boards, with a view to effectively tackling the issue of suicide across Northern Ireland. The Council also calls for adequate funding to be made available at a local level to help resource community groups pursuing the same objective.”

Submitted by Down District Council:

“Considering the impact that escalating energy prices and climate change is having in County Down and on Northern Ireland and considering the lack of joined-up-thinking displayed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service in respect of energy and building standards policy with the proposed ending of the reconnect scheme in March and the watering down of the building standards in April.

This Council resolves to:

- write to the First Minister Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and ask that they commit all the Ministers on the Executive to cooperate on a joint energy policy which is based on the need for a sustainable strategy of energy production and conservation.
- write to the Ministers Nigel Dodds of the DUP and Eamon Ryan of the Green Party at the N/S ministerial council to express our concern that the long term planning of the all-island energy market could be thrown into disarray by the proposed decisions to end the reconnect grant in March and to exempt the new buildings standards from renewables in April.
- ask what steps the ministers are taking to ensure a “joined up policy” to ensure NI is meeting its share of International commitments and what steps they are taking to ensure policy coordination on energy issues and in the building up the capacity of the renewable industry in NI to meet the challenge.
- the Council will point out that this has a long-term impact on energy security, our carbon footprint and the competitiveness of the all-island economy and will severely effect the capacity of the industry in NI to manage the next stages in the tightening of building standards by the UK government towards “zero-carbon” in 2010 and 2013.”

### CONSULTATIONS:

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would respond to the following consultation documents and include any additional comments made by members:

- Translink – New Trains Consultation (response due 16 May 2008)
- Environment and Heritage Service – proposals to introduce a fees and charges scheme under the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (NI) 2006 (response due 23 June 2008)
- Utility Regulator (Electricity, Gas, Water) – Sustainable Development The Regulator’s Role (response due 1 August 2008)
- DRD – free travel for people aged 60 – 64: Policy Consultation and Draft Equality Impact Assessment (response due 9 June 2008).

### COURSES / CONFERENCES

**Emergency Planning:** Approval was given for the Chief Executive to attend An Emergency Planning College Course to be held 23 June 2008 in Greenmount College, Antrim at a cost of £330+VAT.

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** - None

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

**Leisure Activities in the Borough:** Councillor Brolly referred to letter sent to the Derry Journal regarding lack of leisure activities for 14 – 17 year olds in the Borough and suggested that the Good Relations Officer draft a questionnaire to find out what services were needed. The Chief Executive suggested that could be an opportunity to test views through the Corporate Plan consultation process.

**Parking – Dungiven Castle:** Councillor Ó hOisín requested that the Chief Executive meet with the stakeholders regarding parking at Dungiven Castle, with a view to getting part of the car park sectioned off and bollards erected for those using the nearby public convenience.

**Improvements to Vale Centre Pitches:** Councillor McElhinney thanked officers for the work carried out to improve the pitches at the Vale Centre, Greysteel. In response to a query, the Chief Executive confirmed that the improvement works did not resolve the underlying drainage problem. It was suggested that officers liaise with the Vale Centre Management Committee with a view to finding a resolution to the drainage dispute.

**Playpark Provision:** Councillor Robinson formally proposed, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Council commence work on provision of playpark at Ballykelly. Councillor Chivers suggested that work should also commence on the playarea approved for the Bovally area.

**Corporate Planning Workshop:** The Chief Executive tabled an agenda for the Corporate Planning Workshop on 24 April 2008 at 12.30 pm.

**Consultation – Ballykelly By-Pass:** Members were advised that a consultation event on the proposed Ballykelly Bypass would be held in the Drummond Hotel on 7 & 8 May 2008.

**Letter of Support:** It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to Newry & Mourne Council to state that Council was supportive of the University of Ulster bid to the Interreg Programme for finance towards delivery of a cross border MSc in Executive Leadership.

**Tender Report – SWAMP & NWRWVG:** It was agreed that the tender submitted for the short term residual waste contract by the Quinn Group would be accepted for provision of service for haulage, treatment by MBT and disposal of residual/fuel materials.

#### **FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- NIHRC Review – Issue 6 Winter 2007
- Queens University Belfast, Vice Chancellors Report 2006/07
- International Fund for Ireland – Annual Report & Accounts 2007
- Building a Better Future – Draft Equality Impact Assessment carried out at Strategic Level, Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2008-2018 and Programme for Government 2008-2011
- Home Energy Conservation Report 2007 – Eleventh Annual Progress Report on the Home Energy Conservation Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Water – How are we performing? Strategic Business Plan 2007-2010, 6 month interim report
- Northern Ireland Executive – Budget 2008-11
- Invest Northern Ireland – Performance Information Report 2002/03 – 2006/07
- The Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland – Policing Plan 2008-2011
- Government Equalities Office – Valuing Diversity, a best practice guide to Equality and Diversity Issues
- CJSNI – Criminal Justice in a Shared Future

**NEXT MEETING:** - 27 May 2008.

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.45 pm**

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