

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

**24 OCTOBER 2006**

Minutes of monthly meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady, which commenced at 7.00 pm on the above date.

**In the Chair:** Councillor McElhinney

**Other Members:** Aldermen G Mullan and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, and E Stevenson.

**In Attendance:** Committee Clerk, Corporate Policy Officer and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - Alderman Robinson, Councillors M Carten and A Robinson.

**PRESENTATION BY LOCAL TAXI ASSOCIATION:**

The chair welcomed Mr Tony Begley, representative from local Taxi Association to the meeting.

Mr Begley explained that although the key measures of the proposals for a Draft Order in Council – The Taxi (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 were to improve the standard of taxi services, create an effective framework that promotes road and personal safety, however, the general public were unaware of the effect this would have on rural areas. He said the new taxi meter system did not take into account the number of miles a driver would cover before he/she would begin to charge and suggested that some sort of supplementary rural fare be allowed.

Mr Begley stated that due to no public transport services, rural dwellers relied on taxi firms for transporting children to school, the elderly to shops, a service for those with a disability, hospitals appointments, lifting prescriptions and a general public safety service. He said there would be an increase in the number of unregulated taxis at the expense of regulated taxis firms who were checked by the DOE, had PSV and relevant insurance. He suggested that Council promote the use of regulated taxis by responding to the consultation document.

It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would meet with representatives of the Taxi Association to formulate a response to the consultation.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING:**

The minutes of meeting dated 26 September 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2006:**

The Chief Executive presented his Report for October 2006 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Coyle subject to the following:

**Minutes of RPA Strategic Review Group:** The minutes of the RPA Strategic Review Group were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

It was agreed that Mr George Thorley OBE, recently retired CEO of South Ayrshire Council would undertake a half day seminar for Limavady Borough Council elected members on the subject “the lessons learned from the reform of Scottish Local Government and their possible application for Limavady in advance of the implications of RPA.” It was agreed that the seminar costing £950 plus VAT would take place on Thursday 30 November 2006 at 2 pm.

**Multi Functional Civic Centre:** The chair welcomed Mr Colin Maxwell and Ms Sarah Villiers, Consarc to the meeting.

Mr Maxwell explained that the enabling work and archaeological dig at the Multi Functional Civic Centre site had now been completed. He said the team were pushing ahead with technical drawings for the project and if Building Control approval was finalised by Christmas 2006, a select list of tenders would be sought early in 2007.

Mr Maxwell pointed out that there had been minor revisions to the scheme and that the revised costs had risen to £3.6 million, which included additional security and enhancement work to the Roe Fold building. He said the project scheduled for completion in 2008 could act as a catalyst for other projects and give Council the opportunity to complete this flagship project before RPA.

The Consarc team recommended that Council:

1. advertise for expressions of interest for a select list of tenders
2. increase loan sanction approval from £3 million to £4 million as the original approval of £3 million did not include architect fees or minor adjustments to the scheme.

Councillor Cubitt reminded members that he had predicted 3 years previously that the project would cost in excess of £4 million. He said it was disappointing that Council and the Fold Management team were ignoring the view of the residents regarding entrance to the site.

Councillor Cubitt left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Councillor Coyle stated that the project had been delayed unduly and proposed that Council agree to the recommendations. Councillor Butcher seconded the proposal and said payback day would be seen in two years time when residents and businesses in the Borough had a tangible project.

The recommendations were put to the meeting and declared carried.

The minutes of Civic Centre meeting held 16 October 2006 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

**Corporate Plan:** It was agreed that a special meeting of Council would be held directly after the Planning Services Committee on 2 November 2006 to discuss the Corporate Plan 2007/09.

**Fair Trade:** The Chief Executive informed members that Council had sponsored a first time exhibition in Northern Ireland of ‘trade only’ suppliers of products bearing the Fairtrade logo. He said a range of suppliers were given the opportunity to exhibit a variety of products with the aim to encouraged local businesses to stock products hearing the Fairtrade Mark. He reminded members of Council’s aim to have Limavady a ‘Fairtrade Borough’ and for shops, cafes and other catering establishments to have at least two Fairtrade products readily available.

Members noted that a range of Fairtrade products would be on display in cabinets in the main Council foyer and that a Fairtrade table of products would be made available for sale in the run up to Christmas.

**Effective Chairmanship of Council Meetings:** Members noted the salient points clarified by Gerry Beamish at members training on ‘Effective Chairing of Council as follows:

- role of chairman when taking part in debate
- point of order and point of information
- agreeing agendas
- amendment/multiple amendments to motions/proposals and
- dealing with unruly/inappropriate behaviour by individuals.

#### **REPORT AND DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT – EMBLEMS WORKNG GROUP:**

The Chief Executive explained that in August 2005 Council had agreed that an all party working group would be established to consider emblems within Council facilities. He said the working group had met on several occasions and it had been agreed that a policy should be proposed to Council based on the provision of a neutral environment with regard to emblems in public areas of the Council offices. He added that it had been agreed that following a screening exercise that the following policy should be subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment:

“That the public areas within Council Offices building and grounds be maintained as a neutral environment with regard to how they reflect religious or political opinion.”

Councillor Douglas queried the definition of emblems and if all rooms within the building were to remain neutral. He said unionist members had not taken part in the working group and suggested that the motion be worded to include all Council properties. Councillor Stevenson agreed and said unionist history was being removed from Council.

The Corporate Policy Officer explained the background as to how the Emblems Working Group had developed the policy and the seven step process of EQIA which was considered mandatory by the Equality Commission.

Councillor Ó hOisín proposed and Councillor Brolly seconded that the policy be adopted in principle. Councillor Douglas proposed an amendment to the policy ‘that the entirety of the Council Offices, buildings and grounds be maintained as a neutral environment with regard to how they reflect religious or political opinion.’

The amendment was put to the meeting and declared lost, with 5 voting for, 6 against and 1 abstention. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and declared carried with 7 voting for, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

Councillor Coyle requested that all minutes of the Emblems Working Group be presented to Council for information. Agreed.

#### **MINUTES FROM EXTERNAL BODIES:**

The following minutes were tabled and noted.

- Western Health & Social Services Board – 27 July 2006
- Wester Health & Social Services Council – 7 September 2006
- Foyle Health & Social Services Trust – 29 September 2006

#### **CONSULTATIONS:**

The Chief Executive tabled the following consultation documents and it was agreed that those members who wished to respond would contact the Corporate Policy Officer two weeks before the consultation deadline.

1. DOE - 'Control of Development in Airport Public Safety Zones Consultation (NI)' – response due 5 February 2007;
2. NIO Criminal Justice Policy Division – 'Community Based Restorative Justice (CBRJ) Consultation on Draft Protocol & Equality Impact Assessment' – response due 13 December 2006;
3. Food Standards Agency – 'The Draft Food Hygiene (Amendments) Regulations (NI) 2007 – response due 11 December 2006.

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

It was agreed that the following members/officers would attend the conferences/courses listed:

- *Councillor Coyle to attend the Confederation of European Councillors seminar on 'Services for the Elderly' to be held 8 December 2006 in Killyhevlin Hotel at a cost of £120.*

**SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** - none

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

**Presentation by NILGA:** It was agreed that the I&DeA Report – 'Modelling NILGA's Future' would be presented to Council at the Support Services Committee on 7 November 2006.

**Civic Reception – O'Brian's GAC:** It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held for O'Brian's GAC, Foreglen in acknowledgment of the clubs achievement over the last few years.

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Northern Ireland Housing Council Summary Report April – September 2006
- Roads Service – Annual Report & Accounts 2005/2006
- Planning Appeals Commission – The Planning & Water Appeals Commissions Chief Commissioner’s Annual Report April 2005 to March 2006
- Firmus Energy – Taking Natural Gas Further
- Altnagelvin Hospitals Health & Social Services Trust – Annual Report 2005/06
- Green Park Healthcare Trust Annual Report 2005/06 [www.greenpark.n-i.nhs.uk](http://www.greenpark.n-i.nhs.uk)

**NEXT MEETING** – 28 November 2006

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**

**(The meeting ended at 9.10 pm)**

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