

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**28 JANUARY 2009**

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, M Donaghy (chair), B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, E Stevenson and A Robinson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**APOLOGIES:** - None.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 15 January 2009 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None.

**REVISED RATES ESTIMATES 2009/2010:**

It was agreed that the discussion would **NOT BE HELD IN COMMITTEE:**

At the start of the meeting members were tabled with a petition from business owners in Dungiven which urged Council to consider the implications of raising the rates for the year 2009/10 and to carefully consider major capital work projects.

The Director of Support Services tabled revised draft estimates for 2009/10. He said that officers had looked where additional saving would be made after reviewing the 9 months accounts for the year April - December 2008 and that these included reductions in the following areas:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| - DERV                     | - Reduced Interest Rate Charges            |
| - Annual Pay Increase (2%) | - Car Ferry                                |
| - Economic Development     | - Waste Management (less tonnage)          |
| - No Staff Uniforms        | - Non Printing of the Corporate Newsletter |

The Director of Support Services advised that the general grant was £1,504,273k, £102,226k less than previously budgeted for and that while it had been agreed that the £390k rebate to the MOD could be paid back over 5 years, the full provision would have to be included in Council's reserves. He said with the additional

savings the domestic rate would be reduced to 6.68% and the non-domestic rate to 6.89%.

At this point a member reminded members that Standing Orders were still suspended from the previous meeting and proposed that they be reinstated. Agreed.

A number of recommendations were made by members on how the rates might be further reduced. These included putting on hold capital projects such as the proposed play areas, toilets in Ballykelly, the Town Hall, renewal of staff contracts, reduction in festivals and reducing spend on leisure facilities and waste.

Reservation was expressed at making drastic reductions and the impact this might have on services. However, officers were commended for making further cuts to the budgets for 2009/10.

Councillor Cubitt proposed that Council forgo the Town Hall, playareas, toilets in Ballykelly and look closely at the pricing structure for recreation at the Leisure Centre. There was no seconder for the proposal.

After discussion on how the rates would be reduced, the Director of Support Services said if members felt that the rates should be reduced even further, Council could use what remained of its reserves to bring the rate increase down to 5.86%. However, in terms of good governance, this was inadvisable.

Councillor Butcher proposed, seconded by Alderman Mullan that the estimated expenditure would be adopted and approved and that a domestic & non domestic rate of 6.86% and 6.89% respectively would be struck at the Monthly meeting of Council on 3 February 2009.

A recorded vote was requested and on being put to the meeting was declared carried, 9 for, namely Councillor Carten, Councillor Coyle, Alderman Mullan, Councillor Chivers, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Donaghy, Councillor Brolly, Councillor Ó hOisín and Councillor McElhinney. Abstentions 5, Councillor Douglas, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Robinson and Alderman Robinson. Councillor Cubitt voted against the proposal.

**NEXT MEETING:** - 3 February 2009.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 8.00 pm)**

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