

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

18 JUNE 2013

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

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Coyle, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors O Beattie, B Chivers, B Douglas, G Mullan, T McCaul, J McCorkell (Chair), C McLaughlin, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Development, Committee Clerk and Administration Officer.

APOLOGIES: - Councillors A Brolly and S McGlinchey.

PRESENTATION – NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE DISTRICT HOUSING PLAN:

The Chair welcomed Dr John McPeake – Chief Executive, Mr Mark Alexander – Area Manager and Mr Brendan Doherty – Outgoing Area Manager, Northern Ireland Housing Executive to the meeting.

Dr McPeake explained that in January 2013, the Minister for Social Development outlined proposals for the reform of social housing, to include the restructure of the Housing Executive. He said that the proposals represented a major change to social housing and promised a sustainable future for housing in Northern Ireland, with a focus put on supporting the most vulnerable in the community. He added that the Welfare Reform Bill (NI) 2012 currently in the legislative process would probably lead to changes in Housing Benefit and that HE tenants would be kept fully informed on the impact of this.

Dr McPeake referred to the five objectives of the Housing Executive and how those impacted at local level as follows:

- ❖ 350 thousand people had visited the district office
- ❖ There were two schemes on site at 31 March 2013: 13 units at Tamblough Park, Ballykelly and 10 units at Hass Road, Dungiven.
- ❖ A small number of renovation, replacement and repair grants had been completed at a combined cost of £25.8k.
- ❖ 272 homes received insulation measures through the Warm Homes Scheme.
- ❖ £280k had been spent delivering the Supporting People programme in 2012/13 in which 8 sheltered and supported housing schemes had been provided for a range of client groups.
- ❖ 295 homeless applications had been received, 139 of which were assessed as full duty status.
- ❖ 50 homes had been adapted and 23 grants provided to private sector housing.

- ❖ The Housing Executive continued to participate in the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership in delivering the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in Limavady town.

The following points were made:

- ✓ The waiting list for single people seeking accommodation was the fastest growing and the Housing Executive were encouraging Housing Associations to create single unit accommodation or to convert homes to a shared housing unit.
- ✓ The Housing Executive was committed to keeping the local office intact and although new premises were being sought in Limavady, it was unclear if this would continue in the longer term as the Housing Executive would no longer exist. It was confirmed that the main reason for visits to the local office were queries on waiting lists, benefits or to register as homeless.
- ✓ The Housing Executive focused on transparency and accountability and during all its years of operation, there had never been a single case of discrimination.
- ✓ Reference was made to good relations & to a shared future highlighted during the G8 summit and it was queried if the Housing Executive had a policy on balance in housing allocation. It was confirmed that the Housing Executive allocated on need rather than belonging to one particular community or another, with emphasis put on respect and understanding.
- ✓ Tribute was paid to Brendan Doherty for his work in the Limavady area.

The deputation from the Housing Executive left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON:

Councillor S McGlinchey was nominated as Chair of the Development Services Committee for the year 2013/14 on the proposal of Councillor D Nicholl, seconded by Councillor B Chivers.

In the absence of Councillor McGlinchey, it was agreed that the Deputy Mayor Councillor J McCorkell would Chair the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 14 May 2013 were approved on the proposal of Councillor B Chivers, seconded by Councillor A Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

MINUTES OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Costa na Gaeilge/Irish Language Sub Committee meeting held 23 April 2013 were approved on the proposal of Councillor B Chivers, seconded by Councillor C McLaughlin.

MINUTES OF DUNGIVEN SPORTS AND COMMUNITY PROJECT STEERING GROUP:

The minutes of the Steering Group of Dunigven Sports and Community Project meeting held 24 May 2013 were approved on the proposal of Councillor McCaul, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT ~ JUNE 2013:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for June 2013 and enlarged thereon. The report was approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor B Chivers subject to the following:

Roe Valley Arts and Heritage Committee: It was agreed that Council would expand the Council booking price band to cover affiliated group of Roe Valley Arts and Heritage Committee effective from 1 September 2013 when the committee would have its affiliation criteria reviewed and be in operation.

Request from Limavady Sports Council for Grant Assistance: It was agreed that a grant of £8,000 would be allocated to Limavady Sports Council to enable the group to continue its work throughout 2013/14 in supporting local clubs/individuals and organising the Annual Sports Awards.

IFA Grassroots Soccer Development: It was agreed that Council would continue to work in partnership with the IFA on delivery of the Grassroots Soccer Development programme up to 31 March 2014.

Brighter Hoard: The Director of Development advised that discussions were on going with the National Museum and Derry City Council regarding the loan of the Brighter Hoard. She gave an overview of indicatives costs to date for display resources, display case, insurance, curatorial costs and security, which was estimated to be in the region of £40,000 per Council.

It was agreed that Council would proceed with plans to have loan of the Brighter Hoard from the National Museum.

Limavady Community Support Plan 2013/15: The Community Support Plan 2013/15 for Limavady Borough Council was approved.

Good Relations Grant Applications: It was agreed that the grant awards set out within the report would be approved.

Good Relations Workplan 2013/14: Council approved the 2013/14 Good Relations Workplan.

Economic Development – Requests for Funding: The following requests for funding from Economic Development were approved:

1. Roe Valley Enterprises ‘Exploring Enterprise 2’ - £6,698
2. Roe Valley Enterprises ‘Tradelinks2’ - £2,100
3. Roe Valley Education Forum ‘More Flexible Steps’ - £5,000.

Town Centre Masterplan – Further Public Realm Development and Shop Front Scheme: It was agreed that Council would accept the process for taking forward the above scheme and to continue to work with the department for Social Development.

Scripture Union NI – Beach Mission: Council granted permission for Scripture Union NI to hold a beach mission at Benone Strand from 6 – 20 July 2013.

Culture Arts & Tourism Grants: Council approved the three applications submitted for revenue deficit funding of grant aid for events and festival's taking place between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 as follows:

- a) Charlie Gaile Memorial by County Derry Darts Association - £1,100
- b) The Eddie Butcher Music & Singing Festival by The Shamrock Rose & Thistle Tradition - £1,500
- c) Finvola Festival by St Canice's Gaelic Athletic Club - £1,500.

It was agreed that if the events were in profit the maximum grant set out above would not be paid.

Summer Scheme 2013: Council approved proposals for summer scheme at Roe Valley Leisure Centre for 2013.

Limavady & Green Lane Museums: In order to achieve Phase 3 Accreditation for both Limavady and Green Lane Museums, Council approved the adoption of:

- Collections Development Policies
- Document Policy Statements
- Care and Conservation Policy Statement and
- Causeway Museum Service Learning & Access Policy.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Drumceatt Square: It was highlighted that Drumceatt Square needed a thorough clean in the run up to the Hugo Duncan event.

Civic Reception: It was agreed that a civic reception would be held for Drumsurn Community Group.

Letter of Congratulations: It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be forwarded to the Reverend Sam McVeigh on his recent MBE award.

Armed Forces Day: Councillor Stevenson proposed, seconded by Alderman Rankin that a financial contribution of £500 be granted to the British Legion for an event being held to mark Armed Forces Day. Following discussion, the proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, 6 for, 0 against and 6 abstentions.

International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD): The Chief Executive informed members of upcoming Executive Training and Animation Programme that was being developed and delivered by ICLRDR in response to local government reform agendas being rolled out jurisdictions of the island of Ireland. He said the programme would commence in September 2013 and was open to all Councils involved in the three cross border networks, with it being funding through INTERREG IVA. Nominations were sought for two Council Officials, two elected representatives and one community worker.

Alderman M Coyle and one member from Sinn Féin (to be confirmed) were nominated to attend the ICLRDR Executive Training and Animation Programme. The Chief Executive agreed to discuss with the SMT additional nominations to the programme.

NEXT MEETING – 13 August 2013

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.50 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting