

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

**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
7 MAY 2013**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.25 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor C McLaughlin.

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, G Mullan, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: - None.

**NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
(NILGA) – ANNUAL PLAN:**

The Chair welcomed Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, NILGA to the meeting.

Mr McCallan gave an overview of NILGA and the work carried out by the association. He gave examples for what NILGA was doing for Limavady Borough Council, which included:

- lobbied successfully for retention of Resource Grant (total of £158k for Limavady)
- assisted in achieving the determination of the NI Executive to provide up to £46m for LG Reform
- levered £11m funding from 2007-13 for economic development projects from DETI/INI
- held key engagement events on issues affecting local government, including justice, community safety, EU, welfare reform, waste management and planning
- maintaining in 2013/14 the same subscription levy as from 2010/11
- delivered working groups for elected members
- production of sector news bulletins and specific LG Reform communications.

Mr McCallan highlighted that in going forward, NILGA would continue with elected member development; ensuring local government is transformed; further negotiate with central government; bring best practices into Northern Ireland on planning and competence; bring investment choices from the EU for local authorities and check annual results against targets.

The input from elected members into NILGA Full & Executive Committees was commended by Mr McCallan. The Chair thanked Mr McCallan for presenting to Council.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 9 April 2013 were approved on the proposal of Alderman G Robinson, seconded by Councillor G Mullan.

MATTERS ARISING:

Aviation Museum: In response to a member, the Chief Executive confirmed that the owner of the Aviation Museum had declined the offer to relocate the museum to the Business Park in Aghanloo. It was highlighted that the owner would prefer to relocate to Shackleton Army Barracks.

Magilligan Prison Update: The Chief Executive outlined that Councils in the north west were co-ordinating with each other on taking forward the NI Prison Service initiative on prisoner reform and employability strategy. Councillor A Robinson confirmed that he had made contact with the Housing Executive with regard to working with the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

The Chief Executive advised that whilst he intended raising this within his report, the next meeting of the Magilligan Prison Elected Members Liaison Group would be held on 11 June 2013.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

The Chief Executive presented his report for May 2013, which was approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor McCaul subject to the following:

RPA Update: The Chief Executive reported that the Environment Minister Alex Attwood had recently announced an agreement which would transfer a package of functions to the 11 new councils from central government in 2015. He said that the package which would also give the new councils more wide ranging powers and responsibilities had now been agreed by the Executive. These included planning, roads, urban regeneration and community development, housing, local economic development (transfer from Invest NI), local tourism and several other functions. He added that planning was probably the most significant of the transferring functions. Noted.

Scorecard Report: The final Integrated Business Plan for 2012/13 and the new Integrated Business Plan for 2013/14 with key business objectives for the year across Council's directorates and departments was circulated for information.

Dungiven Sports and Community Project: The Chief Executive advised that the Steering Group taking forward the above project had met earlier in the day and that Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA (DARD) would be visiting Dungiven Library on 22 May 2013 between 9.45 – 10.30 am to discuss investment in the area.

Dungiven PSNI Station: The Chief Executive informed members that discussions were on-going with the PSNI regarding demolition costs for the

former police station and to the possibility of having the overall costs of purchasing the station reduced.

Proposal for a Diversity and Equality Working Group: The Chief Executive explained that Council was asked to consider a proposal for the establishment of an Equality and Diversity Working Group that would facilitate discussion on and the progression of a wide range of equality related issues within Council. He said a new high level Equality and Diversity Group had recently been established by LGSC who had previously worked in partnership with Councils on important equality initiatives, ie Woman in Local Councils and the Disability in Local Councils initiative. He added that it was envisaged that if the Council followed suit and established a single Equality and Diversity Working Group that it would support Council with regard to progressing Section 75 Action Plan; progressing the Council's Disability Action Plan and promoting joint working with the Good Relations section.

It was agreed that a new diversity and Equality Working Group would be established made up of Councillors and Officer representatives with nominees representing various Section 75 groups as far as possible.

EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing – An Action for European Cities and Communities: It was agreed that the Chief Executive and the incoming Mayor would attend the signing of the Dublin Declaration 2013 on Age Friendly Cities and Communities on 13-14 June in Dublin.

EXTERNAL MINUTES NOTED:

Western Health & Social Care Trust – 14 March 2013.

CONSULTATIONS:

Members reviewed the consultation list for May 2013. It was agreed that the Corporate Policy Officer would draft a response on behalf of members to the following consultation:

- ✓ Department of the Environment – Severance Arrangements for Councillors and Draft Local Government (Severance Payments for Councillors) Regulations (NI) 2013: *It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman M Coyle, seconded by Alderman G Robinson that Council would support the National Association of Councillors response to the Department of the Environment's on severance proposals by submitting a similar response to the consultation by the 31 May 2013 deadline.*

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

There were no requests by elected members or officers to attend the list of courses/conferences outlined on the agenda.

FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- ICLRD – Jan 2013 Borderlands – The Journey of Spatial Planning in Ireland
- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Child Care: Maximising the Economic Participation of Woman
- 24 Housing – Power Players Top 50

- 24 Housing – Community Impact Awards, The Winners Revealed
- Centre for Competiveness – Quarterly Newsletter
- Historic Buildings Council for Northern Ireland 2010 – 2013 Report
- HSSPS – Health Matters Throughout Life, Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland 2011/12

SEAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS: - None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None.

NEXT MEETING: - 11 June 2013.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.10 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting