

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE
4 MAY 2010**

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APOLOGIES: - Councillor Stevenson.

NILGA – ANNUAL PLAN:

The Chair welcomed John Mathews, Tara Cunningham and Nora Winder, representatives from NILGA to the meeting.

Ms Winder outlined that NILGA's objective was to be the voice of strong, democratic local government, the champion for improved services for citizens and to work with councils & other stakeholders to champion and support the development of a world class local government system in Northern Ireland. She said that NILGA engaged in policy development, established partnerships, shared best practices and communicated & engaged to keep up with changes in the European Union.

Ms Winder referred to local government reform and said that although progress had been steady, it had been hampered by wider political issues. She said the work of the Policy Development Panels was near completion and that genuine political engagement which had taken place would lead to a good foundation for any new Central/Local Government relationships.

Ms Winder confirmed that due to financial pressures facing councils, NILGA had waived the annual increase of 2.5% in funding from local government in 2009/10. She said it was proposed to increase the funding by 2.5% in 2010/11 and this equated to £350 per council, leaving NILGA with a projected deficit of £24k for the year.

Members noted that NILGA priorities for 2010/11 included negotiating on and supporting effective delivery of RPA, developing relationships with central & local government and to enhance engagement with council members at NILGA meetings. Reference was made to the uncertainty of RPA. NILGA representatives agreed to try and get the message across that any delay in RPA was not down to local government.

The Chair thanked the deputation from NILGA for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 8 April 2010 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

The payment of accounts for the month of March 2010 were tabled and noted.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Human Resource Report: IN COMMITTEE. The Director of Support Services presented the Human Resource Report dated 4 May 2010 which detailed recruitment & selection, absenteeism and cause of long term absences. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to the following:

Equal Opportunities Policy: The Director of Support Services circulated updated version of Councils Equal Opportunity Policy, which had reviewed in line with the Local Government Staff Commissions updated Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection. The policy was adopted by Council. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

POLICY STATEMENT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (BENEFITS, MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2009:

The Director of Support Services explained that under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (NI) 2009, the Council is required to publish and keep under review its Policy Statement on certain discretions, which it can exercise under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2009. He said that in addition the Council could exercise its discretion to contribute to a shared cost additional voluntary contribution arrangements under Regulation 21(3) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2009.

The Director of Support Services stated that the proposed policy was based on that currently adopted by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee.

It was noted that in formulating the Policy Statement Council had ensured that its discretionary powers were exercised reasonably; would not be used for ulterior motive; would be used with regard to all relevant factor and would be duly recorded when used. The Council also confirms that in applying its Policy Statement discretions would be applied reasonably; would not be fettered and would be used as necessary to assist the Council in attracting and retaining staff and to compensate staff who were leaving. The Policy Statement was approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

INTERNAL AUDIT TRAINING FOR AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

It was agreed that Alderman Coyle, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Cubitt and Councillor Butcher would attend training for Audit Committee members to be held 26 May 2010 in Moyle District Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None.

NEXT MEETING: - 1 June 2010.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 8.00 pm)

Chair: _____