



ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

THE SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE

People Improve Performance

Throughout the past year we continued to promote excellence in employee development, communication and performance management across the Council by working towards the achievement of Investors in People. This standard has provided the framework within which we have reviewed and developed the way we identify training needs, clarify our working objectives and manage performance. Work will be ongoing throughout 2007/2008 to review what we do and how we do it against this standard.

Absence Levels

In an effort to continue to address absence levels within the Council we have recently launched a Health and Wellbeing initiative. This initiative will address four key areas of concern previously identified by employees:

1. Healthy Eating/Nutrition
2. Physical Activity
3. Stress – Work Life Balance
4. Coronary Heart Disease, Stroke and Cancer issues

In partnership with employees from across the Council and with Foyle Health @ Work we are working to create a healthy workplace. In addition we are also continuing to monitor and review absence levels within the Council and are working to ensure ongoing reductions are achieved.

Child Protection

As a provider of public facilities and services the Council is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for the children and young people who use our facilities and come into contact with members of our workforce. To ensure that we protect children using our facilities and services we

are reviewing and updating our current Child Protection Policy and developing training programme which will be rolled out across the relevant Council services.

Women in Local Councils – Making a Difference

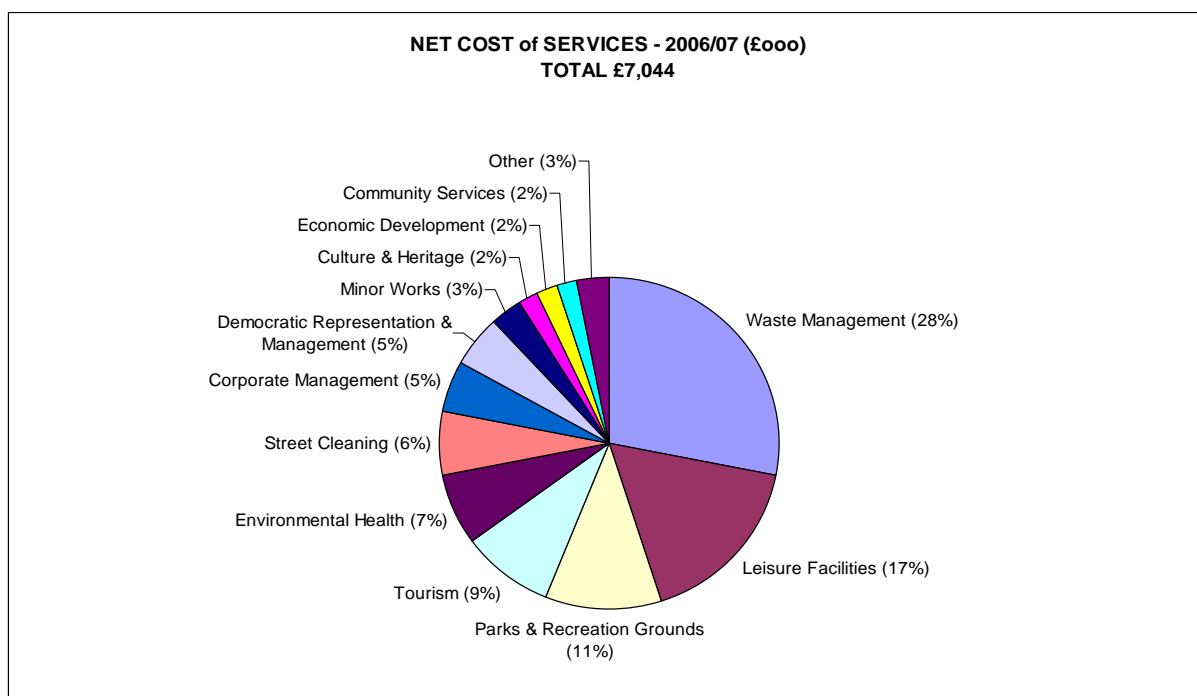
As a Council we are committed to the Women in Local Councils initiative which is designed to raise the profile of women in local government, both as officers and as political representatives.

The initiative, has been running since its launch in January 2006 and will continue throughout 2007/08. It has featured a series of events designed to attract women into local government at all levels and to encourage those already employed to apply for higher graded posts. The political dimension is also being addressed. We have identified a Gender Champion, a working group is in place and an Action Plan for officers has been agreed. Further details can be accessed at the Women in Local Councils - Making a Difference website www.womeninlocalcouncils.org.uk

Information Technology

During the year Council redesigned its website in order to:

- Improve the availability, accessibility and effective delivery of Council services to all members of the community.
- Provide advice and information for the citizens, customers, staff and others at all times.
- Enable citizens to access Council services and conduct electronic business on-line.



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

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2007

	2006/2007 £000	2005/2006 £000
Salaries & Wages	3,978	3,465
Other Expenditure	4,195	4,367
Loan Charges	<u>672</u>	<u>690</u>
Gross Expenditure	8,845	8,522
Grants	(563)	(797)
Other Income	<u>(1,238)</u>	<u>(1,102)</u>
Gross Income	(1,801)	(1,899)
NET COST of SERVICES	<u>7,044</u>	<u>6,623</u>
Bank Interest	(29)	(12)
Revenue Contribution	<u>31</u>	<u>-</u>
NET EXPENDITURE	7,046	6,611
General Grant	(1,456)	(1,515)
District Rates	<u>(5,753)</u>	<u>(4,988)</u>
NET (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	<u>(163)</u>	<u>108</u>

THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

2006/2007 has been an exceptionally busy year for the Development Directorate. Roe Valley Leisure Centre celebrated the first anniversary of Lifestyle Fitness and the hard work of the staff in the Centre throughout the year was rewarded when the Centre received the QUEST quality award in June 2007. In excess of 196,000 people used Roe Valley Leisure Centre during the year with membership of Lifestyle Fitness increasing to over 560 and an average of 2,500 usages each month.

As part of Councils development of cross border and European links, Limavady Borough Council supports two Twinning Committees. 2006 saw the 10th anniversary celebrations of the link between Limavady and Vigneux Sur Seine in France. This was an opportunity to renew old friendships between the two towns and build upon existing ones. The links between Westport in County Mayo and Limavady continued throughout the year with representatives from Limavady joining in the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Westport and Westport showing support at the Mayor's Parade in Limavady in May.

Our support of the local arts and cultural scene saw Councils organisation of the 3rd Danny Boy Festival which was a great success. Other local community based events supported by Council included the Jazz and Blues Festival, the Folk Festival, Rock the Valley Festival and Greysteel Drama Festival to name but a few. The Arts and Heritage programmes have continued to expand throughout the year with a focus on community outreach programmes and the establishment of an Arts Committee as a forum for local arts, cultural and heritage sectors.

A wide ranging consultation took place during the year to develop a 10 year Tourism Strategy for the Borough. This project examined the opportunities which exist throughout the Borough and highlighted those which could be developed and promoted to exploit the tourism potential in Limavady and the wider region. The strategy will provide a framework for the Council and other stakeholders to work towards. A tourism network has now been established and Council hopes that it will have a key role in driving a tourism action plan forward.

Council continued to work closely with the Voluntary and Community sectors during the past year. Council rolled out its Community Support Plan, Good Relations Programme and Community Business programme with over £90,000 being awarded in grants to assist groups with running costs, training programmes, projects and events. In addition, Council has co-ordinated implementation of the Local Community Fund and Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes.

As part of Councils drive for economic development in the Borough, each year we target a range of small business development opportunities supporting them from their initial start-up and throughout the first five years of their development cycle. Council is delighted that it has been commended for exceeding the Start a Business Programme target for 2006/07. Indeed this continues to be the trend in

2007/08 with 58% of the Business Start programme for 2007/08 having been achieved by September 2007.

Partnership working has continued with our neighbouring Councils in the areas of tourism, natural heritage, economic development, arts and culture, good relations. The Greencastle/Magilligan Ferry achieved an award for being one of the best examples of cross-border working in Ireland.

Benone Beach retained its Blue Flag status and, through work undertaken with Donegal County Council and the North Coast Beach Safety Management Group, was recently recognised for its outstanding work towards promoting water safety at Benone.

2006/07 saw the PEACE II and PEACE II extension programmes drawing towards their conclusion as well as the LEADER+ programme. Council will continue with its co-ordination role on these programmes until the end of 2007 and will also play a key part in developing and implementing action plans under the new programmes which are currently in the process of being rolled out: Interreg IVa, PEACE III, Competitiveness and Employment Programme and the new Rural Development Programme.

2007/08 promises to be an even busier year for the Development Directorate and all our staff look forward to working closely with our key partners for the benefit of residents and visitors to the Borough.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Environmental Health Department

The Environmental Health Department is responsible for the provision of a range of services designed to maintain and improve the quality of the environment and to protect public health and safety. During 2006/07 the department carried out 143 food hygiene and 44 food standard inspections. The department also carried out 123 inspections to assess compliance with health and safety legislation in commercial premises. The department continues to ensure commercial premises maintain a safe gas installation through the Gas Wise Initiative and to promote the Health Promoting Schools Award.

In line with Western Group Consumer Protection Work Plan assessments of safety in relevant premises were carried out in relation to trampolines, Christmas, Halloween, construction products and safety with candles.

The main objectives of the "Home Safe Home" scheme are to educate and advise on 'good home safety practice' and to be instrumental in the reduction of deaths and injuries as a result of home accidents. 157 home safety checks were performed and 493 pieces of equipment were distributed in the Borough. From 2nd July 2007 the work of the Home Safety Officer has been shared with Strabane District Council.

During the year 222 environmental health and 96 noise complaints were investigated. 358 planning consultations and 914 property certificates were also processed.

The Smoking (NI) Order 2006 came into force on the 30 April 2007 to protect the public from exposure from second hand smoke. Before the legislation took effect advisory information was sent out to all premises in the Borough and 77 compliance building visits were made to premises to advise owners of their responsibility to ensure persons are prohibited from smoking in enclosed workplaces and public places. Owners were also invited to attend two information seminars. From 30th April 2007 to 13th September 2007 364 visits to premises in the Borough were performed and 10 warning letters issued to owners for contravention of the legislation.

Building Control Department

The Building Control Department is mainly responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Building Regulations which are there to ensure the safety, health, welfare and convenience of people in and around buildings as well as the conservation of fuel and power. In addition the department has a responsibility for a number of assigned functions including entertainment licensing, petroleum licensing, property certificates, dangerous structures, street naming and postal numbering. It also deals with matters that concern both Facilities Management and Energy Management throughout the Councils estate.

A number of very important changes to the Building Regulations came into effect on 30th November 2006 which concerned:

- Part F – Conservation of fuel and power
- Part L – Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems
- Part R – Access to and use of buildings
- Part H – Stairs, ramps, guarding and protection from impact

The implementation of these regulations continue to pose difficulties for ourselves and the building industry in general but training sessions and guidance notes are being provided to educate all those involved.

The Building Control service has dealt with 598 building control applications containing works dealing with 1349 properties throughout the year and carried out 2889 site inspections associated with these applications. The Department has also dealt with 914 Property Certificate enquiries in this last year.

Through its Facilities Management and Energy Management programme Limavady Borough Council is committed to ensuring a better quality of life for the people living, working and visiting the borough as well as playing its part in the global attempt to lower carbon output and provide a more sustainable environment to pass on to future generations.

As part of this commitment, the electricity supplied to 90% of council buildings is now coming from a green sustainable source.

The Council Offices and Roe Valley Leisure Centre have also been recently converted to gas for its heating and hot water requirements which will produce about 30% less carbon. Council at present is developing a sustainable development policy which will provide a more structured path for council to fulfil its environmental aims.

Technical Services Department

Waste management continues to constitute a major element of the work of the Council's Technical Services Department. During the year some 291,000 wheeled bins were collected throughout the Borough, accounting for 9,355 tonnes of waste which was landfilled at Craighullier Landfill in Coleraine.

The reduction/recovery and recycling of waste is an important part of our work. In addition to the normal refuse collection, some 229,700 blue bins were collected during the year accounting for 1,800 tonnes of recyclable waste. This was made up of items such as - Paper (1,044 tonnes), Steel Cans (72 tonnes), Plastic Bottles (216 tonnes), Cardboard (198 tonnes), and Aluminium Cans (54 tonnes). These items were transported to a Materials Recycling Facility at Toome where they were processed.

A total of 7,340 skips and 6,416 tonnes of waste were collected during the year from the Council's three Civic Amenity Sites. This waste was collected and

transported to a processing facility at Campsie where 46.9% (3,011 tonnes) was recovered. This figure includes 747 tonnes of green waste which was used for compost. In addition to this a number of new Bring Sites have been located throughout the Borough and these are collected in partnership with Green Shed.

We would encourage everyone to redouble their efforts to “Reduce, Reuse Recycle” as we work together to achieve the targets for reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and avoid future fines from Europe.

The Spring Clean Campaign was carried out in May 2007 and some 540 tonnes was collected and delivered for recycling. This figure includes 180 fridges.

Other services provided by the Department include street cleaning and a total of 625 miles of streets and roads are cleaned on a scheduled basis.

The Department progressed work on the delivery of a number of schemes such as the provision of a play area at Curragh Road, Dungiven, and work to give better access for the disabled to Roe Valley Leisure Centre, Benone Tourist Complex and the Council Offices.

In relation to grounds maintenance the Department undertook the following work:

- 90 trees were planted throughout the Borough.
- 230 saplings were planted around Benone Golf Course.
- 93,500 flowers were propagated and planted out throughout the Borough
- 340 hanging baskets were put in place.
- 34,379m of grass verge within the 30 mph and 77,421m² of flat areas were cut and maintained throughout the Borough
- 5 pitches, 2 all-weather pitches and 5 kick-about areas were maintained

Vandalism has increasingly become a problem for the Department with approximately 1,240 man hours of labour lost due to vandalism. This vandalism has taken the form of damage to play areas, bus shelters, toilet blocks, changing facilities, pitch surfaces, community halls and Council vehicles.