

Council Meeting Thursday 4 February 2016

Key Decisions

No	Item	Decision
3.	<p>Strike the Domestic and Non-Domestic Rate 2016/17</p> <p>Proposed New Sub Committee to consider rates and savings</p>	<p><i>Approve the domestic and non-domestic rate factors as set out together with the associated policies and indicators as set out.</i></p> <p><i>An Options report to be brought to the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee</i></p>

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, on Thursday 4 February 2016 at 7.00pm

In the Chair: The Mayor, Councillor Knight-McQuillan

Present: Aldermen Campbell, Cole, Finlay, King, McKeown, Mullan, Robinson;
Councillors Baird, Beattie, Blair, Callan, Chivers, Clarke, Douglas,
Duddy, Fielding, Fitzpatrick, Harding, Holmes, Loftus, McCandless,
McCaul, McCorkell, McGlinchey, McGuigan, McKillop MA, McLean,
McShane C, McShane P, Mulholland, Nicholl, Quigley, Stevenson,
Watton, Wilson

In attendance: D Jackson, Chief Executive
M Quinn, Director of Performance
R Baker, Director of leisure & Development
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer
P McColgan, Head of ICT
S McMaw, Head of Convergence
P Donaghy, Democratic Services Manager
S Duggan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Press x 1

1. Apologies

Apologies were recorded from Alderman Hickey, Hillis, S McKillop and Councillor Hunter.

2. Declarations of Members' interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Strike the Domestic and Non-Domestic Rate 2016/17

The Chief Finance Officer presented; 1) two reports from the Chief Executive regarding the Adequacy of the Reserves and the Robustness of the Estimates, 2) the Estimates Rates Summary, Rates Estimates Detail and the Summary of Changes and 3) the Prudential Indicators and MRP Summary documents.

The Chief Finance Officer recommended approval of the documents, circulated, that the District Rate remain at 24.4776 for Non-Domestic Properties and 0.3568 for Domestic Properties.

Councillor Fitzpatrick congratulated the Officers stating it was a satisfactory conclusion.

It was proposed by Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor P McShane **that Council accepts the recommendation.**

Alderman Mullan described the recommendation as an acceptable resolution, which had taken a lot of hard work.

Councillor Holmes referred to the Rates Detail document and was satisfied with the level of detail that had been provided. In referring to the document, Councillor Holmes compared overheads and costs with like-for-like services and facilities provided across the Borough, highlighting specific areas where he felt savings, efficiencies and cuts could further be made, whilst improving services.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Holmes, seconded by Councillor Wilson: **that Council applies a 3% cut this year, an indicative cut of 3.5% the following year and 4.5% cut the year after that.**

- * **Alderman McKeown arrived at the meeting at 7.30 pm during consideration of the item.**

Alderman Finlay questioned the 'precise ramifications' of the Chief Finance Officer, of the amendment proposed.

Councillor McGlinchey, referring to Councillor Holmes' perception of Community Halls, stated that Community Halls were the heart and soul of a community, he suggested that members should meet with Officers in the first instance if they had issues, before bringing it back to Council.

Alderman Cole stated he would like to see a series of workshops to look at particular services with a view to bringing more efficiencies, however, Council had to provide frontline services at reasonable costs and he felt it was reasonable to accept a 0% recommendation.

- * **Councillors C McShane and Quigley arrived at the meeting during consideration of the Item.**

It was proposed by Councillor Duddy, seconded by Councillor Clarke: that the Question Now Be Put. The Mayor put this motion to the Council to vote, 12 members voted for, 16 members voted against, the Mayor declared the motion lost.

The Chief Executive addressed Council, stating that £4million in savings had been made last year. He stated there had been huge changes and more savings would come in future. A Performance Improvement paper would be taken to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to bring Members information on the efficiency programme, improved services and rigorous driving down of costs.

The Mayor put the amended motion to the Council to vote, 7 members voted for, 28 members voted against, 1 member abstained, the Mayor declared the amended motion lost.

The Mayor put the substantive motion to the Council to vote, 28 members voted for, 1 member voted against, 7 members abstained. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

It was proposed by Councillor P McShane, seconded by Councillor Harding that: **Council set up a group comprising of Party Leads and nominating officers to look at district rates and savings for the year ahead and the lifetime of the Council.**

An amendment was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor Mulholland: **that the Chief Executive brings a report to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee outlining options for the proposed sub-committee and for Elected Members and officer representation on the sub-committee.**

The Chair put the Amendment to the Council to vote, 26 members voted for, 1 member voted against, 3 members abstained, the Chair declared the proposal carried.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.12pm.