

ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a **Special Meeting** of **Antrim Borough Council** held in the Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim on **Thursday 3 June 2010** at **4.30 pm**.

In the Chair : Councillor A D Cochrane-Watson, Mayor (*Part*)
Councillor A A Lawther, Deputy Mayor (*Part*)

Members Present : Aldermen -

S Dunlop
R J Loughran
M Rea

Councillors -

T Clarke
H Cushinan
B Graham
O C J Keenan
N Kelly
P Lewis
P Michael
S Nicholl
D Ritchie
J Smyth

In Attendance : Chief Executive
Director of Corporate Services
Public Relations Manager
Transition Co-Ordinator
Committee Secretary (*M Aiken*)

Apologies : None

LETTER: dated 28 May 2010 from Minister of the Environment, Edwin Poots MLA had been circulated.

The letter advised that, in view of the difficult financial future, the Northern Ireland Executive was not in a position to fund the planned local government reform. The Minister therefore wished to determine if local government would fund the full up-front cost of implementation.

The Chief Executive spoke to the letter and answered questions from Members.

The Mayor left the Meeting at 5 pm to attend a Mayoral engagement; the Deputy Mayor assumed the Chair.

In the course of the discussion which followed certain reservations were expressed but it was

RESOLVED: on the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Alderman Rea and on a vote of 12/2 in favour that Council respond acceding to the Minister's request subject to the following -

A self-financing business case approach to be adopted based on the previously agreed high level principles and much more detailed work yet to be completed

To be cost neutral to the ratepayer with any rise solely attributable to the Review of Local Government being avoided - the Department to ensure Councils be permitted to secure loans for revenue purposes with repayment only commencing when savings were realised

Fair apportionment of costs and efficiencies so that individual Councils were not left with an unrealistic financial situation as a result of transition and convergence

Costs such as transferring services and other areas outside local government control to be funded by central government

Passage of the Boundaries and other necessary legislation to be completed in time to conduct elections to the 11 Councils in May 2011; also, the Transition Committees to be made statutory by July 2010 to facilitate decision-making within the remaining time frame.

**PROGRESSING
THE DELIVERY OF
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
REFORM**

Appropriate regional and sub-regional governance arrangements to be put in place as soon as possible to provide oversight to the conclusion of the process and any collaborative initiatives that may be developed on this scale over the long term.

**PROGRESSING THE
DELIVERY OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
REFORM**

(continued)

AGREED: that Councillors Keenan and Smyth attend the Extraordinary Meeting arranged by the Northern Ireland Local Government Association for the morning of Friday 4 June 2010 at the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick.

**EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING -
FRIDAY 4 JUNE 2010**

NOTED: that a Meeting in relation to the Public Inquiry into the outbreak of Clostridium Difficile in Northern Trust Hospitals was to be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 8 June 2010 in Antrim Civic Centre.

**CDIF PUBLIC
INQUIRY -
8 JUNE 2010**

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 5.50 pm.

Mayor

Chief Executive

Date
