



**Society of Local Authority Chief Executives
and Senior Managers
Northern Ireland Branch**

BRANCH MINUTES

Venue **Antrim Borough Council
Civic Centre
50 Stiles Way
Antrim**

Date & Time **Friday 4 December 2009 at 10.00am**





POSITION	PRESENT	APOLOGY
<i>CHAIR</i>		<i>Trevor Polley</i>
<i>SECRETARY</i>	<i>Liam Hannaway</i>	
<i>VICE CHAIR</i>	<i>David McCammick</i>	
<i>TREASURER</i>	<i>Ashley Boreland</i>	
<i>VICE SECRETARY</i>	<i>Liam Flanigan</i>	
<i>AUDITOR</i>	<i>Rodney Connor</i>	
<i>PAST CHAIR</i>	<i>Philip Faithfull</i>	
	<i>John Briggs</i>	
	<i>John Dempsey</i>	
	<i>Norman Dunn</i>	<i>Valerie Watts</i>
	<i>Robert Gilmore OBE</i>	
	<i>Adrian Kerr MBE</i>	
	<i>Richard Lewis</i>	
	<i>Anne Donaghy</i>	
	<i>John McGrillen</i>	
	<i>Mick McGuckin MBE</i>	<i>Eamon McCotter</i>
	<i>Ciaran Quigley</i>	<i>Geraldine McGahey</i>
	<i>Danny McSorley</i>	<i>Alan Cardwell</i>
	<i>Alan Burke</i>	<i>E Campbell</i>
	<i>John Quinn</i>	<i>Peter McNaney</i>
	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	

IN ATTENDANCE		
<i>DOE</i>	<i>Angela Fitzpatrick, John Price</i>	<i>Wesley Shannon</i>
<i>SOLACE Policy Officer</i>	<i>Christine Horner</i>	

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 As above.

2 RPA

2.1 Issues Raised by SOLACE Members

John Price provided members with an update on the following issues:

2.1.1 Update on Legislative Timetable

The Boundaries Bill has not yet gone to the Executive; the earliest date will be the second week in January that it can be taken to the Assembly. The Reorganisation Bill is also waiting; however, the Miscellaneous Provisions Bill is going through. John confirmed that there would not be 2010 elections as there is insufficient time to bring any legislation to do so. Members noted that as a 2010 election would have an impact on the rates it would be helpful to have a statement issued by DOE to stop such a rumour. It was confirmed that if the reform does not go ahead in 2011 then the date would be pushed back until 2015.

2.1.2 Members expressed their concern and frustration that they and council staff are taking forward a programme, which may not be delivered in the timescale, envisaged which is making it difficult to motivate staff. It was proposed that members should make the Minister aware of the consequences of inaction.

2.1.3 PWC Exercise Phase 2 and SOLACE response

John Price confirmed that many responses to the informal consultation exercise have been received. PWC will be reporting to the next SLB meeting.

BSO

2.1.4 John Price clarified that the BSO is not envisaged to be one building in one place but centres of excellence in various locations, however it could be one organisation.

2.1.5 Update on HR/LGRJF Issues Secretariat

The Severance scheme is about to be published. In relation to new posts, legal opinion is awaited and it is hoped to have the matter clarified before Christmas. Adrian Kerr noted that the Vacancy control system is not rigid and if the timing issues are not resolved then the mechanism is still ready for a later date. It was also noted that Councils have their own early retirement scheme available.



2.1.7 Resource

The PWC report underlies the resource issue. The Environment Minister is aware that loan agreements with DFP are proposed and made a statement in Craigavon that it is unacceptable to have complete loan arrangement and he will approach Minister Wilson on this. There should also be no effect on the ratepayer so if there is a loan agreement then no payments will have to be made until efficiencies are realised.

2.1.8 Local Government Change Managers Recommendations on Collaboration

David McCammick recommended the report to members the report is an endeavour to get a model to work through the change process, he and asked for branch views on the recommendations.

2.1.9 After some discussion on the current lack of clear targets from central government branch members agreed to support the report in principle provided it takes into consideration the governance arrangements already in place, and standing orders.

3. Presentations / Discussions

3.1 Roy Bell of Central Procurement will give a presentation on procurement on Friday 15 January at the Executive Committee meeting from 12.00 until 12.30 all branch members with an interest in this area are welcome.

4. MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of branch meeting on Friday 6 November 2009

The minutes of the branch meeting on Friday 6 November 2009 were proposed to be approved by Liam Hannaway and seconded by Danny McSorley.

Matters Arising – Action Sheet

4.2 No matters arising

Minutes of Executive Meeting on Friday 20 November 2009

4.3 The minutes of the Executive meeting on Friday 20 November were agreed as a true record by Ashley Boreland and seconded by Philip Faithfull.

Matters Arising Action Sheet

No matters arising

4.4

5. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5.1

AGM

The AGM will take place on Friday 11 December 2009 in the Lough Erne Golf Resort.

6. PRIORITY ISSUES

6.1 RPA issues were dealt with earlier in the meeting

7. NILGA

Letter dated 5 November 2009 from NILGA President to Minister Poots seeking agreement to holding a joint seminar on communication with Transition Committees in November / December.

The seminar is not yet underway.

8. CORPORATE PARTNERS

8.1 Tascomi Agreement

The agreement has been signed

Corporate partners are participating in the conference programme.

9. SOLACE CONFERENCES & EVENTS

9.1

One day Branch Conference 2009 10 and 11 December 2009
Lough Erne Golf Resort
Members noted the numbers of delegates registered. Gender

CH note for Executive Committee

9.2

Local Government Awards

It was noted that a further week had been given to submit the applications and it is hoped that this will increase numbers.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

10.1

11. Correspondence for Action

11.1 Meeting with SEUPB 15 December in Banbridge at 10.45

Confirm time of meeting

11.2 Local Government Pension Scheme for Classroom Assistants
Noted

12. Communication Slot

12.1 Community Planning Reform Programme
Norman Dunn raised the subject and asked that the Executive Committee review the paper with a view to a response.

12.2

13. AOB

13.1 Congratulation to John McGrillen on his appointment to the post in Belfast City Council



DATE OF NEXT BRANCH MEETING

**Friday, 5 February 2010
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