

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 177 – 11th December 2006****Table of Contents**

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177.4	North East Partnership Strategic Plan 2007-2013	<i>Recommend that Council approves NEP's application for funding</i>
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177.9	Planning Application for Retention of Workshop at 69 Frosses Road, Ballymoney	<i>Recommend to Council to support application</i>
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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 177 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House on Monday 11th December 2006 at 2.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor I Stevenson

PRESENT:

Aldermen
H Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, Deputy Mayor
J Simpson

Councillors
J Finlay
M McCamphill
A Patterson
E Robinson
R Wilson

APOLOGIES:

Councillors
B Kennedy
P McGuigan, MLA
T McKeown
M Storey, MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

177.1 MINUTES OF MEETINGS NO. 176 – 13TH NOVEMBER 2006

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Patterson and
AGREED:

that the minutes of Meeting No 176 – 13th November 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

177.2 OPENING OF TENDERS

The following policy recommendation, based on that adopted by Council for tenders falling within the remit of Borough Services, is recommended to Committee for tenders falling within the remit of Development Services.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that when tenders are invited, Council grant authority to the Committee Chair or Vice Chair together with the Head of Corporate & Development Services, or her nominee, to open the tenders received following their specified deadline for evaluation and report to Council.

It was proposed by the Mayor, Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council grant authority to the Committee Chair or Vice Chair, together with the Head of Corporate & Development Services, or her nominee, to open the tenders received following their specified deadline for evaluation and report to Council.

177.3 PROPOSED ENERGY-EFFICIENCY/RENEWABLES EVENT

Discussions have taken place with representatives of the Just Say No Campaign Committee regarding a proposed Energy-Efficiency/Renewable Energy event in Ballymoney to be organised by the Lignite Campaign Committee in conjunction with Council.

The proposed date is Saturday March 24th, 10 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Full details of the event have yet to be agreed but it is envisaged that, following further discussion with the Director of Borough Services and the formation of a joint committee, the programme will be finalised to include representatives from Government Departments and energy saving bodies to advise on energy saving measures.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council collaborate with the JSNC in the staging of this event in Ballymoney Town Hall, with event management support being provided by the Office of the Chief Executive and professional input to the organising committee from the Director of Borough Services.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Wilson and **AGREED:**

to recommend to Council, the staging of an Energy-Efficiency/Renewable Event on 24th March 2007, as detailed above, in collaboration with the Lignite Campaign Committee.

A discussion ensued with Alderman Campbell advising that following discussions with the Lignite Group, a request had been made for representatives from that group to give a presentation to Council on anaerobic digesters. Councillor Robinson suggested this might be combined with a presentation from the NW

Waste Committee. Councillor Finlay reminded members of his recent visit to the Isle of Man when he visited the incinerator in use and suggested this should be further considered.

It was agreed that presentations be made to Council at which time, a decision would be made as to which Committee would be best placed to progress this matter further.

177.4 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP (NEP) STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2013

- a) Councillor Stevenson welcomed Mr Frank McGrogan, NEP Manager to the meeting to make a presentation on the Partnership's Strategic Plan 2007-2013.

Mr McGrogan advised that the NEP was targeting to achieve a minimum of €25m for the period 2007/12 for the NE region, through involvement in the co-operation and collaboration programme. He advised that NEP additional staff would be recruited to assist in the development and support of applications.

By means of a Powerpoint presentation, Mr McGrogan gave an overview of the NEP Strategic Plan 2007-2013 and circulated a summary of the plan to members. Committee was advised on the main emerging themes from the consultation exercise – regional competitiveness, the environment, tourism, developing sustainable communities. He also dealt with the opportunities available under the Northern Ireland/Ireland/Scotland programme.

Mr McGrogan responded to a number of questions put forward by members relating to partnerships with cross-border members, individual applications for project funds and the criteria for application and the role of implementing bodies.

Councillor Stevenson thanked Mr McGrogan for his presentation.

* **Councillor Finlay left the meeting at 2.29 pm.**

- b) The Head of Corporate & Development Services requested members to consider the application from NEP for funding of £6375 in 2007/08 towards resource costs considered necessary to implement the pre-development phase of the strategy. SEUPB have committed in principle to co-fund the work of NEP to March 2008, at 75%, based on projected spend of £205,000. NEP targets to achieve a minimum of £17.5M direct grant assistance in the NE sub-region over the period 2007-2012 through its involvement in the co-operation and collaboration programme.

The Head of Corporate and Development explained the availability of funding under existing budgets since the completion of the CORE programme and **RECOMMENDED** that match funding should be made available.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Wilson and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council approves the application from NEP for funding of £6375 in 2007/08 towards resource costs.

177.5 FUTURE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

In connection with the case being advanced by committee for an integrated transport hub for the town, a paper was circulated for information entitled 'The Future of Public Transport Services in Northern Ireland'. The paper was prepared by the Ports and Public Transport Division of DRD to provide some background to the updates given to the Working Group and Political Panel. The issue was raised again recently at the TCM Meeting with the DSD Minister and will be progressed further, following consultations with local interests.

177.6 POTENTIAL FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

A report by the cross-party delegation from the Scottish Parliament on the potential for co-operation between the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland, 6th November, 2006 was circulated for information. The report summarises the key findings and conclusions of the delegation on potential Scottish-Irish co-operation following their visit to Ireland. The key issues include east/west links, EU structural funding, transport links, renewable energy, tourism, cultural links, education, business and political links. These findings will be fed into the strategy process, which will be embarked upon early in the new year.

177.7 PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

A status report showing progress on projects and unemployment statistics was circulated.

177.8 OFREG CONSULTATION PAPER ON INTERCONNECTOR TRADING

Details of the consultation document on this subject was circulated with committee papers – No comments offered.

177.9 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR RETENTION OF WORKSHOP AT 69 FROSSES ROAD, BALLYMONEY FOR JMF LIMITED

Committee's support is sought for the retention of this recently built workshop which is in the green belt, on the basis that it is an exceptional case overriding stringent policies in relation to development in the green belt, the company

employing some 200 people the creation of at least 50 additional jobs in the new year.

* **Councillor Patterson left the meeting at 3.05 pm.**

Following discussion, Alderman Simpson questioned the role of committee in taking a view on retrospective applications prior to the formal consultation with Council on the application. Alderman Campbell felt that the application should be supported in view of the contribution to employment in the area. Alderman Connolly concurred with these remarks.

The Chief Executive reminded members that the Planning Services does not treat a retrospective application any differently from an application made in advance and stated that it would be reasonable for committee to support the application should it wish to do so.

The Head of Corporate and Development Services explained that JMF Limited had recently expanded operations at the site in conjunction with a major takeover of two trailer companies in England, to make them one of the most powerful players in the UK trailer market. The applicant's Agent advised that the new workshop would create at least 50 jobs in the New Year. The applicant's Agent argued that these were strong and exceptional reasons for overriding the policy on development in the green belt.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council support JMF Limited in their Planning Application No D/2006/0211/F for Retention of Workshop at No. 69 Frosses Road, Ballymoney on the basis that the firm is a leading employer in North Antrim, making a valuable contribution to the local economy and providing substantial employment with the prospect of further employment, through extension of its operation at the existing site.

177.10 CONDOLENCES

Alderman Cousley extended condolences to Councillor T McKeown on the recent death of his grandmother. Councillor Stevenson also extended sympathies to the family.

This being all the business, the meeting concluded at 3.12pm.