

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 183 – 11th June 2007****Table of Contents**

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 183 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House on Wednesday 11th June 2007 at 7.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor I Stevenson

PRESENT:

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

Councillors
J Finlay, Mayor
B Kennedy
M McCamphill
A Patterson

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

183.1 MINUTES OF MEETINGS NO. 182 – 14th May 2007

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 182 – 14th May 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

183.2 LITTLE FRIENDS CHILDCARE FACILITY

NIPSA attended the Council meeting on 4th June to make a presentation on this issue. They requested that Council provide business and financial advice to the management committee in order to put together a sustainable business plan to Causeway Institute by 20th June 2007. The facility faces closure on 31st July with a loss of 15 jobs. Council has granted committee powers to deal with the matter.

The committee received reports from the Chief Executive and Head of Corporate & Development Services on meetings with the Director of Causeway Institute and the Manager of Little Friends, respectively, and noted current issues and steps

proposed with regard to efforts to secure the future of the childcare facility in Ballymoney.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Kennedy and **AGREED:**

That the Chief Executive update NIPSA as to the position in the matter and maintain contact with the Director of Causeway Institute, reporting further to committee, as appropriate.

183.3 **CORE**

The Core Joint Committee met on 30th April and unanimously agreed that CORE would now cease to operate as there were no further programmes or activities planned.

The financial statements for year ended 31st March 2007 had been considered and it was agreed that any surplus funds, following audit of accounts, should be directed to the North East Partnership.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Council endorse the above proposals.

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

to recommend that Council endorse the above proposals.

It was agreed that contact be made with NEP regarding representation on the Interreg Monitoring Committee on which CORE had been represented.

183.4 **PEACE III “CREATING SHARED PUBLIC SPACES” – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The SEUPB on 4th May invited Council to identify project proposals in the above priority programme.

This programme aims to regenerate urban, rural and border areas that appear derelict, segregated, underused, threatening and/or unwelcoming and transform them into shared spaces. In addition to meeting the Programme and Priority objectives, the successful projects will:

- Act as a catalyst for transforming the local community;
- Be iconic with a capacity to provide a lasting legacy to the PEACE III Programme;
- Incorporate high design & environmental quality;
- Demonstrate long term sustainability; and
- Range in size from €1.5m to €10m.

The call for expressions of interest is intended to lead to an application for project funding from the PEACE III programme. **The identification of a project does not guarantee that funding will be approved for the substantive project.** It

is intended that a regional workshop will be hosted to advance work on the applications of the projects identified.

The following expressions of interest, based on projects previously identified by Council, were submitted for consideration for funding under Priority 2 (Contributing to a Shared Society – Creating Shared Public Spaces) on the draft Operational Plan for the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2007 – 2013. The deadline for submission was 25th May.

- Ballymoney Railway Bridge and Links
- Community Hub
- Megaw Park Regeneration
- Ballymoney Heroes

It is **RECOMMENDED** that committee endorse the proposals in principle.

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

to recommend to Council that they endorse, in principle, the proposals as set out above.

183.5 PEACE III (2007 – 2013) – THEME 1:1 BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AT LOCAL LEVEL – GUIDELINE AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Council was invited within a tight timescale to comment on the above consultation.

The paper contains mainly general information with regard to the future delivery of the Peace III programme. There are various challenges, which need to be addressed and comments in relation to issues about clusters, priorities, timetable, Council's role, partnership structure and co-terminosity with the rural development programme.

The Chief Executives or their nominees of Councils in the region are to meet to further examine the issues and a further report will be made to committee.

183.6 ENERGY EFFICIENT & RENEWABLE ENERGY SHOW 24 MARCH 2007

COLD (Collective Objectors to Lignite Development Ltd) have written expressing thanks to Council for all its help and support in setting up this showcase event in the Town Hall which had been very successful and well supported by the public. The assistance of the Director of Borough Services in supporting the work of the joint event steering group and organizing Council exhibition stand is acknowledged.

183.7 STRATEGY 2007/08+

The Head of Corporate and Development Services informed members that confirmation had not yet been forthcoming with regard to funding, structures etc, for Peace III, Rural Development, Interreg and EU funding for economic development programme. Areas of interest identified by Council had been provided to NEP and DETI. She also advised on proposals to track progress on current strategy and consultation with the sectors. Work was also progressing with regard to encouragement of private sector interest in tourism product development and updating of borough profile and business/signposting guides and review of business plans.

183.8 PROGRESS REPORT

Report as at end of May 2007 was circulated to members. The Head of Corporate and Development Services reported that plans were being progressed for completion of works at Castlecroft Square and all other programmes, apart from the new Post SABp were targeted for completion by end of June. Information was circulated on FoodFest 07.

183.9 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ADDENDUM 4/6/07 - FOR INFORMATION

Council at its meeting on 4 June granted approval to the following

Wayfinder Signage

Authority was granted to the Head of Corporate & Development Services to accept tenders for provision of information signage up to a value not exceeding £7,500. The Head of Corporate and Development Services reported that tenders had been assessed and the lowest tender would not exceed £5,000 and could therefore be processed by management.

Tourism Product Development

Marketing material for Drumaheglis be developed as an alternative to heritage trail product and that the overall product development budget be increased from £10,000 to a maximum of £15,000 to take account of inclusion of additional activities within the various packages. This can be met from savings within the programme.

Local Strategy Partnership – Service Level Agreement

A revised service level agreement between Council and LSP for the period 1st January 2007 to the 31st December 2008 be approved and signed on behalf of Council. The agreement in the amount of £93,286.33, covers Staff costs, finance, administrative and management services, accommodation, insurance and other ancillary costs.

10. TAX POLICY

Sir David Varney has been asked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, following representations made by the political parties, to carry out a review looking at how tax policy can support growth in Northern Ireland.

The terms of reference for the review are to "report on how current and future tax policy, and including the tax changes announced in the Budget, can support

sustainable growth of businesses and long-term investment in Northern Ireland. Sir David will report in the autumn.

The review has now issued a call for evidence, available through either of the following links:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/northernirelandtaxreview

[http://www.hm-](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/varney_taxpolicy/consult_varney_taxpolicy.cfm)

[treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/varney_taxpolicy/consult_varney_taxpolicy.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/varney_taxpolicy/consult_varney_taxpolicy.cfm)

Comments are invited by 18 July 2007.

11. SUB-REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN (SRTP)

The final SRTP was published on 11th June and the plan and accompanying documents can be viewed on www.drdni.gov.uk.

12. REPORTS

INI Guide circulated.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm