

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 185 – 13th August 2007****Table of Contents**

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185.9	Review of the Phasing Out of Industrial De-Rating (and Freight Transport)	<i>For information</i>
185.10	Project Progress Report Town Wayfinder Signage`	<i>Recommend that Council endorse the quotation of £6,124.00 to progress signage work.</i>
185.11	Thanks	<i>For information</i>

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 185 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House on Monday 13th August 2007 at 2.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Stevenson

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
C Cousley

Councillors
M McCamphill
E Robinson

APOLOGIES

Alderman
H Connolly, Deputy Mayor
J Simpson

Councillors
J Finlay, Mayor
A Patterson
M Storey
R Wilson

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

185.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 184 – 16TH JULY 2007

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 184 – 16th July 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

185.2 EU PROGRAMMES – PROPOSED DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Council has granted committee powers to deal with this matter.

INTERREG IV, Peace III and the new Rural Development Programme are to directly involve Councils in terms of both design and delivery.

The new ERDF competitiveness programme (DETI), offering a new round of local economic development actions will follow on from the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme which ended in June 2007, but the shape of the delivery arrangements are not clear and will be advised to committee in due course, the match funding issue in respect of this programme to be addressed by Committee.

Various discussions have taken place with relevant Government Departments, DARD, DFP and with one non-governmental organization (SEUPB) regarding arrangements for delivery of the next round of EU programmes.

Councils are required to form separate "Clusters" for delivery of INTERREG IV, Peace II and Rural Development Programme. Given the extent of duplication of efforts, partnerships and strategies required to prepare for all this and the lack of a joined-up approach by government departments, contrary to the principles driving RPA, SOLACE has suggested an alternative approach that ensures efficiency, value for money and effective delivery. It has asked NILGA to take the matter up with the Finance Minister.

In the meantime SEUPB has asked Councils to indicate by an agreed date, their proposed "Clustering" arrangements, while DARD's Minister has invited suggestions on the proposed new delivery mechanisms for the 2007-2013 NI Rural Development Programme. The Minister has met with the current Leader Group Managers and hopes to take a final decision on the delivery structures no later than the beginning of September.

Chief Executives and Directors/Heads of Development in the NEP partnership have had meetings to give preliminary consideration to delivery mechanisms, governance issues and opportunities presented by the next round of funding. A twin track approach was suggested (a) work up collaborative Interreg IV projects/operations that are aligned to Council and other relevant NE strategies and (b) progress corporate governance arrangements/opportunities in conjunction with SEUPB and others.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that:

Subject to emerging issues relating to RPA and the EU programmes and the outcome of the SOLACE review exercise:

- (a) Council agree to form a North Antrim Council Cluster comprising Ballymoney, Moyle, Ballymena and Larne Councils, subject to review if further requests to join the Cluster emerge.
- (b) Council take the view that the proposed Cluster, managed by a Joint Committee, deal with all EU programmes.

- (c) Council approve the formation of a Joint Committee, comprising Councils in the NEP, to facilitate the INTERREG IV funding bid.

Note: *It is proposed that a South Antrim Council Cluster, comprising Antrim, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus be established.*

During a discussion, the Head of Corporate and Development Services explained that following clarity from the funding bodies, a report will be presented to Committee at a future meeting for consideration, giving details of how the proposed structure would operate and costings etc.

At the request of members, the Chief Executive clarified a number of issues relating to the proposal for the formation of Clusters. The Cluster proposed for Ballymoney includes Councils in North Antrim Leader and NE Partnership, with whom Ballymoney have previous working experience but the Cluster could be revisited at a future date. He also explained that it is necessary for any Cluster to produce a strategy, give evidence of support, demonstrate management capacity and provide a reflection of new, proposed council areas under RPA.

Committee acting with Council powers, it was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor McCamphill and **AGREED:**

that, subject to emerging issues relating to RPA and the EU programmes and the outcome of the SOLACE review exercise:

- (a) ***Council agree to form a North Antrim Council Cluster comprising Ballymoney, Moyle, Ballymena and Larne Councils, subject to review if further requests to join the Cluster emerge.***
- (b) ***Council take the view that the proposed Cluster, managed by a Joint Committee, deal with all EU programmes.***
- (c) ***Council approve the formation of a Joint Committee, comprising Councils in the NEP, to facilitate the INTERREG IV funding bid.***

185.3 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP

(a) Funding

An application has been received from NEP for a contribution of £2,800 to NEP from all councils for 2006/07. Council made provision of £3,000 in its estimate. Provision has also been made for a contribution of £6,300 for the implementation phase of the NEP Strategy 2007/08. This issue will be presented for consideration when the issue of match-funding requirements is clear.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that a contribution of £2,800 be made to NEP for 2006/07.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor McCamphill and **AGREED:**

to recommend to Council that a contribution of £2,800 be made to NEP for 2006/07.

(b) Projects

Council lodged expressions of interest under the following themes:

Theme	Project
Environment & Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste Management and Recycling & Energy Systems
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery of superior levels of customer care in the hospitality sector
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of events/festivals
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scotland & North Antrim: The Ulster Scots Connection ○ Product Development ○ Development of River Bann Corridor

Committee decided to review this in the light of match-funding and budget requirements. It is likely that projects will attract 100% funding.

An NEP project group has commenced to work up collaborative Interreg IV projects/operations that are aligned to Council and other relevant NE strategies, for consideration for inclusion in the initial funding bid. These include Absenteeism, Business Improvement Districts; tourism marketing; emergency planning best practice; water management for LAs and SMEs; lifelong learning.

Other projects identified for future rounds include: Technology/Product Transfer; Social Economy; Business Incubation; Lough Neagh & Lower Bann projects; waste education; sustainable homes pilot; visitor integration passport; GIS; market towns initiative.

Consultants are to be appointed by NEP to develop the projects for submission of a funding bid.

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

Committee was advised previously of the draft guidance. SEUPB hosted a meeting in July when it presented guidelines and assessment framework for Peace III 2007-2013.

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

Council has been advised that its expressions of interest for community hub; Megaw Park and Ballymoney Heroes, under this programme have been unsuccessful.

A total of 126 applications with an overall value of 714,397,992 euros were submitted, 20 were shortlisted with a value of 134,748,000 euros. It is anticipated that in the first tranche of applications, 6-8 projects will be supported with a budget of 50M euros.

To assist in deciding whether to further develop the projects for submission, feedback has been requested, together with information on successful projects and a report will subsequently be presented to Committee for their consideration.

185.6 BALLYMONEY BOROUGH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The committee has been invited to attend the committee's September meeting to give a presentation on their work to date and future plans.

185.7 NORTH ANTRIM COMMUNITY NETWORK

An application has been received for funding of £3,000. Further information has been sought on performance to date, with particular regard to Ballymoney Borough and copy of accounts. A further report will be made to committee.

185.8 NORTHERN CORRIDOR RAILWAYS GROUP

In April 2000, a Railways Task Force was established by the then Minister for Regional Development, Adam Ingram, MP, to consider strategic options for the future of the railway network in NI. Whilst the establishment of the Task Force was essentially in response to a report into railway safety, commissioned by NI Railways, it facilitated wider strategic thinking on the role of and vision for the railway network in NI.

The Northern Corridor Railways Group was formed in 2000 comprising elected representatives from Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Derry City, Limavady and Moyle Councils. The Group, which represents a population of some 350,000 people, views the retention and enhancement of the Northern corridor rail link as fundamental to the future development of the area and the wider region.

The first formal submission of the Northern Corridor Railways Group on the role of the rail corridor stated that it was a key strategic role to play in the region in terms of balanced and sustainable regional development, the integration of land use and transportation, social inclusion, tourism, economic development and regeneration.

Northern Corridor Railways Group has set up a fighting fund of £30,000 to lobby for enhancements to the line from Belfast to Londonderry. A report entitled "Railway Renaissance" has been commissioned and will be launched at an event in the City Hotel, Londonderry on 18th September. This report will set out the case for development of the Northern Rail Corridor and call for the development of a strategy for that route. All councillors will be invited to the event and the Chief Executive urged maximum participation. The Chief Executive requested members to consider which other stakeholder bodies should be invited to attend. Committee agreed that representatives be invited from Chamber of Commerce, Regeneration Company, Town Centre Management, FE College and Resource Centre. Recommendation is made for travel by rail to Londonderry for the event, timetables for which were discussed.

The report will also be launched on 18th October in the Long Gallery in Stormont which will provide an opportunity to influence the Assembly and Members of Parliament.

A discussion ensued relating to the current issues and benefits relating to rail travel and bus services, all members agreeing that a first class service should be available in all areas of public transport.

185.9 REVIEW OF THE PHASING OUT OF INDUSTRIAL DE-RATING (AND FREIGHT TRANSPORT)

The Economic Research Institute of NI has been commissioned by the Department of Finance & Personnel to undertake a formal review of the policy to phase out industrial derating. A copy of the terms of reference for the review can be accessed at www.erini.ac.uk. The consultation is listed on the consultation documents schedule circulated to members. Comments are invited by 31st August.

185.10 PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

A progress report at end of July 2007, together with employment statistics was circulated

The Head of Corporate and Development Services highlighted the issue of Town Wayfinder Signage, advising members that following a meeting with Roads Service regarding siting, all signs would now be pole mounted and not wall mounted increasing the cost to £6,124.00. As this figure is over the stipulated amount of £5,000 for work without Council endorsement, approval was now sought.

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

to recommend that Council endorse the revised quotation of £6,124.00 for Wayfinder Signs.

185.11 THANKS

Councillor Robinson extended thanks to Council for its support in her achievement in attaining an ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence).

Councillor Robinson also extended thanks to Council for the opportunity to attend the Somme Pilgrimage in early July, advising that it was a very interesting and worthwhile visit.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 3.02 pm.