

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 189 - 17th December 2007****Table of Contents**

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189.19 Corporate Website

Defer to CRCS meeting

189.20 Condolences

Expressed to the family of Robert McComb and Mayor, Councillor Finlay

189.21 Seasonal Greetings

Expressed by Mayor Councillor Finlay

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No. 189 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney, on Monday 17th December 2007 at 4.10 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor I Stevenson

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
H Connolly, Deputy Mayor
J Simpson

Councillors
A Cavlan
J Finlay, Mayor
M McCamphill
P McGuigan

APOOGIES:

Alderman
C Cousley
Councillors
A Patterson
E Robinson
R Wilson

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

189.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 188 – 19TH NOVEMBER 2007

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 188 – 19th November 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

189.22 NEP – CONTRIBUTION

NEP has confirmed a contribution of £6350 by member councils. This contribution covers 2006-07 and 2007-08. No contribution is sought for 2006-07 which was aligned with the closure of CORE. The contribution requested for 2008-09 is £5,000.

IT IS RECOMMENDED:

- [a] that the contribution of £6350 be approved, it being in line with what was agreed and provision having been made in the estimate.
- [b] that provision be made in the 2008-09 estimate for a contribution of £5,000 to NEP.

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

to recommend to Council

- [a] that the contribution of £6350 be approved, it being in line with what was agreed and provision having been made in the estimate.***
- [b] that provision be made in the 2008-09 estimate for a contribution of £5,000 to NEP.***

189.3 INTERREG “THINK BIG” PROGRAMME

Coleraine Borough Council has developed a draft proposal for an interreg funded programme “Think Big, Think China” and have invited expressions of interest from other Councils and bodies in the North East, Sligo and the Gaeltachta region of Donegal. The programme aims to provide businesses with the skills and knowhow to trade in China through the provision of specialist training and mentoring, best practice visits, trade missions and an advice service. The programme is noted.

It was **AGREED:**

to recommend that the proposed project be noted

- * **Councillor Cavlan joined the meeting at 4.15 pm.**

189.4 DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT TOWNHEAD STREET, BALLYMONEY

An application has been received from a local business to purchase a portion of Council lands at Townhead Street, Ballymoney to facilitate the extension of an existing business.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Chief Executive be authorised to instruct the District Valuer to negotiate for the sale of the small parcel of Council land, all costs involved being met by the applicant.

At the request of Councillor McCamphill, the Chief Executive advised that Council is free to use valuation agencies other than District Valuers should it wish to do so.

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

to recommend that the Chief Executive be authorised to instruct the District Valuer/and or other valuation agencies to negotiate for the sale of Council land at Townhead Street, all costs involved being met by the applicant.

* **Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 4.20 pm**

The Head of Corporate & Development Services also advised of interest in acquisition of further Council lands at Townhead Street and a formal offer, if received, would be brought to Committee.

189.5 AMENITY SPACE MARKETING PROGRAMME

As part of the marketing programme additional finger signs on existing posts were to be provided. It was however necessary, due to height limits, to provide new posts to accommodate the additional signs. The total cost of the work, supplied by Council's main supplier of this equipment, was £2324. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that approval be granted to the additional costs, beyond the procurement policy limit, in the circumstances described.

It was proposed by alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Finlay and
AGREED:

to recommend that Council approve the additional costs for new posts, as outlined.

189.6 NORTH ANTRIM BUSINESS AWARDS

A number of local businesses were successful in this Awards Scheme, presentation for which was held in Lissanoure Castle on 9th November 2007.

- Best New Business - Basil Knipe Electrics -
- Best Family Business – Taggarat & Sons/McCaughan Group

- Best Company – JMF
- Employer of the Year – JMF
- People Development – Glover Site Investigations
- Corporate Social Responsibility – Compass Advocacy
- Marketing Excellence – McAuley Kitchens
- Community Business Award – Loughguile Community Association
- Best Town Centre Premises – Bell Architects
- Best Hospitality business – Drumadoon Hall (Commended)
- Best Female Entrepreneur – Mrs Winnifred Mellett
- Lifetime Achievement Award – James Murray

189.7 PEACE III

The scoping exercise, commissioned on behalf of the cluster of six Councils, (Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady, Moyle and Larne) has been completed. A local consultation event was held in the Town Hall on 12th December, to invite views on the possible contents of an action plan for the delivery of the Peace III programme within the borough. The results of this exercise will feed into the cluster bid for this region. Discussions were ongoing with SEUPB to secure funding to facilitate the development of the bid. At the request of Alderman Simpson, the Head of Corporate & Development Services agreed to provide a copy of the presentation from that meeting.

The Community Relations Council and Border Action have been commissioned to provide advice and support to clusters in the development of peace and reconciliation plans, consultation processes and partnership arrangements etc.

189.8 START A BUSINESS PROGRAMME

We have been advised that the revised Start a Business Programme which was to be launched on 1st April has been deferred by the Minister until September 2008. Enterprise NI has asked the Minister to commission an independent review of the small business landscape, which will clarify the roles/remits of various organisations involved in small business support with a view to reducing duplication and identifying gaps.

189.9 FUTURE EU FUNDING

A briefing paper from the Joint DOE/DARD/NILGA Meeting on 3rd December was circulated for members' information.

189.10 DETI COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME

DETI has recently updated the LED Forum on the arrangements for the new Competitiveness Programme. It appears now that there is to be a competitive 'Open Call' for applications in the New Year. This is worrying given that there is

no apparent commitment by DETI this time round to ring fence budget allocations to Councils as they did in LED and BSP.

Priority themes will follow those set under the Lisbon Agenda: ie business support infrastructure; business support services; business-education links; pre-enterprise activity; trade development; local tourism development. Guidelines will issue early in the New Year.

189.11 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2007-2013

Tenders have been invited by the cluster of five councils (Coleraine, Moyle, Ballymoney, Ballymena and Larne) for support to:

- facilitate the establishment of a Local Action Group
- animate the cluster area in terms of developing projects
- develop cluster based strategies

While this grouping of 5 Councils has come together for the purposes of this work, 2 smaller cluster groups may develop for the actual delivery of Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme if the RPA decision is made in early 2008. The cluster Agreement, signed by the Constituent Councils had been submitted to DARD.

189.12 POLICE STATION

The Policing Board has updated Council on the position with regard to the construction of a new build station in Ballymoney.

The PSNI Estate Services Business Unit has confirmed that the Ballymoney new build project is still the subject of re-scoping by the local Police Command, as a consequence of the recent restructuring of the District command Units by PSNI. It is planned to commence construction during the 2008-09 financial year, subject to available funding. Committee to write to the PSNI to clarify the location of the new build.

189.13 JOB LOSSES

The Mayor has written to the Enterprise Trade & Investment Minister asking him to look urgently at measures to bring new jobs into the borough and to meet with Council to discuss the matter.

189.14 GAS PIPELINE INVESTMENT

Firmus Energy has written seeking Council's support on the potential impact of the draft budget which could have a critical effect on the economic viability of the

new gas network in Ballymoney Borough. Specifically they are concerned at the very real prospect that funding for the Housing Executive Heating Replacement Scheme will not be available from April 2008.

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

to recommend that Council write to the Minister for Social Development expressing concern at the potential impact on the economic viability of the gas network in the borough and in particular, concerns that funding for the Housing Executive Heating Replacement Scheme will not be available from April 2008.

189.15 FIRMUS ENERGY COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS

Firmus Energy recently offered charity, church and community groups in the borough the chance to apply for awards, totalling £3000 towards items and services, which would benefit the local community. The Mayor presented some 23 groups with cheques recently, details of which were outlined by the Head of Corporate & Development Services.

189.16 EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Details of November statistics, as circulated, were noted.

189.17 TOURISM MARKET RESEARCH – CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS

Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Consortium (CCAG) has invited tenders for the provision of market research services for the partnership area comprising Ballymoney, Ballymena, Coleraine, Carrickfergus, Larne, Limavady, Moyle and Newtownabbey, for the period January 2008 – December 2008, with the option of extension annually at the sole discretion of CCAG until a date not later than 2010. The option to extend will be dependent upon satisfactory performance of the Contractor. Ballymoney's share of the cost of the assignment is £2875.00

The annual report will provide tourism performance at regional and each district council level and will allow assessment of volume, value and profile of visitors to the region. This information will be of benefit in relation to identification of new tourism projects/products for development in the next round of EU funding. It will also be of benefit to leisure services in the development and improvement of existing product.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that a contribution of £1,437 be made from the economic development budget, a similar amount being recommended by Leisure Services, Council's contribution being on the basis that all Council's will contribute.

At the request of Alderman Simpson, the Head of Corporate & Development services advised that the contribution would be for a one-year period only.

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

to recommend that Council contribute an amount of £1437 from the Economic Development budget, with a similar amount being recommended by Leisure Services, Council's contribution being on the basis that all Council's will contribute.

189.18 SUSTRANS CONNECT2 PROJECT

Councillor Stevenson commended those involved in promoting the Sustrans Connect2 project and congratulated all concerned on its success in the Big Lottery vote.

189.19 CORPORATE WEBSITE

This matter will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting of Corporate & Central Services Committee.

189.20 CONDOLENCES

Councillor Stevenson expressed condolences to the family of former Councillor Robert McComb and to the Mayor, Councillor Finlay on the recent death of his uncle.

189.21 SEASONAL GREETINGS

The Chairman conveyed best wishes to members and officers for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 4.45 pm