

## BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Development Committee Meeting No 192 - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting No. 192 held in the Borough Offices, Riada House, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 3.00 pm.**

**In the Chair**                      Councillor I Stevenson

**Members**

**Aldermen**  
C Cousley  
H Connolly  
F Campbell  
J Simpson

**Councillors**  
A Cavlan  
J Finlay (Mayor)  
B Kennedy  
M McCamphill  
T McKeown  
A Patterson  
E Robinson  
R Wilson

**Apologies**                      P McGuigan

**In Attendance**                Chief Executive  
Head of Corporate & Development Services  
Committee Clerk

**192.1 MINUTES** – Meeting No. 191 – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly seconded by Councillor Finlay and

**AGREED:**

***that the minutes of committee meeting, No. 191, on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008, as circulated, were confirmed as a correct record.***

- **Councillor McKeown left the meeting at 3.05pm.**

**192.2 PEACE III Programme**

Tenders for appointment of consultants to develop an action plan and partnership model/structures for the Peace III programme have been assessed on behalf of the

North East Peace III Partnership, under the auspices of Coleraine Borough Council.

Three tenders were received following public advertisement.

- Rubicon Consulting
- Lestas Consulting
- Full Circle Management Solutions

Submissions were scored against agreed criteria including relevant experience similar/relevant service delivery, methodology, project delivery including understanding of the brief, actions/research undertaken and timetable and cost/value for money.

The tender brief included:

- The design of an overarching strategy and action plan
- The development of a potential model for partnership structures in line with SEUPB requirements

Tenders were asked to consider seven areas of work in total and that submissions should consider the development of a plan that could be sub-divided into two action plans.

The tender was awarded to the company receiving the highest score, Full Circle Management Solutions, £9350 excluding VAT.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council endorse the award of the tender by Coleraine Borough Council to Full Circle Management Solutions.

A consultation workshop for Ballymoney and Moyle areas was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The first meeting of the steering Group was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March when delegates had the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the scoping study and emerging themes and actions. (the representatives nominated to serve on the interim steering group are; Cllr McCamphill and Ald Campbell, together with social partners nominated by LSP - Veronica McKinley (voluntary/community) and Mac Pollock (economic – trade union). The Round Table Workshop took place on 14<sup>th</sup> March to consider the themes emerging from the consultation process in the region. The steering group will meet again on 27<sup>th</sup> March to receive the draft action plan, which is required to be submitted to SEUPB by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that committee endorse the priorities, themes and indicative actions discussed at the round table workshop as set out in Appendix 1. The final action plan will be circulated and submitted to Council for endorsement at its April meeting.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell seconded by Councillor McCamphill and

**AGREED:**

***To recommend***

***(a) Council endorse the award of the tender to Full Circle Management Solutions.***

- (b) ***Council endorse the priorities, themes and indicative actions of the Draft Peace III Plan as discussed at the round table workshop, set out in Appendix 1.***

### **192.3 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The information evening held in the Ecos Centre, Ballymena was attended by some 100 delegates. Consultation workshops were held in each of the council areas, with the Ballymoney event in the Millennium Centre Loughgiel on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council's nominees on the Joint Committee and LAG be appointed to an interim steering group to act as a consultation forum pending the formal establishment of the LAG and Joint Committee. Council nominees are: Joint Committee – Cllr Robinson, Cllr Stevenson and Cllr McCamphill. LAG – Ald Campbell and Ald Connolly

Both UUP (Alderman Simpson) and SF (Anita Cavlan) voiced their discontent at their party not being represented on the Joint Committee or LAG.

It was reported that some 32 expressions of interest had been lodged for consideration for membership of the Local Action Group (LAG). The consultants would facilitate a meeting to enable the applicants to self select based on agreed criteria, which would provide for two social partners resident in each Council area.

It was proposed by Councillor Kennedy seconded by Councillor Finlay and

**AGREED:**

***to recommend that Council's nominees on the Joint Committee and LAG be appointed to an interim steering group to act as a consultation forum pending the formal establishment of the LAG and Joint Committee.***

### **192.4 PROJECT UPDATE**

**[a] Product Transfer Programme**

The success of Rea's of Finvoy and McAuley Engineering in this programme is noted.

**Councillor Stevenson congratulated the above businesses on their success within this programme and requested that this be conveyed to the companies.**

**[b] Interreg Programmes**

**It is recommended** that Council lend its support to the following programmes:

- Think Big Food Programme targeted at the tourism sector covering Ballymoney, Coleraine and Moyle, led by Coleraine Borough Council and supported by the North East Partnership.
- Atlantic Corridor Exploratory Visit on 2–3 April, through the attendance of an Officer.

It was confirmed that this was an exploratory visit only, organised by North East Partnership and at this stage Council was not expressing an interest in participating in the project which it considered might best be delivered by an existing consortium such as Lower Bann Partnership.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**AGREED:**

*to recommend that*

- (a) Alderman Campbell as the Councils representative on the North East Partnership should attend the Atlantic Corridor Exploratory Visit, accompanied by an officer nominated by HCDS.*
- (b) Council lend it's support to Coleraine Borough Council providing assistance with recruiting and promoting the programme in the Borough.*

It was noted that Council had agreed to sign up to a range of Interreg Projects identified via the North East Partnership based on the strategy developed. Details of the next phase of proposed projects, which could contribute to Councils strategy, would be brought before Committee in due course.

#### **192.5 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP**

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the structure of the board of the Interreg North East Partnership had changed and that it would be more appropriate for the Head of Corporate & Development Services to represent the Council in his place.

It was proposed by Councillor Kennedy seconded by Alderman Connolly and

**AGREED:**

*to recommend that the Head of Corporate & Development Services be appointed to represent Council on the North East Partnership.*

Councillor Stevenson thanked the Chief Executive for his work within this role.

#### **192.6 COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME 2007-2013**

DETI have intimated that they intend to issue the framework document, programme overview and timetable together with invitation to submit bids in April.

It has also published the documentation it proposes to use as managing authority in the implementation of the measure:

- first stage application form
- second stage application form
- guidance notes for applicants
- rules on eligibility of expenditure

It had been confirmed that salary costs, where attributed to a project, could attract a grant.

Following consultation with stakeholders the proposed action plan would be presented to Committee.

### 192.7 SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE

This matter was adjourned from the last meeting. The 2008 conference will be held in Kansas City 16-19 July.

Councillor Finlay highlighted the importance of attending this year's event and being involved in the promotional stand and Northern Ireland Reception, making people aware of the North Antrim area in advance of the 2009 Conference, which will be taking place in Belfast. This will be the first time that the event will have been held outside America and will be an excellent opportunity to promote Northern Ireland and the Borough.

Members discussed available Causeway Coast & Glens promotional tools, literature, audio visual aids and Borough promotional/ marketing material and the need for personal representation.

Councillor Robinson informed the committee that the Lower Bann Partnership have promotional literature and CD, which could be used on the stand.

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

***to recommend that Councillor Finlay and Councillor McCamphill represent the Council at this year's conference and marketing initiative.***

Alderman Simpson and Councillor Cavlan, on behalf of their parties indicated that they did not wish to be considered.

Councillor Finlay referred to the importance of having officer representation on the stand at the conference.

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

***to recommend that the Chief Executive and the Head of Corporate & Development Service should attend the event***

Alderman Simpson expressed his objections to the proposal to send delegates to the Conference in 2008.

### 192.8 NORTH ANTRIM COMMUNITY NETWORK

NACN have made application for a contribution of £3,000 towards its operational plan for in the current year. Budget provision has been made.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that a contribution of £3,000 be made to NACN.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED:**

***to recommend that a contribution of £3,000 be made to NACN.***

At the request of Alderman Connolly the Head of Corporate & Development Services is to confirm the dates of board meetings with NACN.

**192.9 MINERAL DEVELOPMENT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1969**

The Head of Corporate & Development Services informed the committee that correspondence had been received from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment giving notice of 2 applications received from Lonmin Plc for mineral prospecting rights under section 11 of the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. A map showing the areas, which would be included, is on display at the Council Offices until 11th April and public notice has been given. The Department is considering the issue of a licence for 2 years with the provision for an extension in respect of all minerals vested in the Department. The Council has one month from the date of receipt of the correspondence from DETI to make any representations regarding the issue,

At the request of Councillor Finlay the Chief Executive clarified that Lomin Plc was a primary producer of Platinum Group Metals and was a different company from the one wishing to extract lignite, but confirmed that the prospecting licence would include lignite.

Alderman Campbell expressed his concerns that the licence would be a backdoor way into mining lignite and was opposed to any licence, which would grant this. The Chief Executive informed the committee that this was a prospecting license and not an extraction licence.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell seconded by Alderman Connolly and

**AGREED:**

***to recommend that Committee respond, on behalf of Council, to the consultation from DETI into the applications for the granting of mineral prospecting licences in respect of lands within Ballymoney Borough Council area by Lonmin PLC, as follows:***

***1. Council is extremely concerned about the application for prospecting licences, given the effect of the granting of an earlier prospecting licence, which led to the zoning of a large area of the borough as a Lignite Resource Area in the North East Area Plan. This area was significantly extended in the draft Northern Area Plan and the effect has been to blight an area of the borough from any new construction. The current applications would extend the area liable to be included in the Lignite Resource Area and council would strongly request that lignite be specifically excluded from the licence to prevent any possibility of that occurrence.***

***2. While the current application is for prospecting and not for mining, Council wants to put on record that it is opposed to any proposals to extract minerals by opencast mining. The community in Ballymoney and the wider area has visibly demonstrated its opposition to this form of mining also, in respect of lignite, and anyone applying for a prospecting licence should be in no doubt of this; opencast mining will be rigorously opposed!***

***3. Given the level of local feeling generated by the lignite issue, it is important that anyone granted a prospecting licence is aware of the***

***need to communicate with the community in the affected area, to give them as much information as possible of the details of any work they propose to undertake.***

- **Councillor Finlay left the meeting during this item at 3.55pm**

#### **192.10 NEW DEAL CONSORTIUM**

The Department for Employment and Learning New Deal for 18-24 year olds and New Deal 25+ Contract, which are operated in the Ballymoney area through Elle Enterprises and supported by the Council, are due to expire on 31st March 2008. However DELNI are offering Elle Enterprises an extension on their current contract until September 2008 to coincide with their revised delivery methods for New Deal Programmes, which come into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. Elle Enterprises have asked for Council's support for this extension of their contract.

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly seconded by Councillor McCamphill and

**AGREED:**

***to recommend that Council support Elle Enterprises New Deal Contract for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008.***

- **Councillor Patterson left the meeting during this item at 4.05pm**

#### **192.11 TRANSLINK/ NI RAILWAYS**

Translink /NI Railways have been awarded funding to add 20 new trains to their fleet in 2011/2012, replacing 13 older trains currently in use. As part of putting together the specification for new trains, they are keen to hear public opinion on the features and facilities, which may be available on board for passengers.

The Head of Corporate and Development Services has forwarded copies of their questionnaire to representatives on the Railway Task Force to complete and return.

Alderman Cousley informed members that he had attended a meeting last week of the Northern Corridor Railways Group with the Minister for Regional Development, Conor Murphy MLA, as part of their continuing campaign to press for the enhancement of rail links between Belfast and the North-West of the province. He informed the committee that this was a positive meeting and that the Minister was receptive to supporting all railways links in province.

At the request of Alderman Simpson the Chief Executive agreed to check if there was a report available on this meeting.

#### **192.12 DRAFT INVEST NI CORPORATE PLAN**

Invest NI are holding a public consultation session on their Draft Corporate Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The Draft Corporate Plan outlines their future strategy for the development of the Northern Ireland economy. The consultation session will be taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> April at Invest NI Headquarters in



Belfast. A copy of the draft Corporate Plan will be dispatched in due course or can be downloaded from the Invest NI website.

**This being all the business the meeting closed at 4.10pm**

Appendix 1 – Draft Peace III Indicative Actions

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**NF Peace III Programme Launch and Commencement of**

NE Cluster Peace III Programme Priorities – each driven, managed and delivered on a NE area wide basis by a NE self forming consortium which bids for each programme – based on competencies and targets focused each with an action research element. Three phase development approach to all programmes: pre development, development and exit strategy – monitored and evaluated

