

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Development Committee Meeting No 193 - 21st April 2008

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No. 193 held in the Borough Offices, Riada House, on Monday 21st April 2008 at 3.45 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

Apologies Councillor P McGuigan

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

193.1 MINUTES – Meeting No. 192 – 19th March 2008

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly seconded by Alderman Campbell and

AGREED:

that the minutes of committee meeting, No. 192, on 19th March 2008, as circulated, were confirmed as a correct record.

- **Councillor Cavlan joined the meeting at 3.40pm**

193.2 PEACE III ACTION PLAN

The Peace III plan was submitted to SEUPB on 31 March. Copies have been circulated to Council's representatives. A copy is available for reference. Consultants (Deloitte) have been appointed by SEUPB to evaluate the plans and a

decision is expected mid May. As reported Coleraine Borough Council have been leading on this development stage and following discussion by Cluster project group a proposal is to be presented to Coleraine Borough Council that it take the lead in the Peace III cluster in this region.

Arrangements are now being put in hand to take forward the formation of the Cluster.

In response to Alderman Simpson, Head of Corporate & Development Services explained the Peace III Action Plan has been submitted but there will be no calls for applications until the SEUPB had approved and the partnership is in place.

- **Councillor McKeown joined the meeting at 3.45pm**

193.3 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Social Partners were agreed at a meeting on 15th April and are as follows:

Council	Representatives
Ballymena	Sandy Wilson Robin Swann Teresa Magee
Ballymoney	Robert Richmond Angela O'Hagan Bebhinn McKinley
Coleraine	Thomas Collins Patsy Bradley Anna Clyde
Larne	William Cross Edwin Crawford Edna Walmsley
Moyle	Andrew McAlister Susan McLaughlin Marie-Louise McClarey

A meeting of the interim Joint Committee will be convened shortly to elect an interim chair and appoint a selection panel for selection of the LAG.

A training session for Council's Joint Committee and LAG Members was held on 16th April when DARD and the Cluster Consultant made presentations on the programme and the process for establishment of the LAG. A residential training course will be organized for Joint Committee and LAG members.

DARD intend to make an open call for a strategy on 5th May with a deadline of 31st July 2008 for submission.

At the request of Councillor Finlay, Head of Corporate & Development Services explained the process for appointing the Social Partners.

In response to Alderman Simpson, the Chair gave details of Council representatives appointed to delivery structures for the programme: Alderman Campbell and Alderman Connolly – LAG Group; Councillor Robinson, Councillor McCamphill and himself - Joint Committee.

Councillor McCamphill explained that other groups may set up and respond to the open call for a LAG. Also that Council representatives will be part of the successful LAG.

At the request of Councillor Kennedy, Head of Corporate & Development Services explained structure, role and responsibilities of the Joint Committee and LAG to develop the strategy and submission to DARD for approval. She outlined the range of programmes e.g. business development, tourism, village regeneration, basic services, rural heritage and the type of projects which would be eligible. The members put forward ideas for facilities to support rambling/outdoor activities.

Alderman Connolly and Councillor Stevenson commented on the usefulness of the training and the ample time allocated for questions.

Alderman Simpson expressed concern with regards to money required for administration. The Head of Corporate & Development Services pointed to the level of administration and programme monitoring required by DARD and the need for adequate resources for programme management.

- **Councillor Cavlan left the meeting at 4.05pm**

Following the RPA announcement, the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development wrote to all Councils to advise that she proposed to proceed with delivery of the programme based on the seven Council model. By 2011 when the new Councils would come into being the majority of the work on the Rural Development Programme will be complete.

193.4 INTERREG - NEP

The Partnership has awarded a tender to KPMG to provide support with regard to setting up relevant corporate governance structures for the NE Cluster of Councils under the Interreg IV Ireland/N Ireland/Scotland Programme 2007-2013.

SEUPB are holding steering group meetings this month to consider the enterprise and tourism projects in the multi-annual plan.

Outcome will be advised in the next few weeks.

193.5 BSP PROGRAMME EVALUATION

FGS McClure Watters has been commissioned by DETI to carry out a Post Programme Evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). As

members know this programme has assisted the 26 District Councils through match-funding to implement key programmes identified in their Local Economic Development Action Plans.

The consultants have meet with officers (Chief Executive, Head of Corporate & Development Services and Economic Development Officer) involved in the development and delivery of the programme.

- 'Drill down' into the reasons for success or otherwise of economic development activities;
- Assess the extent to which the individual councils used the ERDF funding to address local economic development strategies;
- Assess the impact on the local economy;
- Assess Value for Money, sustainability, additionality and complimentarity, and
- Assess how the terms of the BSP ERDF programme was addressed.

The consultants also met, separately, with a group of representatives from delivery agents/stakeholders. The purpose of this session was to

- Provide a deeper understanding of the reasons for success or otherwise;
- Assess the extent of consultation between Councils and Local Strategy Partnerships;
- Explore Value for Money, sustainability additionality and complimentarity issues; and
- Explore beyond the 'hard' jobs and business creation measures and assess the 'softer' impact of the BSP ERDF programme.

A copy of the evaluation of the programme will be sent to District Councils.

193.6 LOTS (Living over the shop)

The extension of this scheme for a further year has been confirmed by NIHE. An advertisement has been placed in the local press inviting applications. Two schemes have been completed to date of applications received, some outside the scheme limits. The Town Centre Management team is considering review of scheme limits and any recommendation will be reported to Committee.

193.7 TOWN CENTRE PROGRAMMES

[a] – Streetscape Scheme

Funding has been secured to enable the streetscape scheme in Main Street and Seymour Street to be advanced. Plans and costings are now being prepared and a contribution from Council towards Streetscape Scheme may be required.

- **Alderman Simpson left the meeting at 4.10pm**

193.8 INTERNATIONAL LINKS

[a] - Benbrook Sister City Link

Under the student exchange programme between Ballymoney and Benbrook a group of students from Ballymoney will visit Benbrook this summer.

Councillor Finlay reported on correspondence that Mr Gerry Dunn, Benbrook, informing him that there has been a change in Benbrook Council and inviting the Council delegates to visit and address the City Council on continuing the relationship between the two cities. Estimated additional cost for delegates, £80 for travel to Benbrook. The delegates would be home hosted.

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

to recommend that Council accept the invitation from Benbrook to the Council delegation to visit Benbrook following the Sister City Conference in July 2008, costs to be met by Council

193.9 LAND ISSUES

[a] – Council land at Castlecroft Square

The Chief Executive updated the committee as regards continuing trespass on Council lands and legal proceedings.

- **Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 4.20pm**

[b] – Council lands at Townhead Street, Ballymoney.

At committee's request, both Roads Service and the Developer of housing scheme on lands at Townhead Street were approached with a view to discussing options for revised layout of carparking and housing. The developer was not of a mind to review his proposal which had secured planning approval and was now well advanced, while Roads Service concerns with regard to access over its car park remain. In the circumstances the proposed options could not be progressed.

- **Alderman Simpson joined the meeting at 4.22pm**

Committee were invited to consider the proposal put to it by Roads Service with regard to rationalising car parking provision at the site, including lands owned by Council. The two options were:

Option 1]. – a comprehensive layout which takes in the full area of land owned by the three parties – Council, DRD and the developer. This option would affect the

Council area in that the surface levels at the boundary may change slightly, and the white lining layout would be changed to optimise the number and arrangement of spaces. No drainage from the new area of car parking will be directed across council land. An alternative outlet route has been obtained and no new services would encroach onto Council property.

Option 2]. – a condensed layout over the DRD and Developers lands, but not affecting the Council owned lands. This option is more restricted, with the DRD and developers lands treated separately from Council land. The Council lands would remain as existing. In this option some restrictions in comparison to the more comprehensive layout result.

The boundary of Council property would be marked by e.g. studs in bitmac. The car park would be laid separately, not producing the optimum layout.

DRD Roads Service preference is option 1.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that, without prejudice, Council agree to option 1.

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

to recommend that without prejudice Council agree to option 1 on the condition that lands owned by Council and DOE are suitably defined

193.10 GARAGE, 47 HIGH STREET, BALLYMONEY

The sale of a lock up garage at 47 High Street, Ballymoney was considered. The asking price is offers over £20,000. A provisional bid of £10,000 has been placed on Council's behalf. There is a right of way alongside the garage to the adjacent houses but no rear access to the garage.

- **Councillor Patterson left the meeting at 4.35pm**

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

to recommend that Council confirm its £10,000 bid for property at 47 High Street, Ballymoney and obtain a valuation.

193.11 COUNCIL LAND REAR OF CHARLOTTE STREET/EASTERMEADE

Attention was drawn to a planning application for development of lands at Charlotte Street which made reference to an "existing car park" in the ownership of Council. Planning Service had been advised of lands in Council ownership and that no right

or permission to open up a vehicular or pedestrian access from the car park had been granted.

- **Alderman Cousley and Councillor Kennedy left the meeting at 4.40pm**

193.12 RAILWAYS TASK FORCE

Representatives from the Task Force met with the Minister for Regional Development, Conor Murphy, on 12th March. The Minister was most positive in his response to the NCRG call for a joint study of the potential of the enhancement of the line in the context of wider land use and spatial development issues in the North West. He confirmed that he intended to discuss the possibility of such a cross border study at the meeting of the North /South Ministerial Council scheduled for May.

Further outcome will be feed through Railways Task Force Group.

Councillor McCamphill informed the Committee that a Dunloy resident has obtained more than 1000 signatures on a petition for the Dunloy rail halt to be re-opened.

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

to write to Northern Ireland Railways to support the case for opening the railway halt at Dunloy

193.13 REVIEW OF POLICY ON LOCATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS – CONSULTATION

The Independent Review of Policy on the Location of Public Sector Jobs has advised that a series of public research forums between 16 April and 9 May 2008. A copy of the public research paper was circulated.

A series of Public meetings are being held to bring the matter to public attention and seek views.

The final date for comments is 23 May 2008. Councillor Robinson felt it would be worthwhile for the Council to be involved in the review process as Ballymoney is an ideal location for public sector jobs.

Alderman Campbell commented that support had by Council in the past for relocation of civil service jobs but no progress had been made. Councillor Finlay felt that now with Northern Ireland Assembly, the Minister may be more inclined to give support to such as initiative.

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

to recommend to strongly reiterate Council's present position in relation to location of public sector jobs

193.14 CAMPBELLTOWN/BALLYCASTLE FERRY

The Scottish Government and NI Executive have agreed to examine the case for restoring this ferry service. Consultants have been appointed and a recent workshop was held to discuss the matter. The Consultants will undertake an appraisal, evaluate options, potential costs and benefits and operational subsidy requirements.

Ballymoney Borough Council was invited to be involved as it is a neighbouring Council to Moyle. The workshop was attended by Chief Executive and Alderman Campbell.

Chief Executive reported that Moyle District Council and Argyll & Bute Council are working to restore the ferry service. The ferry service will always need a subsidiary, it will not self-support. Now that Northern Ireland and Scotland have their own assemblies, there is a determination to put a case forward for restoring the ferry service. The workshop looked at the case so far and sought other ideas for advantages to the service. Alderman Campbell added that the workshop had been very productive.

In response to Councillor Robinson, Chief Executive advised the ferry service as a potential Interreg project had been raised.

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

to recommend to write in co-ordination with Moyle District Council to the Minister endorsing Council's support for the project in principle

193.15 REPORTS

Newry & Mourne District Council has written to all Councils requesting they register their support for the University of Ulster who are submitting a bid to the Interreg Programme for finance for the development and delivery of a cross border MSC in Executive Leadership. Newry & Mourne District Council is fully supportive of the idea for this innovative and timely proposal.

IT WAS AGREED:

to recommend that Ballymoney Borough Council would lend its support to this initiative.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and hard work.

The meeting closed at 5.03pm