

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 195 - 16th June 2008****Table of Contents**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No. 195 held in the Borough Offices, Riada House, on Monday 16th June 2008 at 4.00pm.

In the Chair Councillor I Stevenson

Members

Aldermen

F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley
J Simpson

Councillors

A Cavlan
B Kennedy
M McCamphill
E Robinson

Apologies:

Councillor

J Finlay (Mayor)
A Patterson
M Storey, MLA
R Wilson

In Attendance

Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

195.1. MINUTES – Meeting No. 194 – 19th May 2008

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley seconded by Councillor McCamphill and
AGREED:

that the minutes of committee meeting, No. 194, on 19th May 2008, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

Attached as Appendix A, for completeness of record, is copy of extract from minutes of Consultation Committee No. 27 on 23rd May which approved a committee report which required urgent consideration

195.2. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The steering group has met and settled strategy consultation arrangements, timeframe, and stakeholder groups to participate in the sub-groups. Two round

table workshops will be held at ECOS, Ballymena on 18th June and 4th July (1-4 pm)

- **Alderman Simpson joined the meeting at 4.05pm.**

Steering group members have been informed of a meeting on 26th June 2008, 2-4pm or 7-9pm.

The details for all forthcoming Rural Development meetings, organized as part of the consultation timetable were clarified.

Some initial consideration has been given to projects identified at the initial programme consultation stage. All Councils in the cluster are identifying projects in the tourism & heritage and village renewal & services themes, which are at the development stage and could be implemented in the first phase of the strategy. A copy of Council's capital programme was circulated and relevant project information is being collated from service heads. A list of project ideas resulting from the public consultation workshops, council project feedback and community questionnaires has also been completed. Those identified, which Council might deliver, include creation of walks, paths, small nature/environmental areas in villages and improved angling facilities on the Bann, other rivers, reservoirs and lakes.

The strategy has to be submitted to DARD by 31st July 2008.

It was noted that Planning Service approval is required for farmers regarding the creation of walks.

Rural development projects planned by Council for this year at Derrykeighan & Drunkendult and new community facilities for Cloughmills and Dervock in 2009-2011 had been included in the list of rural village projects, which may be considered under the Programme.

The Head of Corporate and Development Services explained that information had been collated on all rural projects – developed, approved, costed and ready to run if approved in the first tranche of funding. A number of tourism themed projects have also been identified but all proposals need 25% match funding from Council or 50% if private sector projects.

- **Councillor Kennedy and Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 4.20pm**

Collaborative programmes e.g. food programme with Coleraine, Moyle and Limavady are also being considered.

The cluster steering group has responded to DARD with regard to the political make-up of the NE cluster following the inclusion of the additional member from each council and a response is awaited.

195.3. PEACE III

SEUPB letter was tabled advising that the steering group has considered and recommended for approval, the Action Plan for the NE Cluster, the plan having reached the threshold score. The letter of approval awards funding up to September 2011 in the amount of £3,608.589, subject to a number of conditions. Discussions are ongoing with SEUPB with regard to uplift of the management support costs, which are not adequate to fund the resources necessary to deliver the plan.

The public call for social partners for the NE Peace III Partnership has been deferred pending clarification from SEUPB on selection criteria, nomination process etc.

Since the report was published, public advert, criteria scoring, application form, review process etc. have been settled and the advertisement will appear in the local press shortly. An open evening will be held on 30th June 2008, 7.30pm in The ECOS Centre, Ballymena. Interested social partners will be invited to attend. The closing date for applications is 10th July 2008.

In response to Councillor McCamphill, the Head of Corporate and Development Services confirmed that statutory agencies e.g. Health Trusts are on the current LSP. Twelve social partners from community/voluntary sectors, business, trade unions, rural development and agriculture will be selected from nominees from representative groups in cluster area.

- **Alderman Connolly returned to the meeting at 4.28pm**

195.4. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Funding to Council from DSD for town centre marketing is not being allocated in the current year pending an evaluation exercise which is underway. It is anticipated that funding will not be allocated until 2009. In the interim it is proposed to deliver programmes where alternative match funding from other bodies and trader match funding can be secured. Applications have currently been lodged with CSP, DPP and GR and discussions have taken place with the Chamber of Commerce. Committee **AGREED:**

to recommend that programmes be delivered where alternative match funding from other bodies and trader match funding can be secured.

195.5. COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME (DETI)

Further documentation has been received from DETI on the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme 2007-2013, Priority 2: Sustainable Enterprise and Entrepreneurship.

- stage 2 application form
- stage 2 notes for applicants
- guidance notes on project selection (scoring criteria)
- guidance notes on project review (appeal process)

Regional meetings have taken place to brief officers on the programme and Invest NI have provided clarification on what will be included in their new small business support programme. Councils are invited to identify where there are opportunities to engage with the small business sector without duplicating Invest NI support programme and a guidance note sets out a number of areas where there are those opportunities. A copy of a briefing paper published by DETI on the Small Business Support Programme was previously circulated.

Discussions are taking place with Councils in the cluster to explore possible areas of collaboration / economies of scale in delivery of programmes, with a view to including in a bid to DETI continuation of successful business development programmes, where gaps in, and needs of, the local business sector could be identified in association with business support agencies in the region.

195.6. BUSINESS PLAN – DEVELOPMENT 08/09

A draft business plan for the period 08/09 was tabled for approval. This will be subject to review, taking account of emerging plans from the programmes detailed at 2-5 (inclusive) above.

In response to Alderman Campbell, the Head of Corporate and Development Services informed members that business mentoring had been a success in the past. Tender support programme had also been successful on three occasions.

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

to recommend that the draft business plan for the period 08/09 be approved (subject to review, taking account of emerging plans from the programmes detailed at 2-5 (inclusive) above. (Attached as Appendix B)

This business plan will be incorporated into the Business Plan for the Office of the Chief Executive.

195.7. NORTHERN CORRIDOR RAILWAYS GROUP

As members know, the Minister for Regional Development has accepted the Group's case for the initiation of a comprehensive railway corridor development study to complement infrastructure and capacity studies currently underway. An update report, June 2008, has been received from the Group and circulated to our

representatives. The Group will now take the opportunity to make a submission to the study team.

It is clear there is now strong political support among all parties for the enhancement of the line. Investment has been ear-marked and the current economic and environmental climate is also highlighting the importance of public transport.

195.8. BALLYCASTLE-CAMPBELTOWN FERRY APPRAISAL

The Chief Executive and Alderman Campbell, in the absence of the Mayor, attended a workshop in Scotland. A further meeting was held on 19th June 2008 for feedback.

The summary report from the Chief Executive, as follows was circulated to members.

'Ballycastle – Campbeltown Ferry Appraisal, Emerging Findings, June 2008

At a workshop in Ballycastle on 9 June 2008, Alderman Campbell and the Chief Executive received an update on progress.

- Consultants appointed by Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive to examine case for restoring a ferry service between Ballycastle and Campbeltown.
- Last service ended in 1999 and subsequent tender failed to attract an operator.
- Current study will develop a range of ferry options, appraise a list of preferred options and make a recommendation.
- Study team has consulted stakeholders and public, assessed the socio-economic situation and reviewed existing infrastructure.
- Has developed a range of options and will appraise the preferred ones against various criteria including cost.

Current Position

Long list of options generated. Next steps include sifting options, developing conclusions and producing an evaluation framework.

Timetable for rest of commission:

- Submission of draft Report – 23 June 2008
- Submission of Final report – 11 July 2008.'

The Chief Executive informed members of issues raised at the meeting. These included peripheral location, vehicles available, options of different sites e.g. Scottish Islands, Killybegs, Donegal, base for ferry.

It is hoped that the report will be published in early Autumn.

- **Councillor Cavlan left the meeting at 4.43pm**

Discussions followed regarding the broker's speculative search for a suitable vehicle, possibility of servicing all off-shore islands, frequency of sailings, reliability, viability, catchment area.

A copy of the presentation is available from Chief Executive's office.

- **Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 4.50pm**

195.9. SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE 2008 AND 2009

A meeting has taken place of representatives from those Councils participating in the Reception and Exhibition at the 2008 conference and arrangements have been confirmed. The US Consul is hosting a reception for all Kansas delegates on 8th July. Arrangements have also been settled for Council's delegation to present to Benbrook City Council.

The aim of the visit is to attract interest for the 2009 conference to be held in Northern Ireland. The Causeway Coast and Glens marketing backdrop and literature have been shipped to US and Ballymoney and other constituent Council representatives will market the region. Information has also been sent to the press pre-event.

Arrangements have been made for the Mayor to address a meeting of Benbrook Council to encourage reinstatement of the formal link.

195.10. PRESENTATION – NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

This presentation has been arranged for Committee's September meeting.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 4.55pm

Appendices attached:

Appendix A – Extract (from minutes of Consultation Committee No. 27 on 23rd May)

Appendix B – Draft Business Plan for 2008/09

APPENDIX A

Consultation Committee
Extract from Minutes of Meeting: 23rd May 2008

27.3 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Following a meeting between DARD Officials and senior Council Officers it has been made clear that it is essential that there is representation from the five main political parties (DUP SF UUP SDLP ALL) on the Local Action Group (LAG). Currently, neither SF nor Alliance is represented on the body group following the nomination of two members by each of the five councils in the Cluster. There is also a significant gender imbalance. In an attempt to address the problem, it has been agreed that each Council be asked to nominate one additional member to address the political and gender imbalance. The nominations are provisional depending on whether the process had addressed the imbalance. Committee is invited to nominate one additional member.

During discussion, the Chief Executive clarified the rationale in DARD's request for nominees from all parties and Council's current representation.

It was proposed by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor McCamphill

that Councillor Cavlan be nominated to represent Council on the Rural Development Partnership Local Action Group (LAG).

It was proposed proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Robinson

that Councillor Patterson be nominated to represent Council on the Rural Development Partnership Local Action Group (LAG).

The Chairman put the motions to the meeting with Councillor McCamphill requesting that the vote be recorded. Voting was recorded as follows:

Councillor Cavlan (4)

Councillor Cavlan
Councillor Kennedy
Councillor McCamphill
Alderman Connolly

Councillor Patterson (5)

Councillor Finlay
Alderman Campbell
Councillor Stevenson
Councillor Robinson
Councillor Wilson

Abstentions (3)

Alderman Cousley
Councillor Patterson
Councillor McKeown

The Chair declared Councillor Patterson elected to the additional place on the Rural Development Partnership Local Action Group.

Councillor Cavlan expressed disappointment at Council's decision not to appoint her, being a member of the second largest party on the Council.

- ***Councillor Cavlan left the meeting at 3.00 pm.***

27.4 CONSULTATION ON ELECTRICITY AND GAS RETAIL MARKET COMPETITION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

During the course of 2007, the Northern Ireland electricity and Greater Belfast gas markets were fully liberalized, with all customers able, in theory, to choose their gas and electricity supplier. At the same time, a new all-island electricity wholesale market (the SEM) was established, creating much improved arrangements for the trading of electricity and providing a stronger basis for attracting new entrants into the electricity retail market and for the further development of retail competition. A copy of the Executive Summary was circulated and members are invited to comment should they wish to do so.

27.5 GARAGE, 47 HIGH STREET, BALLYMONEY

Council agreed, on the recommendation of the Development Committee (meeting 193 on 21st April) to confirm an offer for a lock up garage currently under offer at 47 High Street, Ballymoney. The asking price is offers over £20,000.

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

that Council 'Move into Committee' to receive an update from the Chief Executive on bids for the garage.

- **The Press left the meeting at 3.00 pm.**

In committee, the Chief Executive updated the meeting on two other bids on the property and advice from an independent valuer.

It was proposed by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Robinson and
AGREED:

**that Council withdraw its bid for the acquisition of the property at 47
High Street, Ballymoney.**

APPENDIX B

Draft Business Plan for 2008/09

OFFICE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE
LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS PLAN 2008/09

STRATEGIC AIM	Encourage economic activity which will address the social need identified and provide an improved quality of life for those who live in, work in and visit the area.
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	<p>Create new businesses and jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a suite of business development programmes • Signpost businesses to business support agencies • Maintain business guide and economic profile
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	<p>Create New Tourism Product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and market new tourism activity products • Develop events and festivals • Increase community activity in tourism • Development of Ulster Scots Connection – North Antrim/Scotland • Development of River Bann Corridor
TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT	<p>Strengthen Town Competitiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and Deliver Town Action Plan in partnership with Ballymoney Town Centre Management and Ballymoney Regeneration Company. In areas of environmental/streetscape improvement, urban design, marketing (residents, tourism & investment sectors), communications, quality of life, access, training & development. • Secure new town centre housing and promotion of Town Centre Living Initiative (living over the shop) in association with NIHE • Development of riverside park to secure convenient safe foot access to town centre
RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	<p>Empower and enable community groups and individual volunteers to take action towards improving the quality of life (economically, socially and environmentally) for local residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable community groups to develop the necessary skills to tackle key economic regeneration, job creation and other relationship issues within the communities • Provide support for community regeneration projects in borough villages and hamlets • Encourage establishment of community businesses to create employment at community level that will promote opportunities for sustainability.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Antrim Community Network • Ballymoney Community Resource Centre • New Deal Consortium • A26 Lobby Group • Acom Business Centre • Group 22 Natural Gas • Ballymoney Town Centre Group • Ballymoney Regeneration Company • Business Education Partnership • Ballymoney Chamber of Commerce • North East Interreg Partnership • North Antrim Leader Group / North East Rural Development Partnership • Ballymoney Borough Local Strategy Partnership / Peace III Partnership
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	<p>Implement Strategy and Action Plan within overall cost limits and agreed timescale Statutory Returns/Funding Bids/Funding claims/Monitoring/Evaluation & Progress Reports</p>
STAFF/STAFF DEVELOPMENT	<p>Employees x 1 full time, 1 p/time Attend courses/seminars, as appropriate, to keep up-to-date with current legislation ECDL training x 3 Recruitment & selection training/refresher x 2</p>
EXTERNAL LIAISON	<p>Local businesses, enterprise agency, local development agencies, local partnership bodies, FE college, ratepayers, DETI family, DOE, DARD, DSD, community groups</p>
EXTERNAL STANDARDS	<p>Everything done in line with quality standards, legislative requirements and established good practice.</p>