

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 204 – 18th May 2009****Table of Contents**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No 204 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, on Monday 18th May at 4.00pm.

IN THE CHAIR Councillor I Stevenson

PRESENT

Aldermen
F Campbell
C Cousley, MBE
J Simpson

Councillors
J Finlay
M McCamphill
E Robinson

APOLOGIES H Connolly
A Patterson
R Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Clerical Assistant

204.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 203, 20th April 2009

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

that the minutes of Committee meeting, No. 203 on 20th April 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

Further to the proposed link with Ripatransone, The Head of Corporate and Development Services updated members on an offer to limit numbers participating, thus reducing costs further, and that Ripatransone are still keen on a future joint project, and would contact Council again next year. Members should, if they wish to pursue this, give early consideration to budget provision.

204.2 TWINNING ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

A presentation was given by Mrs Paula Whyte and Mrs Georgie Blair on work in the previous year and proposals for the current year. Details were given of 2008/2009 visits which were:-

- Isle of Man Rugby Club Visit to Ballymoney, 2008
- Visit to the Twinning Association by French student, 2008
- Ballymoney/Benbrook student visit, July 2008
- Vanves Delegation Visit, October 2008
- Boxing/Netball Visit to Isle of Man, November 2008
- Visit to Bushvalley from St Thomas' Isle of Man, March 2009
- Twinning Delegation support Isle of Man Mayors fundraising, April 2009

Future plans include:-

- Assisting Ballymoney Council with their visit to Vanves, October 2009
- One Act Play visit to the Isle of Man (possibly a Young Farmers Group)
- Youth Ambassador Programme
- Senior Management team from a local school is going to Douglas to further existing links

Vanves have been very keen to establish a similar link with Ballymoney Senior School Management, but staff time has been an issue in the progress of the link to date.

The Twinning Association makes efforts at raising funds, but is very dependent on the support of Council. A recent Twinning Association Dinner Dance raised funds in excess of £1000 for future projects.

All Members in attendance acknowledged the hard work of the Twinning Association and the importance of the role they play in progressing links with Ballymoney's Twin Towns.

The Twinning Association delegates left the meeting at 4.25pm.

204.3 NEP UPDATE

Letter of Offer: SEUPB recently agreed in writing (20th April 09) to NEP request to extend NEP Interreg III. A Letter of Offer period to 31st March 09 to coincide with the member councils financial year.

Council Contributions: The annual amount of match funding required for new NEP IVA legal entity e.g. for 2009/10 has not yet been established - £5,000 per Council has been budgeted, and it is expected that this will be sufficient.

Legal Advisors: Quotations have been sought for legal advisors to advise and assist NEP member councils in establishing the most appropriate NEP IVA legal structure. It is expected that the new NEP "legal entity" recommendation will be put to Councils in June 2009. The SEUPB IVA letters of offer cannot be issued until the new NEP IVA legal entity is established.

Briefing on SEUPB Requirements and Project implementation: Representatives from project participants met on 7th May for briefing on project management/monitoring etc requirements and to discuss taking forward the approved projects, now at economic appraisal stage, and establishment of project partnerships, on which legal advice may be required.

204.4 NEP - POTENTIAL INTERREG IVA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - Towns and Villages on our Inland Waterways “ *Our Rural Towns & Villages – A Common Bond*”

Officers met on 30 April and 1st May with representatives of project partners, Argyll & Bute Council and Cavan County Council to discuss the proposed 4-year project, to be led by NEP, in respect of which applications open in late summer 2009. Under the proposed project, estimated to cost £2.4M, up to 8 towns and villages, 4 in the North East, 2 in Argyll & Bute and 2 in County Cavan, will benefit through development of inland waterways and community empowerment.

The partners were keen to develop a close strategic fit with the ongoing mainstream and national EU funded rural development programmes and strategies being implemented in their respective jurisdictions. For example under the new DARD managed EU Rural Development Programme about to be rolled out in Northern Ireland between 2008-2013 the NE cluster of councils will have the responsibility for a Village Enhancement initiative: **Measure 5: Village Renewal and Development.** It is the aim of the North

East Rural Development Cluster, under this measure, to regenerate rural villages into vibrant rural communities, with the specific objectives of:

- To work with 10 villages in the implementation of a Village Renewal Plan
- To support physical and environmental regeneration improvements recommended in the 10 village plans
- To support physical and environmental regeneration improvements in an additional 10 villages.

204.5 INTERREG PARTNER SEARCH

Notice has been received re. partner search for NET-Portcities – Network on sustainable strategy for port cities in the Atlantic Area. Council has expressed no interest.

204.6 PEACE III

The partnership has issued to Councils in the Cluster terms of reference (ToR) for programmes 9a [indigenous and ethnic minority sport and leisure sharing for peace building programme] and 9b [indigenous and ethnic minority, culture and arts for peace building programme], which the NE PEACE III Partnership has agreed that Councils will deliver. No timeframe has been specified for return of proposals in order to allow as much flexibility in the process as possible. The budget for 9a is £120,000 and the budget for 9b is £120,000. Each programme contains a Resource Allocation of approximately £24,000, details of which are included in the ToR.

204.7 INTERTRADE IRELAND – NETWORKING & INFORMATION EVENT

Intertrade Ireland, a cross border business development company, are promoting a free networking and information event on 3rd June in Galgorm Hotel in association with Antrim, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Newtownabbey, Larne, Ballymoney and Ballymena Councils. Council is currently promoting the importance of this event with regards to establishing potential new trade links for local businesses.

204.8 BAIN REPORT

A response has been received to the representations to the Office of the Minister of Finance & Personnel, Nigel Dodds, on the location of public sector jobs (The Bain Report). The Minister has indicated his intention to bring the issues raised to the Executive for discussion. The Minister has circulated a paper to the Executive and is now awaiting a date on which to have the discussion at the Executive.

The Chair expressed ongoing concern with regards to possible public sector job losses in Ballymoney and indicated that this needed to be represented to the Minister in writing, with the request for existing Civil Service jobs based in Ballymoney to be retained. It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:-**

to recommend that a letter be sent to Minister Dodds and Minister Foster expressing concern for public sector and other job losses and seeking support for bringing employment to the locality; Minister Dodds and Minister Foster are to be invited to attend Council to discuss these issues in greater detail.

204.9 SISTER CITIES NI CONFERENCE 2009

An update from the NI support group on the conference, registration and conference tours has been received. Currently the canvassing of as many registrations as possible is being looked at, and there is progress in establishing a programme of speakers for the Conference. Funding is being investigated for receptions and other conference costs. Events already in place include receptions at Belfast City Council and Parliament Buildings. The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland Government departments have been approached for funding. Peace III have also been approached for funding for the Youth Conference. Councils are being canvassed on funding delegates Youth Conference, which already has a projected 160 delegates.

204.10 FLOODING SUB-COMMITTEE

Arrangements have been made for the committee to meet on 29th May.

204.11 CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

The Rural Development Council has announced its search for the Calor Village of the Year 2009.

204.12 UNEMPLOYMENT

The Head of Corporate and Development Services recapped on the outcome of further discussion with DEL, Jobs and Benefits, which looked at sectors where job losses had occurred and what can be done from a business support perspective. Opportunities under the Steps to Work initiative and DEL Programmes Investing in People and Business were considered, as was how Council could assist in promoting and communicating these opportunities. The potential for Council to provide further opportunities by way of placements and employment through the Steps to Work Programme, making a positive contribution towards reducing unemployment and providing benefits for Council, is being examined by Human Resources.

Officers are also looking at developing Support Programmes to be submitted under the Competitiveness Programme. A database of businesses and employment in sectors is being updated, and steps will be taken to help identify specific issues and needs, and how they can be addressed.

204.12 Lower Bann Partnership Board

Councillor Robinson reported on notice from the Lower Bann Partnership of AGM and the role of the Board of Directors for a period of six months after closure of the company at the end of the year. It was **noted** that Council was no longer a member of the Partnership, following withdrawal of funding at 31st March 2009.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 5.00pm.