

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Meeting No 346 – 29th August 2006

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Finance & General Purpose Committee Meeting No 346 held in the Chamber, Riada House on Monday 29th August 2006 at 4 pm.

In the Chair: Alderman Cecil Cousley

Present: **Aldermen**
F Campbell
H Connolly

Councillors
J Finlay (Mayor)
B Kennedy
I Stevenson

Apologies: Councillor A Patterson
Alderman J Simpson
Councillor M Storey, MLA
Councillor R Wilson

In Attendance: Chief Executive (1-8)
Director of Central & Leisure Services (9-13)
Head of Corporate & Development Services (1-8)
Committee Clerk

346.1 Minutes – Meeting No 345 – 24 July 2006

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 345, on 24 July 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

CORPORATE SERVICES

346.2 Marketing Sub-Committee

Copies of the reports of the committees' meetings on 28th July and 25th August circulated, were approved. Appendices A & B

346.3 Staff Matters

346.3.1 LSP – Maternity Cover

Arrangements have been made to recruit a temporary replacement to cover the absence on maternity leave of the LSP Manager, eight month period, from 3rd September 2006 – 5th May 2007. In the interim, arrangements have been made for an agency worker to cover the vacancy. The cost will be met from existing LSP budgets.

346.3.2 DPP Contingency Arrangements

The NI Policing Board have asked Councils to make provision for contingency arrangements for keeping the service going in the absence of the DPP Manager. Currently there is no contingency arrangement. Management considered the following options:

Option 1 – combining function with community safety function with the two officers deputising for each other:

Option 2 – review reporting lines within the Chief Executive's Department and provide support for meetings of the DPP by existing administrative staff. This would not give the same degree of cover as option 1:

Option 3 – buy in cover. This may be difficult to source and there would be training and subordinate staff management to be addressed.

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

to recommend that

- (a) ***Option 2 be approved, the Council now having revised reporting lines within the Office of the Chief Executive, with the Manager reporting to the Head of Corporate and Development Services and the Clerical Officer being part of the committee clerk support team.***
- (b) ***Council make available budget provision to meet 25% of any costs involved, on the understanding that the Policing Board will finance 75% of the reasonable additional costs incurred.***

346.4 Post Entry Training

An application has been made by the Town Project Officer to attend Advanced Diploma in Management Practice programme entitled "Leading for Excellence", being offered by the University of Ulster, 26th September 2006 - 8th October 2007 . The themes are Leadership, Teamworking, Managing Self and Personal Skills, Managing the Organisation, Finance, Governance, Managing Change and Project Management. The Local Government Staff Commission Training Group are subsidising the programme and the cost to Councils will be £875 per participant.

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

to recommend that the above application, supported by head of service and recommended by the Chief Executive, be granted, course and examination costs, as appropriate, to be met by Council.

346.5 Street Naming Policy (Draft EQIA)

This matter was deferred from the committee's last meeting to allow additional information requested to be provided and to give Party Leaders the opportunity to meet individually with the Chief Executive so that the council can move forward on this matter.

The Chief Executive drew attention to the report, circulated, setting out the additional information requested by members on the issues faced by an adjoining authority regarding funding implementation of its policy; clarification of arrangements for implementation of the European Charter for regional and minority languages and the recent decision by the European Parliament on status of the Irish language; details of the official complaint under the Council's Equality Scheme and estimate of costs of implementing the policy. A copy of the Derry City Council policy, provided to all Councils in the Northern Group Building Control, and used by Council to date as guidance, was circulated.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED:

to recommend that the EQIA on Draft Street Naming Policy be approved for issue for public consultation, with the following options selected:

EQIA Section 4 - Assessment of Impacts:

".. and Council will monitor the demand for signs in other languages and consider whether it should extend the policy to remove this potential adverse impact."

Draft Policy Section 8.6

Ballymoney Borough Council will write to each occupier of premises in the street advising each of the application and inviting comment by completion and return within 28 days of a prepaid pro-forma letter.

346.6 **Civic Policies (Draft EQIAs)**

A number of EQIAs within the responsibility of OCE are currently being developed for public consultation. Under the consultation arrangements these will be issued to all members in addition to those bodies on our equality consultation database. Details of the policies being subjected to EQIA are set out below with details of timetable.

(a) Council Representation on Committees and External Bodies

This EQIA will be tabled at August meeting and included in the September committee report for comment on recommended options for mitigating measures.

(b) Election of Office Bearers

This EQIA will be tabled at August meeting and included in the September committee report for comment on recommended options for mitigating measures.

(c) Flags & Emblems

This EQIA will be tabled at October meeting and included in the November committee report for comment on recommended options for mitigating measures.

(d) Civic Events, including recognising achievement

This EQIA will be tabled at December meeting and included in the January committee report for comment on recommended options for mitigating measures.

Councillor Kennedy left the meeting at 4.40pm.

The Chief Executive and Head of Corporate and Development Services left the meeting at 4.45pm.

CENTRAL SERVICES**4.45pm****346.7 Accounts For Payment**

Treasury advice schedules detailing payments for Period 5, 2006/07 drawn on the Council's Capital and Revenue Bank Accounts were circulated at the meeting.

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

to recommend that accounts to the value of £494,456.79 from the Revenue Account and £78,893.52 from the Capital Account be approved for payment.

346.8 APPLICATION UNDER ARTICLES 19 AND 20 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NI) ORDER 2005

Application under Articles 19 and 20 of the Local Government (NI) Order 2005, (formerly Section 81 of Local Government Act) was made to the Department for approval to incur expenditure in 2006/07 relating to members participation in limited companies.

The Department has approved expenditure up to £6,258 for the financial year 2006/07.

Reserves Balances

The Mayor advised that he had received details of the Council's Reserves from the Director and enquired if the Capital Fund could be used to finance increased waste disposal charges over the next two years.

The Director advised that the Capital Fund was established to help finance the closure of the landfill site and associated capital works, whereas waste disposal charges are revenue expenditure. The Director undertook to check the matter further.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the time being 4.53 pm.

Appendix A – Marketing Sub-Committee – 28 July 2006

Appendix B - Marketing Sub-Committee – 25 August 2006

Marketing Sub-Committee – 28th July 2006

Present:

Councillor Patterson (Chair) Alderman Connolly, Alderman Simpson, Alderman Campbell, Head of Corporate & Development Services, Corporate Project Officer.

1. Official opening - Sports Stadium

HCDS outlined arrangements and running order for official opening of stadium 31/7/06.

2. Local Democracy Week 16th – 20th October 2006

HCDS advised members that LDW is being run again in conjunction with NILGA from 16th – 20th October 2006. Members agreed that the 2005 event had been very successful and it would be beneficial to get involved in the 2006 LDW. HCDS agreed to bring ideas for 2006 event to the next meeting.

3. Recognition of Service

Reception scheduled to take place before end August 2006, subject to former members' being available to attend.

Marketing Sub-Committee – 25th August 2006

Present:

Alderman Connolly, Alderman Cousley, Alderman Simpson,
Head of Corporate & Development Services, Corporate Project Officer.

Apology: Councillor Patterson (Chair)

1. Local Democracy Week 16-20 October 2006

Agreed to organise a question time event involving representatives from parties and local schools, with a guest host.

2. Bulletin

Members are invited to submit ideas for inclusion in the next bulletin – Oct/Nov 2006, with focus on new services/facilities/initiatives, outstanding performance, major achievements/awards. This edition will include feature on Christmas events.

3. Feedback on Stadium and Milk Cup Events

Deferred to next meeting.

4. Recognition of Service

Event re-scheduled to September 2006 to recognize former members with 25 years' service. Mayors Chaplain and former Chief Executives to be invited also.

5. Drumaheglis Celebration Event

Event to celebrate Practical Caravan Award postponed to pre Easter 2007.

6. Twinning Ceremony – Douglas Borough Council

Development Committee recommend that the ceremonies be funded from reserves, allowing them to take place earlier than planned. Consideration deferred pending Council's decision on funding.

7. 25th Anniversary of Leisure Centre

It was confirmed that this was an event and not a civic function.