

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 213 – 15th March 2010****Table of Contents**

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213.1.1	North East Partnership: New Governance Proposals New Interreg IVA Joint Committee	<i>Update</i>
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213.3	Rathlin Island Policy	<i>Noted</i>
213.4	Action Plan Update Steps to Success for Small Business Programme (Sustainable Competitiveness)	<i>Letter of offer accepted. Updates on other current programmes noted</i>
213.5	Causeway Coast & Glens RTP – Contribution	<i>£17,500 contribution for 2010-11 agreed</i>
213.6	Steps to Work Client Placements	<i>2 placements recruited</i>
213.7	Key Economic Statistics Quarterly Report	<i>Tabled</i>
213.8	Big Lottery – Community Planning Project	<i>Tabled</i>
213.9	North Antrim Business Awards	<i>Contribution £2,500 agreed</i>
213.10	Ballymoney Environmental Improvement Scheme (Main Street)	<i>Letter of variance signed</i>

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No. 213 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, on Monday 15th March 2010 at 3.00 p.m.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor M McCamphill (Vice-Chair)

PRESENT:

Aldermen:
F Campbell (Mayor)
C Cousley MBE (Deputy Mayor)
J Simpson

Councillors:
R Halliday
T McKeown
A Patterson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

Aldermen:
H Connolly

Councillors:
A Cavlan
J Finlay (Chairman)
E Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services

213.1 MINUTES – MEETING NO 212 – 16th FEBRUARY 2010

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

*that the minutes of meeting No. 212 on 16th February 2010, circulated,
be confirmed as a correct record.*

Matters arising:**213.1.1 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP: NEW GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS NEW INTERREG IVA JOINT COMMITTEE.**

An addendum to the committee's last meeting, on the North East Partnership New Governance Proposals – New Interreg IVA Joint Committee, as adopted by Council at its meeting on 1st March, is appended for information, appendix 1.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that following the approval by Council on 1st March of the Joint Committee arrangements an amendment was made, at the request of a constituent council, to clause 7.2 to provide additional comfort. In this regard the officer outlined the responsibilities of the lead Council, Ballymena Borough Council to whom the letter of offer from SEUPB would issue. The responsibilities of lead partners and project participants under a partnership agreement were also outlined, clarity of roles and responsibilities being a key principle.

213.2 RURAL WHITE PAPER

The NILGA policy recommendations from the Rural White Paper Stakeholder Advisory Group sub-groups which have been signed off by the Minister were tabled at committee's last meeting and comments invited, prior to publication of the document for public consultation. No comments were offered. Public consultation events will take place in the Autumn, with legislation expected to be in place early 2011.

213.3 RATHLIN ISLAND POLICY

The Department of Regional Development has published the Rathlin Island Policy after the Executive's endorsement of it on 25th February 2010. A copy of the document can be viewed on the DRD Website www.drdni.gov.uk or by contacting the Office of the Chief Executive for a copy.

213.4 ACTION PLAN UPDATE**Steps to Success for Small Business Programme (Sustainable Competitiveness)**

Further information has been provided to DETI in preparation for the issue of the letter of offer. The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that the letter of offer (ref. CP – BMON 3521) setting out pre-conditions and revised financial profile had been received.

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

that the letter of offer from the Department of Enterprise Trade & Investment in the amount of £23,130 towards the delivery of this programme, for which Council was acting as lead partner, be accepted.

Rural Development Programme – Special Calls Projects

[a] Rural Tourism Product Knowledge to local providers

Discussions are taking place with RDP Staff on the draft Terms of Reference, draft budget and a cost-benefit analysis for the Indigenous GEN Project. It is envisioned that actions within the programme would include best practice visits, workshops/seminars and joint working across council boundaries. The overall programme cost is £75,000, with contribution per organization over three years of £3,000.

[b]The Rural Villages Regeneration Facilitator

The Rural Villages Regeneration Facilitator post had been advertised by Moyle District Council, the lead Council. It was expected that the officer would be in post by 1st May 2010. A total of four villages will be targeted in each Council area with grant aid to those villages of about £260,000 per council area. In addition the facilitator build the capacity in those villages. It would also tie in with co-operation projects involving another £50,000. In addition a further amount of private funding would be levered in, in this case likely to at least match the amount of grant funding. The annual cost to Council is £500-£700 per annual over 5 years, with review after year 2. Details of the application and selection process for villages was outlined.

[c] Regional Food Tourism Initiative

Work on the development of this project was continuing. The overall grant would be £200,000 to be targeted at initiatives that cover the whole region. It would also tie in with co-operation projects involving another £80,000. In addition a further amount of private funding would be levered in. The cost to Council is £759-£1000 per annum over 3 years.

[d] Programme Commitment

Details of programme commitment across the measures and per Council area at 31st January, was tabled. Issues being discussed with DARD regarding contributions in kind and basic services programme were noted.

Young Enterprise Primary Programme and Masterclass

The letter of offer from to Young Enterprise NI to deliver this programme to primary school children in the Ballymoney area has been issued. Work will begin on the programme at the beginning of March 2010.

Innovation for Competitive Enterprises (ICE) Programme

The Innovation for Competitive Enterprises (ICE) Programme, funded via the EU Interreg IVA programme, is being managed in NI by the Ulster Business School at the University of Ulster. The Development Unit has directly targeted Ballymoney businesses that meet the criteria in relation to this programme. A further programme 'Success through Succession' also being managed through the Ulster Business School was also obtained at this session. Both programmes are now being promoted through Business section of the Council's website.

Peace III

Minutes of meetings are tabled. The Cultural Services Officer will be the GR point of contact in Ballymoney.

Tourism Marketing/Events

Following transfer of tourism marketing/events activity to Development Unit the following projects are being advanced.

- Tourism Guide
- Easter Marketing Plan

A review of activities is presently underway and a further report will be brought to committee. Issues under consideration include rebranding, marketing and product development.

Creative Industries Project

The call for an organization or consortium to undertake the baseline review of the creative industries sector had been issued.

213.5 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS RTP – CONTRIBUTION

Following commitment by Council to retain membership of the Causeway Coast & Glens RTP **it is recommended** that Council confirm its contribution of £17,500 for 2010-11. The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated the meeting on current issues including delivery of Interreg funded marketing project, product development initiatives and consideration of the Draft Tourism Order, the deadline for comments on this being 20th May 2010.

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

that Council approve a contribution of £17,500 to the Causeway Coast and Glens RTP for the year 2010-11, funded from £15,000 contribution budget approved by council with balance from existing budget.

213.6 STEPS TO WORK CLIENT PLACEMENTS

Two part-time business support assistants have been recruited in the Development Unit under the Steps to Work Initiative, commencing Monday 15th February 2010. Other options to enhance business support for the unit and provide training opportunities are being examine.

213.7 KEY ECONOMIC STATISTICS QUARTERLY REPORT

Copy of report at March 2010 was tabled, attached as appendix 2.

213.8 BIG LOTTERY - COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT

Coleraine Borough Council, in conjunction with other Councils in the cluster submitted a pre-application questionnaire (ref 2362) on 25th January 2010 to deliver pilot community planning project. A working group of heads of development have been providing support to develop an application.

213.9 NORTH ANTRIM BUSINESS AWARDS

Correspondence from North Antrim Business Agency inviting Council to provide funding and to participate in the 2010 awards in May at Lissanoure Castle.

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

that Council make a contribution of up to £2,500 together with a contribution in kind through assistance with the delivery of the awards project and that the Chairman nominate representatives to attend at the event.

213.10 BALLYMONEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (Main Street)

It was reported that a letter of Variance for this scheme (ref. RN/P/E/02/09) dated 24th February 2010 taking account of increased costs had been signed on Council's behalf by the Chief Executive. There is no increase in Council's contribution.

This concluded the business of the meeting the time being 4.00 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
ADDENDUM: – Council Meeting 917 – 1st March 2010

NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP: NEW GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS
NEW INTERREG IVA JOINT COMMITTEE.

BACKGROUND

As members are aware Council is a member of the North East Partnership (NEP) along with Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Larne, Moyle and Newtownabbey Councils. The primary purpose of NEP is to identify suitable funding opportunities that the member councils can take advantage of, particularly those arising from the EU INTERREG Iva Programme for which the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is the managing authority. The North East Partnership submitted a Multi-Annual Plan (MAP) to SEUPB in October 2007 setting out a detailed proposal for a programme of INTERREG IV activities under three themes: Enterprise, Tourism and Collaboration worth up to £10million. Council is a partner in a number of successful INTERREG bids that has been successful through its membership of NEP and is a partner in others that are still undergoing assessment by SEUPB.

CURRENT POSITION

In October 2009, Council agreed (Min ref. DC207) to establish a Statutory Joint Committee underpinned by Body Corporate legislation and consolidated by a legally binding Partnership Agreement in order that the NEP can perform its new role under INTERREG IVA and to satisfy the corporate governance requirements normally associated with managing EU funding programmes of this nature. SEUPB indicated its general approval of this course of action but has now asked that the NEP Councils to enter into a less formal arrangement of a Joint Committee without Body Corporate status. SEUPB has taken advice from the Department of Finance & Personnel and in view of the time required to enact the required legislation through the Assembly with the corresponding impact that further delays will have on implementing the Interreg Iva programme a simple Joint Committee structure will suffice providing that one Council acts a lead partner with formal responsibilities for management and administration.

Solicitors, McGrigors LLP Belfast, acting on behalf of the eight Councils have drawn up a draft Joint Committee Terms of Agreement document, copy tabled, for each Council to consider and approve. Ballymena Borough Council has agreed to take on the lead partner role so that funding can be drawn down quickly. In essence, the lead partner in this context, Ballymena will assume responsibility for accepting all letters of offer from SEUPB with all of the corporate governance requirements that go with this arrangement. In turn, Ballymena would be responsible for issuing project sub-contracts in the form of project level partnership agreements to the partners in the approved projects for ensuring that projects are delivered, audited and evaluated in keeping with SEUPB requirements i.e. one such agreement per approved project rather than to all project participants individually. Ballymena will also host the administration unit employing the programme staff subject to an annual budget agreed with SEUPB.

It is proposed that the Joint Committee should comprise two elected Members from each of the eight Councils who will oversee the delivery of the NEP's Multi-Annual Plan. As the MAP suite of projects have already been selected, albeit awaiting final approval by SEUPB, there is no requirement for the Joint Committee to assume the responsibility for programme management, financial control, risk and contracts; these governance functions will be administered by Ballymena Borough Council acting as lead partner and Ballymena will therefore deal directly with, and be accountable to, SEUPB and the EU Programme Monitoring body.

It is RECOMMENDED:

1. That Council agrees to the proposal to establish a Joint Council Committee, without Body Corporate status, based on the Terms of Agreement, tabled, prepared by McGrigors LLB Solicitors, Belfast, on behalf of the NEP constituent councils, for the governance of the North East Partnership, subject to each of the other seven member Councils confirming their acceptance of the arrangements.
2. That Council nominates two elected members to the proposed Joint Committee and that Officers are to bring a further report back to Council later in the year once the outcome of the NEPs' Multi-Annual Plan is confirmed by SEUPB.

E Johnston
Head of Corporate & Development Services

23rd February 2010

Ballymoney Borough Council Development Committee
Key Economic Statistics Quarterly Report
March 2010

Key Employment/Earnings Statistics

- The working age employment rate is 73.0%, 3.2 percentage points higher than Northern Ireland as a whole.
- Median gross weekly earnings April 2008 were £375.90 per week. This was 10.0 per cent lower than those for Northern Ireland as a whole.
- At September 2007, 12.9% of employee jobs were employed in the manufacturing sector and 72.2% in the service sector. This compares with 12.3% and 80.6% respectively for Northern Ireland as a whole.
- From October 2009 until January 2010 the number of claimants has increased from 871 to 936. The number of unemployment claimants has increased by 238 over the last year, i.e. an 83.8% increase (see Table 1). The ward of Newhill has the highest proportions of both male and female claimants as well as the highest proportion overall (see Table 2).

Table 1: Ballymoney Borough Council area Claimant Count - January 2010

Number of Claimants			% Of Working Age			Change over month		Change over Year	
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Number	%	Number	%
770	166	936	7.9%	1.9%	5.1%	32	3.5%	236	33.7%

(Source: Regional Analyses and Trends, DETI 2010)

Table 2: The five wards in Ballymoney Borough Council with the highest/lowest proportion of claimants – January 2010

	Men	Women	Total
Wards with highest proportion of claimants			
Newhill	19.6	3.4	11.3
Benvardin	13.2	2.9	8.2
Carnany	10.8	3.3	7.1
Route	10.6	2.5	6.8
Killoquin Upper	9.6	2.3	6.2
Wards with lowest proportion of claimants			
Knockaholet	5.2	1.6	3.6
Dunloy	6.3	1.1	3.8
Seacon	5.8	2.1	4.1
Glebe	7.4	1.7	4.5
Cloughmills	6.6	2.3	4.6

- The number of redundancies in the borough this year is at 28.4% of the level it was last year. It should be noted however that the figures in Table 3 were sourced from employers tabling returns and that these employers are only obliged to submit returns if 20 or more employees are being made redundant; these figures may therefore be underestimated.

Table 3: Ballymoney Borough Council Redundancies October 2009

Redundancies	Northern Ireland	Ballymoney DC
Confirmed		
Current year 1st February 09 - 31st January 10	4410	52
Last year 1st February 08 - 31st January 09	2998	183
Proposed		
Current year 1st February 09 - 31st January 10	5166	48
Last year 1st February 08 - 31st January 09	3530	2

(Source: Redundancies Section (DETI-SRB))

Key Ballymoney Business Statistics

- There are 1,450 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses, a decrease of 50 businesses (3.33%) from 2008.

Table 4: Enterprises by Employment Size, 2009

Size of Enterprise	Northern Ireland		Ballymoney DC	
	Number	%	Number	%
All enterprises	70,620	100.0%	1,450	100.0%
Small (< 50 employees)	69,320	98.1%	1,435	98.8%
Medium (50 - 250 employees)	1,100	1.6%	15	1.2%
Large (> 250 employees)	200	0.3%	*	*

(Source: Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) 2009)

- Almost half of these businesses (45.9%) have a turnover of less £100,000.00 per annum, a similar number have a turnover between £100,000.00 and £1million. The remaining 8.2% have a turnover of £1million or greater.