

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Table of Contents:-

248.1	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>
248.2	Ballymoney Masterplan	<i>presentation</i>

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Development Committee**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 248, held in the McKinley Room on Wednesday 13th June 2013 at 3.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman B Kennedy

PRESENT: **Alderman**
C Cousley, MBE

Councillors
W Blair
J Finlay
T McKeown

APOLOGIES : **Councillors:**
E Robinson
I Stevenson

IN ATTENDANCE: Head Corporate and Development Services

Department of Social Development (DSD) (Item 2)
Mr W Cameron & Mrs B McConaghie
URS Consultant
Mr M Hughes

248.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

248.2 BALLYMONEY MASTERPLAN

Introducing the draft Masterplan, Mr Cameron said it was a comprehensive long-term strategy which would provide a vision for the town for the next 15-20 years. He outlined the stages – preparation, information gathering and analyses, creating the vision and regeneration objectives; design of the plan and development and implementation to guide the prioritization and phasing of DSD and other public

sector interventions; support and inform the case for resource allocation and provide a basis for the preparation of development briefs.

The implementation plan will identify who is responsible for taking forward the various initiatives. Mr Cameron said the other three Councils in the cluster had Masterplans and Ballymoney would now be able to go into the new cluster on an equal footing.

The Minister will launch the 12 week consultation on the Masterplan on 20th June, following which comments received would be reviewed and changes, if necessary considered. Publication of the Masterplan was expected later this year.

Mr Hughes then gave an overview of the draft Masterplan commenting on each of the consultation boards. Setting the context, he explained the area which was the focus of the Masterplay study, its current spatial arrangement and character, but indicated that the plan would also take account of areas outside the study area but functionally part of it.

The consultation presented to the people of Ballymoney some initial ideas on the types of proposals that the Masterplan might include and the emphasis that will be placed on different aspects of the town centre, including physical form, quality of public realm, development sites, transport links, tourism and commercial activity.

Views would be captured through a questionnaire available at the public exhibition and on Council's DSD website.

He pointed to the key issues identified under transport, retail and commercial, residential, tourism and evening economy, constraints and opportunities, draft vision statement and core regeneration objectives.

* **Councillor Finlay joined the meeting at this stage – 4.00 pm.**

Mr Hughes then dealt in detail with the transport opportunities, public realm interventions, potential development opportunity sites and pointed to the town's excellent connectivity on the main transport route and proximity to Causeway Coast resorts and Glens of Antrim. He also referred to the town's unique attractions to tourists, particularly its road racing legends and its Ulster Scots connection and said the Masterplan proposals will be effective in creating beneficial changes in the town centre.

All members present commented favourably on the Masterplan and Mr Hughes and Mr Cameron responded to members' questions and further clarified issues.

Arising from discussion on the implementation of the Masterplan, Mr Cameron advised that the action plan would identify stakeholder involvement and estimated

cost. All projects in the Action Plan would be assessed individually by DSD and others and a business case would be necessary to demonstrate economic benefits to Ballymoney.

The Chair thanked Mr Cameron and Mr Hughes for presenting the proposals and responding to issues raised. There had been, he said, excellent responses to the pre-consultation session with 70 people from all walks of life participating in workshop sessions and inputting into the development of the draft plan. He expressed the hope that people would take the opportunity to have their say and looked forward to seeing the comments.

* **The meeting concluded at 4.45 pm.**