

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Development Committee Meeting No 256 – 19th February 2014**

Table of Contents

256.1	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>
256.2	Election of Vice-Chair	<i>Elect Councillor McLean</i>
256.3	Minutes of Meeting No 255 – 18 th December 2013 & summary report to Council meeting, 3 rd February 2014	<i>Approved</i>
256.4	Masterplan	<i>Plan Team Representatives appointed</i>
256.5	Revitalisation Scheme	<i>Representatives on Project Team appointed</i>
256.6	Intervention Funding – Virtual Shop Project	<i>Accept lowest tender from Piperhill Construction Ltd in the sum of £10,010 + VAT</i>
256.7	Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI	<i>Comments invited</i>
256.8	Dilapidated Buildings and Neglected Sites and Defective Premises	<i>Information</i>
256.9	GIRO D'italia 2014	<i>Update</i>
256.10	NI Tourist Board – Home of Great Events –Strategic Vision to 2020	<i>Information</i>
256.11	Invest NI Overseas Events Programme 2014-15	<i>Information</i>
256.12	Prestigious Award to Recognise Voluntary Effort	<i>Nominate 4 Groups</i>
256.13	Application for Assistance – Loughgiel Community Association	<i>Note</i>
256.14	NRC Outline Business Case	<i>Invite Director</i>

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 993 – 6th January 2014**

993.12	Development Committee Addendum	
12.1	Exploring Enterprise Programme	<i>Agreed</i>
12.2	Intervention Funding – Virtual Shop Project	<i>Agreed</i>
12.3	Ballymoney Masterplan	<i>Agreed</i>
12.4	Mineral Prospecting Licences	<i>For information</i>

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 256 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 19th February 2014 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman B Kennedy

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
F Campbell
C Cousley, MBE

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
A McLean
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: **Alderman**
H Connolly

Councillors
A Cavlan
R Halliday
R McAfee
E Robinson, MBE

IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Corporate & Development Services
Chief Executive
Business Support Officer

256.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

256.2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Head of Corporate and Development Services invited committee to elect a Vice-Chair for the remainder of committee's term to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Councillor Mervyn Storey, MLA.

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

that committee elect Councillor McLean as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term 2013/14.

256.3 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 255 – 18TH DECEMBER 2013

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

to recommend that the Minutes of Meeting No 255 – 18th December 2013, and summary report to Council meeting, 3rd February 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

A copy of report to Council Meeting 3rd February 2014 on Development matters is appended for information.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

256.4 MASTERPLAN

A copy of the Action Plan was circulated. The Plan Team, led by Council, and comprising key stakeholders, will, now that the plan has been launched, meet to commence implementation of the actions.

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

to recommend that the Chair and Head of Corporate and Development Services represent Council on the Plan Team which will implement the Action Plan.

256.5 REVITALISATION SCHEME

Business surveys and user surveys have been completed and analysed to support the proposed scheme which is being developed for submission, within the next month or so.

The Chamber of Commerce has facilitated nominations of four representatives from the trading community in the designated area to serve on the steering group.

Representatives will be required to attend regular meetings to take forward the project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council confirm its three representatives on Ballymoney Regeneration Company (Alderman Kennedy, Alderman Campbell, Councillor McLean) and the Head of Service or her nominee to serve on the steering group with four representatives from the trading community.

The Chamber of Commerce will endorse the representatives from the trading community and committee will be advised at its next meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

AGREED:

to recommend that Council confirm its representatives on the Project Group.

256.6 INTERVENTION FUNDING – VIRTUAL SHOP PROJECT

Quotations for the final phase of minor building repairs and design panels have been received and assessed and a report was presented to committee. The proposal for the window dressing element has been prepared and quotations invited.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

AGREED:

to recommend that Council accept the lowest tender received from Piperhill Construction Ltd, in the sum of £10,010.00 + VAT.

256.7 STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT FOR NI

The Environment Minister has outlined his plans to the Assembly with regard to town centre developments. The proposed retail policy adopts a “town centre first” approach and makes out of town centre locations the least preferred option, the Minister’s aim being to protect and enhance the vitality of town centres. This approach has been welcomed by the NI Independent Retail Trade Association (NIIRTA).

Under the proposals, councils will be expected to undertake a "town centre health check" every five years to inform their own retail and town centre strategies.

These proposals are part of broader changes to the planning system announced by the Environment Minister. The consultation document on the draft planning policy document has been listed for consideration by Consultation Committee. In the town centre issues the consultation will also be considered by the Regeneration Committee. The consultation ends on 29 April.

The proposed new strategy will act as a framework for local councils which will take control of most planning powers in April 2015.

256.8 DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS AND NEGLECTED SITES AND DEFECTIVE PREMISES

The Environment Minister indicates that he is keen to do all he can to address any perceived weaknesses in the current legislation and to ensure ultimately that councils have a proper toolkit of legislative powers to require the appropriate maintenance of land and buildings within their respective districts, that are in an unsightly condition.

The Department is continuing to progress the policy development exercise and intends to issue a Discussion Document in March 2014 with a view to obtaining feedback on the way forward from key stakeholders. The aim of the discussion document is to help inform the Department, in more precise detail, about the effectiveness or otherwise of the complex legislative framework already available to district councils. It will also seek initial views on possible future proposals to modernize that framework making it easier to use and more effective.

Depending on the outcome of the Discussion Document exercise, the Department will, if appropriate consider bringing forward firm legislative proposals for full formal consultation later in the year.

TOURISM

256.9 GIRO d'ITALIA 2014

NITB are supporting Local Authorities to deliver a series of industry events entitled 'Get ready for the Giro'. The event for Ballymoney, Moyle and Coleraine areas was held on 5th February, in Ballycastle and attended by the Chair, Alderman Kennedy; Councillor McGuigan (our road racing cyclist) and Councillor McKeown, Chair of the Road Safety Committee, accompanied by the Head of Service and Countryside Officer. The event was addressed by representatives from the Local Authority, NITB, Shadetree Sports (the event sponsors) and PSNI.

The 'Get Ready for the Giro' roadshow outlined the size and scope of the world famous cycling spectacle and the impact it is set to have across Northern Ireland. Attendees got a taste of what will be happening locally and how businesses, schools, clubs, communities and volunteers can engage and interact with the race for the coveted pink winner's jersey.

The road show included an overview of the impact on roads and local communities and presentations by Shadetree Sports (representing race organisers RCS), the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the local council representatives. A toolkit with information and ideas was available to help people maximize involvement.

The NITB is encouraging local councils and communities in towns and villages along the routes of the three stages(*) of the race to 'think pink' and organise their own events to celebrate the Giro coming to Northern Ireland and to promote their tourism potential to the influx of visitors expected.

Over 200 of the world's elite professional riders, their support teams, TV crews and international media will be in Northern Ireland for the race. NITB anticipates it will attract 140,000 visitors, with 42,000 of these from out of state. The huge worldwide audience and fan base for the race means it will be viewed on TV by approximately some 775 million people in 165 countries.

(*)

The Race: (*)
Stage 1 of the race will be a 22km time trial through Belfast taking in the Newtownards Road, Stormont, Queen's Bridge, the Ormeau Road, Stranmillis and the city centre.
Stage 2 will be 218km travelling from Belfast to Antrim, then to Ballymena, Ballymoney and Bushmills and on to the Giant's Causeway taking in the coastline from Cushendall to Larne, Carrickfergus and back to Belfast.
Stage 3 is a 187km cross border section that will leave Armagh and travel to Richhill and Newtownhamilton before heading south, crossing the border at Forkhill en route to Dublin, via Dundalk, Castlebellingham and Drogheda.

Committee endorsed its nominees on the Giro Project Group – Alderman Kennedy, Councillor McKeown and Councillor McGuigan.

256.10 NI TOURIST BOARD – HOME OF GREAT EVENTS – STRATEGIC VISION TO 2020

The Tourist Board has published its new Events Strategic Vision for NI, as approved by the Minister. The new strategy aims to provide a clear vision and to support the events industry and strengthen the position of NI as a must see destination. In the last few years NITB has successfully developed and delivered both the International and the National Tourism Events Funding Schemes and have had major successes in terms of bidding for major global events such as the Irish Open in 2012 and the Giro d'Italia in 2014.

In the year 2012, Northern Ireland welcomed over one million visitors as a direct result of NI2012. As well as 2013 when NI played host to the G8 and the World Police and Fire Games and Derry-Londonderry became the first UK City of Culture. Events are now part of the tourism fabric and have the capacity not only to showcase Northern Ireland on the world-wide stage, but also to enhance our reputation as a place to visit, live, work, study and invest in. It is therefore crucial to build on the success and the Strategic Vision aims to do that. A copy is available on request from the Office of the Chief Executive.

ENTERPRISE

256.11 INVEST NI OVERSEAS EVENTS PROGRAMME 2014-15

Invest NI has published its Overseas Events Programme for 2014-15, which provides details of trade missions and other trade events and activities to existing and emerging high-growth international markets. Activities in the programme are open to all businesses in NI engaged in manufacturing and tradable services and are designed to help companies explore new market opportunities, showcase their products and services and develop those important business relationships with existing and new customers. A copy is available, on request, from the Office of the Chief Executive.

Committee was advised that Invest NI were now tendering for the development of mobile Apps and it had been confirmed that Council had decided this was a matter for decision by new Cluster Council.

VOLUNTEERING

256.12 PRESTIGIOUS AWARD TO RECOGNISE VOLUNTARY EFFORT

The Lord Lieutenant for Co. Antrim, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Representative of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Now, are working to increase nominations from N Ireland.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest civil Award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. It is the MBE for volunteer groups. Any group doing volunteer work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the Award.

Groups cannot nominate themselves for the Award – someone not directly involved in the group needs to do that. It could be someone who has benefited from the group, a funder, a local community leader or statutory representative. However the process is easy!

Committee was invited to consider nominations.

Information sessions, to promote the Award, and explain the nomination process, are being organised (funded through DSD Innovations Fund). They are aimed at potential nominators and interested groups. It will be an opportunity to meet those involved in promoting the Award and hear from someone who has been through the process.

LOCATION	DATE
Bann View Committee Room, Coleraine Borough Council, 66 Portstewart Road, Coleraine, BT52 1EY.	26 February 2014
The Studio Theatre, The Braid Ballymena Town Hall, Museum & Arts Centre, 1 - 29 Bridge Street, Ballymena. BT43 5EJ	19 March 2014

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

to recommend that Council nominate 4 groups: Community Rescue Service, Cloughmills Action Team, Dervock Community Association and St John Ambulance, Ballymoney in recognition of voluntary service.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

256.13 APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE – LOUGHGIEL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

An application previously considered from Loughiel Community Association for financial assistance of £22,463 per annum, towards computer, cookery and hospitality training for

which funding through the Women's Network for European Social Funding has been secured. There is currently no budget provision available to support the proposal.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend that Council note the request.

256.14 NRC OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Councillor Stevenson commented on media reports that NRC was actively seeking sites to build in Coleraine, with a view to the Ballymoney campus closing.

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

invite the Director to a meeting.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.