

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON AND SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2014 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** In the Chair, Councillor Brush (Chair)
- Councillors Ashton, F Burton, R Burton, Cavanagh, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Daly, Donnelly, Gildernew, Gillespie, McGuigan, Molloy, Monteith, Mulligan, Reid, Robinson, and Somerville
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors McGonnell, O'Neill and Mr Burke Chief Executive
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** B Currie, Human Resources Advisor (HRA)
I Frazer, Director of Development (DD)
P Kerr, Director of Finance (DF)
G Smith, Council Business Manager (CBM)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

1 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to any declaration of conflict of interest.

2 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The report (appendix 1) and addenda (appendix 2 and 3) of the Director of Finance were presented reference being made to the following:

STRATEGIC

2.1 Financial Update for Year - 4 Months Ended 31 July 2014 (item 1.1)

The DF presented projected balances at year end (appendix 2) and stated that confident that favourable balance on rates £45k and allowances £60k a total of £105,000 would be available and this would be allocated over to capital spend.

Councillor Cavanagh arrived at 7.05 pm.

PROGRESS

2.2 Capital Update (Item 2.3)

The DF stated that at the August Council meeting officers were tasked with reviewing projected out-turn to identify revenue surplus, review progress on capital projects, review funding for capital projects and review of previous re-profiling. Submitted report (appendix 3) which detailed the outputs from the Capital Working Group following this review. The net impact was that was left with a contingency of approximately £65 which would be held to cover unknowns.

Councillors R Burton and Daly arrived at 7.08 pm.

Member spoke in relation to the regeneration of Coalisland Town Centre and felt that the area would be enhanced if one particular property on the Main Street was in the ownership of the Council and asked if negotiations could take place to assess the availability.

The DD stated that before negotiations could commence the Council would require rationale for purchase and under the Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework Plan currently being prepared that may be identified.

Councillor F Burton arrived at 7.12 pm during above discussion.

In response to query in relation to the Railway Park project the DD stated that the additional allocation of funding would allow for the purchase of the land for future development.

2.3 LPS Disposal of Land (item 2.3)

The DF advised that LPS was in contact in respect of disposal of surplus property at 160 Coalisland Road, Dungannon. The issue was discussed at Capital Working Group. The piece of ground is land locked and it is the view of officers that is of no strategic value to this Council.

Resolved That the Council do not register an interest in this property.

2.4 Code of Conduct for Councillors – May 14 - Elected Member Training

The DF stated that as requested training date had been agreed with Internal Auditor. The Chief Executive had discussions with NILGA who expressed concern at the delivery of training at this time and the Internal Auditor was asked to speak with NILGA. Following this discussion the Internal Auditor has advised that there is additional guidance which is being prepared to support

the Code of Conduct. When it is complete NILGA plan to deliver a programme of in depth training that will cover the Code, the supporting guidance and bring insights from wider UK experiences. In light of this the Auditor has suggested that the training should be removed from the Internal Audit Plan.

Members agreed that training should be cancelled.

2.5 Contract Bond – Hill of The O’Neill & Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre

In response to query regarding above the DF stated that the Council was robustly pursuing this issue. Discussion with the Administrator was at a critical stage and outcome, when known, would be reported to Council.

2.6 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Gillespie and

Resolved That the report and addenda of the Director of Finance be adopted and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

3 PERSONNEL MATTERS

The report (appendix 4) of the Human Resources Advisor was presented reference being made to the following:

OPERATIONAL

3.1 Local Government Pay (item 2.1)

It was noted that 56 employees took part in strike action on Thursday 10 July 2014. The HRA stated that the strike went over without incident and he complimented managers, union reps and staff on making this happen.

3.2 Job Evaluation Process (item 2.3)

The HRA advised that 9 appeals are outstanding and trying to get these completed as soon as possible.

3.3 Proposed Redundancy (item 2.4)

The HRA took members through report in relation to redundancy situation, explained savings, the contractual situation with security firm and the outcome of his initial discussions with officers in cluster councils, with regard to call outs.

During discussion member expressed his opposition to the approach to be taken as he felt that it was one step towards privatisation of services following which it was

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That the recommendation of SMT in relation to stand-by payments and HRA in relation to caretaking/cleaning at Northland Row are adopted.

Councillor Reid arrived at 7.37 pm.

3.4 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor Mulligan
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That the report of the Human Resources Advisor be adopted and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

3.5 Christmas Closure

Considering discussion with members in previous years the HRA updated that Christmas falls this year on Thursday and looking at options for closure, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday or Thursday, Friday and Monday. Unions have been written to setting out options.

Following discussion members felt that the view of staff was paramount.

Member felt that situation with regard to opening hours on Christmas Eve in Ranfurly House needs to be considered.

4 RPA UPDATE

The RPA Update report (appendix 5) was presented and noted.

5 MISCELLANEOUS

5.1 Staffing Issue

Members discussed incident that was highlighted in the press. The DD stated that Chief Executive was reviewing the situation. In relation to the issue coming to committee the HRA stated that outcome of any internal investigations are not normally reported to committee and this will be the case in this situation.

6 DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 7.50 pm.

MAYOR _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE _____