

## COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor Mayo (Chair)

**Councillors:** Clarke, Glasgow, Kelly, Lees, McAleer, McCartney, McCrea, McFlynn, Quinn and Wilson

**Officers:** Adrian McCreesh                      Chief Executive (Acting)  
Emma Bell                                      Administrative Officer

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors Mallaghan, McElhone, McGarvey, McIvor and McNamee.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and AGREED

That Standing Orders would be suspended to facilitate a discussion regarding the sale of Vion's Cookstown pig processing plant, which employs approximately 700 people.

Councillor Wilson raised concerns regarding the recent announcement by Vion that they are planning to sell off the Cookstown pig processing plant and the impact which such a sale may have on the local economy.

Councillor Quinn highlighted his shock on hearing such news.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and AGREED

That the Chief Executive (Acting) will seek to convene a meeting with Vion representatives and Members with regard to the sale of the Cookstown pig processing plant as a matter of urgency and advise Members accordingly.

## **2. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **2.1 FASTRACK TO FINANCE AND TENDER PROGRAMMES**

It was AGREED to combine items 2.1 and 2.2 into one item.

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that approval is sought for Council to accept two Letters of Offer for two new Local Economic Development Programmes, namely Fastrack to Finance Programme and a Tender Programme.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and AGREED

That Council accept the two Letters of Offer, dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012, from Invest NI for the Fastrack to Finance Programme and Tender Programme, offering 75% grant aid towards each. It was further AGREED that in order to progress these initiatives, Officers should proceed immediately to publicly procure (a) suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver each programme and (b) suitably qualified organisation(s) to independently evaluate each programme.

Councillors Wilson and Quinn congratulated all staff involved in preparing both Programme applications for submission to Invest NI, which have resulted in the receipt of two Letters of Offer.

## **3. CONSULTATIONS**

### **3.1. Consultation on Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) Bill**

The Chief Executive (Acting) reminded Members of the background to the BIDS Bill which has been discussed over a number of years at Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meetings. He advised that a Business Improvement District is a partnership between a local authority and the local business community to develop projects and services that will benefit the trading environment within a boundary of a clearly defined commercial area. Businesses located within an agreed BID's area will have to pay an additional sum which will be collected via the rates system and will be used to fund town centre initiatives.

Members NOTED copy of NI Assembly's Consultation on the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Bill and Council's Consultation Response to the Business Improvement Districts Bill, dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

### **3.2. Department for Social Development's Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework Consultation**

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that this Consultation sets out the Department for Social Development's (DSD's) proposal for an Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework for Northern Ireland. Four policy objectives have been identified which relate to tackling deprivation, strengthening competitiveness in towns and cities, improved linkages to areas of need and opportunity, and to develop more cohesive and engaged communities. He further advised that Council has previously challenged DSD with regard to the removal of grant aid for the regeneration of the town centre and essentially this has been reflected in Council's response.

Councillor Wilson highlighted that a lot of effort has went in to the preparation of this Consultation response, however it may have been worthwhile for Council's response to focus on the period from 2001 to 2007 and then to the present day to assess how these changes have impacted on Cookstown Town Centre, which may have strengthened Council's response to DETI.

Councillor Clarke concurred with Council's response to point 7 'Do you agree with the Department's definition of "regeneration"?' and highlighted that Council lost out due to the narrow interpretation of the directive.

Members NOTED the Department for Social Development's (DSD's) Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework consultation 2012 and also Cookstown District Council's response to the Consultation.

### **3.3 Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Consultation on the Provision of a 2 Megabit per second Broadband Service across Northern Ireland**

The Chief Executive (Acting) reminded Members of the background to this Consultation and advised that in response to it Council placed advertisements in the local newspapers encouraging anyone who believes their choice of broadband is limited and/or is receiving speeds of less than 2 Megabits per second to log on to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's (DETI's) website and check that their postcode is included, and if it is not then complete and return the response form.

Councillor Clarke advised that in conjunction with Council's Consultation response regarding broadband, Council should be highlighting that British Telecom's infrastructure requires upgrading so that everyone has equal choice of supplier in the provision of broadband and therefore equal opportunity.

Members NOTED DETI's Consultation on Provision of a 2 Megabit per second Broadband Service across Northern Ireland and also Cookstown District Council's response to the Consultation which provided details of further postcodes where there is either no or poor broadband availability in the Cookstown District.

### **3.4 Consultation on In-Year Review of the Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) Scheme**

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that Council's response to the Department of Finance and Personnel's Consultation regarding the In-Year Review of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme reaffirms Council's support for the scheme and Council welcomes the number of business who are benefitting from it.

Members NOTED the Department of Finance and Personnel's Consultation regarding the In-Year Review of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme and Council's Consultation Response to the SBRR Scheme Review, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.

## **4. DESERTCREAT COLLEGE – MEET THE CONTRACTORS EVENT**

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that meetings commenced on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 for five consecutive days to enable local businesses to meet with the five main contractors shortlisted to build Desertcreat College. These meetings provide local businesses with an opportunity to pitch their products and services to the main contract teams and make them aware of what is available locally. Each business appointment is scheduled for 10 minutes and 135 appointments have been made for each of the five days totalling 675 appointments. He further advised that it is essential that this event runs smoothly due to the high volume of demand and he emphasised the importance of local businesses being presented with this opportunity, which will help create a local supply chain.

Councillor Mayo advised that she has received very positive feedback with regard to this event.

Members NOTED Council's press article inviting local businesses to 'Meet the Contractors' shortlisted to build Desertcreat College.

## 5. COOKSTOWN SOCIAL MEDIA EVENT

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that a Social Media Event will be held in the Burnavon, Cookstown on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 5.45pm. Council has agreed to fund this event in conjunction with Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Cookstown Chamber of Commerce and all Members are invited to attend.

Councillor Kelly highlighted that the Social Media Event coincides with a Transforming Your Care Meeting. The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that the Transforming Your Care Meeting will be held on both 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 to facilitate Members attendance at both events.

Councillor Quinn welcomed the joint approach from Council, Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Cookstown Chamber of Commerce with regard to the Social Media Event.

Members NOTED invitation to attend a 'Social Media Event for Business Growth' being held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 5.45pm in the Burnavon.

## 6. SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that McClure Watters delivered a presentation to delegates on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in Cookstown Leisure Centre with regard to the Office of First Minister/Deputy First Minister's (OFMDFM) Social Investment Fund for the Northern Zone. The Social Investment Fund is an additional £80 million Executive Fund intervention (consisting of £40 million capital and £40 million revenue) dedicated to helping alleviate deprivation and dereliction through Strategy area based interventions. The Northern Zone may submit up to a maximum of ten projects which equates to approximately £500,000 per project, however they must fall into one of four themes, namely 'pathways to employment, systematic issues linked to deprivation, increase in Community Services and Dereliction in areas of deprivation.' He further advised that he and the Community Services Manager are considering a number of suitable proposals under the auspices of Play, Leisure and Recreation and Village Plans.

Councillor Wilson commended all staff for their hard work and effort in assisting Council to progress to this stage of the funding process.

It was AGREED that Council recruit the Rural Development Council (RDC) with immediate effect to work up funding proposals for submission to McClure Watters on or before 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012. McClure Watters will prepare a joint business case on behalf of the ten Council's located within the Northern Zone for submission to the Social Investment Fund.

It was further AGREED that the Chief Executive (Acting) would convene a meeting of the Party Leaders to agree Council's approach in advance of submitting the funding proposal to McClure Watters on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.

## **7. SPERRIN TOURISM LIMITED**

The Chief Executive (Acting) provided Members with an update with regard to Sperrin Tourism Limited.

Councillor Clarke highlighted that it is important that tourism in the Sperrins is promoted by all Councils located in that region. Councillor Quinn concurred on this matter.

## **8. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP**

**8.1** The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that Council has previously agreed to provide £5,000 funding to Lough Neagh Partnership for the period 2012 – 2013 and Lough Neagh Partnership has submitted their Progress Report for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 in support of this financial contribution.

It was proposed by Councillor McAleer  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and AGREED

That Council release the first stage payment of £2,500 to Lough Neagh Partnership for the financial period 2012-2013, subject to the relevant documentation being submitted to Council.

Members NOTED Lough Neagh Partnership Progress Report for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

**8.2** The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that the letter, dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012, from Mr Charlie Monaghan, Lough Neagh Partnership requesting a contribution of £5,000 for the financial year 2013-2014 for the Lough Neagh Partnership and Cycle Trail, and also requesting Council set aside some capital monies for the implementation of the Destination Management Plan will be dealt with through Council's normal Budgets Estimates process in the near future.

**8.3** Members NOTED letter, dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012, from Shaftesbury Estate clarifying issues in relation to the management of Lough Neagh.

## **9. DUNGANNON AND COOKSTOWN BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

Members NOTED Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education Partnership Progress Report for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

## **10. IRISH CENTRAL BORDER AREA NETWORK (ICBAN)**

**10.1** The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that a letter, dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012, was received from Mr Shane Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, ICBAN, requesting a contribution of £13,000 for the financial year 2012-2013.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and AGREED

That Council provide funding of up to £13,000 to ICBAN for the financial period 2012-2013, to be paid in two six monthly instalments, subject to receipt of the relevant documentation.

**10.2** It was proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and AGREED

That Council release the first stage payment of £6,500 to ICBAN for the financial period 2012-2013, subject to the relevant documentation being received.

Members NOTED ICBAN Progress Report for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

**10.3** Members NOTED the Executive Summary of the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN's) Regional Telecommunications Action Plan, dated August 2012.

## **11. VICTIM SUPPORT NI**

It was proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and AGREED

That Council invite Ms Jessica Bomber, Victim Support Omagh to deliver a presentation to Members at a future Council Meeting.

## **12. CLARE TOURISM CONFERENCE**

It was proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and AGREED

That Councillors McFlynn, McGarvey and Mayo are nominated to attend the Annual Clare Tourism Conference 'Tourism in Recessionary Times' to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013 inclusive in Ennistymon, Co Clare.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and AGREED

That Councillors McAleer, McIvor and McNamee are nominated to attend the Annual Clare Tourism Conference 'Tourism in Recessionary Times' to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013 inclusive in Ennistymon, Co Clare.

## **13. NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Members NOTED documentation with regard to the NILGA Executive Committee Meeting held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

## **14. IMPROVEMENT, COLLABORATION & EFFICIENCY**

### **14.1. Regional Governance Group (RGG)**

Members NOTED presentations from the Regional Governance Group (RGG) Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

## **15. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION**

### **15.1. Cookstown Shop Improvement Scheme**

Councillor Glasgow congratulated the Town Councillors on the aesthetic appearance of Cookstown Town Centre.

Members NOTED update report, dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012, from the Acting Town Strategy Manager with regard to Phases 1 and 2 of Cookstown Shop Improvement Scheme.



## **15.2. Cookstown Public Realm Scheme**

Members NOTED update report, dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012, from the Acting Town Strategy Manager with regard to the Public Realm Strategy and Economic Appraisal for Cookstown Town Centre.

## **15.3. Shopmobility**

Councillor McCrea declared an interest.

It was AGREED that Council would forward a letter to Cookstown Shopmobility outlining the financial contribution and funding in-kind provided by Council to the Cookstown Shopmobility Scheme and also commending the exceptional service which they provide.

Members NOTED minutes of Shopmobility Cookstown Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

## **16. BURNAVON**

### **16.1. Arts & Cultural Sub Committee**

Members NOTED minutes of Arts & Cultural Sub Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### **16.2. Civic Awards**

Councillor Wilson commended all staff involved in the successful delivery of Council's Annual Civic Awards evening on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Members NOTED minutes of Civic Awards Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

## **17. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **17.1. Good Relations**

Members NOTED minutes of Good Relations Sub Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

## 18. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

### 18.1. Tender for the RDP Co-operation Projects Pre-development Phase

Members were advised that a public advertisement was placed by Cookstown District Council (as the lead Council) on behalf of SWARD as the lead partner in the Belfast Telegraph on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012. Four tenders were received by the closing date and time of 4pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2012 and they were opened on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 by the Council Chairman, Councillor Quinn in the presence of the SWARD Programme Manager and SWARD Finance Officer. Tenders were received from:

- Venture I Network supported by Blueprint Development Consultancy
- RSM McClure Watters
- KPMG
- Full Circle Management Solutions

The tenders were assessed by the Sward Manager, Mr Charlie Monaghan (SWARD) and Mr Albert Allen (Project Steering Group Member, ARC North West LAG) on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 and subsequently shortlisted on exclusion criteria to two companies, as outlined below:

- KPMG
- Full Circle Management Solutions

Both tenders outlined above satisfied the selection criteria and proceeded to Stage 3 – Price and Methodology using an assessment with a 70/30 quality/price split. The overall score of both companies is outlined below:

ORGANISATION NAME	PRICE	OVERALL SCORE
Full Circle Management Solutions 7-8 Linden House Beechill Business Park Beechill Road Belfast BT8 7QN	£9,900 +VAT	98

KPMG Stokes House 17-25 College Square East Belfast BT1 6DH	£7,950 +VAT	95
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The assessment panel recommended that Cookstown District Council on behalf of SWARD appoint Full Circle Management Solutions to commence this Co-operation pre-development assignment at a fixed price of £9,900 +VAT with immediate effect. The recommended tender is the most economically advantageous submission that most clearly demonstrates a sound understanding of the assignment.

It was proposed by Councillor McCartney  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and AGREED

That Council accept the recommendation made by the assessment panel that Cookstown District Council on behalf of SWARD appoint Full Circle Management Solutions to commence this Co-operation pre-development assignment at a fixed price of £9,900 +VAT with immediate effect, subject to receipt of appropriate insurances.

## **18.2. South West Local Action Group**

Members NOTED minutes of South West Local Action Group Meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.

## **18.3. Rural Development Programme Joint Council Committee**

Members NOTED minutes of Rural Development Programme Joint Council Committee Meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

## **19. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

### **19.1. Rural Community Network**

It was proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and AGREED

That Council renew its Membership with Rural Community Network for the period October 2012 to September 2013 at a cost of £200.

## 19.2. Ulster Business

It was proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor McCrea and AGREED

That Council renew its annual subscription to Ulster Business for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at a cost of £27.50 plus VAT per annum to be released with immediate payment.

## 20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 20.1. Dereliction Intervention Funding

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that a letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 was received from Mr Ian Maye, Deputy Secretary, Planning & Local Government Group regarding Dereliction Intervention Funding. The Department of the Environment (DOE) has invited local Councils to submit scheme proposals to enhance and improve the appearance of areas of dereliction within a city, town or village. The deadline for receipt of proposals to DOE is 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

The Chief Executive (Acting) and Councillor Quinn both welcomed this funding opportunity.

It was AGREED that Council would prepare draft proposals which could be achieved in advance of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 for Members approval prior to being submitted to the Department of the Environment on or before 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

## 20.2. Switching On Lights in Moneymore

Councillor Kelly highlighted that the PEACE III 'Switching on Lights in Moneymore' will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012 from 6pm to 8pm and all Members are welcome to attend.

It was AGREED that the Chief Executive (Acting) would circulate further details to Members via email.

Meeting ended at 8.17pm.

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Chairman

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Clerk/Chief Executive (Acting)

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Date