

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2007 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** In the Chair, Councillor Mulligan (Chair)
Councillors Brush, F Burton, Daly, Donnelly, McGonnell, McMahon and Monteith
- OTHERS:** Councillors Cavanagh, Cuddy and McGuigan
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Messrs Frazer (ACE), Barrett (RM), Clarke (CRO), Hill (TAM), Murphy (DM), Mrs Forde (MSO) and Ms Linney (CSPO)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Molloy
Mr Beggs (EIGM) and Mrs Heatherington (PRO)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** For Item 1 - Presentation by Niamh Louise Foundation
Mr James McBennett and Mrs Catherine McBennett

The meeting started at 7.30pm

1 PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NIAMH LOUISE FOUNDATION

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Niamh Louise Foundation to the meeting. Mr McBennett made a presentation (appendix 1). The Chair and fellow Members commended the Niamh Louise Foundation on their tremendous work in a very difficult field. Mr & Mrs McBennett thanked the meeting for their support and left at 8.10pm.

Declaration of Interest

The ACE declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Niamh Louise Foundation.

The ACE advised that following a funding application a grant of £2000 was recommended under the heading Community Advice/Support Service Provider.

2 DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The report (appendix 2) of the Acting Chief Executive was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McGuigan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Interreg IV 207-2013 (1.1)

2.1 Local Economic Development (1.1)

Member expressed concern regarding Interreg IV 2007-2013 that Councillors to date had not viewed the document detailed in the report and that the submission date was noted as the 20 November 2007. The ACE advised that the information would be presented as soon as possible and that a meeting scheduled for week commencing 26 November had been postponed.

2.2 Governance (1.2.3)

Comments were sought regarding the schedule of meetings detailed in the report. Member suggested that all sub committee meetings held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday should be held at 7.00pm and 8.00pm. It was further suggested that the Audit and Risk Sub Committee should not be held at 5.00pm on the evening of a Council meeting and should be held the week prior to the Corporate Services Committee. In response to Members questions the ACE advised that the inaugural meeting of the Events sub committee was scheduled to be held 29 November 2007 at which time a slot in the monthly schedule would be determined.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that

- (i) the Audit and Risk Sub Committee be scheduled in the week prior to Corporate Services;
- (ii) sub committee meetings held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

2.3 Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (1.2.4)

In response to Members questions the ACE advised that DARD had indicated that clusters had to contain at least three Councils and that it had been agreed that Fermanagh would now join the cluster containing Dungannon & South Tyrone, Cookstown and Magherafelt. Discussion ensued reference being made to the undernoted;

- concern expressed regarding Fermanagh joining the cluster as the geographical area of the cluster would be massive and stated that a letter should be forwarded to the DARD Minister regarding the matter;
- a letter to the Minister would not change the cluster and that Council should look toward the strengths of the grouping;
- there are eight council's and no cluster should be less than three;
- Council should endeavour to seek their fair share of funding in all areas;
- Cookstown and Dungannon had worked well together on economic projects in the last Leader funding;
- Fermanagh geographically should go with Omagh;
- Dungannon & South Tyrone strong on economic issues;
- Electoral issues Fermanagh and South Tyrone were grouped together;

In response the ACE advised that DARD would not allow clusters of two and had given an assurance that no Council would be permitted to go alone but in the past had waived such assurances. He further advised that the Superlag would make decisions on funding and that if Fermanagh did not join the cluster Cookstown/Dungannon & South Tyrone/Magherafelt would meet the criteria.

It was noted that Member expressed concern regarding Fermanagh being permitted to join the cluster.

(Councillor McMahan left the meeting at 8.26 pm and returned at 8.27pm.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to proceed with the cluster of four ie Cookstown/Dungannon & South Tyrone/Magherafelt/Fermanagh.

2.4 Peace III (1.2.5)

In response to Members questions the CPSO advised that rather than setting up individual partnerships it would be proposed to run Peace and Rural Funding packages together and that now that the cluster had been determined progress could be made. Member stated that a draft strategy should be with Councillors as soon as possible. Concern was expressed regarding administrative costs in issuing such a small amount of funding as Peace and it was suggested that Councils should be permitted to administer funding through a grant system. Further concern was expressed that new proposals involved too many tiers for local groups on the ground ie lags, superlags. The CPSO advised that Peace III has reduced administration costs. Member stated that community groups who funding was aimed at often did not apply due

to the difficulty of completing applications to meet the criteria. The ACE advised that Officers would take on board comments made.

2.5 Branding (1.3.3)

The ACE advised that the half day workshop with Photolink to discuss branding would be scheduled in January and sought a preference for morning, afternoon or evening meeting.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the workshop be held in the evening the third week of January.

2.6 Coalisland Development Framework Plan (1.4.13)

Member requested that funding be sourced for a PA System in Coalisland. In response the ACE advised that the Coalisland Regeneration Partnership did not have funding for Christmas event and that other sources of funding would be investigated.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that funding be sourced to fund a PA system in Coalisland.

2.7 Christmas Craft Fair 2007 (1.5.7)

Member stated that the craft fair on 24 and 25 November had been extremely successful with excellent events for children. It was noted that 3500 people had visited the event on Saturday and 1647 on Sunday.

2.8 NITB Welcome Signage (1.5.1)

Member welcomed the NITB Welcome Signage proposal and stated that it should be tri lingual. The ACE advised that there was a linguistic policy.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that linguistic diversity is reflected in the NITB Welcome Signage proposal.

2.9 Rally Ireland (1.5.8)

In response to Members questions the TAM advised that the promotional campaign in connection with Rally Ireland was in schools, colour advertisement in press, event at Valley Hotel that the Flavour of Tyrone Learn 2 website launch had coincided with the event and that boards had been erected on 30 miles per hour signs but unfortunately many had been removed. Concern was expressed that there was not

much evidence of the promotional campaign in the area. The TAM stated that Members comments would be taken on board.

2.10 Neighbourhood Renewal (1.8.5)

In response to Member's question the DM advised that the reference to funding detailed in the report had not been discussed with the partnerships to date but it was scheduled to be discussed following consultation with DSD and clarification from them. The ACE advised that the Officer post was currently vacant, that secondment trawl hadn't been successful and that a report would be brought through sub committees.

2.11 Ulster Scots Initiative (1.8.4)

Report should read consultation evening has been arranged for Thursday 29 November not October.

2.12 Leisure Centre Monthly Report (1.7.1)

In response to Member's question the RM advised that income does reflect the increase in throughput in the Leisure centre and that sometime the number of weeks in the month can also make an impact on it. The ACE in response to Members questions advised that the tender documents had been issued today for the refurbishment of leisure centre and it was hoped to have contactors on site for March 2008. Member stated that we had failed to meet targets set out and that it should be displayed prominently in Leisure Centre when work was due to commence.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors McGonnell and McGuigan declared a non pecuniary interest in Killeeshil Community Centre Association.

Councillor Mulligan declared a non pecuniary interest in Murley Silver Band.

Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in Aughintober Regeneration.

2.13 Arts Grants (1.9.10)

In response to Members query the ACE advised an assessment panel had met to process grants and that the two groups who did not receive Arts grants had not met the specified criteria ie funding sought to repair vandalism to arts projects as opposed to new projects.

2.14 Approvals (Part 2)

In addition to the financial approvals outlined in the report the ACE recommended the undernoted:

- (i) That all groups receiving Service Level Agreement grants detailed on page D22 under the heading Community Resource/Facility Provider must submit minutes of their most recent annual general meeting to qualify for funding;
- (ii) That Bardic Theatre Group £500 application for piping competition detailed under Arts (page D23) be with-held as the group had received a substantial grant of £20k;

In response to Members questions the CSPO advised that it had been reported to the Equality and Good Relations sub committee that £23k had not been allocated. Members stated that smaller groups do not realise that grants are now issued on a quarterly call many therefore are missing out and a provision for small amounts of funding was required. The ACE advised that due to the festival earlier in the year some budgets would have to be re-profiled, that the EIGM had been sourcing money for marketing, that the £23k may not all be available and that a report would be brought to the Committee. The ACE further advised that the Voluntary Contributions budget had been overspent because committee had held applications from previous year to new financial year. Member stated that in budget preparation for incoming year provision should be made for ad hoc contributions.

Proposed by Councillor McGonnell
Seconded by Councillor Brush and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the financial approvals outlined in the report of the ACE subject to point (i) and (ii) above be approved.

(Councillors Brush and F Burton and the CPSO left the meeting at 9.05 pm)

2.15 Adoption of Report

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the report of the ACE be adopted and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

2.16 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

2.16.1 Planning Appeals Commission (B3.5)

In response to Member's question the ACE advised that Council was waiting on Court decision.

2.16.2 Planning Service (B3.3)

Member expressed strong objection to the building of apartment blocks on Newell Road.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that strong objections are submitted regarding building of apartment blocks on Newell Road.

2.16.3 Dungannon Enterprise Centre (B1.2)

The ACE updated Members regarding the undernoted issues in relation to Dungannon Enterprise Centre;

- (i) Additional representatives on the board of Dungannon Enterprise Centre; and
- (ii) Legal Charge of Lands previously owned by Council and sold to Dungannon Enterprise Centre with Council having first charge should the project fail. It was noted that £45000 was not indexed linked, that Solicitor had advised that if Bank had first charge lands were of such value that it was acceptable for Council to have second charge and that the deed of variation would apply up to £650k followed by council covenants.

The ACE recommended that

- (i) Nominations be sought at the December Council meeting for the two additional representatives on the Dungannon Enterprise Centre (currently serving Councillor Cuddy UUP and Councillor Currie SDLP);
- (ii) Following consultation with Council's Solicitor that Council now accept second charge on lands aforementioned and Solicitor be instructed to regulate same.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the recommendation of the ACE be approved.

2.16.4 Correspondence

Concern was expressed that a number of letters received previous to May 2007 addressed to a senior member of staff had not been presented to the Council one of which was correspondence relating to Dungannon Enterprise Centre whom it was suggested should receive a letter of apology for the delay in response. Members suggested that a tracking mechanism be put in place for incoming mail and that files be checked to ensure all correspondence had been presented.

(Councillor F Burton returned to the meeting at 9.11 pm and Councillor McGonnell left the meeting 9.12pm)

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that

- (i) a tracking mechanism for incoming mail be put in place;
- (ii) letter of apology be forwarded to Dungannon Enterprise Centre.

2.16.5 Windfarm at Inishative Road, Ballygawley

The ACE advised for information that a consultation document had been received for a proposed windfarm at Inishative Road, Ballygawley.

2.16.6 Minutes (B5)

The ACE tabled undernoted minutes for adoption explaining that it was difficult to have minutes completed for inclusion in report due to time restraints;

- Coalisland Regeneration Partnership 15 November 2007; and
- Capital Programmes sub committee 14 November 2007.

2.16.7 Tunnel Lodge - Capital Programme Minutes (2.12.3)

In response to Members questions the ACE advised that the tunnel was in existence and it was proposed to redevelop as part of the sustrans project for the area.

2.16.8 Equality and Good Relations Minutes (B5.5.5) Media Reporting(4.1)

Member expressed concern regarding the Equality and Good Relations Minutes (B5.5.5) Media Reporting(4.1) item and stated that Council at this stage should not pursue the matter until after the trial of the two men charged with the murder of Mr Donatas Velicka and that serious consideration should be given before curtailing the press. The rationale of why the Mayor wrote to the Editor as detailed in the minute was discussed together with the reasoning of the sub committee as to the course of action outlined. It was noted that the headline in question had been withdrawn.

Resolved That Minutes as circulated, subject to the foregoing, be recommended to the Council for adoption.

3 DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting was called for 7.30 pm and ended at 9.30 pm.

MAYOR _____

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE _____