

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2006 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** In the Chair, Councillor Monteith (Chairman)
- Councillors Brush, F Burton, Hamilton, McGonnell, McLarnon (8.15pm), McMahon, Molloy, Mulligan and O'Neill
- OTHERS:** Councillors R Burton, Cuddy and McGuigan
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Messrs Beggs, Campbell, Frazer, Mrs Forde and Ms Linney

The meeting started at 7.30 pm

1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

The report (appendix 1) of the Chief Executive was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

1.1 Decentralisation of Public Administration Plan for Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council (2)

The Chief Executive drew attention to the report previously circulated to Members regarding the decentralisation plan for the Borough. The report made reference to:

- Dungannon as an administration centre;
- Demographic growth and diversity;
- Dungannon as a strategic location for decentralised government services;
- Economic Development and Entrepreneurship;
- Equality;
- Targeting Social Need; and
- Council's Investment Plans for the Borough.

The Chief Executive then made a presentation regarding the above and sought approval for

- (i) The report and supporting presentation;

- (ii) Delegation to meet with key government officials on the potential of Dungannon as a future public administration location;
- (iii) Delegation to be made up of Members Business Group and Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council approval as sought by the Chief Executive be granted.

Workspace availability within the Borough was discussed and it was suggested that a meeting should be sought with the Department of Finance and Personnel regarding locations for 2009 highlighting the office availability that could be potentially available. It was also suggested that private sector interest could be registered in provision of workspace.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Chief Executive seek a meeting with the Department of Finance and Personnel regarding future workspace accommodation.

In response to Members questions the Chief Executive give an update on the proposed eco park. Members emphasised the need for engaging with the local community regarding the proposed park. The Chief Executive further advised that meetings had also taken place with DETI and that the Director of Environmental Health would be arranging a field trip to an NBT facility.

1.2 China Links (1.3)

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager drew attention to the proposed plans and recommendation to visit China outlined in the report and advised that there would be 50% grant subsistence for flights and accommodation. Approval was sought to inform the UK China Business Council to establish a draft programme and to reserve flights.

In response to Members questions the Chief Executive give an update on the recent meeting with the UK China Business Council based in London. He advised that the aforementioned Council would assist the delegation with setting up meetings with both city and rural municipalities, visas, protocols, transport and translators.

Members also requested that meetings be held with the Irish Overseas Office.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council

- (i) approval as sought be granted; and
- (ii) meeting be arranged with the Irish Overseas Office to discuss forthcoming visit.

1.3 Strategic Planning (2)

The Chief Executive drew attention to the Corporate Strategy away day scheduled for the 2 October 2006 9.00 am – 3pm advising that breakaway group work would make up part of the programme.

1.4 Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013 (3.1)

In response to Members questions regarding working with other Councils on the future delivery of the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 in line with RPA, the Chief Executive advised that he had met with the other Councils in the western region to commence discussions on this however some of the Chief Executives could not attend and another meeting is scheduled for September to take this forward.

1.5 Castlecaulfield Horticultural Show

Members reported the success of Castlecaulfield Horticultural Show that had recently taken place at Castlecaulfield Pavilion however concern was expressed that the sports pitch had been hired out to another user group. It was suggested that next year prior to the event that Management meet with the Castlecaulfield Horticultural Group to ensure clarity on the facilities the group require for the show.

1.6 Media (5)

Members suggested that a sub committee consisting of both elected members and staff be formed to work collectively to attain media goals. The Chief Executive advised that interviews regarding appointment of Public Relations/Advertising Consultants was scheduled for 24 August 2006.

Proposed by Councillor McMahon
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a sub committee dealing with media relations be formed.

1.7 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor McMahon
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

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

2. DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The report (appendix 2) of the Director of Development was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

2.1 Blackwater Regional Partnership (A2)

Members emphasised the importance of Council utilising the Blackwater River to its full potential and stated that a strategy should be drawn up to pursue same and that river activities could be featured in 2007 celebrations. Concern was also expressed that growth surrounding the river banks was preventing access. In response the Director of Development advised that the Blackwater Regional Partnership had now employed a Natural Resources Tourism Officer that the canoe trail was now completed and improvements regarding coarse fishing were underway. Members requested that Blackwater Regional Partnership bring a report to a future meeting.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a report regarding Blackwater Regional Partnership be brought to a future meeting.

2.2 Christmas Craft Fair (A3.6)

The Director of Development drew attention to the annual Christmas Craft Fair advising that the venue at the Linen Green was no longer available and that an alternative venue was being sought. Members suggested that the use of the Church of Ireland Hall in Church Street be investigated. The Director advised that the Leisure Centre was also being explored as a possible venue and that a report would be brought to a future meeting.

(Councillor McLarnon entered the meeting at 8.15pm)

2.3 Soccer Pitches (B2)

Members requested that a policy be drafted regarding allocation of soccer pitches.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a policy regarding allocation of soccer pitches be drafted and presented to a future meeting.

2.4 Changing Facilities Aughnacloy & Caledon (B2)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that it would not be economically viable to provide changing pavilions at Aughnacloy and Caledon as they were single pitch sites. He further advised that even a basic pavilion would cost approximately £100k and that even to provide units would cost approximately £20k which would equate to .5p in the £1 in rates.

2.5 Castlecaulfield Pavilion

The Director of Development tabled an addendum regarding Castlecaulfield Pavilion. He outlined that following discussions with user groups, it had been agreed that instead of a portacabin being erected on site for 1st September, as had been previously agreed, it was requested that as a temporary measure the undernoted works be carried out:

- Purchase and erect a heavy duty sports curtain, as this will section the hall off and improve the quality of sound;
- Purchase and installation of reflective panels which go behind the radiators to produce more heat.

The Director advised that estimates had been requested from architect Michael Herron, and it was anticipated that prices would be in the region of £3000 - £5000.

Proposed by Councillor McGonnell
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Director of Development progress works at Castlecaulfield Pavilion as detailed above.

2.6 Aughnacloy Playing Fields Boundary Rectification (B3.1)

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that the lands at Aughnacloy Playing Fields outlined in B3.1 of the report had now been sold. In response the Director of Development advised that it is important for Council to protect rights to site entrances and recommended that the Council solicitor be instructed to progress investigations as outlined in the report.

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

2.7 Mullaghanagh Lane (B3.3)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that he was awaiting outcome of meetings with Sports Council regarding funding options for upgrade of rugby pitch at Mullaghanagh Lane following which he would bring a full report to the Committee on how the situation could be progressed.

2.8 Dungannon Park Charity Wishing Well Proposal (B3.2)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the Wishing Well proposed by the Rotary Club was still being investigated and that a report would be brought to a future meeting.

2.9 Play and Recreation Amenities – Spatial Map

The Director of Development tabled a report detailing Recreation and Play Property Index August 2006.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that

- (i) The aforementioned report be discussed at the September meeting of Development Committee; and
- (ii) copies of the report be forwarded to Councillors not present at the meeting.

2.10 Dungannon Area Churches Forum (C1.1)

Members stated that it had been a while since Councillors had been invited to any events organised by the Dungannon Area Churches Forum

and requested that they should be invited to make a presentation to a future meeting.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Dungannon Area Churches Forum be requested to make a presentation to a future meeting of Development Committee.

2.11 Service Level Agreement Grant Scheme (C1.12)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the budget for Service Level Agreements was the same as last year. Methods of contacting previous and new groups was discussed and in addition to methods outlined in the Directors report it was suggested that the scheme be advertised on radio.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that in addition to the methods of advertising outlined in the Director of Developments report that the Service Level Agreement Grant Scheme be also advertised on radio.

Declaration of Interest

Councillors McGonnell and McGuigan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Killeeshill GFC detailed at A3 Community Development, Return of the Earls Funding.

2.12 Approvals (Part 2)

In addition to financial approvals in report the Director recommended the following:

- Dungannon Rugby Club and Dungannon Tomas Clarke's application for £3000 be withdrawn as funding had been secured through SEUPB.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the aforementioned funding subject to the foregoing, as recommended by the Director of Development be approved.

2.13 Miscellaneous

2.13.1 Ballygawley Local History Group (B1.12)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the policy regarding contributions to Historical groups for book publications was almost complete. The Corporate Strategy/Policy Officer responsible for equality advised that the matrix for the policy had been developed and would be presented to the September Return of the Earls Committee. Members stated that the policy should be presented to the Development Committee not the Return of the Earls Committee.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the policy regarding contributions to Historical groups for book publications be presented to the Development Committee.

2.13.2 Aughnacloy Royal Black District Chapter No 3 (B1.6)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the letter detailed at B1.6 had been received from Aughnacloy Royal Black District Chapter No 3 on the 26 June 2006 at which time an application for funding had been forwarded, no completed application had been returned. The Director read the contents of the letter and identified expenses Council could contribute towards as

Hire of Portable Toilets	£600
Insurance	£800
Order of Service/Advertising	£400.

The Director also advised that within his report was a recommendation for Council to contribute £2500 to Tyrone Orange Vision regarding an Orangefest project which aimed at promoting a more inclusive and less contentious dimension to the Orange Culture. The Director reported that the recommendation was a result of a meeting that had taken place between Council Officials and representatives of Tyrone Orange Vision and that there had been an understanding that no other funding applications would be received within the current year.

It was noted that the event would bring approximately 10,000 people plus to the Borough and would be a significant economic boost to the traders of Aughnacloy.

Proposal One

Proposed by Councillor Brush
Seconded by Councillor Hamilton

That Council make a contribution of £1 600 towards the event.

Acrimonious discussion took place during which the meeting proceedings was suspended for five minutes following which Councillor R Burton left the meeting at 9.00 pm.

In response to Members questions the Corporate Strategy and Policy Officer advised that community grants are open to all inclusive of political and religious groups if the application meets with the required criteria and is open and inclusive to all.

Proposal Two

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McGonnell

That Council make a contribution of £600 to cover costs of hiring toilets for the event.

The Chairman took a vote on Proposal Two which resulted in

For	2
Against	2

Chairman's casting vote – For

The Chairman then took a vote on Proposal One which resulted in

For	3
Against	4

Proposal Lost.

Proposal One carried.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a contribution of £600 be made to Royal Black District Chapter No 3 re Last Saturday Parade in Aughnacloy on Saturday 26 August 2006.

Councillor F Burton and Councillor Brush left the meeting at 9.10 pm

2.13.3 Land at Carneel Road, Aughnacloy

In response to Members questions the Director of Development reminded Members that two requests had been received regarding lands at Carneel Road, Aughnacloy which were surplus to Council's requirements. The Director recommended that lands be put on market for sale and District Valuer be contacted to ascertain if offers met with market value.

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

2.13.4 Fivemiletown Community Development Association

In response to Members questions the Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager advised that there may be a difficulty with the request from Fivemiletown Community Development Association regarding funding for their CRISP 2 project providing workspace as the location was going to be in Clabby which is outside the borough boundary. The Manager advised that he would report back to the meeting as the request was being referred to DETI and also the Local Government Branch Auditor. The Chief Executive advised that Fermanagh District Council had agreed in principle to support the project.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager bring a report to a future meeting regarding the aforementioned funding request.

2.13.5 Moy Regional Primary School

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 31 July 2006 received from Moy Regional Primary School Board of Governors regarding development of an all weather pitch facility adjacent to the school. The letter requested Council support for the development which could be used both by the school and wider community.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that support be given to Moy Regional Primary School regarding the development of an all weather pitch facility at the school.

2.13.6 Killymeal Road Former Security Site

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the former security site at Killymeal Road was on the market for sale. Concern was expressed that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had not secured the site for social housing. The Chief Executive advised that the matter could be raised at the forthcoming meeting with the Minister of State for Northern Ireland at which social housing was an item on the agenda.

2.13.7 Education Sub Committee

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that a meeting of the Education Sub Committee would be called in the near future. The necessity of forward planning regarding possible closures was emphasised.

2.13.8 Dungannon Ladies Bowling Club

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 2 August 2006 received from Dungannon Ladies Bowling Club. The letter advised that a team from the Club had qualified to play in the final of the Ireland McMaster Cup and sought funding towards travel expenses. The Director advised that an application form for funding had been forwarded to the Club.

2.13.9 Federation of Small Businesses (FS) Annual Charity Ball and AGM

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 7 July received from Federation of Small Businesses requesting that Council take a table at the annual charity ball scheduled to be held on 25 November 2006 in Manor House Hotel, Killadeas, Enniskillen.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Mayor and guest (or nominee) attend the aforementioned event.

2.13.10 Benedict Keilty Literary Weekend

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that two elected members attend the Benedict Keilty Literary Weekend at The Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh on 15-17 September 2006 at a cost of £65 per person.

2.14 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor McGonnell
Seconded by Councillor Hamilton

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

3 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

3.1 Shaping the Future of Public Services in Northern Ireland

The Chief Executive sought approval to attend the Shaping the Future of Public Services in Northern Ireland event in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast on 3rd October 2006 at a cost of £175 plus VAT and travel expenses.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Chief Executive be granted.

3.2 North South Co-operation

The Chief Executive submitted two letters received from Northern Ireland Office dated 3 August 2006 and Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eire dated 31 July 2006. The letters were in response to request from Council seeking a meeting to discuss North/South Co-operation and advised that both parties were willing to meet and would be in contact with Council in the near future to confirm date and venue.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that nominations be sought at the September Council meeting to attend aforementioned meeting.

3.3 Gardners Hall

The Director of Development advised that an all party delegation would meet with representatives of the Boxing Club as soon as possible regarding use of Gardners Hall.

4 DURATION OF MEETING

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

