

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 16th March 2010 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor McGarvey (Chairman)

Councillors: Baker, Cassidy, Clarke, Glasgow, Lees, McAleer, McCartney, McFlynn, McNamee, Molloy, Quinn, McCrea and Wilson

Officers:

Adrian McCreesh	Director of Development
Oliver McShane	Sports Services Manager
Tony McCance	Burnavon Manager
Deborah Ewing	Development Admin Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors Greer and McIvor and Denise Campbell, Tourism Officer.

2. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORTS

Officer End of Year Reports for April 2009 – March 2010 and Proposed Programme of Events/Plans for April 2010 – March 2011 were circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

It was AGREED

That all Officer Reports, as outlined below be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

- 2.1 Sports Development Programme
- 2.2 Tourism Programme
- 2.3 Burnavon Arts & Cultural Development Programme

Councillors congratulated Officers and associated staff on the preparation and content of their annual reports and the delivery of individual programmes throughout the year.

Tony McCance and Oliver McShane left the meeting at 7.15pm.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1 Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau Service Level Agreement for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 was circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

The Director of Development advised Members that this is the revised Service Level Agreement from 2009 – 2010 as AGREED at the last Development Committee. The new Agreement is more accurate with targets revised and meeting appropriate challenges. Maggie Bryson, Community Services Manager has been liaising with Citizens Advice Bureau assisting in the implementation of the new Agreement.

It was RECOMMENDED

That Council ADOPT the Service Level Agreement for the year April 2010 to March 2011.

3.2 Community Support Programme

The Director of Development advised Members that the Department for Social Development will be issuing a revised letter of offer which will show an increase of £6,655 additional funding which must be spent before 31st March 2010.

To meet this extremely tight timescale the Community Services Sub Committee met and agreed to focus this funding on one or more organisations which demonstrated a need for support and who provided a district wide service for the elderly. Having been initially approached by Age Concern, the two such groups identified were Age Concern and St Vincent de Paul.

Subsequently following discussions with Council Officers and the two groups in question, the Community Services Sub Committee considered the needs and the services provided and have agreed the following allocation:

St Vincent de Paul - £1,010 to kit out a soup kitchen and provide an answering service for the phone.

Age Concern - £5,556 for a sealing machine to provide meals out and also for the provision of a freezer.

It was agreed by the Community Services Sub Committee in this instance, given the short timeframe provided by DSD that this was the best approach to ensure maximum social impact with a limited amount of funding.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and RECOMMENDED

That funding be approved as outlined above, and that clarification be sought regarding the proposed future location of the service.

4. REVIEW OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The Review of Contributions Report for Community/Voluntary Awards for the period April 2010 to March 2011 was circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

The Director of Development informed Members that the Civic Awards have a standalone budget for 2010-2011. The Pipe Bands have been awarded 75% funding through the Good Relations budget. It was noted that there will be no contingency funds for this financial year.

Councillor Wilson requested that the allocation for the annual Pipe Bands event be increased by £500.

Councillor McGarvey queried the level of funding available to the GAA.

It was RECOMMENDED

That Council approve the Community/Voluntary Awards with the condition that the Good Relations Sub Committee discuss further funding issues with regards to Pipe Bands and the GAA.

The Director of Development also informed Members that Cookstown will be hosting the launch of the Milk Cup in 2010 and Members AGREED that additional funding be made available to host the event.

5. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

5.1 Lough Neagh Project

The Director of Development advised Members that a request for match funding for pre development work for a Lough Neagh Project had been received from the SWARD Joint Council Committee and the Local Action Group dated 5th March 2010. The total cost of the pre development work is estimated at £12,000 which has to be divided among the three RDP Clusters, GROW, SWARD and SOAR. The RDP Clusters have to provide 75% funding from their budgets which amounts to £3000 (£1000 per cluster).

Cookstown District Council is requested to provide match funding of £334.

Members RECOMMENDED to provide the match funding requested.

5.2 Rural Development Programme Joint Committee

Members NOTED minutes of the Rural Development Programme Joint Committee meetings held on 14th December 2009 and 18th January 2010.

5.3 South West Local Action Group

Members NOTED minutes of the South West Local Action Group meetings held on 2nd December 2009 and 3rd February 2010.

6. LOUGH NEAGH & LOWER BANN ADVISORY COMMITTEES

6.1 Letter from Northern Ireland Assembly Environment Committee

The Director of Development advised Members that a letter had been received from Alex McGarel, Clerk to the Committee for the Environment dated 25th January 2010, regarding funding for the Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committee. He further advised that Council's letter of response dated 28th January 2010 identified the outstanding issues currently detaining Council's annual contribution towards the Advisory Committee.

Members AGREED that Council's response was adequate in that Council will provide a contribution provided other Councils also make a contribution.

6.2 Letter from Minister of the Environment

The Director of Development advised Members that a letter had been received from Mr Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of the Environment regarding Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory Committees dated 12th February 2010. The letter requests that Councils put forward proposals for a new structure and also commit to funding for 2010-2011. Mr Poots MLA has indicated that if the nine councils commit to funding then the Environment Committee would reinstate its funding for another year.

After much discussion it was RECOMMENDED that Council would stand by the decision to provide support if all other Councils also agree to make a similar contribution. At present 4 Councils have indicated that they will not be making a financial contribution for the 2010/2011 period.

7. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

7.1 Town Centre Forum

7.1.1 Town Centre Marketing and Promotion Initiatives

The Town Strategy Manager's report relating to procuring a suitably qualified and experienced organisation(s) to deliver a range of marketing and promotion initiatives (new town centre banners and promotional campaign for the town centre) in Cookstown Town Centre was circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Councillor McGarvey requested that the monitoring and evaluation reports from the marketing campaign of 2009 – 2010 be forwarded to Members for information.

Members RECOMMENDED that the advertising and procurement of relevant organisation(s) be approved to undertake the following initiatives:

- (i) Multi-media Marketing and Promotional Campaign for 2010 at an estimated cost of £25,000 plus VAT, excluding any private sector contributions secured.
- (ii) Redesign and installation of new Town Centre Branded Banners at an estimated cost of £7,500 plus VAT.

7.1.2 Town Centre Forum

Members NOTED minutes of Town Centre Forum meeting held on 17th February 2010.

7.2 Town Centre Living Initiative

Members NOTED minutes of Town Centre Living Initiative Sub Committee meeting held on 17th February 2010.

7.3 Burn Road Environmental Improvement Scheme

7.3.1 Burn Road EI Steering Group Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Burn Road EI Steering Group Committee meetings held on 13th January and 27th January 2010.

The Director of Development informed Members that there are a few small outstanding issues which have to be addressed and these have been compiled in a snag list with issues to be addressed as soon as possible. It was RECOMMENDED that an update for Members will be provided at the Statutory Council Meeting on Tuesday 13th April 2010.

7.3.2 Burn Road EI Scheme Update

Members NOTED update report from the Town Strategy Manager regarding the Burn Road Environmental Improvement Scheme, dated 5th March 2010.

7.4 Shop Mobility

Members NOTED minutes of Shop Mobility meetings held on 12th and 24th February 2010.

8 TOURISM

8.1 Sperrins Tourism

Members NOTED Sperrins Tourism Cash Flow Projections for the period April 2010 to March 2011.

The Director of Development informed Members that there will be 2 payments made per annum and these will be closely monitored by Council's Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer.

Members AGREED with this process.

9 BURNAVON

9.1 Arts & Culture

Members NOTED minutes of Arts & Culture Sub Committee meeting held on 20th January 2010.

9.2 Civic Awards

Members NOTED minutes of Civic Awards Committee meeting held on 24th February 2010.

10 SUBSCRIPTION

10.1 Action for Market Towns

Members RECOMMENDED that Council renew its annual subscription with Action for Market Towns for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 at a cost of £345, plus VAT.

TABLED FOR INFORMATION

1. ICBAN Management Board Meeting Information Pack from the meeting held on 17th February 2010.
2. Sperrins 2010 Visitor Guide.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

Chairman

Clerk/Chief Executive

Date