

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF  
DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27  
JUNE 2011 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** In the Chair, Mayor Councillor Reid re Item 1 followed by Councillor Gildernew (Chair)

Councillors Ashton, Brush, Cavanagh, Cuddy, Daly, Donnelly, F Burton, R Burton (7.35pm), Gildernew, Gillespie, Hamilton, McGahan, McGonnell, McGuigan, McLarnon, Monteith, Morrow (7.32pm) Mulligan, O'Neill (7.35pm) and Quinn

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr Barrett, Recreation Manager  
Mr Beggs, Enterprise Investment Grants Manager  
Mr Burke, Acting Chief Executive  
Mr Clarke, Community Services Manager  
Mr Edgar, Bio Diversity Officer  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer  
Mr Frazer, Director of Development  
Mr Gilmore, Sports Development Officer  
Mr Hill, Tourism and Amenities Manager  
Ms Linney, Corporate Strategy and Policy Officer  
Mr McCready, Town Centre Manager  
Mr McKenzie, Change Manager  
Ms Zellman, LA 21 Officer

**1 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Mayor, Councillor Reid, took the Chair for the election of Chair of the Committee.

Under the previously agreed d'Hondt arrangement nomination was sought from SF.

Councillor Gildernew was nominated Chair of the Committee.

## **2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Councillor Gildernew took the Chair and under the previously agreed d'Hondt arrangement nomination was sought from UUP.

Councillor Hamilton was nominated Vice Chair of the Committee.

## **3 REPORT**

The report (appendix 1) was presented and the Director of Development drew attention to the new format ie Section one strategic approvals requiring ratification at Council, section two Operational information and approvals which have executive powers together with quarterly progress reports. Attention was also drawn to Councillor Induction Manuals and Members were reminded of meeting scheduled for Thursday 30 June 2011.

(Councillor Morrow entered the meeting at 7.32pm)

(Change Manager entered the meeting at 7.33pm)

(Councillors Burton and O'Neill entered the meeting at 7.35pm)

### **3.1 Strategic Approvals (Section 1)**

#### **3.1.1 Investors in People (1)**

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager sought approval for the Investors in People Project spend as detailed in the report explaining that the programme was province wide, Council had been involved for a number of years and had a high success rate in the Borough Council area. In response to Members questions the Manager advised that cost would be between 25% to 50% totalling £4,900.

#### **3.1.2 South Tyrone Landfill Tax Programme Contract with Groundwork NI (2)**

The Local Agenda 21 Officer drew attention to detail in the report regarding South Tyrone Landfill Tax Programme contract with Groundwork NI and sought approval for option one ie 'extend the current contract with Groundwork NI for a minimum of two years with preferable three. Carry out the new round of funding programme as planned.' Attention was also drawn to appendix two detailing the amended process.

In response to Members questions the undernoted was clarified:

- There are approximately 10-15 companies who offer same service as Groundwork NI;
- Council is not compelled to use just one company;
- Audit and risk threshold is £15k;
- Council has good working relationship with current provider;
- Registered landfill sites are listed on [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk);
- Current contract ends in 2011 and that exceptional circumstances exist in that some projects may not be completed.

Member expressed concern if Council did not go out to public tender.

Proposed by Councillor Brush  
Seconded by Councillor Morrow

That it be recommended to the Council that public tendering process be commenced.

Members discussed the issue of projects which have not reached completion and difficulties which could arise and suggested that it may be best to continue with current supplier. The Director of Development advised that Council should adhere to procurement procedures.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that a public tender process should be commenced to seek Environmental Body to administer the Council's Landfill Tax Credit Funds for a three year period or until RPA which ever occurs first.

### **3.1.3 Moy Methodist Church Hall (3)**

The Director of Development drew attention to detail outlined in the report advising that to date the arrangement with Moy Methodist Church had worked well and reminded Members that Council property in Moy did not have disabled access.

The Community Relations Manager sought approval to enter into negotiations with Moy Methodist representative indicating that the figure as before would be approximately £11k. The Director further advised that fee negotiated would be approved by the District Valuer to ensure it is a market value rent. In response to Members question the Manager advised that all rooms were booked through the leisure centre and reflected consistent levels of usage which meets the needs of the Moy community.

## **4 Operational Information (Section Two)**

### **4.1 Partnerships (Section Two 1)**

#### **4.1.1 Community Safety Warden (1.D.3)**

The Director of Development advised that the issue of Community Safety Warden is a matter for Corporate Support Services and would be referred to meeting on Wednesday 29 June 2011. Members expressed concern regarding such an appointment suggesting that perhaps a private company would be best solution. The Corporate Strategy & Policy Officer stated that this is a pilot project and perhaps could be treated as a secondment. Members expressed further concerns such as

- Detail of job description such as statement 'react to anti social behaviour' which is role of PSNI;
- What power would individual possess eg arrest;
- Should be a multi agency approach;
- What happens when pilot project ends does ratepayer have to meet the cost;
- There is no easy solution to anti social behaviour;
- Antisocial behaviour is a major issue and anything that would help should be investigated.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that at a recent meeting with PSNI representative it had been stated that PSNI only deal with criminal issues and that someone kicking a ball up a wall could be deemed as antisocial behaviour.

The Director of Development advised that Council was in partnership with Community Safety and that the matter should be referred back to them to rethink.

**Resolved** That the position of Community Safety Warden be referred back to Community Safety Partnership for reconsideration.

#### **4.1.2 Phase Two Business Development Training Programme**

The Director of Development drew attention to the addendum (appendix 2) regarding Phase Two Business Development Training Programme and sought approval of spend at approximately £25k.

**Resolved** That the approval as sought be granted.

### **4.1.3 Dungannon Town Centre Festive Lights**

The Director of Development submitted addendum (appendix 3) regarding additional funding for lighting illuminations in the town centre and surrounding areas as detailed. The Director sought approval for £15k per annum for two years. In response to Members questions the Director advised that a proposal for villages would be presented at August meeting and that additional funding would be allocated from reserves and contingency funding which would obviously impact on same. In response to Members call for additional funding for Coalisland to incorporate festive lighting in Coalisland Main Street, Square and Barrack Street the Director stated that it would be incorporated in festive lighting scheme report presented to August meeting. Director also reminded Members that in recent years some rural villages opted for grants for events as opposed to festive lights.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Morrow and

**Resolved** That additional £15k be approved for Dungannon Town Centre festive lights scheme and report on villages festive lighting grants be presented to August meeting.

### **4.1.4 Flavour of Tyrone (1G1)**

In response to Members questions the Tourism Amenities Manager advised that Flavour of Tyrone had applied to Department Enterprise Trade and Industry for funding for craft fair as part of an overall application but this area of funding had been declined. The Director of Development advised that together with Town Traders it was the intention to have an event in the town centre but the commencement of the Public Realm Scheme may impact on this.

### **4.1.5 Reopening of Castlehill 2012**

The Director of Development advised that it was proposed by Council to officially open Castlehill in 2012 and sought approval to seek nominations for a working group at Council meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

## **4.2 Quality of Life and Sustainability**

### **4.2.1 Ballysaggart Lough (3.2.1)**

In response to Members questions regarding weed at Ballysaggart Lough the Director of Development advised that it was actually an algae that grows on the lough and reminded members that the Lough is not in Council ownership that Department of Agriculture and Rural Development had sporting rights and Department Culture Arts and Leisure had recreation rights and that both could be informed of current situation.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that in relation to the algae Environmental Health could monitor and issue warning signs if or when the algae turned toxic. He further advised that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency assured that they regularly monitor waterways. Member stated that the Lough was always an issue which moved from crisis to crisis and that ratepayers continually looked to Council regarding issues at the Lough. Member suggested formation of a forum to incorporate local environmental group together with relevant departments and Council.

**Resolved** That the Director of Development advise relevant departments of the current state of Ballysaggart Lough.

### **4.2.2 Round Lake Fivemiletown**

Member expressed concern regarding litter around waters edge at Fivemiletown.

### **4.2.3 Mountain Bike Trek at Blessingbourne**

Member suggested that through Tourism section could world class tourism project at Blessingbourne be promoted as many people were having staycations. Member further expressed disappointment that some press hadn't even covered the Official opening.

## **4.3 Capital Projects (4.1)**

### **4.3.1 Capital Spend Priorities (4.1)**

In response to Members questions regarding District Electoral Area meeting re Capital Projects the Director of Development advised that a future meeting would be convened in August to determine what Capital Projects would be in 2012/2013 budget.

#### **4.3.2 Castlehill – Former TA Building Option Appraisal**

The Director of Development advised that an option appraisal regarding the former TA Building at Castlehill would be presented to the August meeting of Strategic Development Committee.

#### **4.4 Sports Development**

##### **4.4.1 Southern Sports Partnership (6.1)**

The Director of Development sought approval for annual contribution to Southern Sports Partnership as detailed in report.

**Resolved** That approval as sought be granted.

##### **4.4.2 Development Revenue Fund (6.2)**

The Director of Development sought extension to the closing date by three months to accommodate groups who were awaiting clarification of match funding from other funding bodies. It was noted that 17 applications had been received from groups throughout the Borough.

Proposed by Councillor Donnelly  
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

**Resolved** That three month extension to closing date as sought by the Director of Development be approved.

#### **4.5 Community Development Operational Information**

##### **4.5.1 Dungannon CAB (7.1.1)**

The Community Services Manager sought approval for contribution of £6k to Dungannon Citizens Advice Bureau as detailed in the report explaining that the Department of Social Development letter of offer was £6k less than previous year. Members whilst supporting and valuing the importance of the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau, especially in the current economic climate, urged caution that Council could not continually meet the shortfall in reduced funding from Departments. It

was suggested that the Council meet the current shortfall but that the letter of offer include a paragraph of caution that Council may not be able to do this year on year.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Daly and

**Resolved** That shortfall of £6K be met by Council and that letter of offer include a paragraph of caution that Council may not be able meet shortfall year on year.

(Councillor Monteith left the meeting at 8.51pm)

#### **4.5.2 Community Festivals (7.3)**

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that due to the introduction of the new strategic partnership funding this year, that Council had written to those who previously applied for funding advising that an advertisement would be placed in newspaper requesting applications. Following request applicants then received application form and details of closing dates etc. Clogher Valley Show application was received after the closing date and therefore could not be considered for funding under the guidelines of the policy which must be adhered to.

Discussion ensued during which Members acknowledged the undernoted

- the show was a major flagship event for the Borough attracting thousands of visitors;
- representative of Clogher Valley Show had met with staff and stated that they were responsible for late submission;
- last year the Clogher Valley Show received £5k funding, a bridge and erection of same along with assistance with clear up;
- the bridge was given to the Clogher Valley Show and they were advised that Council could not erect in the future;
- application received from Clogher Valley Show re festival funding – accounts show that difference between income and expenditure was £1k thus this is the figure Council could contribute;
- application had been received late and Council should adhere to the rules and not step outside for any reason;



Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mulligan

that Council allocate initial funding requested to the Clogher Valley Show

The Director of Development advised caution as Council would be challenged for not adhering to procedures. The Chair stated that legally Council could only offer the £1k as outlined by officers.

**Resolved** That Clogher Valley Show be offered £1000 contribution as outlined in grants procedure.

#### **4.5.3 Irish Language (7.4)**

Member requested that there be an Ulster Scots Language event this year and that there was a much greater level of promotion of Irish Language. In response the Community Relations Manager advised that the Ulster Scots Agency did not commit the same level of funding as that of the Irish Language Agency and that the Officer was extremely proactive.

In response to question Members were advised that Councillors are advised of these events via email.

#### **4.5.4 Community Safety Initiative (7.2.1)**

Member stated that District Policing Partnership should have a role in the exploration of campaign against Hate Crime.

#### **4.5.5 Public Art Application for Funding (7.5.1)**

The Community Relations Manager advised that if the Arts Council application for funding was successful Council would be requested to pay 25% of costs.

### **4.6 Economic Development (8)**

#### **4.6.1 Ballygawley Infrastructure/Enterprise Zoning (8.2)**

In response to Members question the Enterprise Investment and Grants Manger advised that following the meeting Council had submitted a letter to the Human Resources Division of Planning and that Council was awaiting a response although indication was that they were keen to move forward.

(Councillor Brush left the meeting at 9.14pm)

#### **4.6.2 Rural Development Council Outreach Centre/Council Incubation Centre**

Member suggested that Council write to Rivers Agency to seek clarification regarding the area Planning Service is deeming as flood plain at rear of Council offices on Killymeal Road.

(Councillor Hamilton left the meeting at 9.20pm)

It was further stated that the securing of the Rural Development Council Outreach Centre/Council Incubation Centre would provide a real opportunity to secure public sector jobs in the borough. Members noted that Planning Service was not granting planning permission on sites where outline planning permission had previously been issued again stating flood plains as the reason.

**Resolved** That a letter to be forwarded to Rivers Agency seeking clarification of Council lands deemed as flood plains on Killymeal Road.

(Councillor Hamilton returned at 9.23pm)

#### **4.6.3 ICBAN (8.7)**

Member expressed concern regarding additional £900 approval sought for ICBAN and related that the Chief Executive of ICBAN was receiving an 11% pay increase when senior officers of organisations such as Councils had a moratorium on pay raises. It was noted that there were vast differences in salaries for such organisations as one region was £37k yet ICBAN currently £49k

Proposed by Councillor Mulligan  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

That Council pay a contribution of £12500 to ICBAN and not £13400 as requested.

Proposal was not agreed.

Another Member advised that ICBAN had engaged a consultant to review the Chief Executive's salary and the increase was to bring the salary in line with comparable regions ie East Border Region and that the addition £900 requested was not towards the salary but administration costs in general.

(Councillor Morrow left the meeting at 9.25pm)

The Director of Development advised that the contribution requested by ICBAN was equal to that of other Councils and that Council could clarify with other Members if they were paying the increase. It was also noted that ICBAN had reduced contribution last year by £2500.

(Councillor McGahan left the meeting at 9.28pm)

Members expressed concern and sought further clarification .

**Resolved** That further clarification is sought regarding increase in Council's contribution to ICBAN

#### **4.7 Corporate Strategy and Policy (9)**

##### **4.7.1 Policy (9.2)**

Member stated that the Minister for Department of the Environment had issued a consultation on PPS21 that Council should make a response to.

##### **4.7.2 Corporate Planning (9.1)**

In response to Members question the Corporate Strategy and Policy Officer stated that there would be a further meeting on 30 June 2011 re Corporate Plan and that it was hoped to sign off the completed plan in August.

#### **4.8 Correspondence (Section 3)**

##### **4.8.1 Sustrans Connect2 Funding (item 6)**

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 5 May 2011 issuing notice of withdrawal of Sustrans' Connect2 funding. The Director advised that a report would be brought to August meeting. Member stated that community had worked hard on project and maybe alternative funding could be sought.

#### **4.8.2 Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation (item 8)**

The Director of Development advised that Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Pavilion would be included for consideration in capital programmes.

### **5 ADOPTION OF REPORT**

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

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

### **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **6.1 Grants Allocations**

In response to Members question the Community Relations Manager advised that the Arts and Culture grants programme had a strict criteria, applications are scored and grants awarded according. The Manager advised he would forward details of the grants to the Member.

(Councillor McGonnell left the meeting at 21.37pm)

#### **6.2 Castlehill Refurbishment**

The Director of Development drew attention to the samples of wall and floor coverings etc for use in refurbishment of Castlehill.

### **7 DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was called for 7.30 pm and ended at 9.43 pm.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

CHIEF EXECUTIVE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acting)