

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON AND SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 2012 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON

MEMBERS PRESENT: In the chair, Councillor S Brush (Chair)

Councillors Ashton, F Burton (7.45 pm), Cuddy, Daly, Donnelly, Gildernew, Gillespie, Hamilton, McGonnell, McGuigan, McLarnon, Morrow, Mulligan, O'Neill, Quinn, Reid and Robinson

OFFICERS: Messrs Burke (Director of Environmental Services) (7.45 pm), Currie (Head of Human Resources), Frazer (Acting Chief Executive), Mrs Kerr (Director of Finance), Mrs Hobson (PA to CE), Mr McClelland (Director of Building Services)

The meeting started at 7.30 pm.

1 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

1.1 Funds (item 1.1)

Under capital spent 2013/15 should read 2014/15.

Proposed by Councillor McGonnell
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved that it be recommended to Council that the recommendations as outlined in the report be accepted.

1.2 WiFi

The Director of Finance agreed to check what was delaying WiFi configuration in the Chamber.

1.3 Capital

1.3.1 Budget 2012/13 (item 1.1.1)

Councillor F Burton and Mr Burke entered the meeting at 7.45 pm.

Councillor Hamilton declared an interest in Aughnacloy Development Association.

Appendix 1 of the report – Northland Row ‘replacement copiers’ should read ‘refurbishment of offices’.

The Acting Chief Executive agreed to follow up with DSD transfer papers re Railway Park, Coalisland.

1.3.2 SWARD Village Scheme (item 1.1.2)

Members were concerned that the request as documented in the report could set a precedence in the future. The Acting Chief Executive agreed to check if SWaRD would accept a letter of offer and would bring a report to the Council meeting.

Mr Frazer advised that a group preliminary application is to be submitted by June and Council would not be aware if funding was approved until September. Schemes should be completed in the life time of the Corporate Plan.

Mr Frazer agreed to provide a report on successful funding applications over the last 2 years.

1.4 Asset Management System (item 2.1.2)

Members would have liked to see where savings are made on the installation of this system, queried how Council has managed to date and felt a lot of this work had already been done when the Transition Committee was previously operating.

The UUP requested that their Party disapproval of spending so much money around RPA be recorded.

1.5 ICT Update - Website (Item 2.2.2)

The Director of Finance advised that BIZNET would give assistance, student would provide guidance on better presentation, staff would be

up skilled and it was hoped that there would be an improvement in 2 – 3 months. The revised website should provide more opportunities for on line delivery.

1.6 Audit & Risk Update (item 2.3)

Mr Frazer left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that Council was currently looking at route optimisation. An independent organisation are currently being sought to examine the current fleet and give a view on what was fit for purpose. A report would be brought to a future Committee meeting.

Councillor Gillespie left the meeting at 8.33 pm.

1.7 Adoption of report

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

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

Mrs Kerr left the meeting and Mr Frazer returned to the meeting at 8.35 pm.

2 PERSONNEL MATTERS

The report (appendix 2) of the Head of Human Resources was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

2.1 Equality Issues (item 1.2)

The Head of Human Resources agreed to discuss the removal of both the 35 hours week and task and finish system with SMT, with recommendation being brought back to Committee.

2.2 Restructuring Implementation - Redundancy (item 2.4)

Councillor Reid left the meeting at 8.50 pm.

Members highlighted that the budget figures presented in the March restructuring document were incorrect as there was no provision for redundancy payment for the Operations Manager and members had not been informed that it was up to employees to decide whether or not to accept alternative employment. The Head of Human Resources advised that their judgement at the time indicated that the alternative employment would be accepted but it was at a lower level.

Councillor McGonnell left the meeting at 8.53 pm.

Mr Currie advised that it is SMT and Line Managers decision on where employees are located – if no work in a particular location they can be moved.

Councillor O'Neill left the meeting at 8.57 pm.

2.3 Policies/Procedures (item 2.5) - Car User Policy

Councillor Daly left the meeting and Councillor Reid returned to the meeting at 8.58 pm.

The Head of Human Resources advised that this policy differed from the previous one in that travel and subsistence and car users were previously one policy, the amendment reviewed who was entitled to essential user allowance.

Items 2.1.2 and 2.1.4 of the car user policy should read 'Office Services Manager' instead of Member Support Officer.

2.4 Adoption of report

Proposed by Councillor McLarnon
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved that it be recommended to the Council that the report of the Head of Human Resources be adopted and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

3 MANAGING ATTENDANCE

Councillor O'Neill returned to the meeting at 9.05 pm.

The Head of Human Resources had circulated a detailed report (Appendix 3).

The Head of Human Resources advised that by the end of next month the 9 long term absences should be reduced to 5, three of which relate to industrial absence.

Absenteeism also raised some insurance issues which were being looked at. The Acting Chief Executive advised that he would be dealing with cover for employees tomorrow.

Councillor Reid left the meeting at 9.21 pm.

4 MISCELLANEOUS

Councillor Reid returned to the meeting at 9.25 pm.

4.1 Restructuring Proposals March 2012

Members were advised that there were no major issues at this stage.

4.2 Additional payments for significant events

The Acting Chief Executive distributed information on options for additional payments (appendix 4) and recommended option 2 – allocating money for community festivals for specific major celebrations. Mr Frazer advised that approval had already been given to 10 applications for jubilee events and recommended under this proposal additional payment under 3 separate categories. It was suggested that future application forms have a separate section for this additional funding.

Proposed by Councillor Mulligan
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved that a Community Festivals promotional fund of £5000 be created for landmark commemorations and celebrations.

Under this recommendation it was agreed to provide the following additional allocation:

Ballynakelly CPLC	£200
Bloomhill Rural Dev Assoc	£500
Moygashel Residents Assoc	£200

RUC George Cross Assoc	£200
Annahoe Historical Cultural & Sports Society	£500
Fivemiletown District Cultural & Sports Assoc	£200
Killyman District Cultural Group	£500
Simpson Grant Association	£500
Clogher Cathedral Parish	£200
Bush Primary School PTA	£200

The total of this allocation is £3200. The remainder can be used during the year. The new financial year will commence with £5k for unique/significant events like centenaries and jubilees.

4.3 Lough Neagh Rescue

The Acting Chief Executive gave background on contribution requested from Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon Councils.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
 Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved that Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council contribute £1k to Lough Neagh Rescue.

4.4 Thanks

The Chair thanked all members and staff for their support during his term. The chair was also thanked for his input.

5 DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting was called for 7.30 pm and ended at 9.33 pm.

MAYOR _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE _____
 (Acting)