

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 18th March 2008 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillor Clarke	Chairman
Councillors:	Baker, Cassidy, Glasgow, Lees, Molloy, McAleer, McCartney, McCrea, McGarvey, McIvor, Quinn and Wilson	
Officers:	Adrian McCreesh Ruth Carson	Director of Development Admin Officer
	Maggie Bryson Denise Campbell Mary Crooks Maureen Doyle Debbie Ewing Tony McCance Oliver McShane	Community Services Manager Tourism Officer Arts & Cultural Officer Community Relations Officer Admin Assistant Burnavon Manager Sports Services Manager
	Lucia Carolan Peter Dillon Marie Gilmore	Cookstown/Magherafelt CAB

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors Greer, McGlone, McNamee, and Michael McGuckin.

Councillor McCrea entered the meeting at 7.01pm.

2. OFFICER REPORTS

Officer End of Year Reports for April 2007 – March 2008 and Proposed Programme of Events for April 2008 – March 2009 were circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Cassidy AND RECOMMENDED

that all Officer Reports, be taken as read. Members congratulated Officers on the preparation and content of their annual reports and the delivery of individual programmes throughout the year.

Officers were present to answer Members questions.

2.1 Sports Development Programme

Discussion ensued among Members as to the future development of sporting facilities at MUSA. Members were advised that money has been set aside to carry out a Feasibility Study within the new financial year 2008/2009 after which a full report will be presented to the Sport & Leisure Committee for consideration.

2.2 Tourism Programme

Councillor Molloy expressed his thanks to the Tourism Officer and staff for the preparation of a comprehensive annual report.

2.3 Arts & Culture Programme

Councillor McGarvey expressed his thanks to the Arts Officer in the successful delivery of a Traditional Music Schools project. It was RECOMMENDED that the Arts Sub Committee review the allocation made within the new budget for a similar project next year.

Denise Campbell, Mary Crooks, Maureen Doyle, Tony McCance and Oliver McShane left the meeting at 7.10 pm.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES

It was UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED that the following update reports be taken as read;

- 3.1 Community Services
- 3.2 CLSP Peace II Extension Programme
- 3.3 Cookstown Good Relations Programme
- 3.4 CLSP Community Relations Programme
- 3.5 Cookstown Community Safety Partnership
- 3.6 East Tyrone Rural

Members expressed their thanks to LSP Officers for the preparation of their annual reports.

4. CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Councillor Cassidy and Lees declared an interest in the matter.

Councillor McIvor left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

Marie Gilmore, Peter Dillon and Lucia Carolan, Cookstown/Magherafelt Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) entered the meeting at 7.22pm

The Chairman welcomed representatives of Cookstown/Magherafelt CAB to the meeting and invited Marie Gilmore to give Members a brief presentation on the work of CAB. Ms Gilmore gave Members an overview of the present staffing structure within Cookstown CAB office as well as outlining the challenges they faced in meeting the requirements of the Service Level Agreement with Cookstown District Council. She highlighted the targets set by Council for financial period April 07 – March 08 and gave a breakdown of the actual achievements delivered during that period. Members thanked Ms Gilmore for her presentation and congratulated the staff of CAB on the delivery of their targets and the overall service they provide as an organisation within the Cookstown District.

Ms Gilmore also provided Members with a brief overview of the current financial status of the organisation, projecting a significant deficit at the end of financial period, March 2008. Ms Gilmore and Mr Dillon answered a number of questions raised by Members who expressed their concern at the financial situation.

Marie Gilmore and Lucia Carolan left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

Members asked further questions of Mr Dillion after which it was RECOMMENDED that a full set of financial accounts be prepared for period April 07 – March 08 and a proposed Financial Plan for period April 08 – March 09. It was RECOMMENDED that these be prepared and presented to the Audit Committee of Council for further consideration, within the next week to ten days.

Mr Dillon left the meeting at 8.00 pm.

5. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Director of Development gave Members an update regarding the Rural Development Programme advising that a further meeting of the Joint Committee has been scheduled for Monday 31st March 2008. Discussion ensued among Members regarding the recently announced RPA structures and the impact this may have on the RDP Programme. Councillor McGarvey indicated his clear preference that the cluster of Councils required to deliver the RDP Programme for this region should reflect the three Council model proposed within the RPA realignment of Councils. It was therefore RECOMMENDED that a meeting of representatives from Cookstown, Magherafelt and Dungannon Councils be convened with immediate effect with the view to changing the existing cluster to mirror the new proposed RPA Council boundary. This proposal was seconded by Councillor McCrea and AGREED by all Members.

The Director of Development advised Members a letter had been received from the Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network reminding Council of its obligations to adhere to Section 75 representation and gender equality issues and that Council's nominations to the proposed LAG & Peace Partnerships should be cognisant of such obligations. Members NOTED the letter for information.

Councillor Glasgow left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

The Director of Development circulated a copy of the Cluster Council Peace III Partnership document advising Members that nominations will be sought from each Political Party over the next few weeks for one member from each party to sit on the Peace III Partnership and LAG.

NOTED.

Maggie Bryson left the meeting at 8.16 pm.

6. COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1 Voluntary Body Grant Aid

Members NOTED minutes of Voluntary Body Grant Aid Sub Committee meeting held 18th February 2008.

6.2 Cookstown & District Motor Cycle Club (Road Racing) Limited

The Committee NOTED letter from Cookstown & District Motor Cycle Club detailing proposals regarding Council's sponsorship at the forthcoming Cookstown 100 Road Race. It was RECOMMENDED that Council's annual contribution of £4,000 be released to Cookstown & District Motor Cycle Club Limited.

6.3 Community Relations

Members NOTED minutes of Community Relations Sub Committee meetings held 29th January and 18th February 2008. Discussion ensued regarding funds provided to Cookstown Youth Choir after which the Committee RECOMMENDED that £200 be provided to the group for printing and photocopying purposes.

The Committee also RECOMMENDED in order to avoid duplication of funding in future projects, where possible, these should be funded from a single Council grant aid programme.

6.4 NIO Community Safety Unit

The Committee NOTED letter from the NIO Community Safety Unit confirming funding for Cookstown Community Safety Partnership for period 2008 - 2011. Clarification is to be sought regarding the annual increase of 3% for inflation.

6.5 Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure

Members NOTED correspondence from the Community Services Manager regarding transfer of Community Festival funds to Local Councils. Members were advised that the Community Services Manager will attend a meeting with DCAL tomorrow after which the funds will go out to public call. Members to be kept updated of details.

7. BURNAVON

7.1 Arts & Culture

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

That minutes of Arts & Cultural Sub Committee meetings held 4th February and 29th February 2008 be ADOPTED.

7.2 Town Twinning

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor McCrea and RECOMMENDED

That minutes of Cookstown Town Twinning Committee meeting held 3rd March 2008 be ADOPTED.

7.3 Civic Awards

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Cassidy and RECOMMENDED

That minutes of Civic Awards Sub Committee meeting held 13th February 2008 be ADOPTED. Discussion ensued among Members regarding the allocation of awards. It was RECOMMENDED that any team that has been re-nominated after a period of two years will be eligible for attendance at the Civic Awards. It was also RECOMMENDED that new members within a team are eligible for an individual nomination on a yearly basis.

8. TOURISM

8.1 Sperrins Tourism Ltd

Members NOTED minutes of Sperrins Tourism meetings held December 2007 to February 2008.

8.2 Tourism Sub Group

Members NOTED minutes of Tourism Sub Group meeting held 4th February 2008.

8.3 Western Regional Tourism Partnership

The Committee NOTED minutes of Western Regional Tourism Partnership meeting held 16th January 2008.

8.4 Destination North West

The Committee NOTED minutes of Destination North West meeting held 1st February 2008.

9. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION STRATEGY

9.1 Town Centre Forum

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

That minutes of Town Centre Forum meeting held 22nd February 2008 be ADOPTED.

9.2 Action for Market Towns

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

That Council renew their annual membership with Action for Market Towns at a cost of £318 + VAT.

10. LOUGH NEAGH & LOWER BANN

The Committee NOTED letter from Environment & Heritage Service advising of change within the management structure of the Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory Committee. It was RECOMMENDED that Council's annual contribution of £5,000 for financial period April 08 – March 09 be released to Lough Neagh & Lower Bann.

11. NEW DEAL

Members NOTED report prepared by the Burnavon Manger regarding the re-contracting of New Deal (Steps to Work).

12. RATHBEG PLAY AREA

Members were informed of the significant demand to reinstall a play area in Rathbeg. It was NOTED that the area in question was previously blighted with anti social behaviour. In agreeing to move ahead with the provision of a new play area it was recommended that Operational Services prepare a proposal for the installation of suitable play area equipment at Rathbeg and that consultation is carried out with the Community Safety Partnership.

13. SISTER CITIES

Members NOTED letter from Alan Chambers, Board Member of Sister Cities International, advising of International Cities Conference taking place in Belfast in July 2009 and requesting financial assistance towards Sister Cities International Conference in Kansas City, USA in July 2008. The Director of Development advised that he is to attend a meeting later this week giving further details on both the above events after which he will report back to Council.

AGREED.

14. CLARE TOURISM CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 2007

Members NOTED report prepared by the Director of Development on Clare Tourism Conference 2007 – For Changing Lifestyles.

15. WESTERN ECONOMIC STRATEGY TEAM

Members NOTED minutes of WEST meetings held 9th January and 13th February 2008.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Tenders for Research into Telecommunications

Members were reminded that the Western Economic Strategy Team (WEST), of which Cookstown District Council is a member, recently launched a new Strategy and Action Plan. One of the key projects

identified within the Action Plan related to the current inadequate provision of telecommunications/broadband in the sub-region. Tenders were therefore sought for this piece of work by the lead Council (Omagh District Council), and a subsequent tender report was prepared and circulated to members of the WEST Joint Committee on 12 March 2008, with the recommendation that the contract be awarded to Mason Communications Ltd to undertake the assignment to produce of a comprehensive Telecommunications/ Broadband Report and Action Plan for a fee of £30,000.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and RECOMMENDED

That Council endorse the appointment of Mason Communications for a fee of £30,000 as recommended by the WEST Joint Committee.

16.2 O'Neill Celebrations in Rome

On the proposal of Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

It was RECOMMENDED that the Chief Executive of Council be invited as part of the delegation from Council attending the O'Neill Celebrations in Rome. It also RECOMMENDED that an invitation be extended to the Chairman of Council, Councillor McCrea. Information on the proposed trip to be forwarded to the Chairman for consideration.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Chairman

Clerk/Chief Executive

Date

TABLED FOR INFORMATION

1. Failte Ireland North West – Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-2010