

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 15th January 2008 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillor Clarke	Chairman
Councillors:	Baker, Cassidy, Glasgow, Lees, Molloy, McAleer, McCartney, McCrea, McGarvey, McIvor, McNamee, Quinn and Wilson	
Officers:	A McCreesh R Carson	Director of Development Development Admin Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillor Greer, McGlone and M J McGuckin.

The Committee requested that a letter be forwarded to Liam Glavin, Leisure Services Manager wishing him well from his recent illness. It was also requested that a letter of sympathy be forwarded to Maggie Bryson, Community Services Manager, on the recent death of her uncle.

2. PRESENTATION

2.1 Lough Neagh Partnership

Mr Gerry Darby entered the meeting at 7.02pm.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gerry Darby to the meeting to give Members a presentation on the work of the Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP). Mr Darby reminded Members that the LNP was established in August 2003 with the purpose of ‘managing, conserving and enhancing the Lough Neagh wetlands environment, whilst developing economic and social opportunities for local people and visitors’. He advised that the LNP has been funded over the past four years primarily by Rural Development Programme monies with financial assistance of £3,500 pa from each of the seven Councils surrounding the Lough. During this four

year period the LNP secured £2,973,574 of grant monies which have been allocated to the seven Councils in the delivery of various projects. Members were further advised that Cookstown District Council was the highest recipient of this funding, drawing down a total of £506,648 over the four year period.

Mr Darby outlined the Partnership's future priorities for the development of the Lough as well as highlighting the strategic shift in future funding structures. He advised that due to the delay in the allocation of the next round of DARD funding and the fact that this has to be distributed through Local Action Groups (LAGs), funding may not be available until December 2008. The LNP therefore request that Council consider increasing their annual contribution from £3,500 to £7,000 for financial period April 2008 – March 2009 to assist with running costs in the interim period.

Mr Darby finished his presentation by thanking Council for the financial assistance provided over the last four years and the delivery of a number of projects on the Lough. The Chairman thanked Mr Darby for his presentation and the work carried out by the LNP after which Members asked a number of questions.

Mr Darby left the meeting at 7.30pm.

Following the above presentation

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

That Council increase their financial contribution from £3,500 to £7,000 to the Lough Neagh Partnership for the period April 2008 – March 2009.

It was also RECOMMENDED that once the Rural Development Programme Joint Committee has been established that support is given by the Committee to the Lough Neagh Co operation Project.

3. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Members NOTED copy of the Local Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan (2007-2010) Executive Summary Brochure, circulated prior to the meeting. The Director of Development advised that confirmation is presently being sought from the office of the Minister for Enterprise,

Trade and Investment, to launch the new LED Strategy and Action Plan. Once a date has been confirmed a proposed programme of events for the launch will be drawn up and brought back to a future meeting for consideration.

4. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

4.1 Department for Social Development Town Centre Regeneration Inquiry

Members NOTED response prepared by Cookstown District Council and Cookstown Town Centre Forum in relation to the Committee for Social Development's inquiry regarding Town Centre Regeneration.

Councillor Wilson extended his thanks, on behalf of Members, to the Director of Development and his staff in the preparation of this document.

4.2 Town Centre Forum

Members NOTED minutes of Town Centre Forum meeting held 30th November 2008.

Councillor McGarvey expressed his regret that despite the efforts of the Town Centre Forum, Cookstown were unable to host the Continental Market.

NOTED.

4.3 Town Centre Living Initiative

The Committee NOTED minutes of Town Centre Living Sub Committee meeting held 3rd December 2007.

5. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Members NOTED minutes of Rural Development Cluster Group meeting held 13th December 2007. The Director of Development advised that a Joint Committee is to be established to progress to the next stage. Nominations are therefore sought for two elected Members from each of the four Councils to sit on the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Baker
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and RECOMMENDED

That Councillor McGarvey be nominated.

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

That Councillor Wilson be nominated.

There being no further nominations it was therefore RECOMMENDED that Councillor McGarvey and Councillor Wilson represent Cookstown District Council on the Rural Development Programme Joint Committee.

6. IRISH CROSS BORDER AREA NETWORK

Members NOTED minutes of ICBAN meeting held 5th December 2007.

7. WESTERN ECONOMIC STRATEGY TEAM

Members NOTED minutes of WEST meetings held 10th October 2007 and 14th November 2007.

8. COMMUNITY SERVICES

8.1 Good Relations

8.1.1 Community Relations Sub Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Community Relations Sub-Committee meeting held 28th November 2007.

Further to query raised it has been confirmed that decision made by the Community Relations Sub Committee to fund the Cookstown in Harmony project, does not contravene any governance regulations.

8.1.2 Good Relations Committee

The Director of Development reminded Members that at the last Development Committee meeting it was RECOMMENDED that a new

Good Relations Committee be established to oversee the implementation of the Good Relations Strategy over the next three years. He invited nominations from the floor for two Members from each Political Party.

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

That Councillors McNamee and McIvor be nominated.

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

That Councillors McGarvey and Quinn be nominated.

Nominations are still outstanding for the two remaining Political Parties. It was therefore RECOMMENDED that nominations be forwarded to the Director of Development as soon as possible and once received a meeting of the Good Relations Committee will be convened in late January/early February and Members advised accordingly.

Councillor McCrea left the meeting at 7.55pm.

8.2 Community Safety

Members NOTED letter from NIO Community Safety Unit, advising of technical assistance funding for Community Safety Co-Ordinators for financial period April 2008 – March 2009.

9. BURNAVON

9.1 Tullaghoge Fort

The Committee NOTED minutes of Tullaghoge Fort meeting held 26th November 2007.

9.2 Arts & Culture

9.2.1 Arts & Culture Sub Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Arts & Cultural Sub Committee meeting held 14th November 2007.

9.2.2 Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure

The Director of Development advised that a letter had been received from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the transfer of Community Festivals Fund to Local Authorities. The proposed allocation for Cookstown District Council is £8,500 which is to be match funded by Council. Members were advised that these monies will be managed by the Community Services Manager along with other Community Services Grant Aid monies and go out to public call inviting groups within the Cookstown Council District to apply.

NOTED.

9.3 Town Twinning

Members NOTED minutes of Town Twinning meeting held 26th November 2007.

10. TOURISM

10.1 Sperrins Tourism Ltd

The Committee NOTED minutes of Sperrins Tourism Board meeting held 25th October 2007.

10.2 Western RTP

Members NOTED minutes Western RTP meeting held 2nd November 2007.

11. COOKSTOWN 100 ROAD RACE

Members NOTED marketing brochure produced by the Cookstown 100 Road Race in conjunction with Mark Conway, Laird Design, demonstrating their new sponsorship approach to the Cookstown 100 Road Race. In welcoming the new brochure Councillor McGarvey requested that the Cookstown 100 outline in writing what Council will receive in return for its annual contribution.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS

12.1 Ulster Business

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

That Council renew their annual subscription with Ulster Business at a cost of £27.50 per annum.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Tender for Spectator Seating at MUSA

The Committee were advised that tender proposals were invited by way of public advertisement for the supply, delivery and fitting of modular portable spectator seating at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena. Two tenders were returned on or before the closing date of 23 November 2007 namely;

AAS Spectator Seating	£27,970 + VAT including delivery charges with delivery time 8-10 weeks from order
ALTO Seating Systems Ltd	£37,400 + VAT with delivery 12-14 weeks from order

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

That the contract for supply, delivery and fitting of modular portable spectator seating at MUSA be awarded to AAS Spectator Seating at a cost of £27,970 + VAT.

The Director of Development advised that in order to complete the above works at MUSA a stand name/sign, a concrete base and a clock need to be installed. Provision for these works has already been allowed for within the MUSA budget.

RECOMMENDED.

13.2 Invest Northern Ireland

Members were advised a letter has been received from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, seeking appointments to the Board of Invest N I. Any Member interested in applying is requested to do so before 12 noon Thursday 7 February 2008.

13.3 J W Promotions

Members were advised that an update email has been received from James McGarrity, J W Promotions, advising that a new venue has been confirmed to host the proposed International Country Music Festival.

NOTED.

13.4 Association of Town Centre Management

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

That Council renew annual subscription with the Association of Town Centre Management, in the name of Terry Scullion, Town Strategy Manager, at a cost of £400 + VAT.

13.5 Sports Award 2007

Any Member wishing to attend the Sports Awards 2007 on Monday 21st January 2008 is to forward their name to the Director of Development. It was RECOMMENDED that any remaining seats are to be offered to Council Officers.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

Chairman

Clerk/Chief Executive

Date

TABLED FOR INFORMATION

1. International Fund for Ireland – Annual Report & Accounts.