

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 18th September 2012 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor McElhone (Vice Chair)

Councillors: Clarke, Glasgow, Kelly, Lees, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGarvey, McNamee, Quinn and Wilson

Officers: Adrian McCreesh Chief Executive (Acting)
Emma Bell Administrative Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors McCrea, McIvor, and Mayo.

2. PRESENTATION

Councillor McElhone welcomed Mr Denis Wolinski, National Manager, Digital UK and Mr Derek McCune, Regional Co-ordinator for the Switch Over Help Scheme to the meeting to update Members on the forthcoming digital television switchover that will occur in October 2012.

Mr Wolinski advised that the digital switchover will affect televisions across the UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe. The existing analogue television signal will be switched off and replaced with a new digital signal which will enable the release of a valuable spectrum of new services i.e. stronger Freeview signal and a wider range of channels with improved colour. He highlighted that Digital UK are an independent not for profit organisation which was established by broadcasters at the request of Government. Digital UK is responsible for leading the UK digital television switchover and providing impartial advice and information. Mr Wolinski advised that the switchover will occur in a two stage process; on 10th October 2012 BBC Two will be turned off and replaced with a new digital signal and the remaining BBC suite of channels will be extended to reach all digital channels. Stage two will occur on 24th October 2012 when all remaining analogue channels will be switched off and replaced with the new digital service. Customers who receive less than five channels may be required to convert their television to digital and those that receive Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV will be required to retune their televisions at each stage on or after the relevant date. Sky

TV, Freesat from Sky, Freesat and Virgin Media customers will not be required to do anything as their television service will be automatically updated. Following the switchover the majority of people will still be able to receive the Republic of Ireland Channels, such as TG4, RTÉ One and RTÉ Two via an aerial from either Freeview or Saorview. The analogue service will be switched off permanently on 24th October 2012.

Mr Derek McCune advised that help may be obtained via the Digital UK advice line and website, in addition to contacting Digital Outreach who work with the voluntary and community sector to communicate the switchover message to local communities. Finally the BBC run a Switchover Help Scheme to help older and disabled people, including families whose children are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, to prepare their televisions for digital switchover. Mr McCune further explained the Switchover Help Scheme criteria and the two equipment options which are available. In the lead up to the switchover advertising will be increased on television, radio and the local press, in addition information sessions will be held by Digital UK, the Switchover Help Scheme and Outreach Partners. An advice point will be held in Cookstown Library on 10th, 11th, 24th and 25th October 2012 from 10am to 4pm each day. Finally anyone who is experiencing any difficulties or requires further information may ring the Digital UK Advice Line Tel: 08456 50 50 50 or check the Digital UK website www.digitaluk.co.uk.

Councillor McElhone thanked Messrs Wolinski and McCune for their interesting presentation, after which they answered a number of questions from Members.

Messrs Wolinski and McCune left a number of leaflets entitled 'Your Guide to Switchover for All TV viewers' and Switchover Help Scheme.' They left the meeting at 7.22pm.

3. DUNGANNON & COOKSTOWN BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

The Chief Executive (Acting) reminded Members that at the Development Committee Meeting on 15th May 2012 Members agreed to provide a one off contribution of up to £2,500 to Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education Partnership (BEP) for the financial year 2012-2013 towards the delivery of eight programmes. Page one of the 'Update Report on Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education Partnership's Programmes' outlines the various programmes planned and also the estimated number of students from the Cookstown District which will be participating. Page two of the update report outlines the updated costs and funding for Dungannon and Cookstown BEP for the financial period April 2012 – March 2013.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and AGREED

That Council release the first 50% payment (£1,250) to Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education Partnership (BEP) for the financial year 2012-2013, subject to the following conditions:

- Council receive all monitoring documentation as requested, including verification of match funding,
- Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education Partnership comply with all Terms and Conditions outlined within Council's Letter of Officer and,
- Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education Partnership provide Council with advance notice of all photo calls, and furthermore invite the Council Chairman, Councillor Quinn, to participate in all publicity relating to these programmes.

Members NOTED the Update Report on Dungannon and Cookstown Business Education Partnership's Programmes and Revised Budget for 2012-2013.

4. RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK

4.1 Rural Community Network AGM and RCN/Rural Enabler Programme Conference

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that Members are invited to attend the Rural Community Network AGM and RCN/Enabler Programme Conference on Thursday 27th September 2012 from 10am to 4pm. Any Member interested in attending should inform Ms Emma Bell, Development Department.

5. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5.1 South West Business Export Development Programme

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in this matter.

The Chief Executive (Acting) reminded Members that it was agreed at the Development Committee Meeting on 20th March 2012 that he would circulate a programme timetable for the South West Business Export Development Programme. The programme will be delivered collaboratively with Cookstown, Magherafelt, Omagh and Fermanagh District Councils and Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council. It was agreed that Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council will fulfil the role of lead

Council. The programme will provide practical assistance to one hundred and five small businesses (twenty one from each Council area; seven per tranche). The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that page two of the South West Business Export Development Programme Update Report provides an indicative programme timescale.

Members NOTED Update Report and Timescale for the South West Small Business Export Development Programme

6. EU/INTERREGIONAL POLICY AND PRACTICE WORKING GROUP

Members NOTED the EU/INTERREGIONAL Policy and Practice Working Group Agenda and Papers for the meeting held on 18th June 2012.

7. NI HEALTH AND SOCIAL BOARD'S 'STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR GP OUT-OF-HOURS SERVICES' CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that a Draft Response had been prepared by Cookstown District Council to the Health and Social Care Board's Consultation on the 'Strategic Framework for GP Out-of-Hours' services, dated September 2012. He further advised that Council had liaised with representatives from the Northern Health and Care Trust to assist with this process. The Chief Executive (Acting) welcomed the proposal to simplify the patient pathway and the accessibility of the service, as contained in the Northern Health and Social Care Board's Strategic Framework for Out-of-Hours. However he advised that points two and three within Council's Draft Response will require further consultation with the relevant agencies to ensure a comprehensive and accurate strategic plan.

Councillor Wilson highlighted the need for Out-of-Hours GPs and medical professionals to have access to patient notes to assist them to make an accurate diagnosis. He further highlighted the importance of the Dalriada Out-of-Hours service being located in a key location as the ambulance service has to travel a greater distance to service the citizens of Cookstown, which therefore results in a greater time lapse before patients arrive at hospital.

Members AGREED the Draft Response from Cookstown District Council to the Health and Social Care Board's Consultation on the 'Strategic Framework for GP Out-of-Hours' services, dated September 2012.

8. CONSULTATION ON TRANSFORMING YOUR CARE

The Chief Executive (Acting) reminded Members that a number of representatives from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT), including Mr Martin Sloan, attended a meeting with Members on 15th May 2012 with regard to Transforming Your Care. The NHSCT requested population plans for the Cookstown District as they will have implications for service provision and it is mandatory for each Trust to devise a strategic plan to meet this additional demand.

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that Members are invited to attend the Patient and Client Roadshows - Your voice in health and social care with regard to Transforming Your Care, which are being held in a number of locations all over Northern Ireland from 13th September 2012 to 7th November 2012. He recommended that all Members attend one event to input their views with regard to the implementation of change. Furthermore he advised that Council needs to give consideration as to how best to respond to the NHSCT proposals and if possible a meeting will be convened with their representatives.

Councillor Wilson highlighted that he is a member of the Northern Local Advisory Committee which will be attending these events, in addition to leaders from the Transforming Your Care team and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

It was AGREED that Council secure professional advice to facilitate the preparation of a response to 'Transforming Your Care – A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland.'

Members NOTED details of Consultation Roadshows organised by the Patient and Client Council across the five board areas to discuss 'Transforming Your Care' proposals which set out proposed changes to Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland.

9. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

9.1. Town Centre Forum

Members NOTED minutes of Town Centre Forum Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Meeting held on 1st June 2012.

9.2. Cookstown Shop Improvement Scheme

9.2.1 Members NOTED minutes of Cookstown Revitalisation Project – Cookstown Shop Improvement Scheme Sub Committee Meeting held on 17th August 2012.

9.2.2 Members NOTED Update Report on Phases 1 and 2 of Cookstown Shop Improvement Scheme, dated 3rd September 2012.

9.3 Cookstown Public Realm Scheme

Members NOTED Update Report on the Public Realm Strategy and Economic Appraisal for Cookstown Town Centre, dated 3rd September 2012.

10. IMPROVEMENT, COLLABORATION & EFFICIENCY (ICE)

10.1. Regional Governance Group (RGG)

The Chief Executive (Acting) reminded Members that he is a Member of the Regional Governance Group (RGG) and it was agreed at a previous Council Meeting that RGG meeting documentation would be included on the Development Committee Agenda for Members information. He advised that Minister Attwood, Department for Environment attended the RGG Meeting on 13th June 2012 and a lively debate took place with regard to efficiencies.

Members NOTED the agenda and documentation for the Meeting of the Regional Governance Group (RGG) held on 13th June 2012.

10.2. ICE Newsletter

Members NOTED news bulletin highlighting key issues and discussion points raised at the Meeting of the Regional Governance Group (RGG) held on 13th June 2012.

11. TOURISM

11.1. Tourism Sub Group

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that approval is sought for Council to adopt Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland's (ORNI's) Sponsorship of Mountain Bike NI Brand Report in respect of the three new mountain bike trails currently being constructed in Davagh Forest. He further advised that ORNI are proposing to market the Davagh Forest Trails with Rostrevor Forest, Castlewellan Forest Park and Barnett's Demesne as one complete

Northern Ireland Mountain Bike product rather than as individual entities. The potential revenue from one sponsor is estimated to be between £10,000 to £15,000 per annum and it would be used to employ a dedicated Mountain Bike Marketing Officer who will work on behalf of the three Councils, namely Cookstown District Council, Newry & Mourne District Council and Down District Council to deliver an agreed marketing programme. He further advised that this proposal was agreed by Members at the Tourism Sub Group Meeting held on 4th September 2012.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and AGREED

That Council ADOPT the recommendations made by the Tourism Sub Group on 4th September 2012 with regard to granting permission to Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) to seek sponsorship to market Mountain Bike NI on behalf of the three consortium Councils, namely Cookstown District Council, Newry & Mourne District Council and Down District Council for the next three years.

Councillor Mallaghan highlighted that he, Councillor Clarke and five other Council representatives and three delegates from ORNI recently participated on a fact finding trip to the 7stanes in Scotland. The trip entailed site visits to a number of mountain bike trails which are similar to Davagh Forest.

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that the 7stanes Mountain Bike Trails in Scotland are generating a lot of income, therefore it is anticipated that a similar return will be received in respect of the marketing consortium. Councillor Clarke highlighted that each of the 7stanes Mountain Bike Trails has their own unique features which is a huge marketing attribute.

Members NOTED minutes of Tourism Sub Group Meeting held on 4th September 2012.

12. IRISH CENTRAL BORDER AREA NETWORK

12.1. ICBAN Member Councils Annual Contributions

Members AGREED to defer item 12.1.1 and item 12.1.2 as outlined below until the Development Committee Meeting on 20th November 2012:

12.1.1 Letter, dated 11th May 2012, from Mr Shane Campbell, Chief Executive (Acting) Executive Officer, ICBAN requesting a contribution of £13,000 for the financial year 2012-2013.

12.1.2 To consider release of first 50% payment of ICBAN's Annual Contribution, subject to Council receiving all documentation requested.

12.2. INTERREG VA

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that an email, dated 21st June 2012, has been received from Mr Shane Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, ICBAN regarding the 'Position Paper presented to Minister Sammy Wilson (DFP) on the proposed role of the Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups in the INTERREG VA Programme.' He further advised that the position paper proposes a more efficient programme structure similar to the Leader Programme and the Rural Development Programme.

Council AGREED to ADOPT the 'Position Paper presented to Minister Sammy Wilson (DFP) on the Proposed role of the Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups in the INTERREG VA Programme.'

13. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP

Members NOTED Lough Neagh Partnership's news bulletin, dated August 2012.

14. BURNAVON

14.1. Arts & Cultural Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Arts & Cultural Committee Meeting held on 9th May 2012 at 12.30pm.

14.2 Civic Awards Sub Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Civic Awards Sub Committee Meeting held on 10th May 2012.

15. COMMUNITY SERVICES

15.1. Good Relations

Members ADOPTED minutes of Good Relations Sub Committee Meetings held on 4th July 2012 and 8th August 2012.

16. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive (Acting) provided Members with an update with regard to the DARD Meeting held on 18th September 2012 with Ms Pauline Keegan.

16.1 South West Local Action Group

Members NOTED minutes of South West Local Action Group Meetings held on 4th April 2012, 2nd May 2012 and 6th June 2012.

16.2 Rural Development Programme Joint Council Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Rural Development Programme Joint Council Committee Meetings held on 16th April 2012, 14th May 2012 and 11th June 2012.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Tender for the Design of Signs, Interpretative Panels and Map for Dunamore

Members were advised that following public advertisement in the Belfast Telegraph week commencing 6th August 2012, five tenders were received for the 'Design of Signs, Interpretative Panels and Map for Dunamore' by the closing date of 12noon on Friday 31st August 2012. The tenders were opened at 4pm on 31st August 2012 by the Chairman Councillor Tony Quinn. The received tenders were assessed in accordance with the Terms of Reference Assessment Criteria on 4th and 5th September 2012 by the Tourism Officer, Village Renewal Officer, Graphic Designer and Community Development Officer. Details of the tenders are outlined below:

Organisation	Tender Price (excluding VAT)
Circle Creative Communications	£6,063
Image Zoo	£8,340
Design by Distraction	£5,571
Signworks	£4,644
Frank McKee	£16,796.05

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that it is recommended that the tender is awarded to Circle Creative Communications at a cost of £6,063.

It was proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and AGREED

That Council award the tender for the 'Design of Signs, Interpretative Panels and Map for Dunamore' to Circle Creative Communications at a total cost of £6,063+VAT.

17.2 Lough Fea

Councillor McGarvey advised that a number of constituents have contacted him with regard to dog foul at Lough Fea and he enquired if any perpetrators have been prosecuted in respect of dog foul. The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that he would forward this matter on to the relevant department and Members would be updated at a future Council Meeting.

AGREED.

17.3 Cookstown Adult Centre

Councillor McNamee advised that he and other Councillors have received an anonymous letter raising deep concerns regarding the reduction of services and opening hours at Cookstown Adult Centre.

17.4 Provision of Broadband

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) has placed an advert in Belfast's regional press on 17th September 2012 with regard to the 'Provision of a 2 Megabits Broadband Service across Northern Ireland.' The advert advises that DETI has published a document that identifies areas where the choice of broadband provision is limited and/or the available speeds are less than 2 Megabits per second. The document is available on DETI's website for those affected to check to ensure that their postcode is included on the list. In the event that a postcode is not included the person concerned is requested to complete and return a form by 12th October 2012, which is also available on DETI's website. The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that Council would take the following steps to ensure businesses and residents in the Cookstown District are aware of the matter:

- Write to all the individuals and businesses that responded to Council's broadband survey and advise them to check that their postcode has been included.
- Place an advert in the local press week commencing 24th September 2012, to make residents and businesses aware of the need to register their postcode if they currently have no broadband/ or a poor quality broadband service.
- Profile this information on Council's website.

AGREED.

17.5 ICBAN – Political and Civic Collaboration Programme

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that Members are invited to attend the last seminar of 2012 under the Political and Civic Collaboration Programme entitled 'Political Diversification' on Wednesday 10th October 2012 from 10am to 1.30pm in The Market Place Theatre, Armagh. A copy of this invitation was circulated to all Members prior to this meeting.

17.6 NICVA Universal Credit Stakeholder Event

The Chief Executive (Acting) advised that the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) has arranged a further event with regard the Northern Ireland Welfare Reform Bill which is expected to be introduced into the Northern Ireland Assembly in the near future. The event focuses on Universal Credit and will be held on Monday 1st October 2012 at 2pm in NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB. Any member wishing to attend should inform Ms Emma Bell, Development Department.

17.7 Sperrins Tourism Limited

The Chief Executive (Acting) provided Members with an update regarding Sperrins Tourism Limited and advised that they will be kept informed.

Meeting ended at 8.03pm.

Chairman

Clerk/Chief Executive (Acting)

Date