

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2011 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** In the Chair, Councillor Reid (Mayor)
- Councillors Ashton, Brush, F Burton, R Burton, Cuddy, Daly, Donnelly, Gillespie, McGahan, McGonnell, McGuigan, Monteith, Morrow, Mulligan and Robinson
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr Frazer, Director of Development  
Mr Beggs Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager  
Mr Clarke, Community Services Manager  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer  
Mr Hill, Tourism Amenities Manager  
Ms Linney Corporate Strategy and Policy Officer  
Mr Paul McCready, Urban Regeneration Manager  
Mrs Magowan, Community Arts/Heritage Officer (Item 4)
- APOLOGY:** Councillor Cavanagh, Gildernew, Hamilton, McLarnon, Quinn and O'Neill
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Agenda Item 1 Presentation By Dungannon Regeneration Partnership
- Mr Brian McCauley, Mr Niall Meneely and Mr Chris Morgan (7.39pm)
- Item 4 Presentation by G2 re Castle Hill
- Ms Allison Gault  
Mr John McCavitt  
Mr Eddie Girvan

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

**1 CHAIR**

In the absence of both the Chair Councillor Gildernew and the Vice Chair Councillor Hamilton agreed the Mayor Councillor Reid would take the Chair.

## **2 PRESENTATION BY DUNGANNON REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP (Strategic)**

The Chair welcomed Mr Brian McCauley and Mr Niall Maneely to the meeting.

(Councillor Mulligan entered the meeting at 7.32pm)

(Councillors F Burton and McGonnell entered the meeting at 7.34pm)

(Councillors Morrow and R Burton entered the meeting at 7.35pm)

(Mr Morgan entered the meeting at 7.39pm)

Mr Maneely together with Mr Morgan and Mr McCauley drew attention to the Proposed Strategy and Action Plan (appendix1) previously circulated to Members. During the presentation the undernoted was stated.

- Commitment of Council to town centre regeneration;
- Serious threat level to sustainable retail sector in towns throughout province;
- Severe economic difficulties with research showing Dungannon bottom choice in five nearby towns;
- Rate of inflation at 5.2% and no increase in income;
- Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment announcement that retail revenue had fallen by 10% and Northern Ireland worst effected region in United Kingdom;
- Situation in Dungannon not unique but the experiences of retail towns throughout Northern Ireland;
- 16% rate of vacant properties if rate increases beyond 25%-30% indicates permanent decline;
- Welcome Castle Hill Development and Public Realm Scheme;
- Serious decline in Saturday shoppers;
- Dungannon Regeneration Partnership had secured £3.2 million in funding to Town Centre regeneration;

In conclusion the representatives sought approval for £100k per annum to be allocated to Dungannon Regeneration Partnership for a three year period in order to deliver the 12 projects outlined in the Strategy and Action Plan. It was emphasised that this commitment was vital to sustaining Dungannon Town Centre.

The Chair thanked the representatives for the presentation and sought Members questions. No questions were brought forward and the gentlemen left the meeting at 8.00pm

The Chair sought way forward and discussion ensued reference being made to the undernoted:-

- Difficulty in committing funding beyond the life of the Council;
- Effect the allocation would have on the rates;
- Council already committed to Castle Hill project and Public Realm where could allocation be made from;
- Could proposals be tapered down to a more prudent spend;
- Business cases would need to be analysed for each proposal together with cost analysis in relation to footfall;
- Borough losing young people to immigration and regeneration required to encourage them to stay;
- Could funding be sourced through eg Blackwater Regeneration Partnership or Flavour of Tyrone;

In conclusion Members welcomed the proposed Strategy and Action Plan from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership but stated that more in depth business analysis and statistics would be required to support proposals together with the impact on the rates and forthcoming budgets. It was noted that it would be hoped to have decision at November meeting of Committee.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that

- (i) the impact a commitment of £100k per annum over a three year period would have on the rates be ascertained; and
- (ii) that a further meeting be arranged with Dungannon Regeneration Partnership to discuss proposals.

### **3 CHANGE OF ORDER**

The Director of Development sought a change of order to facilitate representatives from G2 who where scheduled to make a presentation at 1.3 of the report. Members stated that there should not be two presentations to any committee on the one evening noting time was 8.20pm and the second presentation was only commencing.

### **4 PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF G2 RE CASTLE HILL PROJECT (1.3) (Strategic)**

The Chair welcomed representatives of G2 to the meeting. The representatives made a presentation to Council (appendix 2).

(Councillors F Burton and Brush left the meeting at 8.40pm returning at 8.49pm)

Following the presentation representatives responded to Members questions during which the undernoted was stated:

- 30 year time capsule may be too tight;
- Reference should be made to the tunnels and the myths surrounding them;
- Ancillary exhibitions would compliment the main exhibit on ad hoc basis;
- Provision for parking of coaches and disabled parking has been incorporated into scheme;
- Centre is also a working arts centre;
- 30 year time schedule is also on school curriculums so will be very relevant;
- I pads and kindles throughout the exhibition will enable updates and further information, timescales to be added inexpensively.

The Chair thanked the representatives of G2 and they withdrew from the meeting at 9.10pm

(The Community Arts/Heritage Officer left the meeting at 9.10pm)  
(Councillor Cuddy left the meeting at 9.10pm)

The Director of Development sought approval to proceed with the exhibition as outlined in the presentation.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

## **5 REPORT**

The report (appendix 3) of the Director of Development was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

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

#### **5.1.1 District Policing and Community Safety**

The Director of Development drew attention to appointment of Political Members to Policing and Community Partnerships advising that until legislation was in place approval was required to allow the current Chair Councillor Hamilton to remain in place and that nominations for Chairs over a four year period were required. In response to Members question the Director of Development advised that it was anticipated that Chairs would serve for 12 month periods.

(Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 9.13pm)

Nominations were sought and made as undernoted:

Year One	Sinn Féin
Year Two	DUP
Year Three	UUP
Year Four	SDLP

In relation to Year One the name of the Chair was sought to facilitate with shortlisting and interview panels for PCSP Independent Members. Sinn Féin advised that Councillor McGahan would serve as Chair.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that

- (i) Councillor Hamilton remain as Chair until legislation granted the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to commence;
- (ii) Chairs be allocated from parties as aforementioned;
- (iii) Councillor McGahan represent Sinn Féin in Year one

(Councillor Monteith left the meeting at 9.17pm)

### **5.1.2 Tourism – Blackwater Canoe Trail Campsite (1.2.1)**

The Director of Development sought approval to contribute additional £800 to Blackwater Canoe Trail Campsite as outlined at 1.2.1 in the report.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Donnelly and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

### **5.1.3 Capital – Catering Franchise (1.3)**

The Director of Development sought approval for a public tender process to be commenced for provision of a coffee dock at Ranfurly House.

Proposed by Councillor Daly  
Seconded by Councillor R Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

#### **5.1.4 Capital – Lands at Aughnacloy (1.3)**

The Director of Development reminded Members of the request from land owner in Aughnacloy who was seeking permission to widen an access point on to lands perceived to be owned by Council. The Director reported that apparently there was an affidavit that the land at Aughnacloy was transferred to Town Commissioners which would indicate that it then transferred to Council in 1973. The Director stated that if permission was granted the landowner wishing to widen the access would have to produce plans, seek planning permission and incur all costs. Members discussed the necessity of the access being widened and requested that the Director seek plans from the land owner before any approval was considered.

**Resolved** That the Director of Development seek plans from the landowner.

#### **5.1.5 Capital - Caste Hill (1.3)**

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the Public Realm Scheme would be ongoing at the scheduled opening for Castle Hill but that work schedules indicated that the area at the top of the square should be completed by then. With regard to promotion of Castle Hill opening the Director advised that Council had met with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and had also applied for funding. If funding application was successful the Castle Hill project would automatically be promoted by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. The Director reported that the current contractor should be completed and off site for the end of July 2012.

(Councillor McGonnell left the meeting at 9.25pm)

#### **5.1.6 Carparking – Feeney’s Lane**

Member requested that Council embark on a lobbying process with the Department of Environment regarding provision of additional car parking at Feeney’s Lane.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to embark on a lobbying process with Department of Regional Development regarding car parking in Feeney’s Lane.

## **5.2 OPERATIONAL APPROVALS (SECTION 2)**

### **5.2.1 Peace III (2.3)**

Member sought clarification as to why a post at scale S01 had been included for approval under operational section of report as opposed to strategic and requested details of the cost which would be incurred by Dungannon if this was to proceed. Member also sought clarification on what was considered to be strategic and what was operational. The Director of Development advised that reference to this post should not have been included in this report for approval but should be strategic approval to the Strategic Support Services Committee. Detail included at 2.3 in the report should have referred to letter of offer. Further discussion is ongoing regarding this project in relation to stipulation of external appointment as employment law takes precedent over conditions of funding. It was noted that at Joint Committee Meeting Dungannon Councillors had not agreed to a condition of external appointment of post.

The Director clarified that an issue was strategic if it was new, outside the budget or a change of direction. It was operational if it was within budget and action plan.

### **5.2.2 Blackwater Regional Partnership (PAGE 9 -14)**

In response to Members request for Councillors to be updated on Blackwater Regional Partnership the Director of Development advised Members that updates are included in the report quarterly as agreed under new report formats (update incorporated in Section 4b of Septembers report), that minutes are available to all Members of Council on request and that a further update would be brought in November as requested. The Director advised that Blackwater Regional Partnership had drawn down major funding over the years and that the Trace Programme had been a market leader.

**Resolved** That the Director of Development provide update summary presentation of Blackwater Regional Partnership to November meeting.

### **5.2.3 Flavour of Tyrone – Holiday World Show, Dublin (page 15 & 16) & Tourism - Over 50's Show (2.6)**

The Director of Development advised that date on page 15 should read 27-29 January 2012 not 2011. In response to Members question the Tourism and Amenities Manager advised that the costs regarding Holiday World Show Belfast and Dublin were the costs of the stand, were subsidised

through grant income, that the stand was supported and utilised by Flavour of Tyrone members and provided a platform for promotion to producers, holiday and facility providers.

Member requested all costs associated with attendance at Holiday World Show (Belfast/Dublin) to include stands, travel, subsistence etc. Clarification was also sought as to why approval for Over 50's Show was retrospective and was those in attendance covered under Council insurance, Member stated that costs seem to be exorbitant and why did the show just target Over 50s. In response the Director of Development advised that under procurement procedures as a Director he could authorise spend to a maximum of £1000; it had been an oversight that approval had not been sought at the September meeting of Council but full details of costs could be provided; and that staff are covered under Council insurance. The Tourism Amenities Manager also advised that the Over 50s market was a lucrative one in that it was identified as a group with disposable income to spend and not to promote at the show was a major disadvantage in quest to attract visitors to the Borough.

It was noted that there was a perception that only the Clogher Valley benefitted from Flavour of Tyrone. In response the Tourism Amenities Manager advised that Flavour of Tyrone represented all of Tyrone, membership consisted of businesses throughout the Borough, events took place in Dungannon and that the Flavour of Tyrone body was substantially funded by Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment. The Director of Development advised that Dungannon Council was the only Council involved in Flavour of Tyrone and that 'Tyrone' was perceived to be a good market brand.

**Resolved** That full detail of costs regarding Holiday World Show Belfast and Dublin together with Over 50s Show Dublin be provided to Members.

#### **5.2.4 Community Development – Grant Applications Assessment (2.7.2)**

The Community Services Manager sought nominations to a cross party assessment panel to assess grant applications. It was noted that Councillors nominated could send a substitute representative to the assessment panels if required.

**Resolved** Nominations to the assessment panel:

DUP	Councillor F Burton (substitutes Councillor Brush and Robinson)
Independent	Councillor Monteith
Sinn Féin	Councillor McGahan (or substitute)



SDLP  
UUP

Councillor Daly (or substitute)  
Councillor Cuddy (or substitute)

(Councillor McGahan left the meeting at 9.50pm)

### **5.2.5 Economic Development (2.9)**

The Enterprise, Investment and Grants Manager advised that under LED programme letters of offer had been issued for the second year as undernoted:

- Young Innovation and Awards Programme [operational from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to coincide with start of school year - delivered by South West College];
- Young Investors Programme [operational from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept – delivered by South West College];
- Innovators Promoters Programme delivered by South West College and Ulster University [operational from 25<sup>th</sup> Oct]; and
- Young Entrepreneurs Programme, delivered by Brilliant Red Consultancy [operational from 25<sup>th</sup> Oct]

The Manager further advised that satisfactory evaluations were received for all four programmes and that Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment together with InvestNI are likely to share administration responsibility for Programmes operational before 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2011.

(Councillor Brush left the meeting at 8.51pm)

The Manager also reported that information was being sought as to why Council's applications to ICBAN for funding had been rejected as the ratio for success was one out of eight. The Director of Development advised that funding was dictated by the SEUPB and that County Managers and Chief Executive Officers had met to discuss the issue and it was being investigated.

### **5.2.6 ICBAN Membership**

In response to Members previous query regarding councillor representation at ICBAN the Director of Development advised that there are two Councillors who serve as Directors (ie Councillors Cavanagh and Mulligan) and that the other Councillors appointed (ie R Burton and McGahan) are part of network only. Member stated that if network appointments only received the same status as every other member of Council the appointments should be withdrawn.

**Resolved** That Councillors R Burton and McGahan are withdrawn as ICBAN representatives.

### **5.2.7 Corporate Strategy and Policy (2.10)**

In response to Members questions the Corporate Strategy and Policy Officer advised that the Corporate Plan could not be finalised until the budget implications and decisions had been made. The Director of Development advised that the plan would be for three years.

In response to Members questions regarding consultations the Corporate Strategy and Policy Officer advised that meetings would be scheduled regarding Social Investment Fund Consultation and South Tyrone Hospital Minor Injuries Consultation.

### **5.3 Information (3) – Killymaddy TIC (3.2.1)**

Members expressed concern regarding significant fall in visitor numbers to Killymaddy TIC and it was suggested that Council should investigate erecting their own signage and proactively market the centre. In response the Director of Development advised that monitoring was ongoing.

(Councillor Daly left the meeting at 10.07 pm)

### **5.4 Correspondence (3.3)**

#### **5.4.1 Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce**

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 21 October 2011 received from Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce advising of new Christmas Lighting Scheme for Fivemiletown and requesting funding from Council of £7106. The Director stated that there was no budget and any contribution would have to come from reserves. Member advised that the scheme was in region of £17k and Traders in Fivemiletown had both raised and contributed towards these costs and that £7106 was the balance.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan

That Council make a financial contribution over and above that available via the Festive Lights Grant Policy to Fivemiletown Chamber to assist with new Christmas lighting scheme and that the matter be considered at the Strategic Support Services Committee on 26 October 2011.

Member expressed concern that such action could set a precedent. The Director reiterated that there was no budget and concurred that although he was not aware of any other settlement seeking additional capital spend for Christmas Lights that such a contribution would set a precedent. In response to Members question the Director advised that Council could implement a grants scheme similar to Sports grants which would be publicly advertised and interested villages apply. The Director cautioned that the money would have to come from reserves and would impact on the rates.

In response to further questions the Director advised that Dungannon and Coalisland where the urban towns and thus qualified for more spend than that of a large village eg Fivemiletown. Members requested detail to be presented to Support Services Meeting on 26 October of the impact of a block grant on the rates as suggested by the Director.

**Resolved** That the implications of Council implementing a one-off block grant for capital spend on Christmas Lighting Schemes be presented to Support Services Meeting on 26 October 2011.

It was noted that Festive Lighting Grant applications call under existing scheme would close on 5 November 2011.

## **5.5 Miscellaneous**

### **5.5.1 Lough Neagh Partnership (3)**

The Director of Development reminded Members that Council had capped the contribution to Lough Neagh Partnership at £5k but that a contribution of £9400 was being sought. The Director advised that there was no budget to increase the contribution and recommended that the contribution remain at £5k.

**Resolved** That the recommendation of the Director of Development be approved.

### **5.5.2. Libraries NI**

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 20 October 2011 which detailed that the decision had been taken to close Moy library in March 2012 and that appropriate outreach services would be provided. It was noted that Dungannon library was being refurbished and that Coalisland and Fivemiletown would continue but that major investment in buildings was required. The Director advised that Council was pursuing options to ensure that a library service would continue in the Moy. Members requested that Council request a meeting with Chief Executive

of Libraries NI. The Director reminded Members that Council owned the top floor and toilets at the library building in the Moy and would pursue a viable use for them.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that the Director of Development seek a meeting with the Chief Executive of Libraries NI.

### **5.5.3 Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency Programme (ICE)**

The Director of Development submitted letter received from Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency Programme (ICE) dated 19 September 2011 seeking nominations to Regional Governance Group.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that Councillors R Burton and McGuigan be nominated.

### **5.5.4 HRH Queen Elizabeth - Diamond Jubilee Beacon**

The Chair advised he had received correspondence requesting that a beacon be lit in Dungannon on 4 June 2012 to mark HRH Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee and sought approval for same.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Chair be granted.

(Councillor Cuddy left the meeting at 10.28pm)

### **5.5.5 Broadband Provision in Rural Communities**

Member expressed concern regarding lack of broadband and slow broadband provision in rural areas. The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager advised that Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment had progressed a tender which was awarded to a company in the North West and that he had planned to bring an update to the November committee. It was suggested that the Manager arrange an information seminar regarding broadband provision. The Manager suggested a Thursday event and sought direction in preferred timing to which Members stated an evening would be best. Members also reported poor or no broadband provision in Clonoe, Tamnamore, Carnteel to Greystone, Galbally and Eglis.

**Resolved** That an information evening for Councillors be arranged regarding Broadband provision.

**5.6 ADOPTION OF REPORT**

Proposed by Councillor Donnelly  
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

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

**6 MINUTES OF MEETING OF CASTLE HILL OFFICIAL OPENING SUB COMMITTEE – MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2011**

Proposed by Councillor Ashton  
Seconded by Councillor Donnelly and

**Resolved** That the minutes of Castle Hill Official Opening Sub Committee held on Monday 17 October 2011, having been printed and circulated, be adopted.

**7 DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was called for 7.30 pm and ended at 10.33 pm.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

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

