

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Central Services Committee meeting, held in committee, in the Members' Committee Room, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday 31st August 2006 at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs M Chambers
(in the chair)

ALDERMAN: J Norris MBE

COUNCILLORS: J Beattie
Ms J Bunting
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
C Hall
Miss R Hughes MBE
M Long
G Robinson
J Spratt

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Administration & Community Services,
the Arts Officer and Assistant Members' Services
Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors
Hanvey and Jeffers

CS/2006/199 : EXECUTIVE POWERS

The Director of Administration & Community Services reminded Members that, at the August Council meeting, it had been agreed to grant executive powers for today's Committee meeting. (Minute No. 2006/480 refers)

Noted.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

(copy previously circulated)

COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS

CS/2006/200 : MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY FACILITY - BIG LOTTERY FUNDING APPLICATION

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that Stage D drawings and site investigation plans had now been submitted to the funders. She added that, given the non-negotiable deadline of 30th September, approval had been granted at the August Council meeting to put

the project out to public tender. She reported that the advertisement to appoint professional contractors would be placed in the newspaper this Friday. She continued by stating that in order to meet the deadline in terms of the Big Lottery Funding, she was seeking approval to allow the appointed design team to progress the scheme to the completion stage.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the Committee had only been granted executive powers for decisions reached today. She added, however, that in order to meet the required deadline, she was seeking Council approval to extend executive powers to cover all matters relating to the Moneyreagh scheme. She added that any matters would, however, be reported to Council through the relevant Minutes, and if there were any matters requiring full Council approval, such as land/major financial considerations, then a special Council meeting could be called.

She reported that, although a consultation exercise had been carried out involving the local community groups, in order to involve all local residents, Officers were suggesting that a leaflet be drawn up for distribution to the wider community notifying them that the plans would be on view at the local primary school, subject to agreement of the Principal.

Councillor Chambers asked that Officers ensure that the Crossnacreevy area was included in the leaflet drop.

Councillor Spratt advised that the DPP had previously used a local youth club to assist in the distribution of leaflets, and the young people involved had been treated to an evening in the Ice Bowl.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that she would liaise with the local Area Community Worker in this respect, and added that she would, however, be bringing a proposal to Committee in respect of the content of the leaflets and the consultation exercise.

She referred to the issue of the restrictive covenant, and reminded Members that an agreement, in principle, had been reached with the Crawford family, and it was hoped that the formal legalities would be finalised in the near future. She added that an agreement had also been reached with the Board, in terms of access over SEELB land, but that she was due to meet with the Board's legal representatives on Friday 1st September 2006 to finalise a number of issues in this respect. She added that she did not foresee any major problems, and it was hoped to progress the completion of a lease to Council within the near future.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Director of Administration & Community Services provide an update at the next Committee meeting on the Moneyreagh Community facility, in terms of the restrictive covenant and Board access

- (b) in order to meet the deadline in terms of Big Lottery Funding, the Committee agrees that the design team be authorised to take the Moneyreagh scheme to completion stage
- (c) it be recommended to Council that executive powers be granted to the Committee for all future matters relating to the Moneyreagh scheme to enable the Big Lottery timeframe to be achieved
- (d) the Director of Administration & Community Services bring to a future Committee meeting, a proposal in respect of the content of the leaflet and details of the public information exercise

CS/2006/201 : JOINT CONFERENCE WITH EAST BELFAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that the Council had received a request from the above Agency to work in partnership with their organisation, in order to host a community conference for staff and volunteers working with community groups based in East Belfast and Castlereagh area. She reported that the purpose of the conference was to begin a process of identifying how communities that were outside of the Neighbourhood Renewal areas could ensure that they did not slip through the net, in terms of Government investment.

She referred Members to a copy of the correspondence from the East Belfast Community Development Agency, and outlined that the conference was scheduled to be held on 14th September 2006, at an estimated cost of £4,500.00, with Castlereagh Borough Council being asked to cover 50% of the expenditure involved.

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that the Council's portion of the costs could be met in full from the grant allocated under the Building Sustainable Communities Programme.

Councillor Long asked if the project would include areas such as Cregagh, Clonduff and Braniel.

Councillor Bunting sought clarification as to whether the project was aimed at all areas of Castlereagh, or just those areas of Castlereagh within East Belfast.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that it was her understanding that the awareness sessions were being targeted at all areas within Castlereagh, but that she would need to clarify this.

Councillor Spratt outlined that he would like clarification that the conference would be extended to include the Belvoir area.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That approval be granted for Officers to enter into a joint partnership with East Belfast Community Development Agency in order to organise the community conference, with the costs in the region of £4,500.00 being met out of the Building Sustainable Communities Programme, subject to Officers clarifying that the project would be targeted at all areas within Castlereagh, and not just those located within East Belfast.

CS/2006/202 : ASTRO TURF PITCH AT CREGAGH YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that part of the surfacing on the astro turf pitch at the above centre had been badly torn, and was lifting in several areas. She reported that this was the second occurrence of the problem, and was now posing a serious health & safety risk.

She outlined that, in view of the legalities surrounding the capital payments for the centre, and the involvement of the SEELB, it had not been possible to pursue a legal case against the contractor concerned, given that the original commission was directly through the Board. She added that Officers had, however, written to the Board requesting that the pitch be put right as a matter of urgency, but the Board had expressed the view, that given the issue relating to capital payments had not been resolved, the Council should pursue this matter direct.

She advised Members however, that if the repairs were not completed by the beginning of September 2006, it might be necessary to cancel any further bookings resulting in a loss of usage, and any associated revenue.

Following a query from Alderman Norris, the Director provided an estimate of the amount of revenue generated each month through pitch hire.

Members suggested that the Director liaise directly with the Chief Executive of the SEELB.

Councillor Spratt outlined that he would obtain all the relevant information from the Director, and he too would raise the matter with the Chief Executive.

The Director reported that the Facilities Co-ordinator based at the centre had made contact with the sub contractor who was currently in the Province, and had made arrangements for him to come and inspect the pitch. She added that she would report further on the matter when she had received an update from the Officer.

Councillor Bunting hoped that this would not result in the Council paying for the repair work "up front", and possibly incurring legal fees in attempting to claim the costs back. She added that she was very disappointed at the Board's attitude, and that they were not prepared to chase this matter up whilst the facility was still under warranty, and the work would therefore be carried out free of charge.

Councillor Chambers outlined that it should be borne in mind that it was the Board's own fault that the issue of the capital payments had not as yet been resolved, as they had not been willing to provide the Council with a 999 year lease, as previously agreed.

Councillor Robinson proposed that upon receipt of the comments of the sub contractor, the Director deal directly with the Chief Executive of the SEELB.

Alderman Norris outlined that he had previously expressed concern at the quality of this astro turf pitch, and Councillor Bunting suggested that this be borne in mind during consideration of the provision of future new facilities.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That, upon receipt of the sub contractor's comments in respect of the repair work required to be carried out on the astro turf pitch at the Cregagh Youth & Community Centre, the Director of Administration & Community Services liaise directly with the Chief Executive of the SEELB in order to progress the matter.

CS/2006/203 : DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR FORSTER GREEN SITE

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that the Council had received a request from the South & East Belfast Trust to present their development plans for the Forster Green Site.

She outlined that, as the Council had already agreed to enter into a partnership with the Trust to provide community facilities at this location, it was being recommended that the presentation be made to the September or October Central Services Committee meeting.

The Director of Administration & Community Services stated that she hoped that the Director of Service Development within the Trust would be able to provide Members with as much information as possible, in terms the land issues during the presentation.

Councillor Chambers outlined that depending upon the number of items on the agenda for the next Committee meeting, it may be necessary to call a Special Central Services Committee meeting to hear the presentation.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the South & East Belfast Trust be granted approval to make a presentation on the Forster Green Site, to the Central Services Committee due to be held in September or October 2006.

- (b) if deemed appropriate, the Director liaise with the Chairman in order to convene a Special Central Services Committee meeting to hear the above presentation

COMMUNITY RELATIONS MATTERS

CS/2006/204 : BARNARDOS PARTNERSHIP WITH CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL AND CREGAGH FILIPINO PARENTING GROUP

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that, under the auspices of the Community Relations Programme, a request had been received to develop a partnership between Barnardos and Filipino mother and children living in Castlereagh, and in particular the Cregagh and Belvoir areas. She added that an initial meeting had taken place with Council staff, and Barnardos had now secured funding to provide parenting classes.

She continued by stating, that as a prelim to these classes, it was felt beneficial to organise informal gatherings in a safe and neutral venue, in order to combat the feeling of isolation, and encourage participation in the classes.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that a monthly programme had been devised, together with a number of outings scheduled for the Christmas holiday period. She reported that the programme would run from September to December as a pilot, and if successful, would be rolled out into other areas within the Borough.

She advised Members that the Council was being asked to partly fund the costs of the programme, with Barnardos providing the workers and equipment, and Council providing the venue, refreshments and one-off tutor costs, as follows:

Rental for Community Centre	£107.20
Programme x 4 Months	£300.00
Christmas Outing	£250.00
Mid term outing	£150.00
TOTAL	£807.20

Members felt that this was an excellent project, and hoped that it would be developed in other areas of the Borough.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to approve the expenditure of £807.20 from the "Hard Issues" Community Relations budget to cover the costs involved in the Barnardos Partnership with Castlereagh Borough Council and Cregagh Filipino Parenting Group.

CS/2006/205 : CARRYDUFF RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that Carryduff Retirement Association met in St Ignatius Church, and had over 100 members. She added that the aim of the group was to enhance the lives of retired people through the provision of various types of activities.

She outlined that the project initially received support from last year's Community Relations budget to develop a cross community event between St Ignatius and Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church. She advised that, on this occasion, funding had been applied for to further promote cross community contact through the provision of an orchestral evening.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the project involved an orchestral evening in the Church of Drumbo and Carryduff Parish during October 2006. She added that various groups and organisations from the Carryduff area would be invited to attend with a view to establishing further contact and joint community initiatives between the groups concerned.

She detailed the costs, as follows:

Orchestral group	£400.00
Choir	£300.00
Food and refreshments	£200.00
Printing costs	£100.00
TOTAL	£1,000.00
Income from ticket sales	£500.00
Deficit	£500.00

Councillor Bunting expressed the view, that although this may be a worthwhile project, she was somewhat concerned that the Council was able to provide funding for one-off projects, and not projects such as the Tea Dances that provided an ongoing benefit to a significant number of the Borough's senior citizens.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that there was provision within the Community Relations budget to fund one-off cross community projects through grant aid schemes. She added that long-term projects such as the Tea Dances were not deemed a priority under current Community Relations Unit's criteria. She continued by stating that Officers had, however, made an application under different grant programmes for the Tea Dances.

Councillor Bunting sought clarification as to which choir and orchestral group was participating in the event.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that she would obtain this information for the next meeting.

Councillor Chambers asked that Members also be provided with an update on progress on the funding application for the Tea Dances.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Committee agree, in principle, to provide funding of £500.00 from the Community Relations budget to Carryduff Retirement Association for an orchestral evening in October 2006, subject to the Director of Administration & Community Services confirming that the choir and orchestral group were not directly from the churches, and that the costs were in respect of the engagement of outside performers
- (b) the Director of Administration & Community Services provide Members with an update on progress with the funding application for Tea Dances

COMMUNITY ARTS MATTERS
(Report from the Community Arts Officer)

CS/2006/206 : NATIONAL AWARD FOR BELVOIR PLAYERS

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that Members may be aware that at the Ulster Drama Festival finals held in May 2006, Belvoir Players had won a number of awards, including Best Play, Best Set and Best Actor.

She added that she was pleased to report that at the National Drama Festival, Belvoir Players again received a number of prestigious awards for Best Play, Best Stage Management and the "Audience Choice Award" for the favourite play in the festival.

She asked if Members wished to consider organising a small civic reception in recognition of their success.

Councillor Long asked if Belvoir Players would prefer for the Council to make a donation, rather than a civic reception.

The Director of Administration & Community outlined there was no provision within the Arts budget for making such a donation, other than through the small grants scheme. She added that the Arts Officer had previously advised Belvoir Players to submit an application for funding, but to date no application had been forthcoming. She added that Belvoir Players had also been encouraged to submit an application for funding from the Grants to Voluntary Bodies, consideration of which fell under the remit of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The Arts Officer advised that she was due to meet with Mr Mills from the Belvoir Players the following day, and she would again mention these funding opportunities to him.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Committee agree that the Council host a small civic reception for Belvoir Players, in recognition of their recent success at the National Drama Festival.
- (b) the Arts Officer reiterates to Belvoir Players possible funding opportunities through the Arts Forum, and the Finance & General Purposes Committee, in terms of the Grants to Voluntary Bodies scheme

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME
(Report from the Capacity Building Officer)**

CS/2006/207 : LAUNCH OF THE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the Capacity Building Officer was seeking permission to launch the Castlereagh Community Directory, as previously approved by the Central Services Committee in June 2006 (Minute No. CS/2006/152 refers).

She advised that approval was being sought for the costs of the launch, which would be covered entirely out of the BSP programme at no direct cost to Castlereagh Borough Council. She outlined that the following quotations had been received for a two-course meal, as follows:-

Castlereagh Hills Golf Club: £11.50 per head
La Mon House Hotel: £18.95 per head
Ivanhoe Hotel Inn and Hotel: £ 17.95 per head

She added that approximately 100 representatives from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community sector would be attending.

The Director outlined that it had previously been recommended that the event be held on the 13th September 2006, but the Capacity Building Officer had not been aware at the time that the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings had now been scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month. She added that it was therefore being recommended that the event be held on Tuesday 19th September 2006, and that the event be held in Castlereagh Hills Golf Club, being the lowest quotation received.

She advised that a letter providing further details on the evening would be issued to all Members in due course.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) approval be granted to organise the official launch of the Community Directory during the evening of 19th September 2006 in Castlereagh Hills Golf Club.
- (b) Officers arrange to forward a letter to each Member of Council advising of the details of the above launch

CS/2006/208 : LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that, by way of advance information, she was advising that a project was currently being developed through local schools in the Borough to coincide with Local Democracy Week being held from 16th – 20th October 2006. She added that the costings would be met from the BSP programme budgets, and a full report would be taken to the September Central Services Committee. She provided an overview of the format and content of project.

Councillor Bunting outlined that given the nature of the project, she suggested that funding might be available from the Electoral Commission.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Director of Administration & Community Services provide Members with further details on the schools project currently being organised to coincide with Local Democracy Week. The Director also to investigate potential funding for the event from the Electoral Commission.

CS/2006/209 : COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT (Report from the Community Sports Development Officer)

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that there were a number of Community Sports programmes which the CSDO would like to develop from September 2006 onwards.

(i) Proposal for Midnight Street Soccer Funding

The Director reported that the Community Sports Development Officer wished to inform Members of the following Offer of Funding from Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership. She explained that the CSP was offering funding in the amount of £21,441.63 over the next 2 Years, to fund Midnight Street Soccer within the Borough, with the funding be paid directly to the Council.

She referred Members to her report, outlining a detailed breakdown of the costs involved. She outlined that the costs for coaching services, transport, programme costs would be covered via the Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership Funding Agreement, and the equipment and competition costs would be funded by the Midnight Street Soccer Partner. She added that the venue hire would be covered by the Community Sport Budget, funded by the Sports Council. She added, that as such, Midnight Street Soccer would be of

no cost to the Council, and would, in fact, bring in additional revenue in the form of venue hire.

A number of Members present queried some of the costings, particularly relating DVD/promotional items, and Officers were asked if these items were necessary, and if the budgets were transferable.

Members welcomed the funding and agreed that it was a worthwhile venture.

Councillor Spratt outlined that he was very impressed with the project, and he hoped that there may be a possibility of DPP funding going towards the project to enable it to be extended into other areas of the Borough, particularly when the PSNI had stated that the scheme was moving some young people away from anti social behaviour. He added that local people had also noticed an improvement in their area, and he congratulated all the Officers involved in the project.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Committee agrees

- (a) to accept the offer of funding in the sum of £21,441.63 over the next 2 years from the Community Safety Partnership to fund Midnight Street Soccer within the Borough
- (b) that the Director of Administration & Community Services to report back to the Committee on whether certain items contained within the breakdown of costs relating to the Midnight Street Soccer project were necessary, and to ascertain if these were transferable

CS/2006/210 : PROPOSAL FOR SPORT IN OUR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members of the following offer of funding from the Sports Council for Northern Ireland. She added that the offer was to fund an extension of the Community Sports Officer's position for a further 2 years within Castlereagh Borough Council.

Current Post:	Community Sport - ceases on 16 th May 2008.
Extension:	16 th May 2008- 31 st March 2010.
Funding Request:	£74,918.95
Funding Offer:	£56,786.00

She outlined that almost 75% of the amount requested had been awarded, and in order to maximum advantage, a number of options needed to be considered.

Members should note that the funder would be keen for the Council to cover some salary costs and allocate some of the awarded funds to programme costs.

Funding Options: For 2 Years

<u>Budget Headings</u>	<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>
<u>2 year Salary</u>	<u>£53,818.95</u>	<u>£40,000</u> + (£13,000 – CBC)
<u>Programme Costs</u>	<u>£2,967.06</u>	<u>£14,000</u>
<u>Travel</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>£786</u>
<u>Administration</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
<u>Staff Training</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>£2000</u>
<u>Total Grant</u>	<u>£56786.00</u>	<u>£56786.00</u>

Option 1

Advantages: Salary is 100% covered

Disadvantages: Minimal Programme Budget

Potential: Grants Officer to help find further funding.

Option 2

Advantages: More money to develop the community sports programme

Disadvantages: Castlereagh Council will have to make up the remaining portion of the salary.

Potential: An extensive level of programming available.

Members were asked to note that it was necessary to sign the funding agreement by the end of August 2006, in order to confirm the Council's acceptance of the offer.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that she was recommending that the Council accept the offer of funding in order to ensure the continuation of the Community Sports programme, as per option 1, with a view to identifying additional revenue streams and grants in conjunction with the Council's Grants Officer.

She then clarified the objectives of Community Sports Programme, explaining that it was a "bottom up" grass roots initiative which sought to encourage sports activities among disadvantaged groups, such as the disabled and senior citizens', where sports uptake was generally low. She advised that the programme would also be promoted in TSN areas, particularly to persons who would not normally be part of sporting clubs and organisations.

The Director continued by stating that she appreciated Councillor Robinson's previous comments in respect of duplication, and to this end, a strategy was being drawn up for Sports Development initiatives within the Borough, including Community Sports to ensure there was no overlap. She reported that an initial meeting had taken place with all the relevant Officers, including the two Directors. She added that when the strategy was complete, a copy would be tabled at a future Committee meeting for Members' approval.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council accept the offer of funding from the Sports Council for Northern Ireland in the sum of £56,786.00 in order to fund the extension of the Community Sports Officer's post for a further two years, i.e. 2008 to 2010, as per option one as outlined above.

CS/2006/211 : PROPOSAL FOR BOCCIA CLUBS IN CONJUNCTION WITH LISBURN CITY COUNCIL

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that the Community Sports Development Officer wished to inform Members of the above initiative. She explained that Boccia was a seated version of indoor bowls that had been adapted in order that all ages and abilities could participate. She added that it helped to engage able-bodied athletes in play with disabled athletes.

She outlined that the Community Sports Development Officer would help to set up a Boccia Club with input from Disability Sports Northern Ireland. She added that Lisburn City Council was currently working on the same proposal with Disability Sport Northern Ireland, and it was hoped that a joint launch of the Project could be agreed for October.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the Officer was seeking Members' views on a joint launch, which would include a joint press release and photo opportunities at both venues. She advised that the cost of the Boccia Club would be fully covered by the Community Sports Budget, which was 100% funded by the Sports Council Northern Ireland.

She then provided Members with a budget breakdown relating to venue hire, coaching costs, equipment, totalling £828.80.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Community Sports Development Officer be authorised to liaise with Disability Sports Northern Ireland, in order to establish a Boccia Club in the Borough, and that a joint launch of the project be organised with Lisburn City Council.

CS/2006/212 : PROPOSAL FOR OLDER AND ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that, in keeping with the objectives of the programme, the Community Sports Development Officer was seeking approval to organise the above project. She added that the purpose of the Older and Active Development Group was to target isolated elderly people in Castlereagh and South and East Belfast, and provide participants with light physical activity helping to combat social

isolation and health inequalities. She outlined that this was a joint partnership formed by:

- Castlereagh Borough Council - Community Sports Development Officer,
- Engage with Age Workers- South & East Belfast and Castlereagh,
- LORAG - Community Sports Development Officer,
- GVRT- Community Sports Development Officer and
- Lagan Watersports - Community Sports Development Officer.

She added that the group had made an application for funding for £10,000.00 to the Awards for All to run a programme at the end of September, which should hopefully cover all associated costs for the project. She added that if unsuccessful in attracting funding, each area could cover their own costs via the Community Sports Budget from the Sports Council, with Engage with Age meeting half the costs.

The Director of Administration & Community Services referred Members to her report, which outlined the benefits of the project, the numbers involved, and the type of activities on offer. She added that at the end of each pilot scheme, a Gala Event would be organised, where all four areas would gather together to network with people from communities.

She advised that Belfast City Council had offered a facility within the Ormeau Park, free of charge for the Gala. She added that Officers hoped that this could be a joint event, involving the Mayor of Castlereagh and Mayor of Belfast.

She outlined that the event would be held in the Ormeau Park on 29th September 2006, subject to the Castlereagh Mayor being available.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Community Sports Officer be authorised to organise a joint Gala event with Belfast City Council in respect of the Older and Active project in the Ormeau Park on 29th September 2006, subject to the availability of the Mayor of Castlereagh.

**REPORT FROM THE ARTS OFFICER
(circulated at the meeting)**

CS/2006/213 : ARTS PROGRAMME

(i) Seasonal Sounds Concerts Autumn & Winter 2006

The Arts Officer referred Members to her report outlining the details of the above, together with dates, venues and costings.

(ii) Castlereagh Visual Arts Festival 2nd to 28th October 2006

The Arts Officer outlined that the 6th Visual Arts Festival offered a varied programme for young and old alike. She reported that the artistic fees were funded by the Arts Council Multi Annual Award Programme (£10,000.00 per year over three years), and the other elements were budgeted for in the Council's Arts Development Project budget. She added that, as requested by the Committee, she had endeavoured to include an element of Ulster-Scots Visual Arts into the festival, and had approached Andrew Castles of the Ulster-Scots Heritage Council for advice and ideas. She added that unfortunately, she had not been able to provide an Ulster-Scots element, as suggested by the Committee, but hoped to include a number of items in the Verbal Arts Festival due to commence in February 2007.

The Arts Officer provided Members with a detailed description of each event, together with dates, venues, and costings.

Councillor Bunting expressed her disappointment that an Ulster-Scots event had not as yet been included in the arts programme. She outlined that the Ulster-Scots Heritage Council had been organising presentations round local Councils in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Hamilton Montgomery settlement. She added that this was a very informative and entertaining presentation. She added that, rather than waiting until the Verbal Arts Festival commenced, that this presentation be heard at the September or October Council meeting. She added that this would generate interest amongst Councillors, and enable Officers to include an exciting Ulster-Scots element to the Verbal Arts programme.

Councillor Chambers expressed her concern that the money for Ulster-Scots had been removed from the Community Relations budget.

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that Officers were currently in discussion with the Community Relations Unit regarding the overall cuts in the grant, and hopefully the money would be reinstated.

Members congratulated the Arts Officer for the wide range of events contained within both arts programmes.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Committee approve the programmes in respect of the Seasonal Sounds Concerts Autumn & Winter 2006 and the Castlereagh Visual Arts Festival 2nd to 28th October 2006
- (b) Officers arrange for the Ulster-Scots Heritage Council to make a presentation on the Hamilton Montgomery settlement at the September or October Council meeting

- (c) Officers report back on their discussions with the Community Relations Unit regarding the reinstatement of funding within the Community Relations budget

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____2006 with the exception of
Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE