

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council, held in the Council Chamber, Castlereagh Borough Council, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday, 25th May 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Alderman M Copeland
Alderman J Norris MBE
Alderman Mrs G Rice
Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA (until 7.50pm)
Alderman Mrs I Robinson MP MLA (until 8.00pm)

Councillor Mrs A Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor C Hall
Councillor B Hanvey
Councillor M Henderson
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor M Long
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor J Spratt
Councillor Miss V Stevenson
Councillor J White

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Chief Executive, Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Director of Administration & Community Services, Planning Service Officer, Planning Officer and Members' Services Officer.

APOLOGIES:-

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors Bunting, Cochrane and Tosh.

2006/285 : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend Caldwell opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2006/286 : WORD OF THANKS FROM ALDERMAN RICE

Alderman Mrs Rice wished to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during her recent illness, and particularly wished to thank the staff for the warm welcome that had been extended to her earlier that evening.

However, she wished to apologise at this point that she would be unable to stay for the full extent of the Council meeting.

Noted.

2006/287 : WORD OF THANKS FROM COUNCILLOR TOSH

Councillor Beattie wished to convey thanks, in the absence of Councillor Tosh, for the letters and best wishes he had received during his recent illness.

Noted.

2006/288 : MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record
- Special Council meeting of 20 April 2006
 - Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting of 2 May 2006
 - Finance & General Purposes meeting of 19 April 2006
 - Special Planning Committee meeting of 12 May 2006
 - Special Planning Committee meeting of 15 May 2006
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record with the appropriate amendments made, namely:-
- Council Meeting of 23 March 2006 – that the first sentence of Minute No: 2006/285 be corrected to read “**insert wording**”
 - Leisure Services Committee Meeting of 4th May 2006 – correct Councillor Mrs Stevenson to Councillor Miss Stevenson, in the list of apologies.
 - Central Services Committee of 8th May 2006 – Minute CS/2006/148 to be taken back to next month’s meeting for further consideration
- (c) That the minutes of the Leisure Park Board meetings of 21 April 2006 Special Leisure Park Board of 27 April 2006 be noted.

MATTERS ARISING

2006/289 : PRESENTATION - DEMONSTRATION BY THE IT MANAGER ON COUNCIL'S NEW WEBSITE

The Chief Executive advised Members that this demonstration had been withdrawn.

Noted.

PLANNING

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 25 MAY 2006 (copy previously circulated)

2006/290 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2006/0076/F – ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT DWELLING AT 2 EDEN ROAD, BALLYHANWOOD

In response to a query from Councillor Robinson, the Planning Service Officer confirmed that amended plans had now been received from the applicant, and therefore it was

RESOLVED:- That this application be withdrawn from the Planning Schedule to enable the Planning Service to consider the amended plans.

2006/291 : DEFERRED PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0182/F – 9-16 GLENSHARRAGH PARK, LISNASHARRAGH – CONSTRUCTION OF 9 NO. TOWN HOUSES AND ASSOCIATED PARKING

Councillor Long referred to the Special Planning Meeting held on the 12th May 2006 in which this item had been discussed and was deferred to enable the Council to arrange for an Office meeting with the Architect/Applicant to discuss the possibility of a LOTS scheme.

The Planning Service Officer stated that he was fully aware that this was the reason for deferral of the planning application.

Noted.

2006/292 : DEFERRED PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0276/O – ERECTION OF A DETACHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 STOREY HOUSE ON SITE OF EXISTING GARAGE AND GARDENS (AMENDED PLANS) AT 3 GLENSHARRAGH GARDENS

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the boundary dispute and the Council's argument that this was a material issue, as the applicant was planning to

develop on the objector's land. He felt that the Planning Service should defer consideration of this application until the outcome of the boundary dispute had been decided.

Furthermore, he noted that the Planning Service had yet to inform the Council if they were intending to grant planning permission irrespective of the current dispute with the applicant's site.

The Planning Service Officer indicated that the Solicitor for the objectors had submitted further information, which was now being considered. Although there was no doubt that a planning dispute existed, he stated that, in the Department's view, the application could be accommodated on the land which was not involved in the dispute.

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the fact that the Planning Service had advised that they had asked the applicant and the objector to provide copies of their deeds, and whilst they had been submitted by the applicant, the objector had not forwarded their copy. However, it had been brought to his attention that no such letter was ever received by the objector and when he had asked the Planning Service to furnish a copy of this letter, they were unable to confirm the existence of this correspondence and he had expressed concern at the way the Planning Service had handled this application.

The Planning Service Officer reiterated that although there had been some initial confusion over the letter, the objector's deeds were now with his department.

Alderman Copeland expressed concern that the development would impinge on the objector's boundary. However, the Planning Service Officer responded that he did not believe this would be the case.

RESOLVED:- That, this planning application be suspended to enable the Planning Service to consider the additional information and deeds submitted by the objector's Solicitor.

**2006/293 : DEFERRED PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0246/F –
NEW 3 STOREY BUILDING CONTAINING 9 APARTMENTS AT 103-107
SAINTFIELD ROAD, BREDA**

Councillor Chambers again stated that there was a boundary dispute in relation to this development, to which the Planning Service Officer replied that although he was not aware of this issue, he would investigate the matter further.

Councillor Mrs Beattie advised that the objector's Solicitor had a copy of the deeds and it was her understanding that the objector owned the land in question.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: - That, further consideration of this planning application be suspended to enable the Planning Service to assess this new information in relation to a boundary dispute.

2006/294 : WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 11 APRIL 2006 – 15 MAY 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/295: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM LORD ROOKER DATE 4 MAY 2006 RE: 1 CHURCH ROAD, DUNDONALD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/296 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE DATED 24 APRIL 2006 RE: NOTIFICATION OF ARTICLE 33 APPEAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FOOD STORE AND RELATED WORKS AT 531 SAINTFIELD ROAD, KNOCKBRACKEN (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/297 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM TAYLOR PATTERSON DATED 8 MAY 2006 RE: PROPOSED 02 RADIO BASE STATION AT FOOTPATH 85 METRES SOUTHWEST OF JUNCTION OF CREGAGH ROAD, UPPER KNOCKBREDA ROAD (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Officer be instructed to write to Taylor Patterson with the Council's standard letter outlining their objections to telecommunications installations in the Borough because of potential health and safety risks.

2006/298 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM COLERAINE BOROUGH COUNCIL DATED 20 APRIL 2006 RE: DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 14 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Beattie advised Members that the Council had already submitted its response in relation to Draft PPS 14.

Councillor Robinson felt that the Members would need to have further information before they could consider this correspondence from Coleraine Borough Council.

Noted.

2006/299 : EXPRESSION OF THANKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs Duncan wished to thank her Vice-Chairman, Councillor Robinson, for his assistance during her year as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Noted.

2006/300 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM HAGAN HOMES RE: GRANTON HEIGHTS PRESENTATION

The Planning Officer referred to correspondence from Hagan Homes suggesting a meeting at 3.00 pm on 20th June 2006 in the Council Offices to give a presentation on Granton Heights.

Councillor Robinson stated that there were several other outstanding issues in relation to this developer and he would collate a list of questions and furnish the Planning Officer with a copy, prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:- That, Councillor Robinson will collate a list of questions relating to Hagan Homes and other sites, and would arrange for the Planning Officer to have these prior to the meeting on the 20th June, in order that they are raised.

2006/301 : DUNDONALD LEISURE PARK

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the various private sector developments, who had submitted planning applications for the Dundonald Retail Park and asked that the Planning Service expedite these accordingly.

The Planning Service Officer agreed to process them in order that they appear on the next Planning Schedule.

Noted.

2006/301 : TORBANK CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Alderman Mrs Robinson commented that she had been made aware of a Torbank Special School charity fundraising event being held at the Billy Neill Centre. She proposed that the Council waive the full rate for this event to support the school, which was seconded by Councillor Spratt.

She expressed her anger that she had raised the matter at the House of Commons, in a bid to shame them, that funding had been promised for a new school for Torbank, yet the pupils were still having to negotiate steep inclines and steps and endure portacabins, instead of proper classrooms.

Councillor Spratt concurred with the Alderman's comments, especially as the SEELB had decided earlier in the week to reduce funding for Torbank School.

Alderman Mrs Robinson then referred to the Summer Scheme and was pleased to have received confirmation that this was going ahead. She advised Members that the SEELB had originally intended to stop the Summer Scheme, which would have deprived the children, and their families, of some much needed respite.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council be authorised to waive the full rate for the use of the Billy Neill Centre by Torbank Special School for their charity fundraising day on Saturday, 27th May 2006.

At this point in the meeting, Alderman Mrs Robinson and Alderman PD Robinson left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

HOUSING

2006/302 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING DIVISION DATED 28 APRIL 2006 RE: DRAFT HOUSING AMENDMENT) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006 AND EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/303 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE DATED 5 MAY 2006 RE: HOUSING RESEARCH BULLETIN (copy letter previously circulated, Bulletin available at www.nihe.gov.uk)

Noted.

2006/304 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE DATED 4 MAY 2006 RE: CONSULTATION ON THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE'S SOUTH BELFAST SECTORAL STUDY (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt proposed that the Council write to the Housing Executive in support of this study and ensure that Carryduff is included in the final document.

Councillor Chambers wished to second the proposal, as a large part of the Castlereagh Borough fell within South Belfast.

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive ensuring that Carryduff is included in the final document of the South Belfast Housing Strategy.

2006/305 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF HOUSING IN NORTHERN IRELAND RE: SHELTERED HOUSING CONFERENCE 27 JUNE 2006, DUNADRY HOTEL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

EDUCATION

2006/306 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD DATED 4 MAY 2006 RE: PROPOSAL TO REDUCE OPENING HOURS TO 14 HOURS PER WEEK FOR BELVOIR PARK LIBRARY, BRANIEL LIBRARY, GILNAHIRK LIBRARY AND PROPOSAL TO MOVE TO 6 DAY OPENING FOR CREGAGH, DUNDONALD AND NEWTOWNBREDA LIBRARIES (copies previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt stated that it was imperative that the Council completed the reply slip attached to the correspondence, and return it to the SEELB, as he feared that this action was the forerunner for the closure of these libraries and it was important that the public kept fighting to for their retention.

Councillor Long concurred that the Council should make its views known and proposed that Members write to the Board highlighting their concerns, especially as the reduction in hours of Braniel and Gilnahirk libraries would be a major blow to the Community. He expressed concern that the shortening in opening hours would reduce the number of users able to access the libraries, and this, in turn, would provide the Board with an argument for the closure. Furthermore, the ineffective cross-transport links and the loss of the No. 77 bus service meant that the large sections of the public would be unable to access other libraries across the Borough.

Councillor White referred to the SEELB's correspondence and expressed concern that, according to the wording, they had already implemented the changes, as it mentioned that the reduction in opening hours was to be in place for 1st April 2006.

Councillor Spratt commented that he had been given an assurance by the Board that no changes to opening hours would be made until the end of the consultation period, but he would raise this matter at the next meeting of the Board.

Councillor Robinson referred to previous comments by the SEELB representatives regarding the need for updating books, and he felt it was

strange that funding had been set aside for this provision, when fewer people would be attending because of the reduction in hours.

He felt that it would be more appropriate for the SEELB to use the resources to provide more staff to increase library-opening hours instead of purchasing greater volumes of books.

Councillor Spratt indicated that 78% of the Board's budget was currently used towards salary costs and part of the problem was the poor turnover of stock. He stated that the Board were striving to develop 1 large library in the Borough, although the Council had always argued that this would not be feasible as Castlereagh did not have an established town centre and the poor transport links meant that many ratepayers would be unable to access one library. He added that although the Elected Members were vehemently fighting the Board's cuts, they were being regularly outvoted by the Independent Body representatives, transferred Members and those voted in by the Minister.

Councillor Robinson proposed that the Council write to the Independent Members of the SEELB highlighting the views and concerns of the Council.

Councillor Spratt felt that any influence placed on Independent Members to oppose the Board's cuts would be extremely useful, especially in the area of Special Needs Children. He went on to say that the Elected Members of the Board had put pressure on them to obtain a summer scheme for Torbank Special School, however the Board had declined to put any funding into the scheme and it was greatly reduced. He felt that the actions of the Board, in this instance, had been scandalous, but at the end of the day the Elected Members were being outvoted by the appointees.

Councillor Duncan wished to second both Councillor Long and Councillor Robinson's proposals, in light of the public's resistance to the proposed reductions in library hours, the lack of transport links, and the Members' concerns about ultimate closures of the Borough's libraries.

Councillor Spratt concurred that the Council should complete the attached reply slips included with their correspondence, and agreed there would be merit in writing to the SEELB and the Independent Members of the SEELB.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: - That, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, be instructed to

- (a) Complete the reply slips as part of the SEELB's consultation exercise in relation to the proposal to reduce opening hours to 14 hours per week for Belvoir Park Library, Braniel Library, Gilnahirk Library and proposal to move to 6 day opening for Cregagh, Dundonald and Newtownbreda libraries.

- (b) Write to each of the Independent Members of the SEELB highlighting the concerns of Castlereagh Borough Council in light of the Board's proposal to shorten the Borough's library opening hours which, the Council feels, will ultimately lead to closures. These actions would, in light of the poor transport links cross-Borough, pose problems for large sections of the ratepayers, particularly the elderly, trying to access on "super library". Furthermore, that the Council is particularly concerned at the Board's proposal to implement cuts which will affect Special Needs Children and feel that it is scandalous that the most vulnerable section of the community will be penalised in this way.
- (c) Write to the South Eastern Education & Library Board expressing the Council's opposition to the reduction in library hours throughout the Borough, which will be a major blow to communities. The Council is particularly concerned that the Board's long-term aim is ultimately to close these libraries and open one "super library" within Castlereagh in light of the fact that Castlereagh does not have an established town centre and Castlereagh has poor transport links cross-Borough which will disadvantage its ratepayers.

Furthermore, that Members feel that the funding being allocated for the provision of new books would be more beneficial if used for staffing costs to keep libraries open at their current levels.

Finally, that the Council is angry that the Board are implementing cuts which will be directed towards Special Needs children and Members feel the Board's actions are scandalous in targeting this section of children who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

2006/307 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DATED 28 APRIL 2006 RE: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL OVER THE DECISION OF THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD TO AGREE ITS RESOURCE ALLOCATION PLAN FOR THE 2006/07 FINANCIAL YEAR (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Chambers took great exception to the wording of this correspondence in which it "paid tribute to the courage and good sense of its Board Members who ensured that this duty was fulfilled". In her view, it was the good sense of the Elected Members which prevailed, in light of the fact that they voted down the despicable cuts proposed by the Board, especially in the area of Special Needs children.

Noted.

2006/308 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL DATED 3 MAY 2006 RE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION &

LIBRARY BOARD – COMPLIANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMME OF CUTS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

FINANCE

2006/309 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£ 15,762.63
General Account (Salaries)	£ 420,266.32
General Account (Suppliers)	£1,126,263.76

LEGAL

2006/310 : AGREEMENT BETWEEN CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL AND BELFAST CITY COUNCIL RE: USE OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL'S ORGANIC WASTE CONTACT FOR EXECUTION.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorise the agreement between Castlereagh Borough Council and Belfast Council re: use of Belfast City Council's Organic Waste contact for execution.

2006/311 : CAR LOAN AGREEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER (deferred from April Council meeting 2206/244 refers)

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorise the car loan agreement for the aforementioned Environmental Health Officer.

2006/312 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR MAY 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2006/313 : CONSULTATION REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL RE: RATE RELIEFS FOR BUSINESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/314 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS RE: WOMEN NETWORKING WITH PURPOSE CONFERENCE 16-18 JUNE 2006, THISTLE HOTEL, GLASGOW (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Henderson indicated that he had been invited to attend this Conference, however, if any female Councillor wished to take his place, he would be willing to stand down.

Noted.

2006/315 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND DATED 3 MAY 2006 RE: REFORM OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION: DISCLOSURE OF DATA (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/316 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM POSTWATCH NORTHERN IRELAND RECEIVED 2 MAY 2006 RE: RETIREMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF POSTWATCH NI (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/317 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING AGENCY DATED 28 APRIL 2006 RE: DVLA – CONSULTATION ON FEE PROPOSALS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/318 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE DATED 26 APRIL 2006 RE: PUBLIC CONSULTATION – DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE DETENTION, TREATMENT AND QUESTIONING OF PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER SECTION 41 AND SCHEDULE 8 OF THE TERRORISM ACT 2005 (TACT) RISE (copy previously circulated).

RESOLVED:- that, this correspondence be referred to the DPP Committee for further consideration.

2006/319 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE POST OFFICE DATED 8 MAY 2006 RE: RELOCATION OF LOWER CASTLEREAGH POST OFFICE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/320 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM NILGA RECEIVED 10 MAY 2006 RE: NILGA UPDATE – APRIL 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/321 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE BELFAST TELEGRAPH DATED 27 APRIL 2006 RE: CAMPAIGN FOR THE ABOLITION OF 50% REMISSION FOR SERIOUS SEX OFFENDERS (copy previously circulated)

Members agreed to support the Belfast Telegraph's campaign for the abolition of 50% remission for serious sex offenders, and that it be

RESOLVED:- the Council grant permission for the Administration Department to arrange for a petition to be placed prominently at the Council Offices for members of the public to sign.

2006/322 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY DATED 4 MAY 2006 RE: THANKING COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AT RECENT MS BALL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/323 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM ANIMAL AID DATED 2 MAY 2006 RE: POLICY OPPOSING THE RUDDY DUCK SLAUGHTER (copy previously circulated)

Following a proposal from Councillor White, which was seconded by Councillor Henderson, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council endorses the Animal Aid policy opposing the ruddy duck slaughter.

2006/324 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES' FORUM, DATED 16 MAY 2006, RE: PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY SEMINAR SERIES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/325 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE VALUATION & LANDS AGENCY, DATED 16 MAY 2006, RE: REFORM OF DOMESTIC RATING SYSTEM IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy enclosed)

The Chief Executive informed Members that the proposed reform of the domestic rating system in Northern Ireland would have a major impact on the residents of the Borough.

Members discussed the content of the correspondence and sought clarification in relation to the Valuation & Lands Agency requirements from the Council.

In response to Members queries, the Chief Executive stated that he would investigate this matter further and, following agreement, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Valuation & Lands Agency and ascertain if it is possible for the Council to provide a hard copy of the relevant details to be held for the information of the public.

Furthermore, that he refer to Members concerns and seek clarification in relation to:-

- Clarification if the public would be able to access information in relation to other properties and ratepayers.
- Clarification if the Valuation & Lands Agency were requiring access to a room and providing their own computer and desk for this use
- Clarification that the public would not be able to access other sites through the internet and that any information should relate solely to the Valuation & Lands Agency and the Rate Collection Agency websites.

2006/326 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION, DATED 15 MAY 2006, RE: RESULTS OF THE SCREENING OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S POLICIES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/327 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM CASTLEREAGH PARTNERSHIP DATED 15 MAY 2006 RE: COUNCIL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO CASTLEREAGH LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) (copy previously circulate)

Noted.

2006/328 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ROYAL MAIL DATED 16 MAY RE: NEW ROYAL MAIL PRICING SYSTEM (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2006/329 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM BT DATED 16 MAY 2006 RE: COMMUNICATE NI – A PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER FROM BT (copy letter previously circulated, Newsletter available at Members' request).

Noted.

2006/330 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT DATED 17 MAY 2006 RE: DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (copy available at www.doeni.gov.uk/epd/susdev.pdf)

Noted.

REPORTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

2006/331 : FISHERIES CONSERVANCY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2004 (copy available at Members' request)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2006/332 : DATE OF AGM

RESOLVED:- That, the Council's AGM be held on Thursday, 15th June 2006 at 4.00 p.m.

2006/333 : LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO BELVOIR PLAYERS

Councillor Duncan informed Members that Belvoir Players had won the Ulster Drama Festival for the first time in 23 years and she proposed that the Council should write a letter of congratulations to Richard Mills, which was seconded by Councillor White.

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be instructed to write a letter of congratulations to Richard Mills, Belvoir Studios with regard to the recent success of the Belvoir Players at the Ulster Drama Festival.

2006/334 : LACK OF VISIBLE POLICING – BALLYBEEN SQUARE

Councillor Drysdale stated that he had recently attended a CPLC meeting at Dundonald International Ice Bowl, in which concerns had been raised by shopkeepers in Ballybeen Square with regard to the lack of visible policing in light of the number of robberies and thefts at this location. He went on to say that the upshot of this meeting was that residents were trying to arrange a meeting with the District Commander, which would be facilitated by the LSP.

Councillor White added that he had attended a meeting of Enler Steering Group and Architects had now been appointed to design a scheme with the planning application to be submitted at the end of June. He commented that this group were trying to attract business back to Ballybeen and the new Enler site would create a new focus for Ballybeen, once the businesses had moved from Ballybeen Square

2006/335 : PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS – HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (HSENI)

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to correspondence seeking appointments to the Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and he advised that the closing date for receipt of applications was 30th June 2006.

Noted.

2006/336 : DAMAGE TO TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES VEHICLES

In response to a query from Alderman Norris with regard to the extent of the damage, the Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised Members that there had been a break-in at the Comber Road Household Recycling Centre and 6 vehicles had incurred damage. Although, the refuse collection had been affected today with service disruption, the Director stated that normal service would continue tomorrow.

The Chief Executive outlined that the Council had contingency plans, which were put in place whenever these types of incidents occurred.

The Director further added that there had been CCTV coverage of these events, which should assist in the ongoing investigations.

Noted.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE