

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the special 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, 16 November 2006, at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Alderman M Copeland
Alderman J Norris MBE
Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA (from 8.45 pm)

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane (from 7.30 pm)
Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor C Hall
Councillor B Hanvey
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE
Councillor T Jeffers (from 7.30 pm)
Councillor M Long (until 8.10 pm)
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor J Spratt
Councillor J White

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Chief Executive, Community Relations Officer and
Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES:-

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Mrs Rice and Mrs Robinson and Councillors Mrs Duncan, Ms Bunting, Miss Stevenson, Henderson, Mrs Beattie, Beattie, Mrs Chambers, Hanvey and Tosh

2006/680 : OPENING OF MEETING

Alderman Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2006/681 : PRESENTATION BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ULSTER SCOTS AGENCY ON THE HAMILTON & MONTGOMERY SETTLEMENT OF 1606

Mr Mark Thompson, Chairman of the Ulster Scots Agency, presented Members with a history of the immigration of approximately 10,000 Scots to Counties Down and Antrim. This process was started by James Hamilton and Hugh Montgomery in 1606, and was continued in 1610 by James VI of Scots and I of England. Mr Thompson also pointed out examples of the heritage left

behind by James Hamilton and Hugh Montgomery in the form of buildings, street names etc.

Following the presentation, Councillor Robinson enquired whether the Ulster Scots Agency had given presentations to schools in the Borough. Mr Johnston replied that the Agency had sent leaflets to schools, but would consider giving presentations at some point in the future.

Noted.

2006/682 : PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: MODERNISING SERVICES

Mr Ian McCrickard, Divisional Programme Manager of NIHE, provided Members with an overview of proposed changes to the services provided by the NIHE with effect from June 2007 for the following reasons:

- Reduction in housing stock
- Current inflexible structures
- Changing customer expectations
- Effective and efficient services
- Public services reform

The changes would affect area services and local office services. All local offices outside of Belfast would be retained, with only some offices in Belfast to be amalgamated and merged management units. The following management units would be merged:

- Lurgan/Brownlow and Portadown
- Armagh and Banbridge
- Omagh and Cookstown
- Magherafelt and Limavady
- Coleraine and Ballycastle
- Ballymena and Larne
- Newtownabbey 1 and 2

Amalgamations would affect:

- Belfast 1 and 3
- Belfast 4 and 6

Services to be provided by local offices:

- Housing
- Homelessness
- Response maintenance
- Estate management
- Local community development

Local outlets and counter services would remain the same, although there would be new telephone and web-based services available to customers. Overall, the changes, once implemented, should result in more customer-orientated services, with improved consistency and sustainable service and a targeted approach for the most vulnerable customers.

2006/683 : DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO THE REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS' REMUNERATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chairman reminded Members that this matter had previously been considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. He added that the Council had already made a presentation and was on the list of consultees.

Alderman Norris stated that the Government's view was that, should the Assembly be re-established, Councillors' remuneration could be determined then.

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2006/684 : NEW PLAYGROUND IN CARRYDUFF

The Chairman informed Members that the Council had been successful in the bid for funding of £50,000 from the Big Lottery People's Millions for a new playground in Carryduff. This funding would be matched by the Council.

Noted.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.00 pm.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE