

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, held, in committee, in the Function Room, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Wednesday, 20 September 2006, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor D Drysdale
(in the chair)

ALDERMEN: J Norris MBE

COUNCILLORS: Ms J Bunting (from 7.55 pm)
Mrs J Cochrane (from 7.45 pm)
Mrs S Duncan
C Hall
T Jeffers
J Spratt

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Finance & Leisure Services and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman Rice, Councillors Mrs Beattie, Beattie, Chambers, Hanvey, Robinson, Tosh and White

F&GP/2006/376 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ROADS SERVICE, DATED 31 JULY 2006, RE: EXPANDING THE STRATEGIC ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2015

Members recalled that a previous Roads Service programme had included proposals for an e-way from Dundonald to link up to Belfast. It also included a southern approach from Carryduff. Neither of these plans were included in the present copy of the Strategic Road Improvement Programme.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Officers investigate in respect of the reason why proposals for an e-way from Dundonald to Belfast and a southern approach from Carryduff to Belfast had been excluded from the Strategic Road Improvement Programme 2015, and present the findings at the next Committee meeting.

F&GP/2006/377 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 5 JULY 2006, RE: ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2006

Members went through the issues for consultation. Councillor Spratt stated that the Council should support the legislation regarding waste management, taxi legislation etc.

Councillor Spratt further stated that he did not support joint authority with the Republic of Ireland for matters relating to driving tests or driving offences, as each state should have its own sovereignty in court. However, Councillor Drysdale replied that driving offences should be monitored on both sides of the border, as there was the risk of people who were disqualified in Northern Ireland obtaining another driving licence in the Republic.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That matters relating to all relevant points listed in the consultation document be referred to the Department of Technical & Environmental Services.
- (b) That the Council write to the Department of the Environment in support of strengthening legislation in respect of waste dumping.

F&GP/2006/378 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, CRIMINAL POLICY BRANCH, DATED 25 JULY 2006, RE: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Members entered into a discussion about the proposals listed in the consultation document. Councillor Bunting understood that the Council had already responded to a similar document, and that this should be looked at again before responding to this most recent consultation document.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Members be given an opportunity to look again at the Council's response to a similar consultation document on community-based restorative justice before responding to the most recent document.

F&GP/2006/379 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY DIVISION, DATED 21 JULY 2006, RE: THE LAW ON KNIVES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: A CONSULTATION

Councillor Jeffers recalled that the Council had agreed to another amnesty period at the Council meeting in August. Councillor Bunting raised concerns about the ease of access to knives. Councillor Spratt informed Members that a previous DPP amnesty on knives had resulted in 87 knives being handed in. He added that the Council should support a tightening up of legislation relating to the sale of knives.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to write to the Northern Ireland Office in support of more restrictive legislation regarding the sale and carrying of knives, including police powers to stop and search, increased penalties and improved powers of enforcement of the law by police.

F&GP/2006/380 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, DATED 10 AUGUST 2006, RE: PROPOSALS TO REPLACE DIPLOCK COURTS

Members raised concerns about proposals to replace the Diplock courts in Northern Ireland, as there were a significant number of cases where a jury might be intimidated. Councillor Spratt was of the view that the Diplock courts should not be discarded yet in order to protect jury members and to restrict access of information to criminals.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Spratt peruse the consultation paper containing proposals to replace Diplock Courts before a response is made by the Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

F&GP/2006/381 : CARRYDUFF COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND APPLICATION

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services provided an update regarding progress of the playground application. He informed Members that Councillors Hall, Mrs A Beattie and J Beattie had met with representatives from the Big Lottery People's Millions. During this meeting, a question was raised whether the Council would be able to proceed with this project without funding from the Big Lottery People's Millions. The Director responded that the Council would not be in a position to proceed with this project without the Big Lottery People's Millions' contribution. He then asked Members' endorsement of a letter, which he tabled at the meeting, stating that the Council would not be able to proceed without this funding.

Councillor Bunting enquired about the costs for marketing the campaign, should the funding from the Big Lottery People's Millions not become available, and following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee fully endorse the letter from the Director of Finance & Leisure Services.
- (b) That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services bring back to the Committee a report on the marketing costs of the campaign.

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

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by Council this _____

Day of _____ 2006 with
the exception of Minute Nos
