

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Central Services Committee meeting, held in committee, in the Function Suite, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Wednesday 17th January 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs M Chambers
(in the chair)

ALDERMAN: J Norris MBE

COUNCILLORS: J Beattie
Ms J Bunting
Mrs J Cochrane (from 7.55 p.m.)
D Drysdale
T Jeffers
G Robinson
J Spratt

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Administration & Community Services,
Capital Projects Officer, Community Development
Worker and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor
Hall

CS/2007/18 : PRESENTATION BY MR DARREN CURTIS RE: COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Director of Administration & Community Services reminded Members that Mr Curtis had given a presentation to the Committee during the summer of 2006. She added that it was felt that it would be beneficial for Members to be provided with regular updates on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor Chambers welcomed Mr Curtis to the meeting.

Mr Curtis provided Members with a detailed update, in terms of the aims, target group and timescales involved in taking each of the following projects forward:

- Dreamscheme
- Power Pack Information Cards
- Midnight Street Soccer
- Domestic Violence Co-ordinator
- Good Neighbour Project
- Contact Wristbands
- Bee Safe
- CODAG Life Education Centre

Mr Curtis addressed Members' queries in respect of some of the above projects.

Councillor Bunting noted the areas within the Borough which would be participating in some of the projects, and enquired why Braniel had not been included.

Mr Curtis advised that it was sometimes difficult to identify a lead person to represent the various areas to help to promote and develop the projects.

Members suggested that this could be carried out through the Community Development Worker employed by the Council.

The Director of Administration & Community Services stated that she would arrange for the Community Development Worker for the Braniel area, who was familiar with local and voluntary leaders, to liaise with Mr Curtis in this respect.

Councillor Cochrane arrived at this point in the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

Mr Curtis then advised Members of the Reaction Fund in an amount of £2,500.00 for Year 1 towards emergency community safety issues in the Borough. He outlined that a maximum of £500.00 per Ward could be allocated during the year. He stated that there was funding still available from this year's budget, and asked Members to contact him if they had any ideas for a project.

Councillor Spratt noted that during Mr Curtis' presentation on the various projects, he had made no mention of the DPP, despite the fact that the DPP had provided funding towards some of the projects, and were instrumental in others. He expressed the view that it would make sense to have a joined-up approach which would not only benefit the PSNI by providing the police with the opportunity to build better relationships with local people, particularly young people, but DPP funding would enable the projects to be developed in other areas of the Borough.

Discussion ensued on the need to ensure that the work of the operational tier of the CSP was being fed through to the LSP, via the strategic tier.

Councillor Bunting explained her reasons as to why she felt that Elected Representatives should not sit on the operational tier of the CSP.

Councillor Jeffers advised that he would be attending a meeting of the LSP the following week, and would raise the issues discussed this evening.

Members thanked Mr Curtis for his presentation.

RESOLVED : That the Director of Administration & Community Services

arrange for the Community Development Worker for the Braniel area to liaise with the Community Safety Partnership Officer, in order to assist him in identifying a lead person to promote and develop CSP projects in the area.

CS/200719/ : CONSIDERATION OF TENDER PROPOSALS FOR THE MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE (circulated at the meeting)

The Director of Administration & Community Services reminded Members that the Committee had been granted executive powers to deal with this issue. She advised that, following the re-tendering process, the submissions had been assessed, and the Capital Projects Officer was in attendance to provide Members with a brief overview in this respect.

The Capital Projects Officer outlined that having assessed the detail of 17 tenders received, he was recommending that Higgins Construction be appointed, being the lowest tender received in the sum of £647,000.00. He advised Members that he had contacted a number of organisations that this company had previously carried out work for, including Coleraine Borough Council, and the feedback had been very positive.

He outlined that tender report prepared by Anderson Williamson, Quantity Surveyor also included a number of suggested alternative specifications for Members' consideration, which could reduce the tender price by an estimated amount of £49,172.00.

Members considered the list, and after discussion, it was agreed that no amendments would be made, and that the project would proceed on the basis of the specification as tendered.

The Capital Projects Officer then advised that, given the tight timescales involved, he had not as yet received the information on the mechanical and electrical services for assessment.

Following a query from the Director of Administration & Community Services the Capital Projects Officer explained that the cost of the performance bond was included in the tender price.

The Capital Projects Officer sought authorisation to seek quotations to appoint a Clerk of Works, on the basis of approximately 10 hours per week. He referred to the Hanwood and the Lock Keeper's Cottage/Visitors' Centre projects, and suggested that there may be benefit in a shared appointment.

Councillor Beattie suggested that the Building Control Manager arrange for his Officers to make additional inspections during construction.

At this point the Mr Patrick Toal from Anderson Williamson entered the meeting and addressed a number of Members' queries.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Spratt, and

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees

- (a) to accept the tender from Higgins Construction in the sum of £647,000.00 plus VAT for the construction of the new Moneyreagh Community Centre, subject to the following:
 - the tender price being inclusive of the performance bond
 - receipt of the original hard copy of the priced bill of quantities
 - receipt of the information on the mechanical and electrical services
- (b) the Capital Projects Officer be authorised to seek quotations for the appointment of a Clerk of Work, on the basis of approximately 10 hours per week to oversee the project
- (c) the Capital Projects Officer be authorised to liaise with the Economic Development Manager, with a view to investigating the feasibility of appointing the Clerk of Works on a shared basis to also oversee the construction work involved in the Hanwood and the Lock Keeper's/Visitors' Centre projects

CS/2007/20 : MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE – SOD CUTTING CEREMONY

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that at the Committee meeting held in December 2006, it had been agreed to put a hold on the leaflet drop and the sod cutting ceremony in respect of the new Moneyreagh Community facility. She sought Members' permission for the Community Development Worker to progress both of these matters, in liaison with relevant Council Officers.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) Officers be authorised to progress with the arrangements for the sod cutting ceremony and the leaflet drop in respect of the new Moneyreagh Community Centre
- (b) Officers liaise with the Mayor's Office and the MP for the Moneyreagh area, with a view to holding the sod cutting ceremony during the third or fourth week of February 2007

CS/2007/21 : UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES RE: ASTRO TURF PITCH AT CREGAGH YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Director of Administration & Community Services expressed her concern that she had still not received a response to previous correspondence and that no action had been taken as yet by the Board.

She reported that over the period from Christmas to 2nd January 2007, when the facility would normally be open to the public, the loss of revenue from football clubs was £2014.00, and the hire of floodlighting was £562.80. She added that 120 football clubs had to be cancelled, as well as a further 75 school, youth and community groups.

She advised that the next Midnight Street Soccer project was due to commence during March 2007, and posters advertising the project would need to be printed as soon as possible. She outlined that she had arranged for a contractor to inspect the pitch to ascertain the cost of repair work necessary to bring the pitch up to a suitable standard, and had been advised that this would cost in the region of £3,000.00.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that, as requested, she had sought legal advice on the consequences of the Council replacing the pitch and deducting the costs involved from outstanding monies owed to the Board for the original contract. She then read the content of the correspondence from the Council's solicitor in this respect, and in summarising, she outlined that the solicitor was advising that at this stage it would be advisable for the Council to arrange to carry out interim repair work, rather than replace the pitch.

Councillor Bunting expressed the view that it should be highlighted to the public that it was due to the Board's incompetence in dealing with this matter that had resulted in the Council having to close the facility to the public.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Norris, and

RESOLVED : That it be recommended to Council that

- (a) the Director of Administration & Community Services be authorised to arrange to have interim repairs carried out to the Astro Turf pitch at the Cregagh Youth & Community Centre, at an approximate cost of £3,000.00
- (b) the Director of Administration & Community Services arrange for the Council's solicitor to write to the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education & Library Board to advise of the Council's action, as outlined above, and to further advise that the Council would be deducting the costs involved from outstanding monies owed to the Board for the original contract
- (c) the above correspondence to the Board to also outline the reasons for the Council taking this course of action, but to point out that this was being done "without prejudice", and that the Council would still be expecting the Board to pursue the recovery for replacement of the pitch by the contractor, under the terms of the warranty due to faulty workmanship

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CS/2007/22 : ENGAGE WITH AGE

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that she had received a request from the above organisation for an Elected Representative to sit on their Strategic Planning Group, and had suggested the Chair of the Central Services Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Spratt, seconded by Alderman Norris, and

RESOLVED : That Councillor Chambers be appointed as Council's representative to sit on the Engage With Age Strategic Planning Group.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____2007 with the exception of
Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE