

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, 20 December 2007 at 3.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Chambers
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice MBE

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Ms J Bunting
Mrs J Cochrane
Mrs S Duncan
B Hanvey
M Henderson
Miss R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers (until 3.55 p.m.)
M Long
G Robinson
J Spratt MLA
C Tosh
L Walker
J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Administration & Community Services, Director of Leisure Services, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Planning Service Officer, and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman Robinson, Councillors Drysdale, Hall and McCoy

2007673/ : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend McIlveen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2007/674 : CONDOLENCES TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES ON THE DEATH OF HER FATHER

On behalf of Councillors and staff, Councillor Chambers passed on her sympathy and condolences to the Director of Leisure Services on the recent

death of her beloved father. She added that she and Alderman Rice personally knew Heather's father in his capacity as a former Chief Building Control Officer.

Councillors Spratt, Hanvey, Henderson and Alderman Rice stood on behalf of their Party colleagues to pass on their sincere sympathy and condolences to Heather and her family.

Councillor White outlined that he also personally knew Heather's father Bill when they had worked together as Council colleagues. He added that Heather's father always had a cheery personality no matter what pressure he had been under. He stated that he had been saddened to learn of his death and he passed on his personal condolences to Heather and her family.

Noted.

2007/675 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:
 - (i) Council meeting held on 22 November 2007
 - (ii) Special Council meeting held on 29 November 2007
 - (iii) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20 November 2007
 - (iv) Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 4 December 2007
 - (v) Central Services Committee meeting held on 10 December 2007
- (b) the Minutes Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board meeting held on 19 October 2007 were noted

PLANNING

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 20 DECEMBER 2007 (copy previously circulated)

2007/676 : APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

The Planning Service Officer advised Members that Items 4, 16 and 40 had been withdrawn from the schedule by the applicants, and Item 1 by the Planning Service.

Noted.

2007/677 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0007/F – LANDS ADJACENT TO 177 BELFAST ROAD, SAINTFIELD, (WITH ACCESS OFF LISDOONAN ROAD) : PROPOSED INFILLING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND WITH INERT MATERIAL FOR LAND IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES

At the request of Councillor Robinson, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2007/0007/F be deferred to enable the applicant to provide further details to the Planning Service.

2007/678 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0613/F – 44 OAKWOOD AVENUE, MEALOUGH, CARRYDUFF : ERECTION OF FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO SIDE OF DWELLING AND ALTERATIONS

Alderman Rice expressed her concern in relation to the impact the above proposal would have on neighbouring senior citizens' properties, in terms of privacy. She proposed that a site visit be arranged, and the proposal was seconded by Councillor Spratt.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that consideration of Planning Application Y/2007/0613/F be deferred to enable a site visit to be convened in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Alderman Rice.

2007/679 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0624/F – 26 MANN'S ROAD, GILNAHIRK : ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY PORCH AND 2 STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO EXISTING BUILDING

Councillor Cochrane outlined that a previous application in relation to the above had been refused. She added that she had been contacted by a neighbour of the above property who was currently living in New Zealand expressing his concern that a further application had been submitted with a determination from the Planning Service to approve. She indicated that she understood that the only change to this and the previous application was in relation to the porch, and she proposed that a site visit be arranged.

Councillor Long seconded the proposal.

The Planning Service Officer advised that the Planning Service had no concerns in respect of this application and had therefore agreed to approve the application.

Councillor Spratt outlined that this individual had been living in New Zealand when the initial application had been submitted and a site visit and office meeting had been convened. He added that the applicant had submitted an

amended application with no impact on the neighbouring properties, and rather than delay this matter any further he proposed that the Council support the Planning Service in their approval of the application.

Councillor White seconded the proposal.

Councillor Chambers asked Members to vote on the proposal in the name of Councillor Cochrane and there voted 4 in favour and 12 against.

With 12 voting in favour of the proposal to approve the application and 4 against, the proposal in the name of Councillor Spratt was duly carried.

RESOLVED : That the Council supports the Planning Service's opinion to approve Planning Application Y/2007/0624/F.

2007/680 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0631/F : 225 KINGS ROAD, TULLYCARNET – ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSION AND SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR. ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY

Councillor Robinson outlined that applications had been submitted for the erection of apartments in the Kings Road area which the Council had been strongly opposed to. He added that although this application related solely to the extension of a property, he asked if the Planning Service considered potential multiple occupancy issues.

The Planning Service Officer advised that any other use other than that applied for would require further consideration by the Planning Service.

Noted.

2007/681 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 13 NOVEMBER 2007 TO 3 DECEMBER 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/682 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE SERVICE RE: PROPOSED LISTING OF DUNDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson expressed the view that the Council should be supporting the church in its opposition to the listing.

Councillor Spratt outlined that he understood that the church building did not have any particular architectural value and the church had no problem with the adjoining schoolhouse being listed. He added that all Members who had been present at the November Council meeting, with the exception of Councillor

Duncan, had agreed to support the church in its opposition to the listing of the building.

Alderman Rice outlined her full support for the church.

Councillor Bunting outlined that the main issue was whether the building had any historical value. She added that following the presentation at the November Council meeting, it was her understanding that given the poor state of the church building, it would be much easier and cheaper to rebuild than to refurbish. She stated that this should be pointed out to the EHS, together with the fact that the church had no problem with the schoolhouse being listed.

Councillor Robinson stated that according to the information pack previously handed out by Dundonald Church representatives, the Environment & Heritage Service had surveyed the building in 1970 and 1983 and had not put forward proposals to have it listed. He added that given that the building had been substantially renovated over the years, he doubted whether the current building would have any worthwhile architectural relevance. He suggested that the Chief Executive refer to these notes when writing again to the Environment & Heritage Service.

Councillor Chambers stood in support of her colleagues and she referred to a previous attempt by the Council in 2000 for Oxford House in the Beechill area to be listed. She added that despite the historical and architectural value of this particular building, the campaign had been unsuccessful, and as Members had predicted at that time, the site was now the subject of a planning application for apartments. She expressed her concern at the inconsistent approach by the Environment & Heritage Service, and she that reference should also be made to the Minutes relating to Oxford House when writing to the EHS.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) writes again to the Environment & Heritage Service advising that the Council was not objecting to the listing of the schoolhouse but reiterating its opposition to the listing of Dundonald Presbyterian Church building based on the following:
- the fact that the present building was not the original construction having been substantially extended and renovated during its lifetime and would therefore not appear to have any outstanding architectural merit
 - given the poor state of the building, it would be cheaper to rebuild

than to refurbish

- (b) refer to previous Minutes relating to the Council's attempts to have Oxford House listed, together with the information pack distributed by representatives from Dundonald Presbyterian Church when drawing up the above correspondence
- (c) a copy of the correspondence to be forwarded to the Minister

2007/683 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: 81 BALLYNAHINCH ROAD, MEALOUGH CARRYDUFF : CONSTRUCTION OF 2 APARTMENT BLOCKS TOTALLING 16 UNITS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/684 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: 186 KING'S ROAD, TULLYCARNET : CONSTRUCTION OF NEW APARTMENT BUILDING COMPRISING 9 UNITS WITH ASSOCIATED SITEWORKS AND CAR PARKING (DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/685 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: 62-64 GILNAHIRK PARK, TULLYCARNET : DEMOLITION OF EXISTING TWO HOUSES AND REPLACEMENT BY ONE APARTMENT BLOCK CONSISTING OF TEN APARTMENTS (SEVEN 1 BED & STUDY, TWO 1 BED AND ONE 2 BED APARTMENTS) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/686 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: 31-33 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF 9 APARTMENTS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson referred to this and previous planning applications tabled above relating to the development of apartment blocks. He added that the Council had previously expressed its opposition to the general overdevelopment of apartments across the Borough.

Alderman Rice concurred with Councillor Robinson. She outlined that there were proposals for an additional 350 apartments to be developed in the Carryduff area.

Noted.

2007687/ : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: 20 BALLYKEEL ROAD, MONEYREAGH : RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 10 APARTMENTS WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2007/688 : NEW BUILD - OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

Councillor Spratt outlined that the level of objection in relation to the initial planning application had been quite significant, but all the major issues of concern had been addressed and an amended application submitted. He added that as yet the Planning Service had not made a decision with regard to the amended application and this was causing problems, in that, the school needed to commence with the programme for decanting the students to portable buildings as soon as possible.

Councillor White sought clarification as to why the school could not be given approval to commence with the first stage of the development.

The Planning Service Officer advised that discussions were still taking place with the Environment & Heritage Service, and he understood that the developer was engaging directly with the residents and other public bodies. He added that he would investigate the matter and report back to the Council.

RESOLVED : That the Planning Service Officer to provide an update at the next Council meeting in relation to Our Lady & St Patrick's College's planning application for new build school.

2007/689 : BELFAST METROPOLITAN AREA PLAN AND E-WAY PROPOSAL

Councillor Spratt outlined that it appeared that the BMAP Inquiry had given absolutely no credence to the Council's submissions. He added that the vast majority of housing development appeared to be planned for the Carryduff area.

He proposed that, consistent with its previous submissions to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan Inquiry, the Minister responsible for the Department of the Environment be requested to urgently meet with a cross party Council delegation to discuss planning issues relating to the E-Way proposal and the spread of future housing development across the Borough and invites the two MP's who have a constituency involvement with Dundonald and the E-Way

route to accompany the delegation.

Alderman Rice seconded the proposal and outlined that she could not comprehend why the BMAP Inquiry had totally ignored the views of this Council. She added that there was already a high volume of traffic driving through Carryduff into Belfast and the planned additional housing would exacerbate the problem, particularly when other areas of the Borough needed housing.

Councillor Henderson outlined his full support for the proposal.

Councillor Hanvey also expressed his support for the proposal, and outlined that Members had understood that the Transportation Strategy would run in tandem with BMAP, but it appeared that the issue of infrastructure had been set aside whilst house building continued to grow.

He continued by stating that at the last meeting he had asked that, in terms of BMAP, that when in post, the new Planning Officer ascertain how many houses had been erected within the Borough and how many planning applications were currently under consideration.

Councillor Jeffers left the meeting at 3.55 p.m.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees

- (a) to write to the Minister responsible for the Department of the Environment requesting a meeting with a cross party Council delegation to discuss planning issues relating to E-Way and the spread of future housing development across the Borough
- (b) to write to the two MP's who have a constituency involvement with Dundonald and the E-Way route to accompany the Council delegation.
- (c) that the Party Whips forward the names of the Members to be included in the Council delegation
- (d) in terms of BMAP, the new Planning Officer prepare a report on the number of houses that had been erected within the Borough and how many planning applications for housing development were currently under consideration

2007/690 : RELEASE OF LAND AT HANWOOD (map circulated at the meeting)

Councillors White, Robinson and Tosh declared an interest.

Councillor J Beattie advised that the Hanwood Trust was seeking permission to lease from the Council an area of land at the Hanwood site for the development of a 25-unit enterprise park.

Councillor Henderson proposed that the Council lease the land to Hanwood Trust and this was seconded by Councillor Jeffers.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to lease to the Hanwood Trust a portion of land at the Hanwood site for the development of a 25-unit enterprise park.

2007/691 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATIONS: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Noted.

2007/692 : ENFORCEMENT IN RELATION TO THE ERECTION OF ALLEGED UNAUTHORISED ADVERTISING SIGNS

Councillors Hanvey, Robinson and Henderson requested that the Planning Service address the issue of the erection of alleged unauthorised signs within various areas across the Borough, as raised at previous Council meetings.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Planning Service Officer investigate the issue of the erection of alleged unauthorised signs within various areas across the Borough which had been raised by Members at previous Council meetings and report back to the next Council meeting.

ROADS

2007/693 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM QUARRY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION RE: LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN LOCAL ROADS (copy letter previously circulated)

Following a proposal from Councillor White, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from Quarry Products Association in relation to the level of government investment in local roads be tabled at the next Special Council meeting being convened to deal

with Roads issues.

HOUSING

2007/694 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: NORTHERN IRELAND HMO STATUTORY REGISTRATION SCHEME (copy letter previously circulated)

Councillor White outlined that the above scheme would help address the problem of private landlords attempting to maximise rental income by renting out to as many people as possible in one property, particularly those from the ethnic minorities. He asked if Members were aware of any such incidents that they furnish him with the details and he would raise the matter at the next Housing Association meeting.

Noted.

2007/695 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS RE: OFFER TO MAKE A PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations be invited to make a presentation at a future Council meeting.

EDUCATION

2007/696 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE: CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS ON A POSSIBLE CHANGE TO THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS COMMON FUNDING FORMULA (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

NILGA UPDATE

2007/697 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL RE: BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2008-11, DRAFT BUDGET 2008-11 AND DRAFT INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008-18 (copy letter previously circulated – referred from the December Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting)

Councillor Beattie referred to the above correspondence which had been tabled for discussion later in the meeting. He advised that NILGA had prepared its response in relation to this document, and he proposed that the

Council endorse NILGA's response.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council supports NILGA's response to the Public Consultation document from the Department of Finance & Personnel "Building A Better Future – Draft Programme for Government 2008-11, Draft Budget 2008-11 and Draft Investment Strategy 2008-18.

FINANCE

2007/698 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£877,890.13
General Account (Salaries)	£483,600.31
General Account (Suppliers)	£703,497.50

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS (copy previously circulated)

2007/699 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR DECEMBER 2007

Councillor Henderson congratulated the Mayor for the many fundraising events she had organised to date in aid of her charity, Cancer Research and he expressed the view that the Council should do more to support her in her efforts. He proposed that the Council reserve two tables at two forthcoming events, namely, the Waterloo Ball and the Ulster Scots Night. He also suggested that the Deputy Mayor be asked to reserve a table at each of these events.

Councillor Spratt advised that he had already reserved a table at the Ulster Scots event and he hoped that Members would do all they could to support the Mayor in her fundraising efforts.

Councillor Chambers advised that a charity fashion show would be held on 20 March 2008, and she added that she would welcome the support from staff and Members in order to raise as much funds as possible. She referred to the charity collection at Sainsbury's on 13 December and advised that she had raised £1,155.00.

Councillor Henderson advised that he had attended the launch of the "Council Girls" Calendar on 14 December. He asked for his thanks to be passed on to all the staff who had taken part, and he urged Members to purchase a calendar in support of the two cancer charities benefiting from the proceeds.

Councillor Chambers also passed on her appreciation to Councillor Duncan for her involvement in the calendar.

Councillor Spratt advised that Alderman Mrs Robinson would be carrying out her annual collection at Sainsbury's on behalf of Multiple Sclerosis and he urged Members to also support her efforts.

Councillor Chambers stated that she fully appreciated all the support she had received from both the Members and staff.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to reserve two tables at the Waterloo Ball being held on 24th May 2008 and at the Ulster Scots Night being held on 18th January 2008. The Deputy Mayor also be asked to reserve a table at each of these events.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS
REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES
(copy previously circulated)

2007/700 : WAIVER OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE

The Director of Leisure Services outlined that at the Committee meeting held in September 2007, it had been agreed to progress the lifting of all of the restrictive covenants at the site of the Robinson Centre in order to progress the contract with EZE Fitness.

She referred Members to correspondence from the solicitor advising that he wished to progress with the Deed of Variation and seeking clarification as to whether the Council would discharge the Executive's legal fees in connection with the waiver, at an estimated cost of £500 to £600 plus VAT.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council authorises the payment of legal fees of between £500 and £600 plus VAT in respect of the waiver of covenants at the Robinson Centre to enable the contract with EZE Fitness to be progressed.

2007/701 : WINDTURBINE – LOUGH MOSS

The Director of Leisure Services referred Members to the content of her report outlining some background information and details in relation to Wind Analysis and Wheeling (generation of electricity).

She recommended that a wind analysis be conducted to ensure there was sufficient wind speed to generate electricity and to provide sufficient data to enable the most profitable option thereafter to be taken. She advised that she had received a quotation in the sum of £6,300.00 (including VAT), but that she was waiting for further quotations to be submitted.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that a wind analysis be conducted in relation to the windturbine at Lough Moss at a cost of £6,300.00 (including VAT) or cheaper if further quotations were received.

2007/702 : CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR CLOSURE DAYS

The Director of Leisure Services advised that the Robinson, Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres would open until 5.00 p.m. on 24 and 31 December and close all day on 25th, 26th, 27th 28th December 2007 and 1st January 2008. She outlined that staff would take annual leave under the terms of their Leisure Services' contracts, in line with previous years.

Noted.

2007/703 : REQUEST FROM BELFAST PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The Director of Leisure Services reported that the above organisation was seeking financial assistance towards the costs of an event due to be held on 9 and 10 May 2008. She added that the organisation may be making a request to the 'Awards for All', part of the Big Lottery funding.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That due to the issue of precedent, that the Council would not be in a position to make a financial contribution to Belfast Primary School Football Association, but that Officers offer assistance to the Association with its Big Lottery funding application

2007/704 : HEALTHWISE PROGRAMME AND PRICING INITIATIVE

The Director of Leisure Services provided Members with an update on the above programme currently operating very successfully at the Robinson, Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres, She added that the next stage was the Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme designed to encourage those with heart, chest and stroke related illnesses to partake in mild exercise under the guidance of qualified instructors.

She advised that both programmes were funded, with the Council and Breathe sharing the income. He outlined that there was, however, evidence that when customers on the programme completed the sessions and had to start paying for the facilities, they either stopped their activity or went to other centres that offered cheaper facilities. She stated that in an effort to encourage those on the Healthwise scheme to continue with physical activity and use Council facilities, she recommended that a discounted membership of £19.00 per month be offered to those who meet the criteria.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council approves the introduction of a monthly membership of £19.00 for those customers who meet the criteria for Healthwise support.

2007/705 : DISABLED LIFT AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE

The Director of Leisure Services referred Members to a report from the Capital Projects Officer explaining the requirement to appoint an electrical engineer for the installation of a stair lift and a platform lift at the Robinson Centre.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for the services of an electrical engineer to be engaged to assist the Capital Project Officer in drafting the tender specification for the lifts at the Robinson Centre

2007/706 : BELVOIR ACTIVITY CENTRE – PITCH NAME

The Director of Leisure Services advised that the IFA had asked if Members wished to consider a name for the new pitch at Belvoir Activity Centre.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of a name for the new pitch at Belvoir Activity Centre be referred for initial discussion by the Leisure Services Committee, with a recommendation coming back to full Council.

GENERAL

2007/707 : CORRESPONDENCE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL RE: FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN DECISIONS ON THE LOCATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS RESULTING FROM THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (copy Letter previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson expressed the view that further data was required before the above report could be considered. He proposed that the Chief Executive

writes to the Department to ascertain the number of public sector jobs within each Council area.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That in order for Members to consider the document entitled "Framework to Underpin Decisions on the Location of Public Sector Jobs Resulting from the Review of Public Administration" the Council writes to the Department of Finance & Personnel to ascertain the number of public sector jobs in each Council area within the Province.

2007/708 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL RE: HER MAJESTY'S REVENUE AND CUSTOMS – VAT REGULATIONS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor White expressed the view that given the potential increase in leisure charges as a result of these tax changes, the Council should be supporting West Lothian Council's position as these changes may eventually be introduced into Northern Ireland

Following a query from Alderman Copeland in relation to the possible need to make contingency within the estimates, the Director of Finance stated that he would need to investigate the matter further.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to

- (a) West Lothian Council in support of its campaign demanding the removal of the tax change in VAT regulations
- (b) the Minister for Finance & Personnel seeking advice on the implications to Councils as a result of the possible introduction of the tax change in the VAT regulations into Northern Ireland
- (b) to the three MP's representing the Castlereagh Council area seeking their support
- (c) forward a copy of the Council's correspondence to NILGA

2007/709 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM OSBORNE KING RE: ROAD IMPROVEMENT AT FORESTSIDE JUNCTION, SAINSBURY'S PFS/DRUMKEEN RETAIL PARK (copy previously circulated)

The Chief Executive advised that there had been significant developments

since the above correspondence had been tabled, and he asked for consideration to be deferred until next month when he may have further information to report to Members.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to defer consideration of the correspondence from Osborne King in relation to road improvement at Forestside Junction until the next Council meeting.

2007/710 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD FOR MENTAL HEALTH & LEARNING RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/711 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD FOR MENTAL HEALTH & LEARNING RE: MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY BUDGET (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/712 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND TOURIST BOARD RE: CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR TOURISM (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/713 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE RE: PROPOSED DRAFT SEXUAL OFFENCES (NI) ORDER 2007 (copy previously circulated)

It was proposed by Councillor Spratt, seconded by Councillor Bunting, and

RESOLVED : That the correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office in relation to the Proposed Draft Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2007 be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2007/714 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BELFAST BOOK OF HONOUR RE: BOOK OF HONOUR (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to the Belfast Book of Honour seeking clarification as to the type of support it was seeking from the Council.

2007/715 : E-MAIL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND WATER RE: REQUEST TO PRESENT THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME (copy previously

circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to the request from Northern Ireland Water to present its Capital Works Programme at an appropriate Council meeting.

**2007/716 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE
RE: FOOD POVERTY REPORT (copy letter previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/717 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
THE PAST RE: SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS (copy previously
circulated)**

Councillor Spratt stated that he would encourage any interested individuals or groups to attend these public meetings as it would provide an opportunity to express their views on the best way to deal with the legacy of the past.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that a copy of the correspondence from the Consultative Group on the Past be distributed as follows:

- to the members of the La Mon Committee
- forwarded to relevant community groups, via Community Services' mailing list
- displayed at each of the Council's community facilities

**2007/718 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM N.I. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
RE: NIFRS'S RESPONSE TO DRAFT BUDGET (copy previously
circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/719 : INFORMATION ON COURSES BEING HELD IN GREENMOUNT
COLLEGE RE: CIVIL PROTECTION FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVES ON 24
JANUARY 2008, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS
ON 11 FEBRUARY 2008 (copies previously circulated)**

The Chief Executive referred to a similar course being organised at Greenmount College on 18 and 19 February 2008 entitled "Introduction to Civil Protection" which was aimed at Senior Management.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Officers and Councillors attend courses at Greenmount College as follows:

- Chief Executive (Civil Protection) on 24 January 2008
- Councillors Henderson and Jeffers (Emergency Management) on 11 February 2008
- Directors of Administration & Community Services, Technical & Environmental Services and Leisure Services (Introduction to Civil Protection (NI) on 18 and 19 February 2008

2007/720 : CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL IT STRATEGY 2008-2010 – FINAL DRAFT (copy report previously circulated – referred from the December Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council approves the IT Strategy for the period 2008-2010.

REPORTS/ANNUAL REPORTS

2007/721 : ADVICE NI ANNUAL REPORT 2007 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2007/722 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND RE CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN IRELAND

Councillor Chambers reminded Members that following their success at the Special Olympics in June, she would be hosting a small reception in the Mayor's Parlour for representatives from Salto.

Noted.

2007/723 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM ALDERMAN IRIS ROBINSON MP MLA RE TRIBUTE TO RT HON PETER ROBINSON MP MLA

Noted.

2007/724 : EMAIL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL RE LONE PENSIONER ALLOWANCE CONSULTATION

Noted.

2007/725 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: CONSULTATION ON THE EQUALITY IMPACTS OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2008-2011, BUDGET 2008-2011 AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008-2018

Councillor Spratt passed on Members' appreciation for the excellent work carried out by Councillor Henderson as Chair of the DPP in 2007. He proposed that, in line with the Council's rotational party process, that Alderman Rice be appointed as Chair of the DPP for the period 1 January until 31 December 2008.

Councillor Henderson seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Alderman Rice be appointed Chair of the Castlereagh District Policing Partnership for the period 1 January 2008 until 31 December 2008.

Prior to the meeting concluding at 5.00 p.m., the Mayor wished Members and Staff a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of Officers and staff, thanked the Mayor for her kind comments and returned the sentiments.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE