

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Central Services Committee held, in committee, in the Members' Corridor, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Monday, 12 April 2010, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

J Bunting
M Chambers (in the chair)
C Hall
R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long

In attendance:

Director of Administration & Community Services,
Administration Manager, Community Services Manager,
Councillor D Drysdale (until 8.40 pm) and Member
Services Officer

Apologies:

Alderman Rice, Councillors A Beattie, J Beattie, J Spratt
and L Walker

CS/2010/84 : PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM ADVICE NI RE: ADVICE SERVICES CONTRACT 2009-2010

The Director of Administration & Community Services highlighted that the existing advice services contract had been with Advice NI since October 2009 and had expired at the end of March 2010, with an option to extend it for an additional 12 months until the end of March 2011. Members had agreed to allow the current tender to make a presentation to the Committee on the progress of advice services from October 2009 to date.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kevin Higgins, Ms Marie McCallion and Mr Jason Nicholson to the meeting.

Mr Nicholson began the presentation by outlining the background of Advice NI and listed the service providers involved in the delivery of the Castlereagh Advice Services contract:

- Advice NI
- Ballynafeigh Community Development Association
- Consumer Credit Counselling Services (CCCS)
- East Belfast Mission

He went on to outline the specific services provided by each service provider and advised that face-to-face advice was provided at Dungoyne, Braniel, Belvoir, Cregagh and Tullycarnet. He further advised that advice was provided via the freephone advice line and indicated that during January to March 2010 the freephone volume of calls answered had increased by 970 calls to 1,251 calls. The statistics for the Outreach workload were currently being finalised and would be provided to Council once they became available. Mr Nicholson indicated that a mid-term evaluation of the service had highlighted that client experiences were very positive, with 92% rating the service as excellent and 8% as good.

Following the presentation, Members were invited to ask questions. Councillor Chambers enquired whether the debt service could only be provided by telephone or whether there was the option of face-to-face assistance. Ms McCallion replied that, due to the level and sensitivities around debt advice, the telephone system seemed to be working well. However, in addition Ms McCallion indicated that Advice NI could provide limited debt advice as part of their Outreach clinics.

Councillor Hall enquired when Advice NI was providing Outreach services in Belvoir. Ms McCallion stated that advice was available in Belvoir on Tuesday afternoons in the Belvoir Activity Centre and on Wednesday afternoons in Cregagh Community Centre. She added that there was a large number of clients in Cregagh Community Centre.

Councillor Jeffers enquired whether the Debt Relief Order issued by the Northern Ireland Assembly would be beneficial to residents. Mr Higgins replied that Advice NI had been invited to study the document clause by clause.

Councillor Drysdale enquired what the level of demand for services provided by Advice NI was in Dungoyne. He pointed out that many people preferred going to centres not in their own area. Ms McCallion agreed and stated that their system allowed for this. She continued to say that some people, for example the elderly or disabled persons, asked for a home visit, which was difficult currently due to time constraints.

The Chairman then thanked the representatives from Advice NI for their presentation.

Members agreed that Advice NI had provided a good service in the short time in Castlereagh and with the exception of a few teething problems there had been no complaints. Councillor Jeffers proposed to extend the contract for an additional 12 months.

Councillor Long recalled that the Council had previously decided to tender for services and, in order to be consistent, he felt tendering should be carried out annually. He felt that there was a need to look at the statistics provided for a similar

period from previous tenders in order to make it more meaningful and put them in context. Furthermore, Councillor Long felt that, as the Council had decided to go down the tender route, this policy should be continued.

The Community Services Manager indicated that, if the Council was to re-tender, it could take up to four months to complete this process, at which stage the Council would only be in a position to offer a six-month contract to the successful company in view of the pending RPA date.

Councillor Hall seconded the proposal from Councillor Jeffers, and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval to extend the contract with Advice NI for a further 12-month period until 31 March 2011.

CS/2010/85 : MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 8 MARCH 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

MATTERS ARISING

CS/2010/86 : GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN AND GOOD RELATIONS WEEK (Minutes CS/2010/56 and CS/2010/70 refer)

Councillor Chambers referred to the March Committee meeting, when, in Minute CS/2010/56, it had been agreed in principle to accept the Good Relations Strategy for 2010-2011 and, furthermore, in Minute CS/2010/70, it had been agreed to approve £1,500 for the Community Relations Week event. However, Councillor Chambers felt that the content and detail of the Minute did not reflect the press release she had been asked to approve. The Community Services Manager apologised to Councillor Chambers and highlighted that in future press releases sent for approval would represent the content of the information presented to Committee for approval.

Noted.

CS/2010/87 : DUNGOYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE (Minute CS/2010/74 refers)

Councillor Long enquired whether a meeting with the bowlers had been arranged. The Director of Administration & Community Services replied that it would be preferable to have a meeting with Officers from Technical & Environmental Services prior to the meeting with the bowlers so that a corporate approach could be determined. She hoped that this would take place soon. She referred to the previous proposal to transfer management of the centre to the Technical &

Environmental Services Department, as there was no reason for Community Services to retain the building once the Enler Centre was operational.

The Director of Administration & Community Services also informed Members that she had met with the Council's solicitors regarding the lease for Enler and it was hoped to have this matter resolved as soon as possible.

The Director of Administration & Community Services also pointed out that Best Cellars were not moving to the Enler Centre but to different premises and this would have an impact on the operations of Enler.

Noted.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER – SECTION 1 – ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

CS/2010/88 : RECORDING OF MEMBERS IN / OUT OF COUNCIL / COMMITTEE MEETINGS (copy tabled at the meeting)

The Administration Manager referred Members to the previous decision taken regarding the recording of Members in and out of Council/Committee meetings. Following the March meeting of Council, Members felt that this format was unworkable and referred it back to Committee. The Administration Manager reminded Members that it would take six months before a Minute could be rescinded.

Members agreed that it was in everybody's interest to record Members when they left and re-entered the room during meetings. Councillor Bunting acknowledged that it would be difficult for Members' Services Officers to be aware of all movements, particularly at Council meetings, but at Committee meetings it should be possible to record Members' leaving and re-entering the room. However, she added that the onus should be on Elected Members to notify the Officer.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that the Council's Standing Orders had not yet been amended accordingly as this had to follow a set notice of motion process at Council. She recommended that such amendments to this particular change in standing orders should not take place until after a trial period. It was also suggested that in light of the proposed changes, the Chair or Acting Chief Executive should instruct Members of the new procedure at the next Council meeting, highlighting the onus on the Elected Member to notify the Committee Clerk of their intention to leave or enter the meeting.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, when a Member wished to leave or enter a Committee/Council meeting, it would be his/her responsibility to notify the Committee Clerk in attendance, and this procedure would be trialled for a period before changing the appropriate Standing Order.
- (b) That the proposed changes to Declarations of Interest and quorums at meetings be added to the Standing Orders, requiring a Notice of Motion to be tabled at the April Council meeting.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER – SECTION 2 – CIVIC MATTERS

CS/2010/89 : LOUGH MOSS CIVIC EVENT (copy tabled at the meeting)

The Administration Manager recalled discussion at the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 5 November 2009 regarding the possibility of holding an event at the Lough Moss Centre to recognise several recently completed projects. The Mayor had expressed the view that this should be a civic event and 12 May 2010 had been provisionally set. Invitations would be sent to approximately 60-80 persons, including Elected Members, representatives from the various funding bodies and local schools. It was planned to include speeches followed by a buffet lunch.

It was planned to recognise the following projects at the event:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Wind turbine | - DF&P funding plus Council |
| • Sports Hall floor | - SNI funding plus Council |
| • Upgrade of squash courts | - SNI funding plus Council |
| • Replacement of sand-dressed pitch | - 100% Council funding |
| • Active Communities | - 100% SNI funding |
| • CSAW project | - 100% Big Lottery funding |

The Administration Manager advised that the cost was estimated to be approximately £500. However, it was hoped to obtain a contribution towards the cost from Sport NI, which would reduce the costs to Council. She also confirmed that budgets were available in the current Estimates.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval to hold an event at the Lough Moss Centre to recognise several recently completed projects, provisionally set for 12 May 2010, at a cost to Council of approximately £200-£500.

CS/2010/90 : BRIAN HOUSTON CONCERT

The Administration Manager advised that the renowned gospel singer Brian Houston would be performing on behalf of the Mayor's charity in Belvoir Studios on 21 May 2010, at 7.30 pm. The tickets were available in the Mayor's Office at a price of £12.

Councillor Bunting asked that the information be circulated to all Elected Members.

RESOLVED: That information relating to the performance of gospel singer Brian Houston on 21 May 2010 at 7.30 pm in Belvoir Studios be circulated to all Elected Members.

CS/2010/91 : GEORGE BEST FOUNDATION

The Administration Manager referred to the previous month's Committee meeting, when it had been resolved to proceed with arrangements in respect of hosting a civic reception on 22 May 2010 for participants in the George Best Foundation Programme. She now advised that camera crews had expressed an interest to be present and she sought Members' views.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval to allow camera crews to be present at the civic reception on 22 May 2010 for participants in the George Best Foundation Programme.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – CIVIC MATTERS

CS/2010/92 : WATERLOO BALL

The Administration Manager referred Members to the forthcoming Waterloo Ball being held within the Borough on 29 May 2010. She advised that the Mayor would be hosting a civic reception at this prestigious event and that she was seeking to secure part funding through the Civic budget, with the remainder being met through Marketing. The Administration Manager advised that discussions were ongoing with local retailer Marks & Spencer, Forestside, and that she was hopeful of negotiating a substantial discount.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for funding to host a civic reception at the 2010 Waterloo Ball, with costs being met from the Civic budget. .

CS/2010/93 : GARDEN PARTY IN HONOUR OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Administration Manager advised that the Secretary of State's Garden Party was due to take place in June 2010 and it was expected that the Council would be allocated 24 places. In previous years the Central Services Committee had agreed that nominations should be sought from Members, with the final decision being made by the Mayor and the Chairman. The Administration Manager added that nominations should be notified to her as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That all Elected Members be contacted in respect of nominations for attendance at the Secretary of State's Garden Party in June 2010, and should the nominations be over-subscribed, selection to be made by the Mayor and Chairman, possibly drawing names at random.

The Administration Manager left the meeting at this point, 9.30 pm.

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER – SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS

DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

CS/2010/94 : ADVICE NI

Members noted that this matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

Noted.

CS/2010/95 : VOLUNTEER GARDEN PARTY – VOLUNTEER WEEK

The Community Services Manager advised that, as part of Volunteer Week, it had been proposed to arrange a garden party, similar to one at the event in 2009, in order to recognise the time and dedication given by volunteers in Castlereagh. He indicated that the proposed date for the event was 2 June 2010 from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the Function Suite. As in the previous year, the event would be in partnership with the Voluntary Services Bureau and the East Belfast Community Development Agency. It was anticipated that approximately 70 people from the Castlereagh area would be in attendance. Entertainment would be provided in an interactive and fun session of 'Can't Cook, Won't Cook with Gerry Faloon, lasting 45 minutes. Refreshments would be offered to guests and a pianist would be in attendance.

The Community Services Manager sought approval for the cost of the event as follows:

Transport	£300
Refreshments (glass of sparkling wine/soft drink, tea @ £2.00 per person	£140

Entertainment (pianist)	£100
Hire of champagne flutes	£45
Interactive session of 'Can't Cook, Won't Cook' with Gerry Faloon	£250
Desserts	£200
Total	£1,035

The Community Services Manager confirmed that provision for this funding was available in the Community Services Special Projects budget.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval to provide funding of £1,035 from the Community Services Special Projects budget towards the cost of hosting a Volunteer Garden Party on 2 June 2010 in the Function Suite.

CS/2010/96 : COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND – TRANCHE 1

As agreed at the March Committee meeting, the Community Services Manager provided an implementation timetable for the first tranche of the scheme:

- Closing date for receipt of applications – Friday, 30 April 2010 @ 4.30 pm
- Assessment Panel meeting - Monday, 10 May 2010
- Central Services ratification - Monday, 10 May 2010
- Full Council approval - Thursday, 27 May 2010
- Issue of letters of offer / rejection - Friday, 28 May 2010
- Request for appeal by groups - by Wednesday, 9 June 2010
- Central Services ratification - Monday, 14 June 2010

A new appeals procedure was also proposed to include all community funding programmes. The appeals document set out the following in a clear and concise manner:

- The grounds which an application can be appealed under
- The grounds on which an application cannot be appealed under
- How to submit an appeal
- What happens once the appeal has been submitted

It was proposed that, if adopted, this would apply to all Community Services funding programmes. Councillor Long sought clarification that this would be an appeals process based on a technical point of order and not an opportunity to submit new information not previously supplied. He expressed the view that Councillors merely monitor the appeals process and Officers should undertake the scoring process.

Councillor Bunting was of the view that Councillors should be involved in the process as they were accountable and that the appeals panel should comprise of different people than the assessment panel. She went on to say that points for clarification should be addressed to the assessment panel and appeals to a different group.

The Community Services Manager indicated that the new appeals procedure would give the appeals panel access to the original application and documentation and any additional information would be clearly marked as appeals documentation.

Councillor Chambers suggested to proceed with the proposed procedure.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the implementation timetable for the Community Festival Fund – Tranche 1 as outlined in the Community Services Manager's report.
- (b) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the new appeals procedure for Community Festival funding on a trial basis, with a view to extending it to other programmes at a later stage.
- (c) That Councillors Chambers, Hall, Hughes, Jeffers and Long be appointed to the assessment panel and that Members give further consideration to the appeals panel at a later stage.

SUMMER SCHEME 2010 MATTERS

CS/2010/97 : CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Following recommendations that the leaders and leaders in charge during the summer scheme should undertake dedicated child protection training as part of their induction programme, Officers had sought quotations in line with the Council's policy. Two quotations had been received:

- NSPCC – 100 participants for half days child protection training = £1,665, £16.65 per person
- Volunteering NI – 90 participants for half days child protection training = £1,340, £14.89 per person

The Community Services Manager sought approval to appoint Volunteering NI to provide child protection training for leaders and leaders in charge during the summer scheme. He confirmed that provision had been made in the Summer Scheme budget.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval to appoint Volunteering NI to provide child protection training for leaders and leaders in charge as part of the Summer Scheme staff induction at a cost of £1,340 from the Summer Scheme budget.

FACILITIES MATTERS

CS/2010/98 : PROPOSAL FROM BRANIEL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Community Services Manager reported that youth leaders in Braniel and the PSNI had identified that some young people between 13 and 18 years old were involved in antisocial behaviour. As these youths were not involved in youth-type activities, Braniel Community Association, together with the Braniel Young Men's Football Club and Dream Scheme, had requested sole use of the upstairs room in the Braniel Community Centre as a drop-in area for young people in Braniel to offer information sessions and education programmes on life issues such as drugs/alcohol awareness and suicide prevention. The Young Men's Football Club would also like to use the area on Saturday afternoons and Tuesday evenings for socialising and developing relationships with other members of the local community, with the possibility of linking in with the courses/training organised by the Community Association.

The Community Services Manager sought Members' views in respect of granting the request for a trial period of three months at no cost to the groups, with terms and conditions on place before use and emphasis on the Council's Alcohol Policy. Officers would liaise with the groups regarding a voluntary management proposal as agreed by the Committee in at its March meeting. A full report would be brought back to the Committee in August 2010.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for Braniel Community Association, Braniel Young Men's Football Club and Dream Scheme be granted sole use of the upstairs room at Braniel Community Centre, free of charge, for a period of three months, while Officers investigate proposals for voluntary management arrangements.
- (b) That Officers bring back a full report regarding progress at the August Committee meeting.

CS/2010/99 : REQUEST FROM CREGAGH PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

The Community Services Manager reiterated a request from Cregagh Pre-School Playgroup, requesting sole use of the Creche Room at the Cregagh Youth &

Community Centre, Monday to Friday, following recommendations as part of an inspection carried out by the Department of Education, which had indicated that ongoing set up / take down was detrimental to planning, continuity and development of the children's education, leading to a fragmented approach.

Officers had reviewed the operational impact of the request and had concluded that this arrangement would not be possible without affecting current user groups. The Creche Room was currently used by long-term users on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Although it might be possible to facilitate these groups in other parts of the building, this would require consultation and the groups' agreement to move. In addition, two new bookings had been made for the Creche Room for Monday and Thursday evenings from early April and October 2010, and it would not be possible to relocate these groups if the request was approved.

The Community Services Manager asked Members to consider the following:

- Officers are afforded more time to speak with the existing user groups regarding the possibility of relocation, either within Cregagh Youth & Community Centre or at an alternative Council community centre.
- Members reject the request made by Cregagh Pre-School Playgroup due to the level of disruption this would cause to existing long-term and new user groups.

Officers had been in contact with the Chairperson of the Playgroup, who had indicated that he understood that the Council might be required to make changes, which could take some time, and he was agreeable for any new arrangements to commence in September 2010.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were of the view that, as long as the other user groups were agreeable, the request could be granted.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Community Services Manager liaise with the Facility Co-Ordinator of Cregagh Community Centre and conduct consultation with affected groups to investigate the possibility of them being facilitated at other rooms or at other community facilities.
- (b) That the Community Services Manager prepare a further report for consideration by the Committee.

CS/2010/100 : PRICING REVIEW – COMMERCIAL / OTHER CHARGES

Following a review of the charges for commercial organisations, Officers had determined that, in order to ensure a consistent approach across all facilities, that the most appropriate course or action would be to introduce a clause in the policy

specifying that commercial organisations could only hire rooms for a minimum of two hours per session.

The Community Services Manager also advised that some charges had been omitted from the Committee's recommendation:

- Resource Centre charges (minibus, photocopying etc)
- Birthday party charges
- Alcohol booking charges

As these charges had not been included in the pricing review, the Community Services Manager recommended an increase of 3% for 2010-2011, in line with the increase agreed for other tenants.

During the ensuing discussion, Members felt that the term 'private/commercial' was confusing and required clarification.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for an increase of 3% for 2010-2011 to charges outlined above.
- (b) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the amendment to the pricing policy to restrict the hire of community facilities to commercial organisations to a minimum of two hours.
- (c) That Officers ensure there is no ambiguity of terms in the Council's pricing review of charges and that there is differentiation between private and commercial usage in the policy.

COMMUNITY SPORTS MATTERS

CS/2010/101 : MIDNIGHT STREET SOCCER

The Community Services Manager advised that an opportunity had arisen for the participants of the Midnight Street Soccer programme, age range 13-14, to take part in a friendly football match with a team called Sandy North. The match would take place at Brantwood (date to be arranged). The Council would be involved in organising the venue, transport, refreshments and medals. In addition, coaches employed through the Midnight Soccer programme would accompany the group. The aim of this event was to keep the Midnight Soccer momentum going and give the young people an opportunity to play a match against top quality players. The cost of the event were as follows:

Travel	- £100
Refreshments	- £100
Medals	- £50

Coach/supervision - £135

Total - £385

The Community Services Manager confirmed that funding was available through the Midnight Soccer budget, which was funded by the Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the organisation and implementation of the Midnight Street Soccer event as outlined above, with the cost of £385 being funded through the Midnight Soccer budget.

ARTS MATTERS

CS/2010/102 : CASTLEREAGH ARTS – ONLINE BLOG

The Community Services Manager advised that an opportunity had arisen for the Council to develop and implement an online blog to act as a mechanism to promote and highlight events that had taken place or were planned in the Borough. He stated that many councils and organisations were using internally supported blogs or utilising existing networking sites, and he felt that Castlereagh was currently missing out on this free marketing opportunity.

Members of the IT Sub-Committee had raised concerns that there was the possibility of misuse, ie that negative comments could be left on the blog. However, the Community Services Manager advised that he had consulted with the Council's IT Manager who had indicated that the system would be easy to monitor. Anyone wishing to make a comment would be vetted beforehand. The Community Services Manager stated that the Arts Officer would also monitor the blog. The IT Sub-Committee had also established that there would be no IT issue with an Arts blog.

Councillor Bunting raised concerns that the blog could not be monitored by the Committee and that the Community Services Manager and the Arts Officer would be under much pressure to monitor all entries.

Councillor Chambers also felt that a blog could be very subjective.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Community Services Manager arrange for the Arts Officer to give a demonstration of the blog at the May Committee meeting.

CS/2010/103 : FIRST FRIDAY PERFORMANCES

The Community Services Manager referred to a previous decision by Council to re-

introduce First Friday Performances, and he sought approval for a performance by Anthony Toner, a recognised musician with a growing reputation in Northern Ireland and beyond, in the Function Suite on 7 May 2010, between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm, at a cost of £350 artist fees and a maximum of £100 for equipment, resources, refreshments and travel. The Community Services Manager confirmed that provision for this type of event had been made in the current Estimates and would not be additional costs to the Council.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for a First Friday performance by Anthony Toner in the Function Suite on 7 May 2010, between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm, at a cost of £350 artist fees and a maximum of £100 for equipment, resources, refreshments and travel, with provision for these costs being available in the 2010-2011 Estimates.

GOOD RELATIONS MATTERS

CS/2010/104 : FILIPINO COMMUNITY BARRIO FESTIVAL

The Community Services Manager advised that the Filipino Community Association in Dundonald was planning to hold a cultural celebration to mark Filipino Independence Day in June 2010. The festival would be held in the Dundonald/Ballybeen area and would feature traditional music, dance and food from the Philippines. The aim of the event was to use cultural celebration to develop relationships with black minority ethnic groups in the Borough. It was also hoped that this event would increase trust in public bodies and raise awareness of other Council programmes.

The Community Services Manager stated that the event would be a directly funded programme, with the Good Relations Officer completing invoices on behalf of the group, and all costs would be covered from the Good Relations Cultural Activities budget. He sought approval for the following costs:

- Staging for performers - £700
- Advertising - £300
- **Total - £1,000**

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the expenditure of £1,000 towards the cost of holding the Filipino Community Barrio Festival in Dundonald/Ballybeen in June 2010, with funding being provided through the Good Relations Cultural Activities budget.

CS/2010/105 : BONFIRE INFORMATION ROADSHOW

The Community Services Manager advised that a bonfire information roadshow had been planned to continue to address the issue of bonfires and to encourage safer, more family-friendly cultural celebrations. The programme had the support of the Bonfire Inter-Agency Working Group. The schedule was as follows:

- Refreshments
- Welcome and introductions of Inter-Agency by the Chairperson
- Presentation by the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
- Presentation by PSNI Community Safety
- Presentation of Inter-Agency support
- Question and Answer session led by the Chairperson

The agreed date for the event was Tuesday, 15 June 2010, at 2.00 pm at the Civic & Administrative Buildings. The Community Services Manager sought approval for the following cost, to be covered through the Good Relations Hard Issues budget:

- Refreshments - £100
- Advertisement in Belfast Telegraph and the Community Telegraph - £900
- **Total** - **£1,000**

Councillor Bunting raised concerns that the majority of the cost for the roadshow would be spent on advertising. She also expressed concern that, should the roadshow be targeted at objectors to bonfires, it might give rise to expectations that the Council could deal with their various concerns and associated negative impacts of bonfires.

Councillor Long was of the view that the event should be organised for bonfire builders in order to explain the dangers, health & safety rules and how to improve bonfires for the benefit of all residents.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Officers liaise further with the Bonfire Inter-Agency Working Group in order to identify more details of the event and who would be the beneficiaries.

CS/2010/106: PILOT BONFIRE FESTIVAL FUNDING

The Community Services Manager advised that a fund would be made available to support family-friendly activities over the 11-12 July period, in conjunction with the Tidy Bonfire Site Best Practice Guidelines scheme. This fund could be accessed by communities through a grant aid process, with a panel made up of Elected Members evaluating applications.

Applicants must be constituted groups who attend a minimum number of Inter-Agency Working Group meetings, and they must sign up to the Inter-Agency's Tidy Bonfire Site Best Practice Guidelines scheme in order to qualify for funding. Applicants will also be evaluated on their adherence to the guidelines, as failure to comply could result in decreased funding. All funded activities must be family-friendly. Funding will be distributed in two rounds, 75% in the first round and 25% on receipt of vouching for expenditures and bonfire site inspections. Groups that apply for this scheme may also apply to other Council funding schemes for the same event/activity but must ensure separate grants are funding different aspects of the same event/activity.

The Community Services Manager outlined the funding time scale:

- Committee approval - 12 April 2010
- Full Council ratification - 29 April 2010
- Scheme opening - 4 May 2010
- Scheme closing - 18 May 2010
- Assessment panel - 20 May 2010
- Full Council approval - 27 May 2010
- Appeals - 14 June 2010
- Central Services approve appeals - 14 June 2010

Funding of £7,000 had been allocated to this programme, with all costs being covered through the Good Relations Hard Issues budget. The Community Services Manager sought approval for the pilot scheme application and the criteria for the Tidy Bonfire Site Festival Fund.

During the ensuing discussion, Members raised concerns about the title of the scheme and its organisation. Councillor Long proposed that a meeting be arranged with the Bonfire Inter-Agency Working Group to explain in more detail the nature of the fund and what it would cover. He also expressed concern in respect of the potential of duplication with Community Festival funding.

The Community Services Manager indicated concerns in relation to the timing of the fund and that, if the Committee deferred taking a decision, it might not be possible to deliver the fund for advertising, application submission and assessment and funds release in time for bonfire festivals.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Bonfire Inter-Agency Working Group be asked to review the programme and give consideration to duplication with Community Festival funding.
- (b) That the Community Services Manager prepare a further report for the May Committee meeting.

CS/2010/107 : GOOD RELATIONS CORPORATE INDUCTION

The Community Services Manager advised that the most recent Good Relations audit had identified a need for greater emphasis on shared values in the workplace and that the integration of good relations across all departments was key to progressing the work in the Borough. The following draft topics for inclusion in the Corporate Induction process were:

- Section 75 legislation
- The Council's commitment to promoting Good Relations between persons of different political opinion, religious belief, racial group
- How employees can play their part in adhering to and supporting the Council's Good Relations commitment

There would be no cost to the Council except staff time of the Good Relations Officer and Human Resources Officers, and the Community Services Manager sought approval to include Good Relations in the Council's Corporate Induction process.

Councillor Bunting pointed out that the Council had legal responsibilities which were already being met by the Human Resources Department. She did not think that inclusion of Good Relations in the Council's Corporate Induction process would add any further benefits. Councillor Bunting further raised concerns that issues of political and religious affiliation would take preference over other Section 75 groupings.

Councillor Long suggested to include other issues in the induction process, for example, ageism.

RESOLVED: That the Community Services Manager prepare a report outlining more details of the proposed Good Relations topics for inclusion in the Council's Corporate Induction process.

CS/2010/108 : PUBLICATION OF STRATEGY KEY THEMES IN BROCHURE

The Community Services Manager referred to the Committee's previous approval for expenditure of £500 for the production of promotional brochures for the new Good Relations Action Plan for the Borough, pending approval of items for inclusion in the brochure. He added that a quotation of £515 had now been received for the design and print of the brochure, and he sought approval for the additional expenditure. He also confirmed that there was sufficient provision in the Mainstreaming budget to cover the additional expenditure. The key issues listed in the brochure were as follows:

- Council's commitment
- Work being done

- How groups can be involved
- Enhanced interaction between different faiths and cultures
- Commitment to tackling prejudice throughout the Section 75 groups
- Bonfire management
- Good Relations training for community groups, Council staff and Elected Members
- Youth intervention
- Participation, dialogue and capacity-building

A breakdown of the costs was as follows:

- Design and printing costs - £100
- 1000 full-colour A4 page brochures - £415
- **Total - £515**

During the ensuing discussion, Members raised concerns about the content of the brochure. Councillor Bunting sought clarification as to what was meant by political options.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the section relating to Political Options work be removed from the brochure
- (b) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the additional expenditure of £15 in respect of the production of the new Good Relations Plan for the Borough, with funding being provided through the Mainstreaming budget.

CS/2010/109 : GRANT AID APPLICATION – 29TH SCOUT GROUP

The Community Services Manager advised that the 29th Scout Group, which was based in Carryduff with a majority of its members perceived to be from a Catholic background, and the 37th Belfast Explorer Scout Group, which was based in Cregagh with a majority of its members perceived to be from a Protestant background, intended to join for a Community Relations Embracing Cultural Diversity programme. Both groups had been separately engaging in single-identity preparatory work through the support of the Council's grant aid programme in 2009-2010. This year, building on from the previous work, 35 young people, aged 15-17, from both groups intended to participate in a joint programme between April and June 2010. The programme would include a series of meetings and residentials, with the aim of creating and developing understanding in each group of the cultural and religious backgrounds of others.

The Community Services Manager confirmed that the application met the Council's grant aid criteria by creating meaningful structures for cross-community contact and that it would increase co-operation between different parts of the community. He stated that all costs would be covered through the Good Relations Grant Aid budget. The total cost for the programme was £2,215, and the group had applied for a grant of £500. They intended to fundraise the remaining expenses. The costs applied for were as follows:

- Transport to residentials - £150
- Teambuilding Belfast Activity Centre - £225
- Food for 35 people - £125
- **Total** - **£500**

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the application from the 29th Scout Group for a grant of £500 towards the cost of holding a Community Relations Embracing Cultural Diversity Programme, with the funding being met through the Good Relations Grant Aid budget.

CS/2010/110 : GRANT AID APPLICATION – ASSOCIATION OF BELVOIR CHURCHES

The Community Services Manager outlined details of an application from the Association of Belvoir Churches for grant funding for the continuation of their annual Five-a-Side football tournament, which was scheduled to run between 28 June and 2 July 2010. The project aimed to provide a positive activity for 60 young people in the summer months. This year, a one-hour workshop with tutors from the Irish Football Association was included to address racism and sectarianism in sport. Participants would also engage in cultural awareness activities by representing one of the nations in the 2010 World Cup. Discussions on cultures and traditions of these countries would be interwoven into the football programme.

The Community Services Manager confirmed that the application met the Good Relations grant aid criteria by promoting respect for diversity in own, other and shared cultural traditions. The funding would be met through the Good Relations Grant Aid budget. The costs applied for were as follows:

- Flags of World Cup nations/materials to explain culture - £60
- Food from World Cup nations - £290
- Publicity - £150
- **Total** - **£500**

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the application from the Association of Belvoir Churches towards the cost of their annual Five-a-Side football tournament, with the funding being met through the Good Relations Grant Aid budget.

CS/2010/111 : WORK PROGRAMME REPORTS

Work Programme Reports for the Community Development Officers, Good Relations Officer, Sports Development Officer and the Arts Officer had previously been circulated for Members' information.

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CS/2010/112 : ACCOUSTICS AT MONEYREAGH CENTRE

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that work in respect of the acoustics at the Moneyreagh Centre was in the process of being completed and it was making a considerable improvement to the sound acoustics at the centre. She further advised that the Capital Projects Officer, who had been a key witness in the case regarding the acoustics at the Moneyreagh Centre, had sadly passed away after his illness. He had intended to provide a statement under oath from his home to be submitted to the High Court hearing.

The Council was still pursuing the case, which was due for hearing in the High Court. The Director of Administration & Community Services continued to say that she intended to meet with the Council's solicitors again to discuss the Council's options and legal position.

Noted.

CS/2010/113 : SUMMER SCHEME – SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

The Community Services Manager advised that he had received a request from the South Eastern Education & Library Board for financial support towards the SEELB Summer Scheme programme at their four special schools.

Members highlighted that, if the scheme was only available to pupils of these schools but not to disabled children throughout the Borough, they felt it would not be appropriate to award any financial assistance.

Councillor Bunting commented that the Council had previously asked the Board to make activities available throughout the Borough for school children, which had been rejected.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Community Services Manager write to the SEELB, indicating that, as the Summer Scheme would only be open to pupils of their four special schools, the Council would not be in a position to offer financial assistance.

CS/2010/114 : REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

Councillor Chambers congratulated the Community Services Manager for providing his reports in an excellent format, which was very much appreciated by the Committee.

Noted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of

_____ 2010 with the exception of

Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE