

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 16 December 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor V McCoy
(in the Chair from 6.05 pm)

ALDERMEN: J Beattie
M Henderson MBE
G Rice MBE
J White

COUNCILLORS: AM Beattie
M Chambers
J Cochrane
M Copeland
S Duncan
D Drysdale (in the chair until 5.50 pm)
C Hall
B Hanvey
R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long
G Robinson
S Skillen
J Spratt
D Vitty

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Executive (Director of Administration & Community Services), Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Planning Officer, Planning Service Officer, HR Manager, Community Services Manager, Area Manager Leisure, Economic Development Manager and Assistant Members' Services Officer; Mr S Reid, Chief Executive Designate

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman Norris and Councillors Bunting and Tosh

2010/860 : WELCOME

Councillor Drysdale welcomed Councillor Vitty to his first meeting after being co-opted to the Council. He also welcomed Mr Stephen Reid, the new Chief Executive, who would be taking up post in January 2011.

On behalf of his party, Councillor Spratt stated that he was delighted that Councillor Vitty would be joining the Council and looked forward to working

with him in the coming months. He stated that the Council's Directors had done a tremendous job covering the post of Chief Executive over past months but he was very pleased to welcome Mr Reid who would be taking up post shortly.

On behalf of their parties, Alderman Henderson, Alderman Rice and Councillor Hanvey welcomed Councillor Vitty and Mr Reid to the meeting.

Noted.

2010/861 : OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Paul Thompson, opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2010/862 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers were invited to declare any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests (including gifts and hospitality) they should have in respect of items on the agenda. Declarations of interest were put forward, as follows:

Councillor Skillen in respect of the Links Women's Group
Alderman White, Councillors Drysdale and Robinson in respect of Hanwood Trust.

Noted.

2010/863 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings subject to the following amendments:
 - Minute No 2010/796: P7, 3rd line, replace "St Peters" with "St Ita's"
 - Minute No 2010/833 P21 1st line and also 3rd Para: replace "the Chief Constable" with the "PSNI District Commander"
- (b) That the minutes of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 2 December 2010 meeting be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:
- (c) That the Minutes of the Central Services Committee meeting of 2 December 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

- (d) That the minutes of the Special Finance & General Purposes Committee of 23 November 2010 be deferred and considered “Staff In Committee”:
- (e) that the minutes of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board meeting held on 15 October 2010 be noted.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2010/864 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM WAR MEMORIALS TRUST (Minute No 2010/839 refers)

At the request of Councillor Copeland it was

RESOLVED: that correspondence dated 4 November from War Memorials Trust re: War Memorials Officer be referred to Technical & Environmental Services Committee for further consideration.

PLANNING

Councillor Mrs A Beattie took the Chair for this part of the meeting.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 16 DECEMBER 2010 (copy previously circulated)

2010/865 : APPLICATION NO Y/2010/0036/F: 22-24 COMBER ROAD, DUNDONALD, BT16 2AB: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION OF 18 APARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (AMENDED PLANS – REDUCED PROPOSAL)

In response to a query by Alderman White, the Planning Services Officer advised that the application had been reduced from 20 apartments to 18.

Noted.

2010/866 : APPLICATIONS Y/2010/0410/F & Y/2010/0428 F: TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS AT SAINTFIELD ROAD

In response to a query by Councillor Duncan as to whether these masts were located near houses, the Planning Services Officer advised that they were located on Roads Service property that was away from housing. She also advised that the masts were shorter than others.

Councillor Robinson enquired whether these were new masts and referred to the accepted practice of sharing existing masts rather than installing new ones. The Planning Services Officer advised that she was not sure if these were new masts and would come back to Councillor Robinson on this.

Councillor Chambers referred to Application Y/2010/0410/F and enquired about the exact location of the masts in relation to shops at Commons Brae.

The Planning Services Officer undertook to come back to Councillor Chambers with this information.

Noted.

2010/867 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 16 NOVEMBER 2010 TO 6 DECEMBER 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/868 : NOTES OF THE PLANNING OFFICE MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/869 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2010 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting of 2 December 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings subject to the inclusion of Councillor Drysdale in the list of those attending.

2010/870 : MINISTERIAL STATEMENT FROM MINISTER POOTS MLS RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND PLANNING REFORM (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer advised that the closing date for consultation on this matter was early 2011.

RESOLVED: that a special Planning Meeting be held after Christmas to discuss this issue and the Planning Officer be asked to prepare a briefing paper for Members' consideration.

2010/871 : EMAIL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING POLICY DIVISION, DATED 25 NOVEMBER 2010 RE: PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 4: PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/872 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: PLANNING FEES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

Alderman White expressed concern about the removal of concessionary fees for Councils and enquired about the level of fees that would be imposed. The Planning Officer advised that the fees to Council would increase from approximately £60 to anything up to or over £1,600. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Planning Officer be asked to prepare a response to the consultation on Planning Fees in Northern Ireland: Proposals for Change based on her briefing paper and on Members' comments

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – PLANNING

2010/873 : ePIC SYSTEM

Councillors Harvey and Chambers referred to problems arising with the new ePIC system that had been introduced by the Planning Service and expressed concern that this would be transferred to Councils without these problems being resolved. Alderman Rice concurred with their comments. Members were concerned about the potential costs to Council in having to bring the system up to an acceptable standard after transfer. It was noted that the Council had agreed in November 2010 to arrange a presentation on the ePIC system in January and it was

RESOLVED: to place this matter on the agenda for the Special Planning meeting being arranged for early January 2011.

2010/874 : THANK YOU CARD

Members were advised that a card had been received from Mr John McCallum, the former Planning Services Officer, thanking Members for their generosity and good wishes on his retirement.

Noted.

The Mayor took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

ROADS

2010/875 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 6 DECEMBER 2010 FROM ROADS SERVICE RE: PROPOSALS FOR PARTNERING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM TOWN CENTRE FOOTWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson advised that the Technical & Environmental Services Committee had already considered this matter and officers had been asked to carry out further enquiries and report back to the Committee.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Technical & Environmental Services Committee be given executive powers to deal with this matter as soon as possible.

EDUCATION

2010/876 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 22 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD RE:

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL 218 – REFERENCE TO BRANIEL
PRIMARY SCHOOL (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2010/877 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 2 DECEMBER 2010 FROM
MARGARET RITCHIE MP RE: THE BOARD OF THE SEELB (copy
previously circulated)**

Noted.

HOUSING

**2010/878 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 24 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM NI
HOUSING COUNCIL RE: HOUSING COUNCIL WEBSITE (copy
previously circulated)**

With regard to the NI Housing Council's request that the Council consider including NIHC link on the Council website, the Economic Development Manager reminded Members that it had been previously agreed that all such requests would go to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

Alderman White stated that he felt that this request was worthy of consideration. Councillor Robinson stated that any request from a third party for a link on the Council's website should be thoroughly vetted before being agreed.

RESOLVED: that the correspondence from NI Housing Council regarding a link on the Council's website be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee

FINANCE

2010/879 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Economic Development Manager advised that, because the December meeting had been held earlier in the month, there were no accounts for payment and December accounts for payment would be brought retrospectively to the January Council meeting.

Noted.

**2010/880 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 7 DECEMBER 2010 FROM
THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUDIT OFFICE RE: AUDIT OF CORPORATE
PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
2010-11 (copy previously circulated)**

RESOLVED: that correspondence dated 7 December 2010 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office re: Audit of Corporate Performance and

Financial Management Arrangements 2010-11 be referred to the Audit Sub-Committee for further consideration.

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2010/881 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR DECEMBER 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2010/882 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNCIL REGARDING FEE CHARGES TO 'BUILD OVER SEWER APPLICATIONS' (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson referred to the Department's statement that it had commenced a review of this aspect of its charging policy and welcomed this development.

Noted.

2010/883 : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT DATED 30 NOVEMBER 2010 RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – POLICY PROPOSALS (copy previously circulated)

The Acting Chief Executive advised that the consultation deadline was 11 March 2011 and indicated that, if accepted, the proposals would have major implications for Councils.

It was suggested that a special Council meeting should be convened in early January possibly on the same date as the Special Planning meeting to consider the planning reform proposals. The Mayor advised that Members retain their copy of the consultation document for consideration at that meeting.

RESOLVED: a special meeting of the Council be convened in January 2011 to consider this matter.

2010/884 : MAP ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: NEW MODEL FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that the map issued by the Department of the Environment detailing a new model for local democracy be referred to the special Council meeting being convened in January 2011.

2010/885 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT DATED 3 DECEMBER 2010 RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – COUNCILLORS’ PENSIONS (copy previously circulated)

Members considered whether this correspondence should also be placed on the agenda for the special Council meeting being convened in January 2011. The Acting Chief Executive pointed out that it could be perceived that Elected Members might have a pecuniary interest in this matter and she felt that this should be considered under Declarations of Interest. Councillor Robinson pointed out that the matter was being considered by the Councillors’ Remuneration Working Group and suggested that it was appropriate to leave any comment on the proposals to that group.

RESOLVED: that the Council would leave any comment on these proposals to the Councillors’ Remuneration Working Group.

2010/886 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 15 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES’ FORUM RE: WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE PROGRAMME 2011-12 (copy previously circulated)

The Acting Chief Executive advised Members that the cost of participation in this programme would be over and above the Council’s agreed training cost limit. After consideration it was

RESOLVED: that the Council support participation by staff members in the Women’s Leadership Initiative Programme 2011-12 up to the limit of the Council’s agreed training cost.

2010/887 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: DRAFT EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON THE DEPARTMENT’S POLICY FOR THE PURCHASE OF RAIL TICKETS USING THE HALF-FARE SMARTPASS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/888 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM CONSUMER FOCUS POST DATED 17 NOVEMBER 2010 RE: SORRY YOU WERE OUT ... THE UNSUCCESSFUL DELIVERY OF YOUR MAIL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/889 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE DATED 17 NOVEMBER 2010 RE PUBLICATION OF GENDER SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR WORKING WITH WOMEN PRISONERS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/890 : EMAIL FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DATED 1 DECEMBER 2010 RE: SUNDAY SHOPPING (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/891 : DOCUMENT FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND COURTS & TRIBUNALS SERVICE RECEIVED ON 22 NOVEMBER 2010 RE: ACCESS TO JUSTICE REVIEW NORTHERN IRELAND THE AGENDA (copy available at www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/A2JReview)

Noted.

2010/892 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 7 DECEMBER 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON THE STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLID LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FROM THE NON-NUCLEAR INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/893 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 6 DECEMBER 2010 FROM THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RE: CASUAL VACANCY: CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/894 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 24 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM DIABETES UK NORTHERN IRELAND RE: WORLD DIABETES DAY MONUMENT CHALLENGE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/895 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM THE IDENTITY & PASSPORT SERVICES RE: RELOCATION OF OFFICES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/896 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 1 DECEMBER 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT RE: CUSTOMER CHANNEL STRATEGY – CONSULTATION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/897 : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE RAIL PASSENGERS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS (EXEMPTION) REGULATIONS (NI) 2011 (document available at www.dardni.gov.uk/ccs-consultation)

Noted.

2010/898 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 22 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM HSENI RE: CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT: PROPOSAL FOR THE FACTORIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1965 AND OFFICE AND SHOP PREMISES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1966 (REPEALS AND MODIFICATIONS) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/899 : EMAIL FROM THE PRINCIPAL OF MONEYREA PRIMARY SCHOOL RE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt declared an interest in this matter on the basis that he was a member of the Board of Governors.

RESOLVED: that the request from the Principal of Moneyrea Primary School to create a small wooded area in the vicinity of the community centre be agreed in principle but referred to Central Services Committee for further consideration of the detail.

ANNUAL REPORTS

2010/900 : EQUALITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND – ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010

Noted.

2010/901 : THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND – ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS, 1 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010.

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2010/902 : SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES IN JANUARY 2011

Members noted that, due to the Christmas holidays, there would be administrative difficulties in issuing agendas and reports for Standing Committee meetings taking place in the first week of January 2011. It was noted that the Technical & Environmental Services Committee had agreed to hold its next meeting in February. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Standing Committees should not proceed as scheduled in the first week of January and any urgent business should go directly to the January Council meeting.
- (b) that a special meeting of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee be convened in January to consider the issue of partnering arrangement for the removal of snow and ice from town centre footways and pedestrian areas (as previously agreed at Minute no 2010/875) and any other urgent matters.

2010/903 : INFORMATION FROM THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGARDING INCREASE IN FEES FROM 1 JANUARY 2011 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that the Council approve the increase in fees from 1 January 2011 as notified by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

2010/904 : ULSTER SPORTS MUSEUM ASSOCIATION (report tabled at the meeting)

The Area Manager Leisure reported that, at a meeting of the Billy Neill Advisory Group, the Ulster Sports Museum Association had asked the Council to consider whether it would be interested in hosting the Ulster Sports Travelling Exhibition. It was noted that the exhibition normally ran for 4 weeks and the first available opportunity to host it would be in September 2012.

Members were advised that there would be no charge for the use of the exhibition stands but that there would be set-up and other costs such as security and promotional activities.

Councillor Robinson felt that the Billy Neill Centre would not be the most appropriate venue for the exhibition and suggested that officers investigate other venues such as the Council's Function Suite due to footfall and Council security. He continued to say that it would also be worthwhile to look at the Ice Bowl.

RESOLVED: that the Council agree in principle to host the Ulster Sports Travelling Exhibition in September 2012 and that the Management Team consider which Council facility would be the most appropriate venue together with any operational considerations in this regard.

2010/905 : BUDGET FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Councillor Vitty proposed that the Council send a letter of support to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to congratulate them on overcoming difficulties to strike a budget for Northern Ireland.

Alderman Henderson made the point that this was a draft budget and it would have to be ratified in early 2011. Councillor Vitty acknowledged that, while this was a draft budget, it was still an achievement to have avoided the possibility of an enforced budget for Northern Ireland.

Alderman Beattie seconded Councillor Vitty's proposal. Councillor Cochrane queried whether it could be considered patronising of the Council to send congratulations to the OFMDFM for doing what they should be doing.

A recorded vote having been requested, 10 Members voted in favour of the motion, 0 Members voted against the motion and 9 Members abstained from the vote.

The motion was declared carried and it was

RESOLVED: that the Council send a letter of support to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to congratulate them on overcoming difficulties to strike a budget for Northern Ireland.

2010/906 : CHARITY EVENTS

Councillor Drysdale sought Members' support for two forthcoming charity events with proceeds going to the Mayor's charity. The first of these was a charity football match taking place in Hanwood and he suggested that Members might like to take part in a penalty kick shoot out. The other event was a charity quiz taking place in the Icebowl on 11 February 2011.

Noted.

IN COMMITTEE - OFFICERS' REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER (copy previously circulated)

2010/907 : FIRE MARSHALLS (Minute No F&GP/2010/74 refers)

Members were reminded that the Council had previously agreed a fire marshall system whereby 12 officers were undertaking fire marshall duties within the Civic Offices and, to encourage uptake by staff, a payment of £2.59 per week had been offered. Members were asked to consider extending this system to staff within Leisure Services.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that officers be asked to investigate the numbers and costs of introducing fire marshalls for other Council facilities besides the Civic Centre

2010/908 : SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Human Resources Manager advised that a Facilities Co-ordinator had requested approval to attend a Supervisory Development Programme. She provided details of the programme together with costs and advised that the course could be part-funded from the HR training budget with the remainder

being covered from the Community Services conference and courses budget.

RESOLVED: that the Council approve the training request by the Facilities Coordinator with costs being covered by HR training budget and the Community Services conferences and courses budget

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (copy previously circulated)

2010/909 : RESTATEMENT OF COUNCIL'S 2009/10 ACCOUNTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

The Economic Development Manager reported that a new IFRS-based code of practice on local authority accounting, which would apply to council's accounts from 1 April 2010, had been issued by CIPFA. He advised that the Council would now be required to restate its final UK Financial Reporting Standard based accounts (i.e. 2009/2010) on an IFRS basis and have this subject to audit review. He stated that the DoE required the restated accounts to be prepared by 17 December 2010.

The Manager suggested that, as the Council's Senior Accountant was currently on sick leave and in view of the fact that this was a very specialised project, the Council should outsource this work to an accountancy firm.

Members were provided with details of three quotations for the work and it was recommended that it accepted the lowest quote from PWC at a cost of £395 per day for an estimated 10 days' work.

RESOLVED: that the Council accept the lowest quotation from PWC for the work required to complete the restatement of the Council's 2009/10 accounts under IFRS.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT (copy previously circulated)

2010/910 : LOCAL BUSINESS RENOVATION PROGRAMME

The Economic Development Manager provided details of the Local Business Renovation Programme which was 50% funded by the NI Sustainable Competitiveness Programme 2007-2013. He advised that the outputs of the programme would be 6 businesses benefitting from product development, knowledge transfer and research and development.

The Manager advised that the budget for delivery of the programme was £6,300, of which the Council would fund £3,150. Members were given details of quotations received and it was recommended that the Council accept the quotation from NORIBIC which constituted best value and demonstrated the company's capability to carry out the type of work required on budget and to the necessary quality and specification.

RESOLVED: that the Council accept the quotation from NORIBIC for delivery of the Local Business Renovation Programme.

2010/911 : TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE CHARLTON

The Economic Development Manager reported that a request had been received from friends of Charlie Charlton who wished to locate a memorial bench within the grounds of the Lock Keeper's Centre and Visitors' Centre. He reported that the group of friends would provide the funding for the bench. The Manager provided details of the proposal including the inscription on the bench.

RESOLVED: that the Council agree in principle to the proposal to locate a memorial bench to Charlie Charlton within the grounds of the Lock Keeper's Cottage and Visitors' Centre.

2010/912 : LAGAN RURAL PARTNERSHIP – KIOSK APPLICATION

Aldermen Beattie & Rice and Councillors Beattie, Chambers, Hall and Hughes declared an interest in this matter.

The Economic Development Manager reported that the Council had applied to Lagan Rural Partnership for two free-standing internet access kiosks to be located at Moneyreagh and Lough Moss Centres. He advised that the total project costs over a three year pilot period was £25,000 and the grant rate was 75%, i.e. £18,750.

RESOLVED: that officers liaise with DARD and Lagan Rural Partnership to ensure that all expenditure connected to the programme was deemed eligible.

Councillors Copeland and Spratt left the meeting at 6.40 pm

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES (copy previously circulated)

2010/913 : LEISURE CENTRE USER GROUP MEETINGS

Members were advised that user group meetings had been arranged for the Robinson Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres as follows:

Robinson Centre – 11 January 2011
Belvoir Activity Centre – 25 January 2011
Lough Moss Activity Centre – 25 January 2011

Noted.

2010/914 : ROOF AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE

Members were advised that a number of leaks had been identified at the Robinson Centre and the General Manager had sought initial approval from the Chairs of Leisure Services Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee to move the repair process forward. It was noted that the repairs were being progressed and that costs would be in the region of

£5,000. Members were advised that, although no specific provision had been made for these roof repairs, the costs could be met from within the current leisure capital provision.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Council retrospectively approve the progression of repairs to the Robinson Centre roof to be covered from leisure capital project funding
- (b) that, where appropriate, quotations be obtained and brought back to the Leisure Services Committee for approval

2010/915 : SPORTS SOUTH EAST – RESIDUE MONEY

It was reported that, following the cessation of Sports SE, some monies remained that had accumulated during the life of the project and these had been divided between the participating Councils with this Council being allocated the sum of £5,005. It was suggested that, as most of the money was generated at the three leisure centres, it would be appropriate to invest the remaining proceeds into the marketing of these facilities.

It was reported that Britvic funding had been used to supplement the marketing of the leisure centre and, due to the economic climate, it was likely that this funding would not remain at the same level. It was proposed that the residual monies from Sports SE would be moved into the Britvic budget thus redeeming expenditure from this cost code and allowing it to be used for a wider variety of needs later in the year.

RESOLVED: that the residual money from Sports SE be paid into the leisure centre marketing budgets and used to redeem the Britvic budget's previous expenditure.

2010/916 : FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS OF THE ROBINSON, LOUGH MOSS AND BELVOIR CENTRES

Members were advised that, following the introduction of the Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 on 15 November 2010, building occupiers were given the responsibility of ensuring fire safety compliance through Fire Risk Assessments.

It was reported that the Health and Safety Officer had sourced suitably qualified Fire Risk Assessors through the quotation process to perform fire risk assessments for the 28 buildings owned by the Council. The last Risk Assessment had been carried out in 2008. The Risk Assessments included action plans outlining the measures required to ensure compliance of statutory responsibilities.

Members were provided with action plans for Robinson, Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres. Members were advised that there would be an unforeseen cost implication for the estimated budgets at all three sites that might result in an overspend in this year's budgets. It was also noted that additional

provision might be required in 2011/2012 budget to accommodate the required work.

Noted.

2010/917 : LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, ARTS & LEISURE

Members considered correspondence from the Minister of Culture Arts & Leisure regarding a request for Leander Swimming Club to be allocated additional lanes in the Robinson Centre pool. Members were advised of the current allocation of lanes for competitive swimmers and it was noted that demand by general users for the remaining lanes was high.

It was proposed by Alderman White, seconded by Alderman Rice and

RESOLVED: that the Council respond to the request for additional allocation of lanes for Leander Swimming Club explaining that the Centre was attempting to offer facilities to a wide range of users with differing capabilities and that the current arrangement was the best compromise accommodating both competitive swimmers and general users

2010/918 : CAPITAL PROJECTS – 2010/11

Permission was sought from Council to bring forward a number of capital projects into 2010/2011 that would otherwise have been scheduled for future years, as follows:

Robinson Centre – manual pool vacuum - £1,000
Lough Moss – path to hockey pitch - £2,000
Robinson Centre – roof repairs (retrospective) - £5,000

It was noted that capital provision existed to progress these projects.

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to bring forward the above capital projects into the 2010/2011 financial year.

2010/919 : CAPITAL PROJECTS – 2011/2012

Members were provided with details of capital projects relating to Belvoir, Lough Moss and Robinson Centres to be considered for inclusion in the 2011/2012 capital schedule being compiled by the Technical Services section. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the list of leisure services capital projects be referred to the Estimates Working Group for consideration.

REPORT BY THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER (copy previously circulated)

2010/920 : GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID PROGRAMME

The Community Services Manager reported that 9 applications had been received for the Council's Good Relations grant aid programme by the deadline of 3 December 2010. It was reported that, in line with the procedure previously adopted, officers had reviewed, checked and scored all applications against the eligibility and scoring criteria agreed by the Council and, on that basis, 2 applications were rejected. Members were provided with details of all applications and the assessment outcome. It was noted that the total cost of the recommended applications was £6,414 and provision had already been included in the 2010/11 estimates with 75% funding provided by OFMDFM.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Council approve the Good Relations grant applications as detailed by the Community Services Manager
- (b) that, where a grant had not been recommended, the applicant be advised of their right to appeal.

SUPPLEMENTARY VERBAL REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

2010/921 : WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that a meeting had been held today with the Minister of the Environment regarding closed landfill sites and that Alderman Beattie and Councillor Robinson had also been in attendance. He indicated that the meeting had been a productive one and a further report on the matter would be brought to Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

Noted.

IN COMMITTEE – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2010/922 : ADDITIONAL LEAVE DAY

Alderman Henderson proposed that, in recognition of the sterling work undertaken by Council staff throughout the course of the year, the Council give one additional leave day to all staff on 24 December 2010 and that staff who were required to work on this day should be granted one additional leave day at a future date. Alderman Rice seconded the proposal, and it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for one additional leave day to all staff on 24 December 2010 and that staff who were required to work on this day be granted one additional leave day at a future date.

STAFF IN COMMITTEE

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.00 pm

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR