

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, 25 March 2010, at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor M Copeland
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: J Norris MBE
G Rice MBE (until 8.44 pm)
J White

COUNCILLORS: AM Beattie
J Beattie
J Bunting
M Chambers (until 9.25 pm)
J Cochrane
D Drysdale
S Duncan
C Hall
B Hanvey
R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long
V McCoy
G Robinson (until 9.25 pm)
J Spratt
C Tosh

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Executive (Director of Administration & Community Services), Director of Finance, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, General Manager Leisure & Marketing, Planning Officer, Planning Service Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: An apology was received on behalf of Alderman Henderson, Councillor Walker and the Director of Leisure Services

2010/131 : OPENING OF THE MEETING

Reverend Paul Linkens opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

PRESENTATION

2010/132 : PRESENTATION BY MR DAVID BABINGTON, CHERTON, RE: SAINSBURY'S PROPOSALS FOR DUNDONALD – APPLICATION Y/2010/0087/O – PROPOSED RETAIL / EMPLOYMENT-LED, MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT, UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, DUNDONALD

Mr Pinkerton introduced the representatives from Sainsbury's and commented that he was delighted to be back in Castlereagh Borough Council. He stated that Sainsbury's was well established in Northern Ireland with twelve stores up and running and three more announced. The location for the new store in Dundonald was the derelict Rolls Royce and TK-ECC site, which was a prime location with good access. It was also adjacent to large residential areas, for example, Ballybeen.

Mr Babington then took Members through the site plan, which included proposals for a Sainsbury's store with 550 car parking spaces, offices, a hotel and business units on a 18.75-acre site. It was anticipated that approximately 500 full-time and part-time jobs would be created in Sainsbury's plus another 250 during construction. It was further estimated that another 250 jobs would be created in the hotel and industrial/business units. Mr Babington advised that the application was currently with the Strategic Projects Team at the Planning Service and it was hoped to obtain approval within six to 12 months.

Following the presentation, Members thanked the representatives from Sainsbury's. Councillor Robinson stated that he had met with members of Ballybeen Improvement Group. The area had suffered job losses, so residents were interested to see how new job opportunities would benefit the area. Furthermore, there were plans for a large housing development in the area.

Mr Willcox, SL's Property Representative for Northern Ireland, advised that Sainsbury's intention was to interview people from the area in line with the recruitment procedure, and it was hoped that most jobs would go to residents in the immediate area.

Alderman Rice raised concerns that the new store might have an impact on the Sainsbury's store at Forestside, particularly in light of the cessation of its 24-hour opening. Furthermore, she enquired whether local shops in Dundonald might be adversely affected.

Councillor Long left the Chamber at this point, 7.30 pm.

Mr Hollinger, Planning Officer from Turley's, stated that Sainsbury's was always flexible regarding its opening times and respond to conditions. He added that Sainsbury's had a huge investment in Forestside and discussions with the Council and developers had taken place to improve and enlarge the store.

Councillor Long returned to the Chamber at this point, 7.33 pm.

Mr Hollinger went on to say that Sainsbury's stores were viewed as stand-alone units, therefore Sainsbury's endeavoured to maximise potential and

avoid stores being located where they could take business away from each other. In respect of local shops, Mr Hollinger stated that evidence in some parts in England showed that local shops had prospered following the opening of a Sainsbury's store near them.

Councillor Duncan enquired whether Sainsbury's intended to meet local residents and explain the proposed development and which facilities would be available. Furthermore, she asked whether there would be landscaping carried out.

Councillor Spratt pointed out that there currently was a deficit in the availability of apprenticeships to enable young people to acquire a trade. He enquired whether Sainsbury's would encourage contractors to employ apprentices as part of the tender process, particularly from the local community.

Councillor Cochrane stated that she welcomed the new development as the potential for new jobs was very good. However, she raised concerns regarding the siting of the proposed petrol station, as the traffic flow would be close to the junction to the new development. Furthermore, there already was a petrol station close by, which might lose business. Councillor Cochrane added that residents were also concerned.

Councillor Drysdale reiterated concerns regarding the petrol station. However, he felt it would be healthy competition. He added that he, too, welcomed the potential new jobs for the area, particularly part-time jobs, and he enquired whether these jobs would be created solely by Sainsbury's or whether some of them would be located in the other units. Furthermore, he enquired about the order of construction, ie which part of the development would be erected first.

Councillor Hanvey stated that, due to the local infrastructure, people would find it difficult to travel to the new store. He enquired whether Sainsbury's intended to make provision that would benefit the local community.

Alderman White also stated his approval of the proposed development. However, he felt that, as the development progressed, the Council might wish to have another meeting. He added that, as Sainsbury's and the Council had liaised well in the past, he did not foresee any difficulties in the future.

Following the presentation, Councillor Copeland thanked the representatives from Sainsbury's and suggested that replies should be made in writing to the entire Council via the Planning Officer.

After the representatives had left, Councillor Robinson proposed that the Council write a letter of support in respect of the outline application for Sainsbury's proposal. The proposal was unanimously agreed and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council write a letter of support for the proposal from Sainsbury's for a retail/employment-led mixed-use development in the Upper Newtownards Road, Dundonald.

2010/133 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) The Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings subject to the following amendments:
- (i) Council meeting held on 25 February 2010
 - Record times when Councillors Bunting, Chambers and Robinson left the Chamber and returned
 - (ii) Central Services Committee meeting held on 8 March 2010
 - Minute CS/2010/72 – Record that Councillor Long declared an interest and left the room
- (b) The Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:
- (i) Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 2 March 2010
 - (ii) Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 4 March 2010
- (c) The following Minutes be amended and referred to 'In Committee' for consideration:
- (i) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 March 2010
 - Minute F&GP/2010/71 – Refer back to Committee for further consideration
 - Minute F&GP/2010/82 – Resolution: delete NJC Scale 18; insert NJC Scale 1B Point 7 part-time three days per week
 - (ii) Transition Committee meeting held on 18 March 2010
- (d) The Minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held on 18 January 2010 be noted

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2010/134 : LEAVING AND RE-ENTERING MEETINGS

Councillor Copeland reminded Members that the Members' Services Officer should be alerted when a Member leaves the room and when re-entering. The Acting Chief Executive advised that the procedures relating to Members leaving and re-entering meetings had been considered by the Central Services Committee and approved by Council. The next stage would be to put the amendments to Standing Orders on the agenda for the next Council meeting as a Notice of Motion. Councillor Spratt stated that he was not in

agreement with this procedure and he objected to being asked to notify the Members' Services Officer every time he left the meeting and on return.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of procedures relating to Members leaving and re-entering meetings be referred back to the Central Services Committee.

Alderman Norris and Councillors Copeland and Drysdale left the meeting at this point, 8.00 pm.

PLANNING

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

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 25 MARCH 2010 (copy enclosed)

2010/135 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0391/F – COMMERCIAL PAINTBALL SITE, TO BE USED FOR TEAM PAINTBALL GAMES AND EXISTING BARNs FOR CHANGING AND STORAGE FACILITIES – LANDS LOCATED 90 METRES NORTH OF NO 39 CLONTONACALLY ROAD, CARRYDUFF

The Planning Service Officer advised that the reason for refusal of the above application was PPS21, in line with the Planning Service's practice. It would be deferred until the adoption of PPS21.

Councillor Spratt stated that the practice of deferring planning applications that were refused because of PPS21 until its adoption was confusing. He enquired whether there was consistency in the application of this practice, and he referred to one application in particular, where an enforcement notice had been issued. The Planning Service Officer replied that the Planning Service was consistent with protocol but that enforcement would be continued.

Alderman Rice agreed with Councillor Spratt. Furthermore, she felt that no notices should be issued until the adoption of PPS21 as this would save time and money.

Noted.

Alderman Norris and Councillors Copeland and Drysdale returned at this point, 8.05 pm.

Councillors Bunting and Cochrane left the meeting at this point, 8.05 pm.

2010/136 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0417/F – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING HOUSE AND OUTBUILDINGS AND ERECTION OF FOUR APARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING – 15 THORNDALe ROAD SOUTH, CARRYDUFF

Alderman Rice asked that her disappointment regarding this development be recorded.

Noted.

Councillor Duncan left the meeting at this point, 8.10 pm.
Councillor Cochrane returned at this point, 8.10 pm.

2010/137 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0453/F – ERECTION OF A REPLACEMENT TWO-STOREY DWELLING WITH A TWO-STOREY DETACHED GARAGE – 64 GILNAHIRK PARK, TULLYCARNET, BELFAST

Alderman White raised concerns in respect of the above application as he felt that the proposed new dwelling would be out of character in the area. He proposed that a site visit be arranged.

Alderman Rice and Councillor Hanvey left the meeting at this point, 8.12 pm.
Councillor Duncan returned at this point, 8.12 pm.

Councillor Long agreed that the proposed development would be out of character in the area and he seconded Alderman White's proposal for a site visit.

Councillor Hanvey returned at this point, 8.13 pm.

RESOLVED: That a site visit be convened in respect of Planning Application Y/2009/0453/F at a date and time to be agreed with the Chairman and Alderman White.

Alderman Rice returned at this point, 8.15 pm.

2010/138 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 16 FEBRUARY 2010 TO 15 MARCH 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

Councillor Robinson left the meeting at this point, 8.16 pm.

2010/139 : NOTES OF THE PLANNING OFFICE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/140 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Long asked to place on record that there had been a previous application in respect of this development. He commented that concerns relating to the previous application should not be transferred to the existing one. Furthermore, concerns relating to the existing application required more

clarification, ie that there was an opportunity of further change of use of the premises.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 4 March 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Councillor Robinson returned at this point, 8.18 pm.

2010/141 : NOTES OF THE PLANNING OFFICE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2010 (copy tabled at the meeting)

Councillor Robinson commented that the applicant should have been present at the meeting. The Planning Officer replied that she had been in contact with the applicant who had agreed to meet the Planning Service Officer to discuss the application in more detail.

Noted.

2010/142 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING OF 22 MARCH 2010 (copy tabled at the meeting)

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 22 March 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

2010/143 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 12 MARCH 2010, RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2008/0227/F – ERECTION OF MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT, CONSISTING OF 72 NO RESIDENTIAL UNITS, SIX NO RETAIL UNITS, 48 NO OFFICES, 12 NO INDUSTRIAL UNITS AND THE ERECTION OF A 91-BED HOTEL, ALL WITH ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT THE FORMER ROLLS ROYCE SITE, UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, DUNDONALD – WITHDRAWAL OF THE APPLICATION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/144 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING, DATED 11 MARCH 2010, RE: PLANNING APPLICATIONS Y/2010/0058/F AND Y/2010/0056/F – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE EXTENSION AND REFURBISHMENT OF LAGAN COLLEGE, MANSE ROAD, BELFAST – RELOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FACILITIES FOR TOR BANK SCHOOL, UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, DUNDONALD (copy previously circulated)

Alderman Rice declared an interest.

Councillor Spratt advised that there had been debate in the Northern Ireland Assembly regarding these two developments, which had been combined. He requested that a presentation be arranged with representatives from Strategic Planning.

Alderman Rice left the meeting at this point, 8.22 pm.

Councillor Robinson supported the application and asked that a letter of support be sent.

Councillor Duncan seconded Councillor Spratt's proposal, and it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a presentation be arranged with representatives from Strategic Planning in respect of Planning Applications Y/2010/0058/F and Y/2010/0056/F.
- (b) That the Planning Officer write a letter in support of Planning Applications Y/2010/0058/F and Y/2010/0056/F.

2010/145 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 9 MARCH 2010, RE: HOMEBASE, UPPER GALWALLY, BELFAST – APPLICATION UNDER ARTICLE 28 OF THE PLANNING (NI) ORDER 1991 TO VARY CONDITION 4 IN PLANNING APPROVAL Y/1986/0061 TO ALLOW FOR THE SALE OF CONVENIENCE GOODS IN AN EXISTING RETAIL UNIT (AMENDED SCOPING STUDY) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/146 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 1 MARCH 2010, AND FROM THE PLANNING APPEALS COMMISSION, DATED 2 MARCH 2010, RE: LANDS AT OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, BELFAST (OPPOSITE DAVID LLOYD LEISURE CENTRE) – ERECTION OF PETROL FILLING STATION WITH ASSOCIATED SHOP AND SINGLE-DECK CAR PARK (AMENDED PARKING ARRANGEMENT FOR APPROVAL Y/2006/0063) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – PLANNING

2010/147 : PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTANCY

Alderman White proposed to arrange a special meeting of Council for the presentation by Strategic Planning. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bunting, and it was

RESOLVED: That a special Council meeting be arranged to hold a presentation by representatives from Strategic Planning in respect of development proposals for the extension and refurbishment of Lagan College, Manse Road, Belfast, and relocation and development of new facilities for Tor Bank School, Upper Newtownards Road, Dundonald.

Councillors Mrs Beattie and Hall left the meeting at this point, 8.27 pm.

Councillor Copeland returned to the chair.

ROADS

2010/148 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 16 MARCH 2010, RE: CONSULTATION ON PREPARING A NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2010-2020 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/149 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE, DATED 9 MARCH 2010, RE: SAINTFIELD ROAD / ORMEAU ROAD CORRIDOR (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

HOUSING

2010/150 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL, DATED 4 MARCH 2010, RE: NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL SUMMARY REPORT – AUGUST 2009 TO JANUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/151 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, DATED 1 MARCH 2010, RE: DRAFT REGENERATION AND HOUSING BILL (copy previously circulated)

The Acting Chief Executive sought approval to defer consideration of the above correspondence to the Transition Committee.

Alderman White advised that, at a recent meeting with representatives from the Department for Social Development, it had been stated that the Department was still in process of resolving important issues. Decisions had not yet been reached in respect of finance, staff transfers etc.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the correspondence from the Department for Social Development, dated 1 March 2010, re: Draft Regeneration and Housing Bill to the Transition Committee.

Councillors Hall and Robinson returned to the meeting at this point, 8.29 pm.
Alderman Norris left the meeting at this point, 8.31 pm.

FINANCE

2010/152 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

General Account (Suppliers)	£594,061.52
General Account (Emergency Payments)	£97,962.77
Subsidiary Account (Wages & Salaries)	£832,853.37

Councillor Mrs Beattie returned to the meeting at this point, 8.31 pm.

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2009/153 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR MARCH 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2010/154 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, DATED 8 MARCH 2010, RE: HOME HEATING AND NI PETROL AND DIESEL PRICES (copy previously circulated)

The Acting Chief Executive stated that the Consumer Council had requested a meeting, following receipt of correspondence from a previous Council meeting.

Alderman White felt that the issue of home heating and petrol and diesel prices was very important and that it would be beneficial to obtain as much information as possible. Councillor Long agreed. He felt that it would be advantageous to ascertain the reasons for price rises.

RESOLVED: That a presentation be arranged for representatives from the Consumer Council to attend a future meeting of Council in respect of home heating and NI petrol and diesel prices.

2010/155 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE & INVESTMENT, DATED 5 MARCH 2010, RE: CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT TOURISM STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TO 2020 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/156 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SUB-POSTMASTERS, DATED 5 MARCH 2010, RE: SIX STEPS TO A SUSTAINABLE POST OFFICE NETWORK (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/157 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM SHEAN DICKSON MERRICK, SOLICITORS, DATED 19 FEBRUARY 2010, RE: APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF A LICENCE (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the Council has no objections to the transfer of a licence to premises situated at Unit Nos 1, 10, 11 and 12 Town & Country Shopping Centre, Carryduff.

2010/158 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DATED 5 MARCH 2010, RE: TRAVELWISE SUSTAINABLE EVENTS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/159 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND COURT SERVICE, DATED 26 FEBRUARY 2010, RE: PROVISION TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE TO COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS WITHOUT RECOURSE TO A LAY MAGISTRATE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/160 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM PARENTS AUTISM LOBBY, DATED 25 FEBRUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/161 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND / LOCAL AUTHORITY ENFORCEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE, DATED 15 FEBRUARY 2010, RE: HELANI STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2011 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the Council's Health & Safety Officer review the plan and consider any implications for Council.

2010/162 : INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM TGR SEMINARS RE: CONFERENCE FOR COUNCILLORS ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

Alderman Norris returned at this point, 8.37 pm.

2010/163 : INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS RE: CONFERENCE ENTITLED

'SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES – DELIVERING HOUSING AND REGENERATION' (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for Alderman Norris and Councillor Jeffers to attend the NAC conference entitled 'Supporting our Communities – Delivering Housing and Regeneration', to be held on 9-11 April 2010, in the Crown Spa Hotel, Scarborough.

2010/164 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 1 MARCH 2010, RE: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT BILL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/165 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DATED 15 MARCH 2010, RE: ROAD GRITTING (copy previously circulated)

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of roads being gritted during bad weather. Alderman Rice commented that there were many elderly people living in Carryduff, which meant there was an additional need for gritting. Councillor Drysdale stated that, had footpaths been gritted, many injuries could have been prevented. Councillor Long added that residents had contacted him regarding gritting the Comber Greenway. He felt that one alternative would be the provision of salt boxes.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding road gritting be deferred to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

Alderman Rice left the meeting at this point, 8.44 pm.

2010/166 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM JONES & COMPANY, SOLICITORS, DATED 10 MARCH 2010, RE: TWO APPLICATIONS FOR OCCASIONAL LICENCES – THE ROSETTA BAR, ROSETTA ROAD, BELFAST – 17 APRIL 2010 AND 1 MAY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the Council has no objections regarding the issue of two Licences for the Rosetta Bar, Rosetta Road, Belfast, on 17 April 2010 and 1 May 2010.

ANNUAL REPORTS

2010/167 : INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND – 2009 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2010/168 : NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – CONFERENCE

Councillor Jeffers confirmed that he and Alderman Norris would be attending the forthcoming NAC conference where the topic of legislation regarding severance for Elected Members would be considered, and he intended to report back to Council. He also stated that NI Region Officers had arranged a meeting with the Minister to discuss this issue.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jeffers report back to Council about points raised at the forthcoming NAC conference in respect of severance for Elected Members.

2010/169 : DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (INDEMNITIES FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (Minute F&GP/2010/85 refers)

Alderman White referred to discussion at the March Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting relating to the Draft Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 Consultation Document. He was of the view that the Council should support the document, and he advised that he would contact Officers with any comments before the closing date for responses of 31 March 2010.

The Acting Chief Executive stated that she would prepare a response.

RESOLVED: That Alderman White contact Officers to provide additions and comments relating to the Draft Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 Consultation Document before the deadline of 31 March 2010.

2010/170 : REFURBISHMENT OF THE ROBINSON CENTRE

The Director of Finance advised that he had sought advice from the Local Government Auditor that expenditure incurred through the refurbishment of the Robinson Centre would not be deemed as nugatory. The Local Government Auditor had granted approval to this expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the refurbishment work to the Robinson Centre could proceed as outlined in the Leisure Services Committee Minutes of 4 March 2010 and the Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes of 10 March 2010.

2010/171 : PRESS RELEASE RE: CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL RATE BILLS

The Director of Finance reported that the Department of Finance & Personnel intended to publish a press release in respect of rate bills issued

to Castlereagh ratepayers, and the Council had been invited to add comments, to be submitted by 26 March 2010. He sought approval that he and Councillor Beattie submit comments on the Council's behalf.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Beattie and the Director of Finance submit comments to the press release published by the Department of Finance & Personnel in respect of rate bills to Castlereagh ratepayers.

IN COMMITTEE

2010/172 : ECONOMIC OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR THE ROBINSON CENTRE – TENDER EVALUATION (copy previously circulated)

The General Manager Leisure & Marketing outlined details of the tender evaluation carried on in respect of the Robinson Centre. KPMG had been identified as representing the best value for money for the Economic Options Appraisal, with the option to extend the contract to cover the Outline Business Case. The General Manager Leisure & Marketing confirmed that provision to cover the cost of the appraisal had been made in the Capital Estimates.

Following discussion, Alderman White proposed to accept the recommendation, the proposal was seconded by Councillor McCoy, and it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to award the contract for the Economic Options Appraisal for the Robinson Centre to KPMG with the option to extend the contract to cover the Outline Business Case.

2010/173 : MINUTE F&GP/2010/65 OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2010 – REQUEST FROM BELVOIR PLAYERS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt referred to previous discussion by the Finance & General Purposes Committee regarding a request from Belvoir Player's for £15,000 towards the cost of a one-way traffic system and additional car parking facilities at their studios. It had been agreed that the request be granted once outstanding legal issues had been resolved, which could take a considerable amount of time. Councillor Spratt proposed to amend the resolution of Minute F&GP/2010/65 and, therefore, authorise release of the grant of £15,000 before the end of the current financial year.

Alderman White and Councillor Long seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED: That the resolution of Minute F&GP/2010/65 be amended to read as follows: That, as per Minute No. F&GP/2009/355, a grant of £15,000.00 be awarded to Belvoir Players before the end of the 2009-2010 financial year.

2010/174 : DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2010 (copy tabled at the meeting)

Officers raised concerns as to the procedure and timing of tabling Minutes of the Transition Committee due to the fact that they had not been reviewed in advance by Castlereagh Borough Council Officers before being tabled at Council.

Members raised concerns about a number of inaccuracies in the Minutes. The Director of Technical & Environmental Services felt that the resolution of Item 4.5 did not reflect the outcome of the discussion.

Councillor Spratt left the meeting at this point, 8.58 pm.

Alderman White and Councillor Hanvey agreed that the Minute did not reflect discussion. Councillor Hanvey was of the view that the boundaries issue needed to be resolved before the Transition Committee could allow Officers to meet with Belfast City Council.

Councillor Spratt returned to the meeting at this point, 9.00 pm.

Alderman White stated that, in his view, the first paragraph on p4 (Proposal 1) should be deleted, as there had been no proposal to pay staff additional hours for RPA work.

Councillor Bunting referred to Item 4.8 and the resolution of Item 4.7, stating that the costs involved were not clearly specified. Councillor Beattie explained that Alderman Henderson had proposed payments to staff who were carrying out work relating to the transition.

Councillor Bunting also raised concerns about Item 4.9, which noted the Committee's opposition to a Voluntary Regional Transition Committee. She went on to say that there were many benefits to having a Voluntary Regional Transition Committee in place, particularly in light of the review of Local Government structures, and she apprised Members of further details.

Councillor Hanvey agreed that the Transition Committee had not been fully briefed in respect of the tabled proposals. He also felt that there was a lack of clarity in communications between NILGA/SOLACE and the Transition Committee.

Alderman White suggested to ask the Change Manager not to send the Committee's response until further discussion had taken place. Councillor Bunting added that the response should also state the Committee's support for setting up a Voluntary Regional Transition Committee.

The Director of Finance then referred to Item 4.1. He advised that he had informed the Committee that only the penny product had been omitted.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Minutes of the Transition Committee meeting held on 18 March 2010 be referred back to the Committee.
- (b) That the Acting Chief Executive make contact with the Change Manager, apprising him of the reasons for the referral back to Committee.

2010/175 : THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (INDEMNITIES FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010 (Minute F&GP/2010/85 refers) (discussed in Minute 2010/169)

The Acting Chief Executive advised that Officers were covered in the Council's liability insurance. However, indemnity provisions for Elected Members were unclear and required further explanation.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Acting Chief Executive write in support of the Draft Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 consultation document.

At this point, Councillors Chambers and Robinson left the meeting at 9.25 pm.

At this point the meeting went into "Staff into Committee"

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.00 pm.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR