

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 212 – 15th February 2010****Table of Contents**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No 212 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, on Monday 15th February 2010 at 3.00pm.

IN THE CHAIR Councillor J Finlay, Chair

PRESENT

Aldermen
F Campbell, Mayor
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor
H Connolly
J Simpson

Councillors
A Cavlan
R Halliday
M McCamphill, Vice-Chair
A Patterson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES Councillor E Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Clerical Assistant

212.1 MINUTES – MEETING NO 211 – 18th January 2010

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Alderman Cousley and
AGREED:

that the minutes of meeting No 211 on 18th January 2010, circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

Alderman Campbell expressed his disappointment at the loss of jobs to Ballymoney at Henderson Food Service. Councillor Finlay provided details on a forthcoming meeting with Sir Reg Empey regarding the effect of the economic downturn (212.5 refers).

212.2 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2009-2011

Further to an overview of the draft Development Strategy 2009-2011 given at the last meeting by the Head of Corporate and Development Services it was **RECOMMENDED** that the draft Development Strategy 2009-2011 be adopted.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that the draft Development Strategy 2009-2011 be adopted.

212.3 ACTION PLAN

The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated members on progress on development of actionplan and funding plan which would be presented to the next meeting.

RDP Projects Update:

Reporting on recent RDP special calls project team meetings the officer advised that project proposals for the Food Tourism project (Coleraine BC led) and Tourism Product Knowledge project (Ballymoney BC led) had been settled, while due to tight timeline for final approval of the cost benefit analysis and issue of letter of offer the Easter Bunnyest Event at Drumaheglis had to be deferred to 2011.

RDP Special Calls Funding

Revised budgets and financial profiles had been provided for funding of the cluster-wide specials calls and revised Council contributions over the 3-year period of the projects calculated. The revised total cost of the projects, Food Tourism, Village Facilitator and Product Knowledge, was £5177.98

DARD Branded Food Initiative

Following consultation on this Moyle DC led project the brand "Naturally North Coast" had been settled to be rolled out across the region and work had commenced on collating local produce information etc.

WOMAD Festival

The funding bids, which Council had supported, for a major multi-cultural music festival at Leslie Hill in summer 2010 were being further developed and the Development Unit was continuing to provide support for this new event initiative.

Tourism Marketing and Events

Following Council decision not to fill the Tourism Co-Ordinator post in the incoming year the Development Unit had agreed to take responsibility for delivery of tourism marketing and events for which budget provision had been made.

* **Councillor Cavlan joined the meeting at 3.17pm during discussions.**

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the amended financial contributions of £2143.99 (Year 1), £2143.99 (Year 2) and £890 balance (Year 3) be approved for RDP projects – Food Tourism, Village Facilitator and Tourism Product Knowledge.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that Council approve amended financial contributions of £2143.99 (Year 1), £2143.99 (Year 2) and £890 balance (Year 3) for RDP projects – Food Tourism, Village Facilitator and Tourism Product Knowledge.

212.4 Rural White Paper

NILGA has forwarded policy recommendations from the Rural White Paper Stakeholder Advisory Group sub-groups which have been signed off by the Minister. Work is now commencing on a public consultation paper, to be launched in the autumn.

Comments are invited prior to publication of the consultation paper. It is envisaged that in late March there will be a plenary session of the stakeholder forum to sign off the final policy recommendations and vision statement, followed by the launch of the public consultation in the autumn, with legislation anticipated early 2011. The deadline for comments is 19th March. The policy papers are being considered and comments, if any, will be brought to committee's next meeting.

212.5 Meeting with DEL Minister Re Impact of Economic downturn

Over the past few months the DEL Minister, Sir Reg Empey, has met a range of people from the Northern area to discuss the severe impact that the economic downturn is having on individuals and business. The Minister invites Council to nominate two representatives to attend a meeting, hosted by The Northern Workforce Development Forum, The ECOS Centre, Ballymena on the 24 February at 11.30am. The aim of the meeting is to bring together local political and business representatives to put forward their views and for the Minister to outline what services DEL has available for employers and individuals. The session will conclude with a buffet lunch, during which officials from DEL will be on hand to answer any queries.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Chair (or his nominee) and the Head of Service (or her nominee) be appointed to represent Council at this event.

It was **AGREED:**

that the Vice-Chair of the Development Committee and the Head of Corporate and Development Services or her nominee be appointed to represent Council at this event.

212.6 North Antrim Community Network – Application for financial assistance

North Antrim Community Network has made application for financial assistance towards the Operation Plan being delivered in Ballymoney Borough up to 31st March 2010. The total cost to deliver the plan is estimated at £88,000 and each of the four councils within the network is being asked for a contribution of £3,000 for the year ending 31st March 2010. The network secured funding of £61,500 for its core running costs from DARD's Anti-Poverty Programme and the balance is secured from the Network's community business, Antrim Glens Cottages and management fees from other network projects. The application was noted.

212.7 Public Sector Employment

Councillor Stevenson informed members he had spoken to Ms Margaret Ritchie, Minister for Social Development regarding the loss of back office jobs at Housing Executive and Social Security Agency, John Street office in Ballymoney. He asked the committee to write to the Minister seeking clarification on the policy to remove civil service jobs from Ballymoney. Alderman Campbell and Councillor Cavlan supported the comments. The Chair in response to members advised front counter jobs would remain but it is unclear how many jobs are affected. He also suggested writing to Sir Reg Empey, DEL Minister as DEL jobs are moving out of the Jobs and Benefits office at John Street, Ballymoney.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

to write to Ms Margaret Ritchie, Minister for Social Development and Sir Reg Empey, DEL Minister seeking clarification on the Departments policy to remove civil service jobs from Ballymoney.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 3.25pm.