

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Business and Culture Committee (Open) held in the Guildhall on Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Councillor Logue (Chair); Aldermen ; Councillors McKinght, Ald R Hamilton, Hussey, Warke, Cooper, Cusack, Fleming, McMahon, O'Reilly and Reilly.

Non-Member of the Committee:-

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In Attendance:- Mr S Gillespie (Director of Business and Culture), A McCarter (Head of Culture), K O'Connor (Head of Environment) and Mrs J Galloway-Doherty (Administration Assistant); Mrs J Shortt (Committee Sevices Assistant)

BC96/15 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Director of Business and Culture read the Notice and Summons for the meeting

BC97/15 Member Attendance and Apologies

Apologies noted for Councillor Cusack.

BC98/15 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor's McGuire, McKnight, R McHugh, Reilly, Boyle and Alderman Ramsey declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 20: PEACE IV Update.

Councillor's Logue, Fleming, McGuire, R McHugh and D Kelly declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 22: Rural Development Programme Update.

Councillor Logue declared an interest in Agenda Item No: 13:International Appalachian Trail.

Alderman R Hamilton declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 11: Education & Skills Delivery Partnership.

BC99/15 Presentation from Translink re. Hannon Coaches Ltd Application

The Members received a presentation from Mr Young, Translink a copy of which had been previously circulated.

Mr Young proceeded to provide a business performance overview. He said that the mission of Translink was to:

'Deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland'.

Mr Young referred to Translink's support of the draft Programme of Government and their key outcome was to connect people and opportunities through infrastructure. The key indicator was to increase the use of public transport and active travel.

He referred to an investment of £55 million in bus and rail transport improvement in recent years as follows:

- Derry-Londonderry Rail line upgrade
- Hourly rail timetable – passenger growth + 30%
- Goldline 212 coaches - £5m fleet enhancement
- Additional early morning and late evening coach services now operating between Derry-Londonderry and Belfast
- More than 50 return services each day between the two cities on NI Railways and Goldline services
- Commitment to Cross Border x3/x4 developments

Mr Jackson further referred to investment in the city for a North West Multi-Modal Transport Hub to facilitate a balance of services for public transport and active travel:

- Regenerative benefits
- Strong North/South Infrastructure connectivity
- New hourly service introduced on the Derry-Londonderry Line Summer 2017 – strong growth of over 30%
- Planning approval due on site Summer 2018

Mr Jackson further referred to current funding for public transport:

- A cross subsidised model – commercial services subsidise non-commercial services and authority costs

- Provides network coverage by extracting a social dividend in place of a commercial dividend.
- Facilities efficient use of revenue subsidy
- 'Home to School' bus routes integrated with public transport routes, enabling efficient scheduling and rural support services
- Politically accepted as an efficient use of public money
- Current commercial income doesn't fully support non-commercial services and authority costs

The Chair thanked Mr Young for the presentation and invited Members to comment or seek points of clarification if they so wished.

The following comments/issued were raised by Members:

- Welcomed the decision to support Translink.
- More efficient key public service
- Still scope for improvement of service in particular commercial routes and increase in rural services
- Difficulty with the purchase of tickets on-line
- Positive in terms of infrastructure
- Connection to Dublin to be improved
- Update on investment in the 273 service
- Direct transport link from Castlederg to SWAH, Enniskillen required.

Mr Young responded as follows:

- Reviewing continual growth of the rail and bus routes and the longterm plan is to operate an hourly service from Belfast to Dublin and connection from Derry.
- Website under review to improve ticket purchase system
- Goldline review underway to include the 273 service.
- Fleet investment of 15 new vehicles
- Primary objective to increase rural network

Mr Young and Mr Woods left the meeting at this stage.

Chairperson's Business

BC100/15 Message of Appreciation

The Chair referred to this being her final meeting as Chair of Committee for 2017/18. She thanked the Officer team and Members for their assistance throughout the year.

Members voiced their appreciation to the Chair for carrying out her role in a fair and diligent manner. They also expressed appreciation to the Vice-Chair for his contribution to Committee.

BC101/15 Darkness into Light Event

The Chair referred to the recent Darkness into Light 5K walk/run event held on 12 May 2018, and remarked on the high number of participation. She thanked the officer team involved in the promotion of the event.

BC102/15 Jazz Festival 2018

The Chair referred to the Jazz Festival held in the city recently and congratulated the officer team involved in making the event a great success.

BC103/15 Palestine Attack

The Chair referred to the recent unjustifiable violence in Gaza that resulted in approximately 50 deaths, some of which were children. She referred to a protest demonstration to be held later that evening at the Free Derry Corner and encouraged Members to attend to show support of the families who had suffered great loss at this time.

Councillor Reilly concurred with the Chair's views regarding the recent violence in Gaza and attendance by Members at the demonstration that evening. He also said that it would be appropriate to open a book of condolence in respect of the people who lost their lives.

Alderman Ramsey commented that whilst all murders should be condemned, there was the issue of Hamas not protecting their borders.

Councillor Cooper condemned the actions of the Israeli forces. He said that there were alternative ways to protect the borders rather than the use of live ammunition. He also supported attendance at the demonstration event to be held in Derry City that evening.

BC104/15 Newtownstewart- Anti Social Behaviour

Councillor McGuire referred to the recent spate of anti-social behaviour in Newtownstewart town and requested an inter-agency meeting be co-ordinated to address the issue.

Alderman Hussey concurred with Councillor McGuire's concerns. He referred to the fact that individual party members had met with the PSNI and it was his understanding that a meeting was scheduled with Community representatives to co-ordinate a response to reassure the residents that the issue was being addressed.

The Director of Business and Culture agreed to pass this to his colleagues for action.

BC105/15 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 17 April 2018

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting held on 17 April 2018 (BC75/18-BC87/18) were agreed.

Matters Arising

BC106/15 Culture Venues Fund 2016/17- Impact Report (BC85/18)

Alderman Hussey requested that Committee be kept informed of the successful organisations that have rural outreach programmes.

BC107/15 Heritage Tourism Update

The Head of Culture presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the range of programmes that are being delivered to support heritage tourism development and the respective sector.

Councillor Cooper welcomed the report. He referred to the underspend to be utilised to support the development of capacity building projects and commented that groups involved in the building heritage projects had worked rigorously in terms of securing funding and sustaining resources and any assistance would be welcomed. He further referred to the digital element and welcomed the initiative focussing on the Walled City but wanted to make it clear he and his party considered areas such as Bishop Street, Bogside and the Fountain as part of that.

Alderman Hussey also welcomed the report. He referred to the inclusion of the identification of the heritage offering from the wider District area and requested that the consultants are kept informed of rural heritage linkages to the Walled City throughout the District and to consider linking those to the overall project in the city.

The Committee

Recommended that Council noted the contents of the report.

that Council accepts in principle respective funding letters of offer outlined in the report from HLF and TNI.

in advance that Council approves two providers the appointment of AR platform and the to develop an development of the storyboard and content as part of the 'Walls Alive 400 – Bringing the Walls to life through augmented reality' following procurement process in line with Council policy.

BC108/15 NW Angling Fair

The Head of Culture presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an evaluation of the North West Angling Fair, Strabane 2018 and to present options for the event moving forward.

Councillor McMahon welcomed the report. He commented that the NW Angling Fair had become one of the flagship events for the Angling fraternity and was growing in participation year on year. He added that it was encouraging to note promotion of the event to attract young people to participate. He referred to the suggestion of rotating the event between three other locations throughout the District and said that it would be important to adopt a pragmatic approach and suggested that Officers engage with the public to ascertain their views and opinions in going forward.

Councillor R McHugh commended the work of the Officer Team involved with the successful development of the Angling event at Melvin Sports Complex, over the previous three years. He also expressed support of Castlederg hosting the event in 2019, and for funding to be allocated from alternative budgets to cover the additional expenditure.

Councillor Ramsey left the meeting.

The Head of Culture in response to a query from Councillor D Kelly clarified that the Officer team were passionate about the development of the Angling event and continued to work closely with the Loughs Agency to encourage young people throughout the District to participate in the event.

The Committee

Recommended that Council note the contents of the report and the decision is to locate the event to Castlederg that there will be an additional cost of £10,000 over the budget for 2018.

that there is no additional budget to cover expenditure and other events would have to be scaled back to remain within budget.

that Council also note currently

BC109/15 City of London Trade Investment Showcase

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek approval to lead out on a Trade and Investment Mission to the City of London.

Councillor McKnight welcomed the report and said that it was important to support trade mission opportunities to encourage economic growth and job creation for the District.

Alderman Hussey also welcomed the report. He referred to working with Diaspora and said the he would be keen for this aspect to be

enhanced and suggested contact be made with the Duke of Abercorn who had direct contact with lucrative businesses in the City of London.

Councillor O'Reilly referred to the Box park initiative and suggested that Officers investigate the introduction of Box parks to the city.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approves the City of London Trade and Investment mission and budget.

BC110/15 Full Fiber Networks Application

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the Full Fibre Networks Scheme being run by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

Councillor McGuire expressed concern that the application may hinder the work of the Broadband Working Group in seeking funding towards broadband connectivity to rural areas throughout the District.

The Head of Business clarified for Councillor McGuire that the Full Fibre Networks Scheme was a DCMS government project aimed at looking at provision of extensive fibre network connecting large parts of Council estate and covering areas in both Derry and Strabane. He further advised that he did not foresee any impact on the work currently being achieved by the Council's Broadband Working Group, in terms of seeking funding for broadband connectivity in the rural areas throughout the District.

Councillor McGuire moved, seconded by Alderman R Hamilton that Rural Broadband be included as a standard item on the agenda for all future Committee meetings.

The Committee

Recommended that Council seeks quotations from experienced consultants up to a value of £30,000 to help Council undertake an application to DCMS for funding from the Full Fibre Networks Programme.

Councillor's O'Reilly and Reilly left the meeting.

BC111/15 Business Development Budget 2018/19

The Head of Business presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members approval for a budget allocation of £284,600 towards Business Development Services and to provide Members with a breakdown of the budget and an overview of the indicative activities.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approves the programme of activities for Business Support and Growth Services to the value of £284,600.

Councillor Hussey left the meeting.

BC112/15 Update on Education & Skills Delivery Partnership

The Head of Business presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the work of the Education and Skills Delivery Partnership and to note the progress made on delivering a number of priority education and skills collaborative actions during 17-18 as identified in the inclusive Strategic Growth Plan: Community Plan.

Councillor Cooper welcomed the report. He referred to the three sub groups established to focus on priority growth sectors and the budget allocation of £70,000 and requested that more detail in terms of target achievement and job creation be provided to Members.

Councillor McGuire also welcomed the report. He highlighted the lack of availability of HGV drivers throughout the District and suggested that consideration be given towards the promotion of training and skills development in this area of employment opportunity.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the update on the work of the Education and Skills Delivery Partnership and progress made on delivering a

number of priority education and skills collaborative actions during 17-18 as identified in the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan: Community Plan.

that Council approves the collaborative actions to be delivered in the coming financial year 18-19 at a cost of £230,000 to support delivery of the Education and Skills actions under the Economy pillar of the Strategic Growth Plan.

that Council agree flexibility between the collaborative actions budget headings as some actions may increase in priority and subsequently absorb a larger amount of the funding and to facilitate the emergence of new interventions around changing market needs/opportunities.

BC113/15 Investment Service Budget 2018/19

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the £80,000 budget allocation towards investment services and to provide an overview of the programme of activities for 2018/19 and a breakdown of the proposed expenditure

The Committee

Recommended that Council approves the programme of activities for Investment Service to the value of £80,000.00.

BC114/15 International Appalachian Trail

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was

to seek approval to progress the International Appalachian Trail to the next stage in respect of appointment of an integrated consultant team and progression to a full capital project.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council approves the progression of the International Appalachian Trail to the next stage in respect of the following:**

- 1) Appointment of an integrated consultant team, as lead partner, to progress the IAT project to RIBA stage 3 (no match funding required by Council); and**
- 2) Progression of the IAT to a full capital project for the Derry-Strabane section (match funding of 5% provided by Council).**

BC115/15 Alley Programme Spring/Summer 2018

The purpose of the above report was to inform Members of the upcoming Arts and Cultural Programme for the Alley Arts Centre for Spring/Summer 2018.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council notes for information the above report.**

BC116/15 St Patrick's Day

The Head of Culture presented the above report a copy of which was previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an evaluation of the St Patrick's Day Festival 2018.

Councillor McMahan welcomed the report and commended the work of Officers involved with the delivery of another successful event this year.

Councillor Boyle concurred with the previous speaker. However, he referred to the change of the parade route and said that it was noticeable that the majority of spectators assembled at the Diamond and Bishop's Street area and not along the whole of the route which raised concern that some of the businesses had not benefited from the event.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the above report.

BC117/15 Summer Jamm

The Head of Culture presented the above report, details of which were previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the programme development and theme for Summer Jamm 2018.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the above report.

BC118/15 MHS Exhibitions & Events Programme 2018/19

The Head of Culture presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to brief Members on the upcoming 2018/19 programme for Museum and Heritage Services.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the above report.

BC119/15 Update re. Completion of Kickstart to Work Project April 2015-March 2018

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a 3 year report (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2018) on the Kickstart to Work Project.

The Chair congratulated the work of the Skills Team in their accomplishment to exceed targets through the Kickstart to Work Project.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the above report and the closure of the Kickstart to Work programme with effect from 31 March 2018.

BC120/15 Allocation of ESF Match Funding

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the allocation of ESF match funding.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the projects in receipt of match funding and that the allocation is for one year and will be subject to satisfactory performance and annual approval for a period of four years.

BC121/15 PEACE IV Update

The Head of Business presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the implementation of Council's PEACE IV Programme.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the above report for information.

BC122/15 City Startup Programme

The Head of Business presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a progress update on the City Start Programme.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the above report for information.

BC123/15 Rural Development Programme Update

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 which included current calls under the Rural Business Investment Scheme and the Rural Basic Services Scheme as well as the first capital award under Village Renewal.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the above report for information.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm

The Meeting went into Confidential Business