

## **Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee (Open) held in the Guildhall, Derry on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:- Members of the Committee - Councillor Fleming (in the Chair); Aldermen Thompson, Hussey, Kerrigan and Ramsey; Councillors Boyle, Cooper, Donnelly, C Kelly, McKeever, McKnight, McMahan, Robinson and Tierney.**

**Non-Members of Committee:- Aldermen M Hamilton and McClintock; Councillors Carr, Logue and Reilly.**

**In Attendance: Chief Executive (Mr J Kelpie), Director of Health and Community (Mrs K McFarland), Head of Human Resources (Mrs P Donnelly), Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer (Miss E Cavanagh), Business Support and Change Manager (Mrs R Craig), Lead Finance Officer (Mr A Dallas) and Committee Services Assistant (Mrs T Johnstone).**

### **GSP35/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

### **GSP36/18 Member Attendance and Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **GSP37/18 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Councillor Fleming declared an interest in the following agenda item:  
Item 11 – North West Regional Development Group Minutes.

### **Chairperson's Business**

### **GSP38/18 Tragic Death**

The Chair stated that great sadness and shock had been expressed at the tragic and sudden death of Karol Kelly in the Rosemount area of the City at the weekend. He offered his condolences to Mr Kelly's family at this very difficult time.

**GSP39/18 Displays Bearing the Council Logo**

Alderman McClintock referred to the displays recently erected in Derry City and Strabane town which bore the Council logo. She stated that the displays had not been agreed by Council and asked for an update on the matter.

In response, the Chief Executive stated that there were a range of issues, regarding the matter which were currently under consideration.

Alderman Hussey expressed his disappointment that hastier action had not been taken. He referred to photographs of personnel wearing clothing which bore the Council logo that had been issued to Members. He stated that this was inappropriate use of council attire and enquired if there had been any reports of theft for these items. He added that the Council logo was under copyright and asked what action would be taken regarding the matter.

Councillor Donnelly commended the persons responsible for erecting the displays that were highlighting the plight of Tony Taylor and his family. He stated that he had been contacted by members of the public who had expressed concern regarding press reports which indicated that Council would remove the displays. He stated that Derry City and Strabane District Council was not responsible for commissioning the displays, which were not erected on Council property and therefore Council resources should not be used to remove them. He referred to the Parachute Regiment flags on display in the Waterside area of the City and enquired if Council had a policy regarding such matters.

Alderman Ramsey stated that the use of the Council corporate logo had to be agreed before being used on a promotional basis. He referred to Councillor Donnelly remarks regarding the Parachute Regiment flags and reported that they had been removed by the PSNI and suggested that they should also be contacted to remove the displays.

Alderman Hussey reported that the displays were placed on the roundabout outside the Guildhall and at the 'Let the Dance Begin' sculptures in Strabane and that Council maintained these areas.

Councillor McMahon stated that the Chief Executive had indicated that there were options under consideration regarding the matter and that those options be explored.

Councillor Robinson enquired what options were available and would these be discussed at committee or with Members.

Councillor Tierney stated that the persons responsible for erecting the displays had been successful in highlighting the campaign for Tony Taylor. He referred to the remarks made by Councillor Robinson and asked that once direction had been achieved on the matter that it be brought to full Council before any action was taken.

**GSP40/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on Tuesday 30 January 2018**

The Open Minutes of Meeting held on 30 January 2018 (GSP24/18 GSP33/18) were accepted and agreed.

**Matters Arising**

**GSP41/18 Measuring the Impact of UK City of Culture 2013 (GSP33/18)**

Alderman Hussey enquired if there had been any response from the Department for Communities regarding inviting the Department to consider Derry City and Strabane District Council to take part in an event similar to the Belfast Jobs Fair.

In response, the Chief Executive reported that no response had been received as yet.

**GSP42/18 Displays Bearing the Council Logo**

Councillor Donnelly referred to the previous discussion regarding displays throughout the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. He enquired if the comments made for options to be considered before action was taken was a formal proposal or merely a suggestion.

Councillor Tierney Proposed that once the Chief Executive and Officers had considered the matter, before any action is taken it should be brought to the next available committee meeting or, preferably full Council.

Councillor Boyle seconded the proposal put forward by Councillor Tierney.

Alderman McClintock disagreed with the proposal as the matter had already been discussed.

Alderman Ramsey sought clarification on the matter as it had been initially outlined that Council would not be involved in the matter. He stated that the only option available was to have the displays removed by the PSNI as the Council corporate brand was being used in an offensive and illegal manner.

Councillor Tierney indicated that it had already been stated that the erection of the displays had not been sanctioned by Council. He stated that the DUP should contact the PSNI if they felt they were responsible for removing them. He clarified that his proposal was that once the Chief Executive and Officers had explored the considerations regarding the displays, before any course of action would be taken the matter would be discussed at a meeting of this Council.

Alderman Hussey subsequently proposed that the Chief Executive inform the PSNI immediately, regarding the illegal use of the Council logo.

Councillor Tierney stated that Alderman Hussey's proposal would be contained within the considerations for the Chief Executive.

In response the Chief Executive clarified that the proposal which had been voted on was that before any action was taken, a report should be brought to Council.

Councillor Tierney Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Boyle

**That on consideration by Officers of the matter of the displays bearing the Council logo, before any course of action is taken the issue is brought to the next available committee meeting, or preferably full Council.**

After a vote by a show of hands the result was as follows:

For: - 10; Against: - 3. The Proposal was therefore carried.

Councillor Donnelly enquired if there was any legal opinion regarding the legality of the displays.

Alderman Hussey expressed concern regarding the illegal use of the Council logo and the fact that it could not be used without permission from Council.

The Committee recommended

**That on consideration by Officers of the matter of the displays bearing the Council logo, before any course of action is taken the issue is brought to the next available committee meeting, or preferably full Council.**

### **GSP43/18 Ten Month Financial Outturn**

The Lead Finance Officer presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was for Members to consider and approve Council's 10 month financial outturn and position at 31 January 2018.

Councillor Cooper thanked the Lead Finance Officer for the report. He welcomed that savings had been made particularly with the current uncertain financial times in terms of the rates support issues and the wider budgetary outlook across the North. He stated that the prudent approach was also welcomed and referred to the £341K which had been generated and could be used as leverage for various projects. He added that it would be prudent not to make decisions on where the money would be allocated and suggested that the situation be reassessed in the months prior to the next financial outturn.

Councillor McKeever congratulated the Lead Finance Officer and Officers within the finance team on their work. He referred to section 3.3, small value flooding repair costs, contained within the report and enquired if these areas were owned by Council.

In response, the Lead Finance Officer confirmed that they were all Council owned property. He stated that an initial exercise had been carried out to scope out those works with some small value repairs which would be progressed through the Environment and Regeneration Directorate. He further stated that there were additional major costs, however the scoping was being finalised and have to be considered as part of our year end position.

Alderman Hussey congratulated everyone involved in effecting savings which Council would be in a position to be reallocated. He stated that the flooding incident was unfortunate, however it was fortuitous that funding had become available to correct it. He referred to section 3.5 of the report regarding the enhancement works to the Castle Site at Castleberg to support outdoor event activity and in advance of the Dergfest in July and stated that there had been various ground upsets particularly with the wet weather and the enhancement would go towards mitigation of the damaged surfaces. He welcomed the news that the work would be carried out in advance of the Dergfest. Alderman Hussey then proposed that all enhancement works be carried out in advance of the Dergfest in July.

Alderman Hussey expressed his thanks to the Lead Finance Officer and his team for all their work and stated that he seconded the proposal put forward by Alderman Hussey.

The Committee

**Recommended that (i) Members approve the 10 month financial position and note the surplus of £341k generated for the first 10 months of the 2017/18 financial year and (ii) the enhancement works to the Castle Site at Castleberg be completed in advance of the Dergfest.**

#### **GSP44/18 Employee Engagement**

The Lead Human Resources Officer presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members on an Employee Engagement Strategy and provide an update on the key employee engagement activities which had taken place over the last twelve months.

Councillor Boyle stated that he wholeheartedly endorsed the recommendation as it was evident how the employees of Derry City and Strabane District Council were undoubtedly their most valuable asset. He stated that the Strategy showed that they were a progressive Council that wished to engage with and listen to their employees and offer them the opportunity to improve their skill base in order to provide an even better service.

Alderman Hussey endorsed the remarks made by Councillor Boyle and added that Council employees had a tremendous wealth of experience. He recommended that Members become involved in the wellbeing activities within the strategy as he had found them extremely useful as they had offered the opportunity for him to meet with other members of staff throughout the organisation.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the information contained within the report and endorse the approach to employee engagement as outlined.**

**GSP45/18 Appointment of a Media Monitoring and Evaluation Service**

The Business Support and Change Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of the report was to inform Members of the outcome of a tender exercise completed to appoint a media monitoring and evaluation provider for Council and to seek the appointment of a provider.

Alderman Hussey referred to media monitoring and enquired what the monitoring range was considering that Council were establishing links with America and China. He then referred to section 4.1 within the report regarding the yearly spend being based on previous years' activity and enquired on what had been learned and if any changes were enacted based on previous activities.

In response, the Business Support and Change Manager stated that the range could be defined and set with the monitoring company. She stated that this was the first time that NIMMS had been commissioned for Derry City and Strabane District Council since the new council had been formed. She further stated that previous reports had been useful in terms of evaluating the reach of advertising spend and when planning for future campaigns.

Alderman Hussey thanked the Business Support and Change Manager for her response and stated that it was important to have some idea of the impact that Council's campaigns were having within that wider range particularly with regard to festivals and events and the attraction of tourists from further afield.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members approve the appointment of NIMMs for a one year period with options for two one year extensions to be agreed.**

**GSP46/18 Motion on Brandywell Stadium/Naming of Council Assets**

The Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She stated that the purpose of the report was to seek Members' approval for a pilot Council Assets Naming Policy and also for the proposed consultation plan in relation to the renaming of Brandywell Stadium.

Alderman Hussey commended the Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer and the Policy Officer (Equality) on their tremendous support they had given to the working group. He endorsed the recommendations within the report and proposed that section 4.2.3 *'Proposals will not be considered where they: The name is that of a political/government representative'* be retained within the draft policy.

Non-committee Member Councillor Reilly stated that as a member of the Working Group he wished to extend his thanks and his party's thanks to the Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer and the Policy Officer (Equality) on the diligent and prompt work undertaken on this issue over a number of weeks. He referred to Alderman Hussey's proposal to retain section 4.2.3 of the report within the Policy and stated that although he was unable to second the proposal as a non-member of committee his party was of the same opinion.

Councillor Boyle subsequently Seconded the Proposal put forward by Alderman Hussey.

Councillor Logue expressed her gratitude to the Officers involved for all their hard work. She stated that she had found being part of the working group 'interesting' regarding all the conversations that had taken place. However, after further conversations with Sinn Fein, she asked for the removal of the 'three year rule' on naming council assets after deceased persons. She stated that section 4.2.3 *'Proposals will not be considered where they: The name is that of a political/government representative'* should not be included in the Policy. She stated that

such a move would be short-sighted on Council's behalf given that there had been people who had given a considerable amount of time to their community. She referred to section 6.3 of the report where it stated that, *This policy lends itself to enhancing the cultural heritage of the Council area as historical and geographical names can be seen as a key to identifying specific places and is also of irreplaceable cultural value of fundamental importance to local identity, and a person's sense of belonging, and therefore must be protect and preserved'*, and cited that in other parts of the world, there were buildings such as Nelson Mandela House. She further stated that if the policy was approved with the retention of the ban, it could be viewed as divisive. She added that as a non-committee Member she could not put the proposal to the floor.

Councillor C Kelly proposed that the exclusion relating to a political/government representative and the requirement for a three year time lapse be removed.

Alderman McClintock also expressed her gratitude to the Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer and the Policy Officer (Equality) on all their hard work during the six very long and intense meetings of the Working Group. She expressed her disappointment that a member of the group had decided to change their mind on an issues that had been discussed at tremendous length during those six meetings. She stated that the Democratic Unionist Party was firmly of the opinion that section 4.2.3 should be excluded from the policy and expressed concern regarding the impact of naming a council building after a politician would have on good relations within Council. She further stated that the group had agreed on the three year rule on naming council assets after deceased persons, since the first couple of years after the passing of a loved one was a very emotive time. She added that it was unfortunate that Sinn Fein had decided to attempt to rewrite sections of the draft policy and would be supporting the recommendation put forward by Alderman Hussey.

Councillor Carr also expressed his thanks to the Officers on the tremendous amount of work carried out over recent weeks. He stated that the time period of three years had been agreed as the death of a loved one was a very sensitive issue, therefore this period of time was required. He added that he would be supporting the recommendations at full Council.

Councillor M Cooper clarified that Councillor Logue had stated that Sinn Fein were happy to support the proposal within the consultation

plan for the naming of Brandywell Stadium and the draft policy. However, they would not be supporting section 5.1 within the report.

Councillor C Kelly subsequently Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Cooper

**That Members approve the draft policy with the removal of the 'three year rule' on naming Council assets after deceased persons and section 4.2.3, 'The name is that of a political/government representative'.**

Alderman Hussey enquired if this would become an amendment.

The Chief Executive stated that there was a proposal put forward by Alderman Hussey, Seconded by Councillor Boyle following a statement by Councillor Reilly, that the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee recommends the draft policy and that section 4.2.3 of the policy is retained. There was a subsequent proposal suggested by Councillor Logue which was proposed by Councillor C Kelly. He stated that under Standing Orders, proposals must be dealt with one at a time and that the first proposal was in respect of section 4.2.3 within the draft policy.

The Chair stated that he wished to clarify that Sinn Fein was not against the report but a number of particular points contained within the policy. He enquired if these points could be considered as amendments.

The Chief Executive advised that the initial proposal was solely in relation to section 4.2.3 within the draft policy.

Councillor Cooper stated that as a matter of clarity, Sinn Fein approved the draft policy. However they asked that the recommendations regarding the three year rule and 4.2.3 be removed from the document.

Councillor Reilly suggested that Members consider the recommendations under section 5 of the report on a one by one basis.

Alderman Hussey stated that on that basis he wished to formally withdraw his proposal.

Alderman Hussey subsequently Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Boyle

**That Members endorse section 5.1 of the report 'That Members consider the draft policy and determine whether proposals for the naming of Council assets should be considered where they "the name is that of a political/government representative" (paragraph 4.2.3); and that section 4.2.3 relating to naming after a political/government representative, be retained within the draft policy.**

After voting by a show of hands the result was as follows:

For: - 8; Against: - 5. The Proposal was therefore carried.

Councillor Logue stated that for further clarity that after further consideration, Sinn Fein had agreed that the 'three year rule' should be removed. She added that she had stated her position that section 4.2.3 should not be excluded from the policy, at all meetings of the working group.

Councillor Cooper stated that Sinn Fein were happy to support the draft policy however, they asked that the conditions of the 'three year rule' be reconsidered.

Councillor Boyle Proposed, Seconded by Alderman Hussey

**That Members approve the section 5.2 of the report regarding the draft pilot policy.**

Voting was unanimous and the Proposal was therefore carried.

Councillor Boyle Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Cooper

**That Members endorse the recommendation in section 5.3 of the report in relation to the naming of the refurbished Brandywell Stadium.**

Voting was unanimous and the Proposal was therefore carried.

The Committee

**Recommended that (i) Members endorse section 5.1 of the report and that section 4.2.3 be retained within the draft policy. (ii) approve the draft pilot policy and (iii)**

**approve the consultation plan in relation to the naming of the refurbished Brandywell Stadium.**

**GSP47/18 North West Regional Development Group Minutes**

A copy of the above report was previously circulated for information. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a copy of the ratified minutes of the North West Regional Development Group meeting held on 29 September 2017 and recommended that Members note the content of same.

Alderman Hussey stated that he found the report interesting and commented on the following:

- He suggested that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2017 were not brought to the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee
- Enquired if the CEs and Mayor's trip to Brussels on 11 October 2017 took place and if so, was there an update report available
- Referred to the Financial Monitoring Report with the £950k and £140k secretarial costs. He enquired if there was access to a list of how the monies were committed
- Referring to the overall 5 million euro budget – he asked what period did this cover and who had supplied the budget
- Agreed with Councillor McGuinness' remarks regarding the impacts of Brexit and suggested that that the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government be approached Post Brexit with regard to the augmenting the shortfall in EU funding.
- Referred to the US Trade Update regarding a delegation to Philadelphia and asked for clarity on the visit.
- He added that the Trade delegation to Boston had not been included in the NWRDG minutes
- He asked for more information on the potential project with the Harvard School of Design
- Regarding the visit of An Taoiseach, did the group meet with him subsequent to the Annual Dinner of the Chamber of Commerce.

Alderman Hussey concluded by stating that the previous meeting was held on 30 November 2017, however, there were no agreed minutes available from the NWRDG. He added that the minutes were sent on a routine basis and asked for clarity on the definition of 'routine'.

In response, the Chief Executive commented as follows;

- The visit to Brussels did take place with an update report brought to a subsequent meeting of the NWRDG
- The purpose of the visit was in relation to the launch of the report commissioned by all councils along the border corridor
- A Border Corridor report was subsequently presented to the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee for Members information
- Regarding the £950k – a routine report is appended to each meeting of the group that provided a breakdown of expenditure, including the secretarial costs to the group
- The Chief Executive stated that he would ensure that future reports contained that information for Members
- Referring to the €5 million budget – €2.5 million has been secured from the Irish Government and the other €2.5 million equivalent in sterling has been provided by the Northern Ireland Executive, approved under the Fresh Start Agreement
- The Chief Executive explained that the Trade and Investment Mission did not take place in June. It occurred in November combined with the trip to Boston
- The Chief Executive added that an update report regarding the Harvard School of Design would be available to the NWRDG in the coming days and details will be included in the next meeting
- Confirmed that the Group met with An Taoiseach subsequent to the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner
- The Chief Executive added that the NWRDG meeting scheduled for 30 November 2017 was postponed until January 2018.

The Chief Executive added that the minutes of the January 2018 meeting would be endorsed at the next meeting of the NWRDG, then forwarded for information to a subsequent meeting of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee. In response to Alderman Hussey's final question, he clarified the definition of 'routine' stating that all approved minutes have been tabled at Governance and Strategic Planning.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the content of the report.**

**GSP48/18 Strategic Growth Partnership**

The Business Support and Change Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She stated that the purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on the meeting of the Strategic Growth Partnership/Community Planning Partnership held on Thursday 22 February 2018.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the content of the report.**

The Meeting terminated at 5.25 pm.

**The meeting ended at Time Not Specified**

**The Meeting went into Confidential Business**

**Signed:\_\_\_\_\_**  
**(Chairperson)**

**Date:\_\_\_\_\_**