

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of Business and Culture Committee Meeting held in the Chamber, Guildhall, Derry on Tuesday 5 July 2016 at 4.00pm.

Present:- Councillor Cusack (Chairperson), Aldermen R Hamilton, Ramsey and Warke; Councillors Boyle, Cooper, Fleming, Gardiner, McCallion, McGuire, McMahan, O'Reilly and Tierney.

In Attendance:- Director of Business and Culture (Mr S Gillespie), Head of Business (Mr K O'Connor), Head of Culture (Ms A McCarter), Personal Assistant to the Director of Business and Culture (Mrs J Galloway-Doherty) and Committee Services Assistant (Mrs J Short)

Non – Committee Members: Alderman Hussey and Councillors Donnelly, P Kelly Reilly and Robinson.

BC189/16 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Director of Business and Culture read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

BC190/16 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Logue.

BC191/16 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillors Boyle, Gardiner and McGuire declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 15: Update on the Maritime Museum Project.

Alderman R Hamilton gave her apologies as she had to leave the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

BC192/16 Suspension of Standing Orders

It was agreed to Suspend Standing Orders on the proposal of Councillor McCallion, seconded by Councillor McMahan.

Community Planning Event

A Member of the Sinn Fein grouping referred to the recent Community Planning events which had been held in various locations around the City and district in order to set up a local Community Planning Group and elect a Chairperson for each District Electoral Area. She refuted the allegations made by an Independent Member of Council at the previous Audit and Assurance Committee and also the allegations made in the media.

The same Member noted that the allegations made by the Independent Councillor regarding the process and against Council Officers was in her view, very serious and should be withdrawn. She also demanded an apology for the alleged intimidation of an elderly member of the community, and described the behaviour of the Councillor as being disgraceful.

In addition the same Member referred to an allegation that an Independent Councillor had asked an individual to withdraw their name from the ballot to be the Chairperson of a local DEA Community Planning Group. If this occurred, then it was totally inappropriate. The Member concluded by stating that she was passionate about Community Planning and it was still an excellent opportunity for communities to have their voices heard.

A Member of the SDLP stated that he had attended a Community Planning meeting in his area and witnessed conflicting opinions in relation to the required number of votes for a nominee to be elected as the Chair. He added that people had travelled throughout the District to the various meetings to vote and it was therefore clear that the system had been open to abuse.

The same Member disagreed with the behaviour and added that the Community Planning process was an opportunity for the entire District to become engaged with the community to change the lives of the young people. He further added that citizens needed to be encouraged to engage constructively and positively in the community planning process.

The Non-Committee Independent Members namely Councillors Donnelly and Robinson joined the meeting at this stage.

Open for Decision

BC193/16 Deputations (none)

There were no deputations.

BC194/16 Chairpersons Business

Foyle Maritime Festival

The Chairperson referred to the forthcoming Foyle Maritime Festival to be held in Derry City from 9 to 17 July 2016 and commended the work achieved by Officers and wished everyone involved another successful event.

BC195/16 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 14 June 2016.

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2016 (BC162/16-BC183/16) were agreed and signed by the Chairperson.

BC196/16 Matters Arising

The Director of Business and Culture in response to a query from a Member of the SF grouping regarding Item Ref: BC180/16 – Update on issues relating to the European Social Fund (ESF) clarified that no response had been received to date from the Department. He agreed to keep Members informed.

The Head of Business in response to a query from a Member of the SF grouping in relation to Item Ref: BC182/16 – Want to Work? Pilot, advised that the programme had ended on 30 June 2016 and there were no current plans to extend the programme.

BC197/16 Customer Relationship Management & Ticketing System

The Head of Culture presented the above report which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members approval to undertake the procurement for a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) & Ticketing solution for Council.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council proceeds with the procurement process for a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Ticketing solution for Council.**

BC198/16 IC4Gastro Tourism

The Head of Culture presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of a potential funding bid into Atlantic Area Transnational Programme for the IC4Gastro tourism.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council approves the scoping out of an application for IC4 Gastro Tourism and Officers pursue the funding bid and if successful revert to Members upon receipt of letter of offer.**

BC199/16 Regional Start Initiative Interim Arrangements

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 performance of Council's Business Start-Up Programme (Regional Start Initiative). The cost of the extension of the SLA to include Business Plan Approval, Invest NI Staff Costs (21st October 2016) and additional Marketing costs is £67,025 and is included within the Business Budget.

The Head of Business in response to a Member of the SF grouping referred to the removal of the NRA grant and explained that it was an alternative funding initiative sourced from a former DETI process and was therefore prohibited. He added that the programme succeeded in targeting areas of high social deprivation and economic inactivity and it

was anticipated that the RSI initiative would specifically target those areas through the Economic Strategy process.

The Director of Business and Culture agreed to request that the Director of Environment and Regeneration provide an update to Councillor P Kelly on the former Strabane District Council Three Rivers Project.

A Member of the SF grouping referred to the decrease in the number of approved Business Plans and requested a breakdown of data per electoral ward to ascertain if all areas were being reached.

The Head of Business advised that the data is sourced from the Enterprise Agency and he agreed to request the post code statistics. HE also advised that he would enquire if Council could submit their own measure.

Open for Information

BC200/16 Arts for the Third Age – Music to Your Ears Project

The above report was presented for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the conclusion to the Music to Your Ears Project funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI).

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC201/16 Hell and Back Update

The above report was tabled for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to appraise Members of the outcomes from the Hell and Back event, which was brought to the North for the first time and held in Baronscourt on 21 May 2016 and to confirm that discussions are taking place to secure the event for a further year.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC202/16 NW Big Bike Fest

The above report was presented for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of the delivery of the NW Big Bike Fest organised by DCSDC with support from Sustrans and funding Tourism NI.

A Member of the SF grouping welcomed the report and suggested the roll out of the event to the smaller towns within the District. This was noted.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC203/16 Personal Assistance Support System (PASS) Pilot Initiative

The above report was tabled for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of a PASS Pilot Initiative delivered as part of the Inclusion and Access Action Plan presented to Committee on 10 May 2016.

A Member of the SDLP grouping welcomed the report and expressed anticipation for the inclusion of those on disability to avail of the scheme. This was noted.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC204/16 Update on the Maritime Museum Project

The above report was presented for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the current status of the Maritime Museum Project at Ebrington.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC205/16 Local Economic Development Funding Scoping and Application

The above report was presented for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on progress of the development of Council's flagship Business Support and Growth Programme.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC206/16 Department for Communities Programme for Government Event

The above report was presented for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of an event to be facilitated by Council on behalf of the Department of Communities on the draft Programme for Government.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC207/16 Walled City Market Update

The above report was presented for information, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a progress update on the re-launched Walled City Market.

The Committee

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

The Meeting went into Confidential Business.

The Meeting ended at 5.00pm.