

The proceedings of the REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE as follows:

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Special Meeting held on Thursday, 7th August, 2014.

Members Present: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts (Chairman), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher.

Apologies: Apologies were submitted by Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce and Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts.

In Attendance: Borough Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk, Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property), Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

REPORT

PART A – PUBLIC

Matters within the scope of the Committee's delegated authority

A1. 2014 Christmas Lights Ceremony

The Committee considered a minute referred from the Executive Committee in relation to the Committee's previous decisions for the 2014 Christmas Lights Ceremony. Members also had in front of them the July report on the proposed event.

The Executive Committee minute specifically detailed elements of the event that they asked the Committee to consider further.

Members were advised that the item did not require Executive Committee approval but had been referred due to a clerical error.

Resolved, "That the Committee adhere to the recommendations approved in relation to the Christmas Lights Ceremony as agreed at the July meeting of the Regeneration and Community Committee."

A2. Twinning

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Democratic Services Officer, following a request from the Mayor and Chairman, to consider a visit from representatives of Ballymoney to Douglas in conjunction with a visit from the HMS Vigilant in September.

A Member queried the purpose of the visit, the Mayor advised that the representatives will input into the Mayoral Charity fundraising weekend with the Council's affiliate HMS Vigilant.

It was requested that four Ballymoney representatives be invited to Douglas and the Mayor confirmed he will provide entertainment on the Saturday evening in the form of a drinks reception at the Mayor's Parlour.

Members agreed to entertain the guests on the Friday evening.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes, and

(i) Four Ballymoney representatives be invited to Douglas for two nights arriving Friday, 5th September, in conjunction with a visit from HMS Vigilant for a fundraising weekend; and

(ii) The cost of two nights' accommodation, airport taxis and one night's entertainment be funded from the Twinning and Affiliations Budget."

A3. The Henry Bloom Noble Library Remedial Works

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Property Manager (Assets) seeking approval for the appointment of a contractor to undertake the replacement of the air conditioning

installation and a second contractor to undertake the external decorative works at the Henry Bloom Noble Library.

This item was deferred at the July meeting of the Committee pending circulation of the appropriate clause of the Henry Bloom Noble Library lease confirming the Council are legally contracted to replace the air conditioning system.

The appropriate clause of the lease has been circulated to all Members of the Committee. Members were satisfied that the Council should undertake the proposed works.

Members were advised that tender documents had been issued for both elements of the work. The lowest tender received for the air conditioning replacement was submitted by Prospero Facilities Services Limited. The Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) confirmed that although the figure submitted was not within the approved budget, the system proposed would have improved thermal efficiency and less power usage than previous models which will effectively reduce running costs following the system replacement.

The report confirmed tendering documentation for the external decorations work project was issued to General Builders from the Council's Minor Works Select List and the lowest tender returned was submitted by Kinrade Construction Limited.

Both schemes will be funded through the Library Remedial Works budget. The report confirmed a budget increase of £4,975.73 will be required to fund both schemes. It was proposed that the additional funding request be referred to the Executive Committee for funding approval. The Borough Treasurer advised that funding through existing budgets had been explored and he had been unable to identify any relevant savings.

The report highlighted that the Library internal decorative works had also been included in the Library Remedial Works Budget. As the budget will be spent this element will be postponed to cover the increase in the costs for the replacement of the air conditioning. Further funds for the internal works will be sourced for the financial year 2015/16.

The Borough Treasurer raised concern that a delayed start date, whilst awaiting Executive Committee approval for the additional funding, could result in additional expenditure for a temporary heating system at the Library in the colder months whilst the system is replaced.

The Chairman agreed to discuss with the Executive Committee Chairman the possibility of a special meeting to consider the additional funding request.

A Member opined that the external remedial works should take priority, the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) advised that the property owner had recently been in contact to query when the outside of the building would be decorated.

Members agreed that the external remedial works could start and the additional funding for the air conditioning replacement will be considered for approval by the Executive Committee.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes, and

(i) The tender submitted by Kinrade Construction Limited, being the lowest tender submitted and within the budget estimates, be accepted to undertake the HBN Library external decorations works; and

(ii) The tender submitted by Prospero Facilities, being the lowest tender submitted, be accepted to undertake the replacement of the air conditioning system; and

(iii) The item be referred to the Executive Committee to seek approval to increase the budget estimate in the sum of £4,978.73 for the replacement of the air conditioning system, to be funded from the General Revenue Balances."

PART A – PUBLIC

Matters requiring Council approval

C4. Crematorium Petition and Government Grant Request

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Borough Treasurer on an alternative financing arrangement for the Crematorium petition as approved at the July meeting of the Committee.

Members were advised that following the submission of the Crematorium petition application, the Director of Finance at the Department of Infrastructure (the Department) informed the Borough

Treasurer that the Department will have great difficulty in approving the requested grant increase which is £30,000 higher than the previous amount.

The Borough Treasurer reported that a further discussion with the Director of Finance indicated a preference for having the fee payers rather than the taxpayers meet the costs of the Loan Charges arising from the Chapel and Crematorium Extension, Refurbishment and Upgrade.

The report recommended a possible fee increase of 2% above inflation for three years; this would eliminate the requirement for a grant.

Members noted that as the works are intended to last for 30 years there will be no immediate demands on the Cremator Renewals Fund after the works are complete. It would be possible to taper the first few years' contributions to the Cremator Renewal Funds to help spread the increases if needed.

The Borough Treasurer confirmed there is no written agreement in place with the Department to fund crematorium loan charges but grant assistance had been obtained in the past.

In answer to question, the Borough Treasurer advised that no written confirmation had been received from the Department, but the loan charge request would be considered as part of the petition documentation and could result in the petition being rejected if the Department do not have funds available to fund the loan charges.

Members were advised that following Council approval the Crematorium Fees require approval by the Department.

Members opined that the Department should continue to fund the loan charges as the Crematorium is an all-Island facility but given that the request could jeopardise the scheme Members agreed with the report recommendations.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and the discussion be noted on the minutes, and

(i) The request for grant support, as approved at the July meeting of the Committee, be withdrawn; and

(ii) The financing of loan charges be met by increasing fees; and

(iii) A further report be considered at the October meeting of the Committee in relation to the fees and charges for the Crematorium taking into account the commitment to achieving the capital financing through fee payers."

The meeting ended at 11:21am