

ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a Meeting of the **Community Planning Committee** of Antrim Borough Council held in The Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim on **Thursday 10 June 2010** at **4.00 pm**.

In the Chair : Councillor O C J Keenan

Members Present : Alderman M Rea

Councillors -

A K Brady
T Clarke
B Graham
N Kelly
A A Lawther
P Lewis
A Logue
S Nicholl
J Smyth

In Attendance : Chief Executive
Committee Secretary (*M Aiken*)

Apologies : Alderman R J Loughran

Councillors -

T A Burns
H J Cushinan
P Michael
D Ritchie

CONSULTATION: document from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety had been circulated seeking comments on a draft Regional Strategy on Improving Dementia Services in Northern Ireland - closing date 31 August 2010.

Members appreciated the impact of dementia on sufferers and carers alike. They highlighted the necessity for this to be duly recognised by providing adequate funding to improve services in Northern Ireland, particularly in view of the anticipated cutbacks across the Health Service.

AGREED: that representation be sought from those involved in the provision of Dementia Services to assist in the preparation of a response to the consultation document. Also, information to be obtained on prioritising of funding for the various services, particularly in the present financial climate. Council to consider the issue of a press release as and when appropriate.

NOTED: a request to review commencement time of the Community Planning Committee Meetings.

NOTED: consultation document from the Northern Ireland Law Commission on Business Tenancies, copies of which had been circulated - closing date 30 September 2010.

TABLED: record of a Meeting of the Education Sub-Group held on 2 June 2010.

The Chief Executive spoke to the document and it was

RESOLVED: on the proposal of Councillor Smyth seconded by Councillor Nicholl to progress the recommendation from the Education Sub-Group to seek further information with regard to -

- Antrim 6th Form Collegiate bid
- How the Education Campus Project in Omagh was being developed

**CONSULTATION
ON IMPROVING
DEMENTIA
SERVICES IN NI -
A REGIONAL
STRATEGY**

**TIME OF
COMMUNITY
PLANNING
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS**

**CONSULTATION
ON BUSINESS
TENANCIES**

EDUCATION

- Requesting meetings with the two Ministers from the Department of Education and the Department of Employment & Learning

EDUCATION
(continued)

and that the Chief Executive engage assistance from a suitable source in progressing this.

Also,

- a further Meeting of the Sub-Group to be called at the earliest convenient date, and
- Officers to respond, by the closing date of 23 July, to the consultation on the Northern Regional College Business Improvement Plan as outlined in Council's press release of 14 May 2010.

PAPER: entitled '*A Practical Approach to Securing Local Government Efficiencies and Improvements Through Collaboration*', prepared by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and submitted to the Strategic Leadership Board, had been circulated.

**REVIEW OF
PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

The Chief Executive spoke to the document and addressed questions from the Members.

RESOLVED: on the proposal of Councillor Smyth seconded by Councillor Lawther that Council adopt the seven principles contained in the report, namely -

- 1 The reform process should be cost neutral to the ratepayer as promised at the outset of the reform process and any rate rises to the ratepayer must be avoided
- 2 Where there is no financial benefit to local government costs should be met by central government.
- 3 Councils may make a contribution where benefits will be accrued - contribution should be apportioned based on the level of benefit gained.
- 4 Central government should fund activities where equity across the sector is required (eg Elected Member and Officer severance schemes).

- 5 The final programme costs and the apportionment must be negotiated based on a robust and mutually agreed business case.
- 6 The final programme costs must be affordable.
- 7 Repayment of any loans from central government to local government should only be considered when Councils have made demonstrable savings.

**REVIEW OF
PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**
(continued)

REPORTED: that the progression of a joint Area Plan for Antrim and Newtownabbey was no longer a priority with Newtownabbey Borough Council.

**AREA PLAN FOR
ANTRIM**

Antrim had already been without a current Area Plan since 2001 and this should not be allowed to continue, particularly as the Review of Public Administration may not now proceed until 2016.

AGREED: that the Chief Executive pursues with Planning Service the matter of developing an Area Plan for Antrim, with Council engaging professional assistance as necessary.

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 4.45 pm.

Mayor

Chief Executive

Date
