



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 18 JULY 2016 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Alderman F Agnew
- Committee Members Present** : Aldermen - T Campbell, J Smyth and R Swann
Councillors - T Beatty, J Bingham, H Cushinan, B Duffin, T Hogg, D Hollis, S Ross and B Webb
- Non-Committee Members Present** : Councillors - M Magill and V McWilliam
- In Attendance** : Ms S McDowell - Public Speaker
Mr A Collins - Public Speaker
Mr N Matthews - Public Speaker
Mr P Sefton - Public Speaker
Mr P McCann - Public Speaker
Mr R McBirney - Public Speaker
Mrs DeBrun - Public Speaker
- Officers Present** : Director of Community Planning & Regeneration - Ms M McAlister
Head of Planning - Mr J Linden
Principal Planning Officer - Mr B Diamond
Planning Officer - Ms J McKendry
Planning Officer - Mr K O'Connell
Media & Marketing Officer - Miss J Coulter
Legal Advisor - Ms K Blair
Systems Support Officer - Mr A Cole
Senior Mayor and Member Services Officer - Mrs K Smyth
Member Services Officer - Mrs D Hynes

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the monthly Planning Committee Meeting and reminded all present of the protocol for speaking and timeframes accorded.

The Chairman welcomed Karen Blair, Legal Advisor to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

None.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 3.2 - Councillor Webb

Item 3.5 - Alderman Campbell

PART ONE - PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

ITEM 3.1

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2015/0366/F

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing detached houses and construction of 13no apartments, formation of courtyard and vehicular entrances onto Jordanstown Road and Mount Pleasant Avenue, Newtownabbey (Renewal of Planning Permission Approved under U/2009/0154/F)

SITE/LOCATION: 133-135 Jordanstown Road, Newtownabbey

APPLICANT: Nuway Developments Limited

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Alderman Swann and

on the proposal being put to the meeting 11 Members voted in favour, 1 against and no abstentions, it was agreed

that planning permission be refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposal is contrary to the policy provisions of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Policies QD1 of Planning Policy Statement 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and Policy LC 1 of the addendum to PPS 7 'Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas' in that, it has not been demonstrated that the proposed development can achieve a quality and sustainable residential environment in keeping with the character and pattern of development in the locality and that incorporates a design and layout which draws upon the positive aspects of the surrounding area.
2. The proposal is contrary to Policy QD1 of Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments in that it would, if permitted, result in overdevelopment of the site which would adversely affect the character and appearance of the locality and harm the amenities enjoyed by the occupiers of adjacent dwellings.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

Councillor Webb withdrew from the meeting having declared an interest in the next item, 3.2.

ITEM 3.2

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0355/F

PROPOSAL: Proposed change of use from newsagents/convenience store to community support centre with associated child care facility including replacement of existing shop front

SITE/LOCATION: 2-3 Merville Garden Village, Newtownabbey, BT37 9TF

APPLICANT: Abbey Sure Start

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

The undernoted public speaker addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested -

- Ms Sarah McDowell

Proposed by Councillor Hogg
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the condition set out in the planning report.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

Councillor Webb returned to the meeting.

ITEM 3.3

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2015/0642/F

PROPOSAL: Proposed petrol filling station, forecourt and services building including 1 no. retail shop, 3 no. café/restaurant units (one with drive-thru facilities), dining mall, seating area, play area, associated car parking with relocation of existing access onto the Ballyrobin Road

SITE/LOCATION: Lands at 175 Ballyrobin Road, Aldergrove, Co Antrim

APPLICANT: Moorefield Contracts LTD

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Councillor Bingham
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the planning report.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

ITEM 3.4

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2015/0655/F

PROPOSAL: Installation and operation of solar farm and associated infrastructure

SITE/LOCATION: Land at Gibson Farm at lands south west, south east and north east of 40 Sealstown Road, Newtownabbey

APPLICANT: Lightsource SPV 231 Limited

Johanne McKendry, Senior Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

The undernoted public speaker addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested -

- Mr Aidan Collins

Proposed by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

on the proposal being put to the meeting 11 Members voted in favour, none against and 1 abstention, it was agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the planning report and including the introduction of an additional condition regarding screening, if not addressed by the conditions in the report, the detail of this being delegated to officers.

ACTION BY: Johanne McKendry

Alderman Campbell withdrew from the Chamber, having declared an interest in the next item, 3.5.

ITEM 3.5

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2015/0678/O (DEFERRED FROM JUNE PLANNING COMMITTEE)

PROPOSAL: 2 No. dwelling houses (1.5 storey). Ground floor not exceeding 2000sq ft.

SITE/LOCATION: Lands immediately west of 61 Long Rig Road, Crumlin, BT29 4YX

APPLICANT: Peter Sefton

Johanne McKendry, Senior Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse outline planning permission.

The undernoted Elected Member and public speakers addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested -

- Councillor Mathew Magill
- Mr Neill Matthews
- Mr Peter Sefton

Proposed by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and

on the proposal being put to the meeting 9 Members voted in favour, 2 against and no abstentions, it was agreed

that outline planning permission be refused for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to the provisions contained within the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policies CTY1 and CTY2a of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that development of the site would not constitute rounding off and consolidation of an existing cluster.**
- 2. The proposal is contrary to the provisions contained in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policies and CTY2a CTY14 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that the building would, if permitted, contribute to a build-up of development when viewed with existing buildings and would further erode the character of this rural area.**

ACTION BY: Johanne McKendry

Alderman Campbell returned to the meeting.

ITEM 3.6

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2015/0533/F

PROPOSAL: New detached dwelling for farm worker

SITE/LOCATION: 40m north of 105 Budore Road, Carnaghliiss, Belfast, BT14 8SG

APPLICANT: Andrew Richardson

Johanne McKendry, Senior Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Councillor Hollis
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and

on the proposal being put to the meeting 11 Members voted in favour, none against and 1 abstention, it was agreed

that planning permission be refused for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policies CTY1 and CTY10 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, and does not merit being considered as an exceptional case, in that, it has not been demonstrated that:**
 - there is an active and established farm business for at least six years; and**
 - the site is not visually linked with an existing group of buildings on the farm.**

- 2. The proposal is contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and PPS3, Access, Movement and Parking, in that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposal will not prejudice the safety and convenience of road users.**

ACTION BY: Johanne McKendry

ITEM 3.7

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0380/O

PROPOSAL: Proposed Residential Dwelling and Garage Under PPS21 CTY8

SITE/LOCATION: Site Adjacent to and South of 68 Shore Road, Toomebridge

APPLICANT: Mr. Peter McCann

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse outline planning permission.

The undernoted public speaker addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested -

- Mr Peter McCann

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

on the proposal being put to the meeting 9 Members voted in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention, it was agreed

that outline planning permission be refused for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to the provisions contained in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY1 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that there are no overriding reasons why this development is essential in this rural location and could not be located within a settlement and it fails to meet with the provisions for an infill dwelling in accordance with Policy CTY8 of PPS21.**
- 2. The proposal is contrary to the provisions contained in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY14 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that the building would, if permitted, add to a ribbon of development and would therefore result in a detrimental change to, and further erode, the rural character of the countryside.**

- 3. The proposal is contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3, Access, Movement and Parking, Policy AMP 2, in that it would, if permitted, prejudice the safety and convenience of road users since adequate forward sight distance of 90 metres is not available, on the public road, at the proposed access in accordance with the standards contained in Development Control Advice Note 15.**

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

ITEM 3.8

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0147/F

PROPOSAL: Proposed dwelling and garage in substitution for previous approval under planning reference T/2008/0316/RM

SITE/LOCATION: Approx. 190m North East of 25 Donegore Hill, Antrim

APPLICANT: Mr M Rainey and Ms T Tonalezi

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse planning permission.

The undernoted public speaker addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested -

- Mr Ryan McBirney

Proposed by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hogg and

on the proposal being put to the meeting 9 Members voted in favour, none against and 3 abstentions, it was agreed

that the planning application be deferred for one month.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

ITEM 3.9

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2015/0160/F

PROPOSAL: Erection of 150kw Wind Turbine with hub height of 24m

SITE/LOCATION: Approx 345m SE of Gloverstown Road and Lisnacloskey Road Junction, Toomebridge

APPLICANT: Miss B Scullion

Kieran O'Connell, Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hogg and

on the proposal being put to the meeting 10 Members voted in favour, none against and 2 abstentions, it was agreed

that planning permission be refused for the following reason:

- 1. The proposed wind turbine is contrary to the policy provisions of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy RE 1 of PPS18 in that, it has not been demonstrated that the development, if approved, would not cause significant harm to the amenity of any nearby sensitive receptors arising from noise generated from the proposal.**

ACTION BY: Kieran O'Connell

Councillor Ross withdrew from the meeting.

ITEM 3.10

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0180/F

PROPOSAL: Extension to existing cemetery (approx. 120 burial plots).

SITE/LOCATION: Land adjacent to existing Carnmoney Cemetery and bounded by Prince Charles Way, Carnmoney East, 10 Prince Charles Way

APPLICANT: Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Kieran O'Connell, Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Councillor Hollis
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the planning report.

ACTION BY: Kieran O'Connell

Councillor Ross returned to the meeting.

ITEM 3.11

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0273/F

PROPOSAL: Replacement dwelling with garage
SITE/LOCATION: 22 Dundesert Road, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, BT29 4SL
APPLICANT: Mr and Mrs DeBrun

Kieran O'Connell, Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

The undernoted public speaker addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested -

- Mrs DeBrun

Proposed by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the planning reports.

ACTION BY: Kieran O'Connell

ITEM 3.12

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0382/F

PROPOSAL: Extension and Alteration to existing Dunnes Stores Retail Unit. Revisions to Shopping Centre Car Park to accommodate associated additional spaces, including an extension to the existing car park deck at level two and revised servicing arrangements. (Variation of condition 2 (hard surfaced areas) from planning approval LA03/2016/0008/F)
SITE/LOCATION: Abbeycentre Shopping Centre, Longwood Road, Newtownabbey
APPLICANT: New River Retail (UK) Ltd

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Councillor Duffin
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the planning report.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

ITEM 3.13

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0369/A

PROPOSAL: Erection of a Community/Council Notice Board.

SITE/LOCATION: Gable wall of a store building located at the 12th Milestone
954 Antrim Road, Templepatrick, BT39 0AT

APPLICANT: Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Councillor Duffin
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the condition set out in the planning report.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

ITEM 3.14

APPLICATION NO: LA03/2016/0347/F

PROPOSAL: Single storey (Garden Room) extension to the rear of the existing dwelling.

SITE/LOCATION: The Vicarage, 10 Vicarage Gardens, Antrim BT41 4JP

APPLICANT: All Saints Parish Church

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

There were no public speakers present to address this item.

Proposed by Councillor Beatty
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted subject to the condition set out in the planning report.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

ITEM 3.15

P/PLAN/1 PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

Members were made aware that prospective applicants for all development proposals which fall into the Major development category under the 2011 Planning Act are required to give at least 12 weeks notice to the Council that an application for planning permission is to be submitted. This is referred to as a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN).

Two PANs had been registered during the period from 1 June 2016 to 1 July 2016 and the details are set out below.

PAN Reference: LA03/2016/0492/PAN
Proposal: Community sports facility incorporating 3G pitch with seating, 15m floodlighting, 2.4m high perimeter fencing, 4No. 200 seater stands, safe standing area, toilet blocks, turnstiles, dugouts, car parking, community changing building and ass. Groundworks
Location: 96-100 Hightown Road Glengormley
Applicant: Edmund Rice Schools Trust (NI) Limited
Date Received: 1 June 2016
12 week expiry: 24 August 2016

PAN Reference: LA03/2016/0521/PAN
Proposal: Proposed Caravan Park with associated access and landscaping
Location: Lands south-east of 12 Castle Road, Half Umry Balloo, Antrim BT41 4NA
Applicant: Blairs Caravans Limited

Date Received: 16 June 2016
12 week expiry: 8 September 2016

Members recalled that under Section 27 of the 2011 Planning Act obligations were placed on the prospective developer to consult the community in advance of submitting a Major development planning application. Where, following the 12 week period set down in statute, an application is submitted this must be accompanied by a Pre-Application Community consultation report outlining what consultation has been undertaken regarding the application and detailing how this has influenced the proposal submitted.

Proposed by Councillor Hollis
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and unanimously agreed

that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: John Linden

ITEM 3.16

P/PLAN/1 DELEGATED PLANNING DECISIONS AND APPEALS

A list of planning decisions issued by Officers during June 2016 under delegated powers was circulated for Members attention together with information received this month on planning appeals.

Proposed by Councillor Beatty
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and unanimously agreed

that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: John Linden

ITEM 3.17

P/PLAN/1 NORTHERN IRELAND PLANNING STATISTICS - ANNUAL STATISTICAL BULLETIN FOR 2015-2016

The Northern Ireland Planning Statistics 2015/16 Annual Statistical Bulletin, a copy of which was circulated, was released on 30 June 2016 by the Department for Infrastructure's Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch. This was the first annual statistical report on activity and performance since the transfer of planning powers to councils in April 2015.

The figures showed that during 2015-16, the total number of planning applications received in Northern Ireland was 12,220, a decrease of 5% on the previous financial year. The figures also highlighted that just over 11,000 decisions were issued across Northern Ireland, again a reduction of some 5.3% on the previous year.

The reduction in applications received across Northern Ireland during 2015-16 was reflected in the local figures for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough which

witnessed a reduction from 864 applications received in 2014-15 (a 5 year high) to 722 received during 2015-16. Some 686 decisions were issued during the year with an overall approval rate of almost 93.5% which compares favourably with the Northern Ireland average of 93.7%

There were 319 live cases in the Borough at 31st March 2016 which is the same number recorded 12 months previously. While the number of applications more than 12 months old had increased from some 11 cases to 35 over the same period, there had been a decrease in applications over 6 months old. Reducing the number of older applications would be a priority for the Planning Section in the coming year.

In relation to performance against statutory targets the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) figures showed that the Council took on average 28.2 weeks to process and decide **Major** planning applications during 2015-16 against the target of 30 weeks. This performance ranked first out of the 11 Councils and also reflected well against the average processing time of 46.4 weeks across all Councils. These figures related to the determination of 16 Major applications by the Council over this period.

The DfI figures showed that the Council took on average 14 weeks to process and decide **Local** planning applications during 2015-16 against the target of 15 weeks. Again this performance ranked first out of the 11 Councils where an average processing time of 19.4 weeks across all Councils had been recorded.

In relation to enforcement the DfI figures highlighted that the Council's planning enforcement team concluded 84.2% of cases within 39 weeks against the performance target of 70% second only to Mid and East Antrim. The Section recorded an average time of 19.5 weeks, to process 70% of enforcement cases to target conclusion compared to 30.6 weeks across all Councils.

Members noted that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough was the only Council to meet all the statutory targets this year.

Proposed by Councillor Duffin
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and unanimously agreed

that the report be noted

ACTION BY: John Linden

ITEM 3.18

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – REFERENCES T/2005/0977/F AND T/2005/1054/F AT PARKGATE QUARRY - RETAINED FOR DETERMINATION BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Members recalled that the full Council recently agreed at its May meeting that Officers should write to the Department for Infrastructure to seek a hearing on the following retained planning applications.

Application Reference: T/2005/0977/F

Proposal: Construction of a Waste Transfer & Recycling Facility for Construction & Demolition Wastes

Application Reference: T/2005/1054/F

Proposal: Landfill Facility for inert Construction and Demolition Wastes

Location: Parkgate Quarry, Connor Road, Parkgate

Applicant: Henry Bros (Magherfelt) Ltd

On foot of the Council's correspondence the Department for Infrastructure had now written to advise that it is proceeding to prepare papers before requesting the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) to make the necessary arrangements for the hearing into the two applications (a copy of the letter sent to the Department and the subsequent response were circulated).

The PAC had published a helpful guide on procedures for hearings into regionally significant or called in applications which apply in this case and a weblink was attached for Members information.

https://www.pacni.gov.uk/sites/pacni/files/media-files/procedures_for_public_inquiries_regionally_significant_applications.pdf

Members also noted that anyone who has made representations in relation to these applications would in due course be notified by the PAC of the arrangements for the hearing and invited to complete a questionnaire indicating whether and how they would wish to participate.

Officers would keep Members updated on the arrangements for the hearing into these applications and would in due course seek approval for the Council's statement of case opposing both developments.

Proposed by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Duffin and unanimously agreed

that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: John Linden

ITEM 3.19

STATUTORY CONSULTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/2016

Under the provisions contained in the Planning Act (NI) 2011 and the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 (the GDPO) the Council is identified as a Statutory Consultee where an application for planning permission was to be determined by the Department for Infrastructure (which now exercises the planning responsibilities of the former Department of the Environment).

When formally consulted as a Statutory Consultee by the Department the Council was required by Article 15 of the GDPO to provide a substantive response within 21 calendar days beginning with the day on which the Department was satisfied that it

had supplied the information it believed was necessary for the consultee to make a substantive response or any other such period as may be agreed in writing.

Article 16 of the GDPO then required the Council, as a Statutory Consultee, to give the Department, not later than 1st July in each year, a report on its performance in meeting the 21 day response deadline set out in Article 15.

The Council provided its report to the Department on 28th June 2016. In summary, this indicated that of the 9 requests received, 1 response was issued within the 21 day timeframe with the remainder exceeding this target. There were a range of reasons for this outlined in the report, not least that the consultation period set out in the GPDO does not correspond with the Councils monthly meeting cycle. The same problems have been experienced by other Councils and the matter is scheduled to be raised by the Head of Planning at the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Group set up by the Department to liaise with Councils on planning matters.

Proposed by Councillor Duffin

Seconded by Councillor Bingham and unanimously agreed

that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: John Linden

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Duffin and agreed

that the following Committee business be taken In Confidence.

The Chairman advised that audio-recording would cease at this point.

ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

DECISIONS ON ENFORCEMENT CASES

Councillor Cushman withdrew from the Chamber and returned during discussion of the next item, 3.20.

ITEM 3.20 - In Confidence

ENFORCEMENT CASE: LA03/2016/0068/CA and LA03/2016/0033/CA

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer introduced the Enforcement Report to the Committee and made a recommendation that approval be granted to progress summons action.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Councillor Beatty and unanimously agreed

that enforcement action be progressed in this case and the detail of this was delegated to appointed Officers.

NOTED: request for a report to be circulated to Planning Committee Members providing an updated position on unauthorised car washes in the Borough.

ACTION BY: Barry Diamond

PART 2 FORWARD PLANNING MATTERS - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION

ITEM 3.21 - In Confidence

P/PLAN/12 REPLACEMENT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PLANNING PORTAL

The Department for Infrastructure had written to the Council, a copy of which was circulated, seeking the Council's views on the way forward in relation to the replacement of the Northern Ireland Planning Portal the contract for which was due to expire in March 2019.

The Department's correspondence included a report (commercial in confidence) commissioned by the former Department of the Environment from Kainos, a software company, a copy of which was circulated. In summary the Kainos Report indicated that a shared service model for replacement of the current Portal was the approach likely to deliver most benefits for citizens and recommends that the Department and all 11 Councils move forward collaboratively by adopting an agile approach to complete a comprehensive Discovery exercise to assist the delivery of this model. The Department had requested views on the approach recommended in the Kainos Report.

The Head of Planning, together with colleagues in the other 10 Councils, had been engaging with the Department through the Planning Portal Governance Board co-chaired by the Chief Planner, Fiona McCandless and the Chief Executive of Causeway Coast and Glens Council, David Jackson, to consider proposals for the replacement of the current Portal. To introduce clarity on a way forward the Council was content to support the Department commissioning the report by Kainos to consider future options and met with the company to discuss the matters that should be taken into account.

However, having reviewed the final report, Officers are disappointed that the alternatives to a shared service model outlined in the report appear to have been discounted without a rigorous analysis of the pros and cons of these options and in

particular the costs associated with each in comparison to the recommended option. While it is acknowledged there may be significant benefits in agreeing to move forward on the basis of a shared service model Officers consider greater detail regarding the alternatives is necessary before proceeding with this option and the financial implications that may arise as a consequence. This includes seeking clarity about who will bear the costs of the comprehensive Discovery exercise now proposed by the Department, particularly if not all Councils agree to move forward on this basis. Finally Members may wish to note that similar reservations have been voiced by a number of other Councils involved in this process.

Proposed by Councillor Hollis

Seconded by Alderman Smyth and unanimously agreed that

a response be sent to the Department indicating that the Council appreciates the benefits of undertaking a comprehensive Discovery exercise on a shared service model, but would request that the aforementioned shortcomings in the Pre-Discovery Report are revisited and greater clarity on the financial implications for the Council are provided.

ACTION BY: John Linden

PROPOSAL TO MOVE OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Duffin

Seconded by Councillor Beatty and agreed

that any remaining Committee business be conducted in Open Session.

The Chairman advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further Committee business under Part 2 of the agenda the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and legal advice.