

**LISBURN CITY COUNCIL**

**Report of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy Sub-Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Monday, 1 December 2008 at 5.15 pm**

**PRESENT:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor R Crawford (Chairman)

Deputy Mayor  
Alderman E C Poots

Alderman S P Porter

Councillors A G Ewart, P J Givan and W M Ward

**OTHER MEMBERS:**

Councillor Wm Gardiner-Watson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive  
Committee Secretary

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Report of the Chief Executive

2.1 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Councillor Wm Gardiner-Watson arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

In accordance with the decision by Council, the Sub-Committee had been established to progress the programme of events for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the foundation of Lisnagarvey/Lisburn. Reports on this matter had been considered by the relevant Committees of the Council and Members had been furnished with a paper setting out the proposed programme at this stage, from which it was noted that the indicative costs to date were £905,000. The Corporate Services Committee, at its meeting held on 11 November, 2008, had agreed that “the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations be funded from within Council reserves and, given the one-off nature of the events, be not added to the rates”.

Whilst not wishing to diminish the significance of this anniversary, the Chief Executive stated that, taking account of the current economic climate, he considered a budget of almost £1m for the celebration of the anniversary to be excessive. He advised that in the recent edition of CityWide, reference had been made to the anniversary, inviting ratepayers to submit suggestions as to how it could be celebrated. To date, 16 responses had been received, four of which referred to a parade, with the remaining 12 relating to miscellaneous events such as exhibitions, concert, fireworks, etc.

2.1 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations (Contd)

It was the Chief Executive's view that the budget of almost £1m proposed to be set aside by the Council could be devoted to expenditure which would have a more direct and long-lasting benefit for the ratepayers of the City. That being the case, the Chief Executive recommended that a budget of £330,000 (to be met from the Council's reserves) be set aside for the under-noted purposes:

- (i) further enhancement of events which would normally take place in the City throughout 2009, including promotion, and, in particular, the Mayor's Parade (£150,000);
- (ii) two outdoor concerts (August/September 2009 – £150,000); and,
- (iii) given Members' previous comments about a feature in Market Square that would stand the test of time, provision of a significant water feature in the Market Square area (late 2009), with a loan sanction cost of £30,000 per annum which would provide a £250,000 feature.

Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy Committee that:

- (a) a maximum budget of £500,000 (to be met from the Council's reserves) be set aside for the anniversary celebrations;
- (b) no water feature be provided as part of the celebrations, given that an environmental improvement scheme was to take place in the City centre during 2010 and a water feature could be included as part of that scheme;
- (c) Officers bring back a report to a meeting of the Sub-Committee in January 2009 setting out a more limited range of new and pre-planned events which could be enhanced, with those events specifically focusing on maximising public involvement;
- (d) it seek delegated authority to progress this matter through to its conclusion as a number of decisions may require to be taken very quickly.

During discussion, Members drew attention to several events/proposals about which they were particularly enthusiastic; however, the Chief Executive pointed out that more detailed consideration of such matters would take place once Officers had prepared the report referred to in item (c) above.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 5.45 pm.

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Mayor/Chairman