

Londonderry Development Commission – Housing Matters. Memorandum of a meeting held on 21 April 1969.

This file contains two pages from the official Memorandum of the first meeting of the Londonderry Development Commission to discuss housing. This unelected body took over the functions of the Londonderry Corporation in April 1969 when the council was suspended.

Many popular accounts suggest that the Development Commission introduced a points scheme for the allocation of council houses where previously there was no such scheme. The Memorandum shows that this is quite incorrect.

The first page of the Memorandum is included simply to set the scene and show who was present. The second page reproduced here is actually page six of the Memorandum. The reader's attention is drawn to Item 14 POINTS SCHEME FOR THE ALLOCATION OF DWELLINGS. It states that "Having heard the views of the Clerk, it was agreed that the Points Scheme presently in use in Londonderry County Borough be employed in the allocation of dwellings situated in the area of Londonderry Urban District until further notice."

This demonstrated that a points scheme was being used by the Londonderry Corporation and that it was deemed fit for purpose.

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LONDONDERRY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HOUSING MATTERS

MEMORANDUM of discussions held in the Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall, Londonderry, on Monday, 21st April, 1969.

PRESENT: Mr. S. McGonagle (Vice Chairman) in the Chair: Mr. J. T. Eaton, T.D., J.P., Dr. R. F. Keys, J.P. and Mr. R. G. Toland, J.P.

APOLOGY: Mr. Brian Morton, F.A.I. (Chairman).

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk and Acting General Manager (Mr. R. H. Henderson): City Accountant (Mr. D. C. White): Housing Architect (Mr. W. E. Taylor): Housing Manager (Mr. J. W. Taggart): and the Clerk, Londonderry Urban District (Mr. W. A. McCahon).

(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE: Those present heard and noted terms of reference as set out in paragraph No. 15 of Minutes of Meeting of the Londonderry Development Commission held on 3rd April, and paragraph No. 19 of its Minutes dated 10th April, 1969, viz:-

(a) "That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Dr. R. F. Keys, Mr. R. Toland and Mr. J. T. Eaton should consider business listed on the Agenda dated 28th March, 1969, for the attention of the Londonderry County Borough Housing Sub-Committee." (All such business was submitted on Monday, 21st April, 1969)

(b) "That the members of Commission mentioned above be authorised to deal with all business formerly entrusted to the Housing Sub-Committee of the Londonderry County Borough Council and also any housing business appropriate to the former Londonderry Rural District Council - all recommendations to be submitted to the full Commission for approval."

(c) "That the members noted above should have full Commission power to allocate all municipal housing accommodation both in the County Borough and Urban District areas."

LONDONDERRY COUNTY BOROUGH

(B) OPENING OF TENDERS:

(a) Electrical Sub-Contracts for various Housing Schemes - Eleven tenders for the execution of electrical work in connection with various housing schemes were opened, initialled by the Vice-Chairman and Dr. Keys and referred to the Housing Architect for examination and report.

(b) Plumbing Sub-Contracts for various Housing Schemes - Thirteen tenders for the execution of plumbing work in connection with various housing schemes were opened, initialled by the Vice-Chairman and Dr. Keys and referred to the Housing Architect for examination and report.

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6.

11. (B) "DERRY HOUSING ACTION COMMITTEE": During the course of the Meeting a request was received from the "Derry Housing Action Committee" for an immediate interview with the Housing Manager.

Those present directed that the "Derry Housing Action Committee" should be informed that the Housing Manager would be engaged at a Meeting for some time and could be telephoned on the morning of 22nd April with a view to making an appointment.

Some time later a further message was received from the "Housing Action Committee" to the effect that they wished to see the Chairman in order to make a protest to him.

The Vice Chairman sent a message to the effect that he would consider any written protest that might be conveyed to him.

LONDONDERRY URBAN DISTRICT

12. PROPOSED HOUSING SCHEME AT EDEN, BANAGHER: Letter dated 3rd April, 1969, from the Ministry of Development was submitted seeking the views of the Commission upon the former Londonderry Rural District Council's proposal to erect 12 houses at Eden, Banagher.

Consideration of this matter was deferred until the next Meeting so that the Vice Chairman and Mr. Eaton might visit the site in company with the Clerk, Mr. W. A. McCahon.

13. ALLOCATION OF DWELLINGS: Having received a report from the Clerk upon three dwellings which had become available for allocation, it was agreed that the dwellings concerned be allocated as follows:-

22 Enagh Crescent, Maydown	- Mr. Patrick Kelly, 22 Enagh Crescent, Maydown.
4 Clareen Drive, Strathfoyle.	- Mr. Hugh Craig, The Locks, Lower Campsie
6 Lettershendony, Drumahoe.	- Mr. P. J. Carton, 6 Lettershendony, Drumahoe.

14. POINTS SCHEME FOR THE ALLOCATION OF DWELLINGS: Having heard the views of the Clerk, it was agreed that the Points Scheme presently in use in Londonderry County Borough be employed in the allocation of dwellings situated in the area of Londonderry Urban District until further notice.

15. PRESS RELEASE: It was agreed that the Town Clerk and Acting General Manager and the Housing Manager should in the normal way give the press a verbal summary of the business referred to in this report. It was agreed further that the Commission should be asked to decide whether or not this report and other similar reports should be released to the press in full.

The Meeting then terminated.