

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 8 November 2018 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor McKinney, Chair Councillors Buchanan, Cuddy, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, McLean, Molloy and Totten
Officers in Attendance	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms McNally, Council Solicitor Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance+ Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Cllr G Shiels (7.05 pm)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR220/18 Apologies

Councillors Ashton, Doris, McPeake and M Quinn.

PR221/18 Declaration of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

Councillor Gildernew declared an interest in Brantry Forest Development Project MUDC and DAERA.

PR222/18 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR223/18 Economic Development – Revitalisation Projects, Village Renewal and Public Realm

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- a) Magherafelt Revitalisation Project
- b) Cookstown Revitalisation Project

- c) Village Renewal Project
- d) Coalisland Public Realm

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- a) **Magherafelt Revitalisation Project**
Accept the DfC Letter of Offer of £160,706. Provision of 20% match funding from Council's Capital Budget of approximately £40,000.
- b) **Cookstown Revitalisation Project**
Prepare and submit 'shelf ready' application to DfC for Cookstown Revitalisation Project during 2018/19. Provision of 20% match funding from Council's Capital Budget of approximately £8,000.
- c) **Village Renewal Project**
Note Progress
- d) **Coalisland Public Realm**
Note Progress.

Councillor McLean said that it was good to see these revitalisation projects and enquired where funding would come from.

The Chief Executive advised that funding from the Council would come from capital funds and reserves.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that that it was good to see as it would be a tremendous help to both towns.

PR224/18 MUDC/Forest Service Davagh Lease

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform members of project costs in relation to lease/annual rental valuation.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- a) Progressing with the Lease Agreement for Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project based on the valuation provided by Forest Service.
- b) Annual Lease Payment of £2,500.00 for an agreed Lease period of 20 years.

Councillor Cuddy said that he was happy to see this progressing but felt that the cost was a bit high from one Government department to another.

PR225/18 Brantry Forest Development Project MUDC and DAERA

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for development proposal at Brantry Forest, Caledon in partnership with DAERA and Forest Service NI.

He drew attention to an amendment to the Council's contribution which should read £55,000 instead of £50,000.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- a) Providing Council capital contribution funding of £55,000 to the development project.
- b) Accept Letter of Offer from DAERA and draw down £175,000 funding package.
- c) Establish a Licence Agreement/Lease with FSNI for Council approval.
- d) Establish community partnership agreement for sustainable management solutions for Brantry Forest in the format of Service Level Agreement with Local Community Group.

PR226/18 Railway Park, Dungannon – User Safety Works

The Head of Property Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek members' approval to carry out extensive tree and foliage removal and Lighting enhancement along pathways in Railway Park to improve user safety.

Councillor Forde said that the Council had made a considerable contribution to the project in the past and felt that it would be more beneficial to carry out the works all at once and not in pieces.

The Head of Property Services said that there was an immediate need to carry out the required works due to safety issues regarding the overgrown trees and foliage.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that this was a problem with overgrown trees and foliage and there was a major problem with vandalism on the site. He said that the park goes straight towards Milltown and would hope that all of the area is taken into consideration and not just parts of it.

He also referred to the gas line and said that their main pipe was on Council owned lands and felt that the Council should pursue the contractor for dividends for repairs as a good will gesture from them. He said that this pipe was there to stay and there wouldn't be an opportunity in the future to expand and that any dividends from the Contractor would be very useful.

The Chief Executive said that the works required the contractor to enter into a lease with Council that came with a premium. He added that officers could liaise with the Contractor to see if a good will gesture would be considered.

Councillor Gildernew said that he assumed that the pipe would be approximately 3 to 4 ft long and would hope that this wouldn't affect any future developments on the site.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the release of £21,825 plus 10% contingency (i.e. £24,008) from revenue reserves to undertake Tree clearance, foliage removal and lighting upgrade as outlined at Railway Park using approved Council procurement framework Contractors.

PR227/18 Internal Lighting Upgrade Meadowbank Sports Arena, Magherafelt

The Head of Property Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek members' approval to upgrade and fund the replacement of existing interior lighting in Meadowbank Sports Arena to energy efficient LED lighting.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the release of £40,480 plus 10% contingency, (i.e. £44,528) from revenue reserves to undertake the LED lighting upgrade as outlined at Meadowbank Sports Arena using an approved Council procurement framework Contractor.

PR228/18 Representation on Working Group of Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Councillor S McGuigan be nominated to represent the Council on the cross-council Sustainable Communities & Demographics Working Group of the NISMP.

PR229/18 Member Conference, Seminar and Training: Annual Allocation

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report to consider implementation of an arrangement brought forward by the Elected Member Development Working Group to maximise learning opportunities the availability of annual Conference, Seminar & Training allocations per member.

Councillor Cuddy enquired if the transfer would be recorded against the receiver or the giver.

The Chief Executive advised that it would be recorded against the receiver of the funds.

In response to Councillor McLean's query, the Chief Executive advised that funds could only be issued to another party member within the same party.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the proposal to facilitate transfers between elected member annual allocations for conferences, seminars and training. Transfers will be subject to:

- (i) Members being permitted to transfer up to £250 only (one third of their allocation), to a party colleague
- (ii) Transfers being permitted only when the recipient elected member has or is anticipated to exceed their annual allocation and;
- (iii) A member receiving up to £500 only (i.e. two thirds of their annual allocation), in transfers annually.

PR230/18 Lease and Licence of Lands at Knockmany Forest from DAERA/Forest Service

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Members' approval in principle to enter into a legal arrangement with DAERA/Forest Service ("FS") in relation to lands at Knockmany Forest ("the Lands").

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve in principle that:

- (i) The Council enters into a 20 year Lease with DAERA/FS in respect of Lands within Knockmany Forest, up to the maximum rental value of £2,500 per annum
- (ii) The Council enters into a Licence with DAERA/FS in respect of Lands within Knockmany Forest.

Matters for Information

PR231/18 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 4 October 2018

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 4 October 2018.

PR232/18 Appointment of Approved Humanist Celebrant

Members noted previously circulated report on the Appointment of Approved Humanist Celebrant.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved: In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items PR233/18 to PR241/18.

Matters for Decision

- PR233/18 Village Renewal Scheme – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – Lease of Lands at Market Yard, Fivemiletown
- PR234/18 2019/20 Rate Estimates
- PR235/18 2018/19 Review of Treasury Management Policies, Practices and Activities
- PR236/18 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR237/18 Provision and Upgrade of CCTV Systems to the Council Offices in Magherafelt and Dungannon

Matters for Information

- PR238/18 Minutes of Confidential Business of Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 4 October 2018
- PR239/18 Staffing Matters for Information
- PR240/18 Contracts and DAC
- PR241/18 Financial Report for 6 months to 30 September 2018

PR242/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.10 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____