

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 22 October 2015 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Members Present:** Councillor Dillon, Chair

Councillors Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke ,  
Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Ellatar, Forde, Glasgow, Gildernew,  
Gillespie, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney,  
McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney,  
McLean, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith, Mulligan, , J O'Neill,  
T Quinn, Robinson, J Shiels, Totten and Wilson

**Officers in  
Attendance:**

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Dr Boomer, Area Planning Manager  
Ms Campbell, Director of Culture & Leisure  
Ms Canavan, Lead HR Officer  
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure  
Mr McCreesh Director of Business and Communities  
Mrs Mezza, Head of Marketing Communications  
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

**C184/15 Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Ashton, Mullen, McPeake, M Quinn, C O'Neill, Reid and G Shiels.

**C185/15 Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillor McGinley declared an interest in item TIPSA.

**Matters for Decision**

**C186/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Planning Committee (Development and Enforcement) held on Tuesday 15 September 2015**

Proposed by Councillor Bateson  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee (Development and Enforcement) meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2015 (P97/15 – P104/15 and P110/15) transacted in "Open

Business", having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C187/15      Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Special Council meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2015**

Proposed by Councillor Bell  
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 17 September 2015 (SC10/15 –SC15/15), transacted in "Open Business" having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

**C188/15      Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at Council meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2015**

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 24 September 2015 (C1164/15/15 – C175/15 and C183/15), transacted in "Open Business" having been printed and circulated, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

**C189/15      Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Special Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2015**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels

**Resolved**      That the Minutes and recommendations of the Special Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2015, (D178/15/15 – D185/15) transacted in "Open Business", having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C190/15      Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 6 October 2015.**

Councillor Clarke requested a change on page 11 of the minute that his comment regarding PPS14 be amended to read

"Councillor Clarke commented that PPS14 had eliminated the renewal of approvals as previous to PPS14 applications could be renewed within a 5 year period."

Councillor Wilson stated that although he was not a Member of the Planning Committee he would find it useful to be provided with a list of applications approved, applications deferred, applications rejected and those applications which had been overturned differing from officer recommendation. Councillor Wilson also asked if the Planning Enforcement division had the appropriate equipment to take site levels. Responding the Area Planning Manager advised that the results of all applications are published on the website and that currently the purchase of equipment regarding enforcement issues was being investigated.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2015 (P111/15 – P117/15 and P120/15) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

**C191/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 8 October 2015**

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to PR139/15 Irish Language Policy EQIA and the comment of Councillor Cuddy in which it was highlighted that 64% of the community was Catholic, had attended Catholic schools, been taught Irish to GCSE level yet only 6% knew the language and had not taken the opportunity to learn it when it was freely available to them. Councillor Glasgow stated that given the statistics aforementioned he would like the report looked at again as in current financial times ratepayers should not face costs such as these for such a low percent of the population. Councillor Glasgow requested that it be noted that he would have serious concerns over costs associated with the Irish language.

The Chair Councillor Dillon stated that the statistics did not reflect those attending Irish Medium schools and that Councillor Glasgow’s comments would be noted.

Councillor Wilson concurred with the comments of Councillor Glasgow.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McLean

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 8 October 2015 (PR133/15 – PR140/15 and PR150/15), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

**C192/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2015**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2015, (E173/15 – E190/15 and E198/15), transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C193/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2015**

Councillor Elattar requested that it be documented in the minutes the question posed at the Development Committee regarding the Verbal Arts Centre and as to whether or not local groups for example Glasgowsbury would be permitted to tender to provide activities after the initial programmes had finished. In response the Director of Culture and Leisure advised that at present the Centre was working on the education programme following which a new programme of activity would be developed and that there would be roles for other organisations.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Elattar

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2015, (D178/15 – D198/15 and D208/15) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

**C194/15 Conferences and Seminars**

The Head of Democratic Services referred to details of the undernoted conferences and sought approval for the attendance of Members and Council officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

- (i) Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum  
Friday 30 October, Council Chamber, Dundalk, Co Louth
- (ii) TCPA Seminar on Creating Garden Cities and Suburbs Today  
Thursday 5 November in Ulster Hall, Belfast
- (iii) Agriculture & Food Conference: Meeting the Challenges Ahead  
Thursday 3 December in Dunadry Hotel, Templepatrick

Suggested by Councillor Wilson that Councillors Mulligan and McKinney to attend.

- (iv) Policy Forum: Tackling Poverty & Assessing impact of proposed Welfare Reform  
Wednesday 3 February in Belfast venue to be confirmed

Proposed by Councillor J O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan

**Resolved** That the attendance of Members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required

*Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.15pm*

**C195/15 Consultation Response regarding North/South 400kv Interconnector and association works**

The Area Planning Manager drew attention to the previously circulated report and draft response regarding the North/South 400kv Interconnector and associated works drawing particular attention to comments regarding underground cabling wherever possible, impact assessments regarding heritage, tourism and habitat, that all objectors are given full consideration in expressing concerns and the short time timescale for response.

*Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting at 7.16pm*

Councillor McGinley stated that in principle he supported the letter but would ask that stronger language was used with regards to the public not supporting the use of pylons and suggested that the undernoted paragraph be incorporated in the response.

In response to your consultations Mid Ulster District Council are supportive of the establishment of the North/South interconnector and the work that will flow from it, particularly as it affects Mid Ulster Council. However, we do not support the establishment of an overhead line. We would ask that the applicant give consideration to the laying of underground cabling so as to ensure that there is no negative impact on the heritage, tourism and habitats of the area.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That the aforementioned paragraph be included in response and approval be granted for its submission.

**Matters for Information**

**C196/15 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council**

The previously circulated paper on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council was noted.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

**Resolved** That the consultations contained within the previously circulated report be noted.

**C197/15 Correspondence**

Members noted the previously circulated paper on correspondence received by Mid Ulster District Council noting the recommendation that Council receives the resolution passed by Belfast City Council on cruelty against animals.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor J shiels and

**Resolved** That Council receives the resolution passed by Belfast City Council on cruelty against animals.

**C198/15 Consideration of Motions**

**C198.1/15 Councillor Cuthbertson to move**

Councillor Cuthbertson in moving the motion stated that it was the first time Northern Ireland had qualified for the finals of the European Championship and that it had been 30 years since the team had qualified for any major tournament.

Acknowledging that the current Northern Ireland Team had restored great pride and had rewarded loyal fans by not just qualifying but leading their group Councillor Cuthbertson further stated that Captain Steven Davis had been named in UEFA's team of the qualifiers highlights the standard the country has performed to.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he was proud of the strong connection Mid Ulster had to the squad and paid tribute to the local football teams for the development of the talent namely Dungannon Swifts were Nial McGinn had trained, Fivemiletown United were Roy Carroll had trained with the youth teams and Coagh United were Stuart Dallas had trained. Concluding Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the clubs along with other smaller teams throughout Mid Ulster should be supported by Council and proposed the motion as undernoted:

*That MUDC send congratulations to the Northern Ireland Football team on successfully qualifying for the European Championships, France 2016. This is a historic occasion for Northern Ireland as it is our first time in thirty years to qualify for a major tournament. The squad has strong connections in Mid Ulster with S.Dallas, A.Hughes, N.McGinn & R.Carroll all playing vital roles and we wish the team and manager well as they make their preparations for next summer.*

Councillor Buchanan seconding the motion stated that the players had performed with great distinction noting that both Steven Dallas and Aaron Hughes had attended Cookstown High School, Cookstown Football Club as well as Coagh United and concluded by saying that football was a force for good and wished the players well in representing their country.

Councillor Monteith proposed an amendment to the motion as undernoted

*Furthermore that Mid Ulster District Council recognise the Republic of Ireland Football team and wish them good luck as they prepare to play in the playoffs for one of the final places for the European Championships*

Councillor McGinley seconded the amendment.

Councillor Wilson expressed his support for the motion moved by Councillor Cuthbertson stating that he had attended the 1982 World Cup and knew the experience of being a supporter adding that he regularly attended games at Windsor Park with his sons and brother. Commending the motion Councillor Wilson advised that Aaron Hughes footballing talent had been recognised through the Boys Brigade and stated that the Northern Ireland Youth Teams were currently training at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena. In conclusion, Councillor Wilson stated that if Councillor Cuthbertson would accept an addition to the motion he would propose that Council write to the Irish Football Association and invite the Northern Ireland Team to train at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in the lead up to 2016.

Referring to the amendment Councillor Cuthbertson sought clarity as to whether amendments were supposed to be printed on paper and circulated to Members stating that accepting a verbal amendment was setting a different precedent.

In response the Chair, Councillor Dillon stated that if requested the amendment could be read out again and clarified that the amendment only had to be printed if the Chair required it to be, for example, if it was complicated.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he did not accept the amendment as the motion referred to the country in which the Council resided and to add something about another international team would spoil the motion.

The Chair Councillor Dillon called for a vote on the amendment proposed by Councillor Monteith.

For	21
Against	9

The amendment was carried.

The Chair Councillor Dillon called for a vote on the addition proposed by Councillor Wilson.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the proposal of Councillor Wilson to send a letter inviting the Northern Ireland Team to train at Mid Ulster Sports Arena should be looked at separately as people were trying to hijack a good motion by highlighting a foreign country.

Councillor Wilson concurred that his proposal be looked at separately.

The Chair called for a vote on the substantive motion:

For	20
Against	12

The Chair stated that the motion was carried.

**Resolved** That a letter of invitation be forwarded to the Northern Ireland Football team to train at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena.

Councillor Cuthbertson expressed his regret that his motion, as moved, had not been supported as it had a clear connection to Mid Ulster.

**C198.2/15 Councillor Mallaghan to move**

Councillor Mallaghan in moving the motion stated that TIPSA had been in existence since 2003 and had provided alcohol and other drugs education and prevention services in Mid Ulster. Outlining their excellent work, Councillor Mallaghan advised that TIPSA provided group work, one to one sessions, hosted information events, had attended conferences and participated in a wide range of publicity initiatives. Commending the organisation on their community based work which delivered tailor made projects for the area, Councillor Mallaghan spoke of the outstanding work of Martin McCann and Eugene O'Goan who both went beyond the call of duty in their respective roles. Councillor Mallaghan advised that the closure was in connection with the PHA tendering for services. Councillor Mallaghan proposed the undernoted motion:

*That this council acknowledges the excellent service which has been provided by TIPSA in Mid Ulster over the last 13 years. TIPSA has been the key organisation in providing education and awareness on drugs and alcohol for all ages in our society.*

*That the chair writes to the organisation and we sincerely thank those staff who have lost their jobs for helping to change and save the lives of many of our people who struggle with addiction.*

Councillor McFlynn, seconding the motion advised that she had together with Councillor Mallaghan been involved with TIPSA for many years and stated that the staff had helped many people, had educated parents and young people and carried out a wide range of work. Councillor McFlynn referring to the fact that the closure of TIPSA had been a result of funding from PHA being awarded to another provider stated that she hoped the new organisation delivered the service as well in order to tackle the scourge of drink and drugs on communities.

Councillors Wilson and McLean supported the motion stating that Mid Ulster area will be worse off with the loss of TIPSA.

The Chair Councillor Dillon declared the motion carried.

*Councillors Burton and Mallaghan left the meeting at 7.42pm*

**C198.3/15 Councillor Kearney to move:**

Councillor Kearney stated that this was the second motion that the SDLP had brought before Council and advised that they had undertaken extensive research on childcare and its impact and the current situation in the North. Councillor Kearney



also advised that the need for childcare and childcare facilities across Mid Ulster had been discussed at LAG. Councillor Kearney stated that the SDLP wanted to create a situation where true welfare and work reform could be attained in order to see the recovery of the economy. Councillor Kearney stated that Patsy McGlone MLA had written to the Secretary of State requesting that the British Government provide the same support to working parents in Northern Ireland as it did in England.

*Councillor Mallaghan returned to the meeting at 7.45pm*

Councillor Kearney highlighted the undernoted:

- Childcare cost is the main barrier for parents returning to work resulting in the loss of highly skilled and motivated people in the workforce;
- Average Northern Ireland Childcare Costs per 50 hour week range from £154 - £162;
- Employers for Childcare 2014 survey report showed that average full time formal childcare equates to 44% of average salary with many stating that it was in fact 55% of a parent's salary with one fifth of people seeking financial support such as bank loans, credit cards and pay day loans to meet costs;
- OFMDFM research in 2014 highlighted over 50% of parents saw childcare cost as the main barrier to using childcare services;
- Parents are experiencing 'in work' poverty to maintain skills and their foothold in the job market.
- Families need choice and flexibility and employers should be encouraged to facilitate same;
- Women in particular face inequality as one in two find having a baby results in significant change of career path;
- Lack of suitable childcare has a major effect on the workforce ie loss of skills,
- Providing subsidised childcare is an economic multiplier as three people would be working and paying taxes as opposed to one;
- Conservative Government committed to passing legislation to increase the entitlement to free preschool childcare for three to four year olds to 30 hours per week, thus pre-existing inadequacies in childcare in Northern Ireland will be further highlighted in UK context.
- With the reduction of 'in-work' tax credits some will face an annual loss of £1200

In conclusion Councillor Kearney stated that much discussion had taken place regarding welfare reform but that it needed to be stepped up a pace to welfare and work reform, particularly for working families who were rapidly becoming the working poor.

Councillor Kearney sought support for the motion

*'That this Council notes the 2014 Employers for Childcare survey that indicated that 46% of parents in Northern Ireland reduced their working hours or left work due to a lack of affordable childcare; recognises that greater childcare provision would be a key catalyst in bolstering the economy, retaining a skilled workforce and improving the lives of working families; further notes that the Childcare Bill announced in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's July Budget will increase free preschool childcare entitlement for*

*three and four year olds to 30 hours a week in England; and agrees to write to the Northern Ireland Executive calling for the establishment of an equal 30 hours of free childcare locally as part of a move towards the establishment of a universal childcare model.'*

The Chair, Councillor Dillon declaring support for the motion, seconded it, stating that there were many childcare issues throughout the District and that there had been discussions with the Minister. The Chair, Councillor Dillon continued stating that she worked during the day whilst her husband worked at night as they could not afford to pay childcare and the situation was not conducive to family life. Referring to the Council, the Chair stated that much business was conducted at night and both Members and Officers should be looking at what can be done during the day as officer home circumstances are not considered. Reiterating support for the motion the Chair stated that a change of attitude was required within the Chamber particularly if parties were serious about getting women into politics and Council jobs.

Councillor Wilson thanked Councillor Kearney for the Motion stating that affordable childcare was a major setback for people returning to work and needed to be considered within community planning. Stating that economic growth and development is a key strategic priority for Council, Councillor Wilson emphasised the importance of educational attainment in delivering a skilled, knowledgeable and sustainable workforce in the Borough in the future. Councillor Wilson continued stating that the Ulster Unionist party believed that affordable and accessible childcare provision was the first step in the educational journey particularly for those in deprived areas. Whilst accessible childcare is key Councillor Wilson stated that £12 million had been ring-fenced for childcare provision until 30 March 2015 yet £8.6 million remained unspent by OFMDFM. Councillor Wilson further highlighted that OFMDFM were currently consulting on Delivering Social Change through Childcare – a ten year strategy for affordable and integrated childcare 2015-2025 and emphasised that Council should be making a formal response. In conclusion Councillor Wilson stated that the Ulster Unionist Party supported the motion but reflected that the responsibility was with OFMDFM to deliver and with a busted budget the reality was the Stormont Executive could not deliver a pint of milk.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

### **Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels

**Resolved** That items C199/15 to C207/15 be taken as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 7.50pm

*Councillor McAleer left the meeting at 7.50pm*

### **C208/15 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_