



**Minutes of**  
**Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster District Council**

Minutes of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 in the Council Offices, Cookstown.

**Attendees**    **Members:** Cllr John McNamee (Chair), Cllr Seán McPeake, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Rónán McGinley.

**Officers:** Tony McCance, Déaglán Ó Doibhlin.

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Adrian McCreesh, Cllr Seán McGuigan, Cllr Trevor Wilson	
2.0	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	No declarations of interest submitted.	
3.0	<b>Minutes of previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.</b>	
	Cllr McGinley highlighted that given this was the first meeting of the Working group since the Council elections that it would be appropriate to elect a chair for the term of the Council. This was agreed, Cllr McGinley proposed Cllr McNamee be re-elected, seconded by Cllr McPeake unopposed. Cllr McNamee was duly re-elected chairperson of the RML Working Group.	

	A report of the minutes of the previous meeting was presented to the Working Group.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Signage Programme update</b>	
	<p>T. McCance provided an update on the progress of the signage programme. With regard to road signage, 92 bilingual signage applications have been received to date, for which 72 household surveys have been completed, a further 6 are ongoing with the remainder to be completed by the end of December.</p> <p>T. McCance highlighted the issue of vandalism to signage - 2 sign locations in particular, Gulladuff Hill and Ballyriff Road which have been repeatedly vandalised. The Chair of the meeting, Cllr J. McNamee expressed his disappointment at the response of the PSNI to the ongoing vandalism of bilingual signage and stated that PSNI needed to prioritise repeated episodes of criminality. The Chair added that all councillors were invited to a meeting with the police on the 5th November to discuss this issue. Cllr R McGinley expressed his disappointment with the PSNI with regard to the vandalism of bilingual signs in contrast to other types of criminal behaviour.</p> <p>Cllr. S McPeake asked if waiting times for road signage had reduced following the highlighting of complaints from members of the public due to the length of the process. T McCance stated that it was his understanding that the process was now more streamlined than what had previously been the case however he agreed to contact the Head of Service with responsibility for processing the road name signage requests to determine if the processing period had reduced.</p> <p>T. McCance advised the Working Group that internal building signage was currently in the process of being procured.</p>	T. McCance
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Ulster Scots Language and cultural activity update</b>	
	<p>T. McCance presented to the group an update on the proposal previously approved by the Working Group on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Classes had been scheduled to take place at the Burnavon, Hill of the O'Neill and at RCN offices in Cookstown, and additional events may take place in the District as part of Ulster Scots Language Week which will run from 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> of November.</p>	T. McCance

6.0	Irish Language Programme update	
	<p>D. Ó Doibhlin provided the meeting with an update on the Irish Language Programme with the following information:</p> <p><b>Opportunities to Learn:</b> Monthly Tús / Nasc Bootcamps continue to be popular with the public and are attracting large numbers on the Hill of the O'Neill. Adult night classes have recommenced at 7 locations across the District.</p> <p><b>Activity Funding</b> 22 organisations have been awarded activity funding this year and projects are ongoing across the District.</p> <p><b>Primary School Project</b> 46 schools across the District are taking part in the project this year and the officers continue to receive excellent feed-back from school principals.</p> <p><b>RML Bursary Scheme</b> 186 awards have been made this year, an increase of 42 from last year. Cllr S McPeake questioned whether there is sufficient budget to deal with the increase in demand. T McCance stated that the current budget is sufficient to meet current demands, however it was also recognised that in any given year there could be an increase in demand. T McCance agreed to keep the RML Bursary Scheme budget allocation under review.</p> <p><b>Report on Irish Language Provision in Local Govt.</b> D Ó Doibhlin reported on a report produced by Conradh na Gaeilge on Irish Language provision in local government; <u>Local Councils, Obligations and the Irish Language: A Framework for Compliance.</u></p> <p>In summary, it was reported that Mid Ulster was found to be compliant under the framework with Conradh na Gaeilge stating "The Council has shown a commitment to progressively realise their obligations under the framework"</p>	T. McCance, D. Ó Doibhlin

	<p>The chair of the meeting, Cllr J McNamee commended the officers tasked with the promotion of the Irish Language on behalf of Mid Ulster Council. Cllr J McNamee requested an update on staffing.</p> <p>T McCance responding that there was currently one Irish language officer in place and that he hoped that Council would be back to its full compliment of Officers very soon.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>A.O.B.</b>	
	Next meeting agreed for January 2020. T McCance to confirm dates and times at a later date	
<b><i>Meeting concluded at 6.30pm</i></b>		

**Reports of Working Groups:** Finalised Reports of Working Groups should be forwarded to Democratic Services on [committees@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:committees@midulstercouncil.org) with a cover report to be scheduled on the agenda of the next available relevant committee meeting

