

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 7 March 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Cuddy, Doris, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, D McPeake, Molloy, M Quinn, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.03 pm.

PR047/19 Apologies

Councillors Buchanan, Elattar, Forde, McLean, S McPeake.

PR048/19 Declaration of Interest

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

PR049/19 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR050/19 Committee and Council Meetings – April 2019

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the re-scheduling of Committee and Council meetings due to take place in April 2019 to facilitate the Local Council Election timetable and arrangements.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to alter the pattern of Committee and Council meetings for April 2019 to facilitate Local Council Election timetable as follows –

- Environment Committee – Monday 1 April – Cookstown Office
- Planning Committee – Tuesday 2 April – Magherafelt Office
- Development Committee – Wednesday 3 April – Cookstown Office
- Policy and Resources Committee – Thursday 4 April – Cookstown Office
- Council Meeting – Monday 15 April – Dungannon Office

Matters for Information

PR051/19 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 February 2019

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 February 2019.

PR052/19 National Association of Councillors and Local Government Staff Commission

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence received from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) and the National Association for Councillors (NAC) on annual membership/contributions payable for 2019/20.

PR053/19 Performance Improvement Nine Month Progress Update (Objectives, Improvement Projects and Indicators)

Members noted previously circulated report which provided monitoring information on the review of performance against Council's seven statutory and three corporate performance improvement indicators and standards, along with an overview of the Corporate Health Indicators for the first nine months of 2018/19. The report also provided a performance progress summary against the Council's four corporate improvement objectives and the associated project plans. The indicators and standards, the four improvement projects and corporate health indicators are contained within the Performance Improvement Plan for 2018/19.

Councillor Cuddy asked if there was anything which stood out within the progress report.

The Head of Democratic Services directed Members to appendix two of the report and the statutory indicator in relation to processing time for major planning applications which has seen a dip in performance. The officer advised that the reason for the dip in performance is due to the processing of legacy planning applications which had been in the system for a long time. Members were advised that the processing time for planning applications would be a specific corporate objective going forward.

PR054/19 Council Motion on Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS)

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report in relation to Council Motion on Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) which was carried by Council on 28 June 2018. The report provided information in relation to Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions and considered any implications for Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor M Quinn stated he did not believe Council could carry out full a BDS campaign and proposed that a report be brought back to Committee in relation to how Council could take forward the various stages of implementation as listed at 3.3 and 3.4 of report.

Councillor Cuddy stated he was disappointed and concerned that this matter related to issues which were ongoing in another country and that this country had its own issues to sort out. Councillor Cuddy highlighted that there is a Jewish community within Northern Ireland.

Councillor Ashton stated she would support Councillor Cuddy's comments and that the DUP had voted against the motion when it came before Council. Councillor Ashton stated she appreciated that tonight's report was only for information but that she would be standing by her views.

Councillor M Quinn stated he understood the views of Councillors Cuddy and Ashton but that the BDS Campaign was not against the Jewish race but rather the Israeli government.

Councillor Molloy stated that there were many worldwide issues which are far enough away from Mid Ulster but that he would be continuing to support the motion and how it could be implemented.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney stated that Northern Ireland was a country governed by the UK and that the UK government does not support the BDS campaign.

Councillor Kearney seconded Councillor M Quinn's proposal.

Councillors Ashton and Cuddy recorded their objection to the proposal.

Councillor Cuddy asked that a recorded vote be taken on Councillor M Quinn's proposal –

For – (8) - Doris, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, D McPeake, Molloy, M Quinn, Totten

Against – (3) – Ashton, Cuddy, McKinney

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a report be brought back to Policy and Resources Committee in relation to how Council could implement its support for the BDS campaign based on the issues identified at 3.3 and 3.4 of report.

Councillor Ashton asked when the Air Ambulance motion would be brought before the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Director of Finance stated that as there was now limited time to bring forward a report to April committee and he would suggest that a report be brought to the first Policy and Resources meeting of the new Council term.

Councillor Ashton advised that Council would be receiving notification from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council that they had adopted the Air Ambulance motion. Councillor Ashton stated she was willing to work with officers and provide any information necessary.

The Director of Finance stated he would work with the Chief Executive to expedite a report.

PR055/19 Marketing & Communications Activity Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on key areas of recent marketing and communications activity.

The Head of Marketing and Communications advised that since the report had been issued quarter 2 and 3 recycling figures had been released in which there had been a 4.2% increase in blue bin material being collected. The officer stated that the publicity of the recycling campaign had undoubtedly contributed to this increase and that it was encouraging.

Councillor Molloy referred to closure of Dungannon Leisure Centre for refurbishment and discussion amongst users as to why the centre is closing. The Councillor stated he appreciated that the Council has issued a message to users explaining why the leisure centre is closing but it would be useful for further information to be sent out to keep users informed.

The Head of Marketing and Communications stated that it is planned to send out information to customers, particularly highlighting options with regard to swimming over the period of closure.

Councillor Cuddy asked if the littering campaign will include dog littering as these type of complaints seem to be on the increase.

The Head of Marketing and Communications advised that dog littering will form part of the litter campaign.

In response to comments from the Chair, the Head of Marketing and Communications confirmed that Facebook can be used to promote posts based on geography, age, gender, and interest and that the channel was used in this way and would continue to be as appropriate.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn 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 PR056/19 to PR063/19.

Matters for Decision

PR056/19 Four Year Cyclical Fleet and Diverse Plant Replacement Programme
PR057/19 Coalisland Public Realm Scheme
PR058/19 Planning System Replacement Update

Matters for Information

PR059/19 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 February 2019
PR060/19 Contracts and DAC
PR061/19 Financial Report for 10 months ended 31 January 2019
PR062/19 Staff Matters for Information
PR063/19 Dissolution Date – Local Government Staff Commission

PR064/19 Duration of Meeting

The commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.16 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____