

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 4 July 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Burton (7.15 pm), Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, Molloy, Monteith, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism
Mr Hill, Head of Parks
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development
Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure
Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm.

D138/18 Apologies

Councillor G Shiels.

D139/18 Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and advised any declarations could be taken throughout the meeting.

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in Washingbay Wetlands Trust.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Square Wheels Cycling Club.

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Broughderg Area Development Association.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Comhaltas Uladh.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Cookstown INF.

D140/18 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee commended Carol Doey and all involved with the success of Cookstown Summer Carnival on 29 June 2018. Councillor McNamee stated that this was the first Road Closure Order for an event outside of Council and that all had worked well.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that concerns had been raised at the Environment Committee in relation to making community groups aware of the requirements of making a Road Closure Order for an event.

The Head of Tourism advised that a community group newssheet is sent by email/posted to 1000 groups in the District. This newssheet provides information on the legislative requirements and timescales for making a Road Closure Order for an event, the Officer stated that there was also up to date information available on Council's website and that officers have been assisting groups to ensure the journey through legislation is smooth.

Matters for Decision

D141/18 Strategic Business Case for the proposed development of Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval to progress proposed developments at Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough.

Councillor Molloy proposed that Council proceed to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop an outline business case and design options for Phase 1 of the Railway Park development proposal and asked what the timescale was for appointing the ICT.

The Head of Parks stated that timescale for appointing the ICT would be in the region of three months.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Molloy's proposal but had some concern in relation to appointing consultants to prepare a business case which was being internally funded. The Councillor stated that Council had very skilled officers and questioned the need to appoint further consultants.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation agreed that Council did have skilled officers but that the appointment of consultants for this phase of the development was to prepare the technical design options of what will go into the park which was specialised and that Council had not considered in detail at this stage. The Director stated that Council wanted to progress development of Railway Park as there were other issues preventing progress at Ballysaggart Lough.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated it appeared to be necessary to appoint the ICT in order to progress development of Railway Park.

Councillor Monteith reiterated his concerns and proposed that a report be brought back to committee detailing the amount of money spent on consultants by budget holders responsible to the Development Committee over the lifetime of Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and asked if there were any opportunities for external funding for the development of Railway Park.

Councillor Cuddy also referred to the creation of a link between Railway Park and Dungannon Park and hoped this had not been forgotten about.

The Head of Parks stated that opportunities to progress links between the two parks were always being sought and that progress in development of Railway Park may help in achieving this. The officer stated that Phase 1 was the most expensive of the three elements of Railway Park development and that there was a desire to make progress but that funding was not readily available however any future funding opportunities would be pursued.

Councillor Cuddy stated that in order to satisfy external funders professional costs are usually increased.

Councillor Wilson felt that the figures in relation to amount spent on consultants may be distorted as officers may not have the expertise needed and that the Development sections within Council were fully stretched. Councillor Wilson stated he did not think officers would seek to bring consultants in unless they were needed.

Councillor Monteith stated he believed the amount of money spent on consultants will be substantial and that Council needs to consider whether it would be cheaper to employ a number of people with the necessary skills.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop an outline business case and design options for Phase 1 of the Railway Park development proposal.
 - To prepare report detailing the amount of money spent on consultants by budget holders responsible to the Development Committee over the lifetime of Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.15 pm.

D142/18 Washingbay Wetlands Park Development Plan

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval for Washingbay Development Plan and financial contribution to project costs.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To give endorsement to the Washing Bay Masterplan as presented by Muintir na Mointeach and Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership on 9 May 2018 (appendix 1 to report).
 - That a request be made to Policy and Resources Committee to allocate £25,000 to Project 1 (Walkway with park lighting) through the Council's Capital Programme.

- That Council act as lead partner on Project 1 to manage design, procurement and delivery aspects of the scheme with the appointment of an ICT design team.
- To allocate £1,000 to Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership for Project 2 (Lough Neagh Access Project) Technical Design Stage (RIBA Stage 4) for submission to Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme Lough Neagh Cooperation Programme.
- To approve SLA amendment between Council and Muintir na Mointeach to include extension of inspection/maintenance responsibilities associated with the improved infrastructure.
- To seek Permissive Path Agreement with Derrylaughan GAC for creation of additional public path to provide loop trail at Washingbay Wetlands Park.

D143/18 Visitor Signage at Lough Fea

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which advised of upgrade to current visitor information signage and user data collection methods at Lough Fea.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he used the pathway around Lough Fea regularly and would be against cyclists also using the pathway as some parts of the path were narrow and that the addition of cyclists would create a dangerous environment. Councillor McNamee stated there was a need to consult with users and local community groups before proceeding to allow cyclists to use the pathway.

Councillor McFlynn stated she agreed with the Chair's comments and that to introduce cyclists to the pathway could be a disaster waiting to happen. Councillor McFlynn referred to Davagh Forest and that Council created two separate trails at that location, one for walkers and another for cyclists.

Councillor Clarke agreed with the previous comments and stated that the pathway at Lough Fea lends itself to walking and that part of the attraction is that cyclists will not be encountered whilst using the path. Councillor Clarke stated that consultation with users and community groups was important before moving forward.

Councillor Wilson stated that he also used the path at Lough Fea and that any cyclists which he had observed did not create a problem as they cannot get the whole way around the pathway.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee suggested that Council undertake consultation with users of pathway at Lough Fea and local community groups before proceeding to permit cyclists use of the path.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to consult with users and local community groups in relation to the proposed dual use trail options for both walkers and cyclists at Lough Fea.

D144/18 Economic Development Report

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the following –

- **Revitalisation Projects**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to prepare and submit ‘shelf ready’ applications to DfC for Magherafelt, Dungannon and Cookstown revitalisation projects during 2018/19. If projects are successful in attaining funding from DfC, then approval is given to provide 20% match funding from Council’s capital budget, of approximately £58,000.

- **Broadband Working Group**

Councillor Clarke proposed option 2 (10 Members) to serve on the Broadband Working Group.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Clarke’s proposal.

Councillor Wilson proposed option 1 (5 Members) to serve on the Broadband Working Group on the proviso that if a member was unable to attend a meeting that a substitute could attend in their place.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Wilson’s proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Wilson’s proposal –

For – 6
Against – 6

The Chair, Councillor McNamee used his casting vote to vote against Councillor Wilson’s proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Clarke’s proposal –

For – 6
Against – 6

The Chair, Councillor McNamee used his casting vote to vote for Councillor Clarke’s proposal.

Members were reminded to submit their nominations to the Head of Economic Development by 20 July 2018.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to nominate ten members to serve on the Broadband Working Group. Nominations based on the D'hondt system (5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP).

Councillor Monteith referred to another working group being set up without a time limit, the Councillor advised that Council's Constitution states that working groups should be time limited but that this does not happen and that working groups end up becoming permanent.

Councillor Molloy stated he took the point of Councillor Monteith and that it should be within the terms of reference of the working group to have a time limit for its existence.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that a terms of reference would be drafted for consideration at the first meeting of the Broadband Working Group and brought back to the Committee for approval.

- **Mid Ulster Mail Business Awards**

The Head of Economic Development advised that two categories remained available for sponsorship namely SME Business of the Year and Best Retailer. The officer advised that Johnston Press have confirmed they will launch and host the Awards in the Clogher Valley area, if Council sponsors an award category.

Councillor Wilson proposed that Council sponsor the SME Business of the Year category.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to sponsor the SME Business of the Year award category in the Mid Ulster Business Awards at a cost of £1,750 + vat, subject to the Awards being both launched and hosted in the Clogher Valley area, and the additional promotional work as outlined by Johnston Press in Appendix 1 to the report being carried out.

- **Village Renewal Projects**

Councillors Clarke, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney and Wilson declared an interest in this item.

In response to Councillor Forde's question the Head of Economic Development advised that each of the six areas has a village plan and projects can be identified quickly from that and agreed with local village representatives to enable works to be tendered and delivered soon thereafter.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve reallocation of £87,978 underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes, to the six villages detailed below up to a value of £240,000, which have not been allocated funding.

- Knockloughrim/Curran - £40,000
- Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush - £40,000
- Dunnamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan - £40,000
- Ballymaguigan/Creagh - £40,000
- Washingbay/Killeen - £40,000
- Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey - £40,000

- **Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland**

Report on Fibre Broadband to Northern Ireland noted.

- **Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022**

Update report on ESF match funded programmes noted.

- **GDPR Business Seminar – 16 May 2018**

GDPR Seminar Update noted.

D145/18 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- **Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award**

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals grants (£9,150) and Good Relations Grant (£2,905) as outlined at appendix 1 of report.

- **Peace IV Partnership**

Councillors Doris, McNamee and Wilson declared an interest in this item.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Peace IV Partnership recommendations as set out in report.

- **Decade of Anniversaries (DOA)**

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in this item.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Decade of Anniversaries grant recommendations as outlined in appendix 3 of report.

- **Tender for the Mid Ulster General Advice contract**

Councillor Wilson proposed to proceed to go to tender for the Mid Ulster General Advice contract.

Councillor McEldowney asked if the current provider (Citizens Advice Mid Ulster – CAMU) was doing what they were supposed to be doing as every other advice office was inundated with people who had been to CAMU beforehand.

The Head of Community Development advised that CAMU were meeting the targets set by Council and that these are start to end targets. The officer advised that there had been some issues with CAMU not taking on every appeal but that this matter had been rectified. The officer stated that if Members were aware of problems with the service being provided these should be brought to the attention of officers.

In response to Councillor Monteith's question the Head of Community Development stated that CAMU had provided clarification on what appeals they were taking on and that Council was providing guidance to CAMU.

Councillor Doris stated that the point raised by Councillor McEldowney was important, that CAMU were constantly getting funding from Council and that problems needed to be addressed.

Councillor Molloy stated he was aware of a number of people who had come to him in which their payments could have been enhanced.

Councillor Monteith stated he knew of two cases in which people had been advised by CAMU that their appeal would not be successful and on this advice they had withdrawn their appeal. Councillor Monteith stated that as doctor's notes etc were only available on the day of an appeal it was impossible for CAMU to judge whether or not appeals would be successful beforehand.

Councillor McAleer stated that people can access doctor's notes before an appeal but that they need to pay for this.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Councillor Elattar asked if this tender would have the same conditions or if these would be changed.

The Head of Community Development stated that the tender being advertised will be an open competition, that the conditions of the tender can be reviewed and brought before Members for consideration.

Councillor Cuddy asked if the service being provided was the same across all offices or if one office in particular was not performing.

The Head of Community Development stated that the main CAMU offices have to maintain the same opening hours and similar with secondary offices; however outreach varied based on need.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that due to the introduction of the likes of PIP the landscape across the District had changed since 2015 and that it was important that the service being provided works for everyone.

Councillor Monteith stated that specialist advice was lacking in rural areas and that expertise was needed. The Councillor felt that general advice services should be able to sign post to the most appropriate body for support.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To proceed to tender for the Mid Ulster Advice Contract.
 - That the specification and conditions of the proposed Mid Ulster Advice Contract be brought before Members for consideration.

- **Community Development Update**

Noted.

D146/18 Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme

The Head of Culture of Arts presented previously circulated report which sought approval for –

- Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme Allocation to be awarded to successful applicants for 2018-2019.
- Delivery of Irish Language Activity Funding Programmes 2018-2019 across Mid Ulster District Council.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised of typographical error in report and that recommendation in relation to allocation for Irish Language Activity should read £55,918 as per main body of report.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that –
- Regional and Minority Language bursaries be approved for the 146 successful applicants identified with a total amount allocated of £30,000.
 - Irish Language Activity be approved for 20 groups with a total allocation of £55,918.

D147/18 Learning Journey to The Boyne Valley for 40 Tourism Cluster Group Members and Lead Officers

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which outlined plans to develop a one day Learning Journey to the Boyne Valley on 26 September with Tourism Cluster Business members and lead tourism officers. The report also informed Members of a cluster business opportunity to promote Mid Ulster District Council's tourism offering.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To support the Boyne Valley Learning Journey proposal.
 - To invite the competitors and family members from the Commonwealth Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition event, which is being held at Aughnacloy and Galbally to a Mid Ulster District tourism promotional event at the Hill of The O'Neill on 12 September.

D148/18 Loan of Council Equipment to External Groups or Organisations

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which provided update in relation to Council's previously agreed policy and procedure in relation to Lending Council equipment to non-profit groups.

The Head of Tourism advised that from April to June this year there had been 25 instances when equipment had been loaned.

Councillor Clarke asked if the equipment that was being loaned out was coming back to Council in good condition.

The Head of Tourism advised that when equipment is being loaned out it is checked before it is borrowed and again when it is returned for any damage by the same person. The officer advised that there had been one instance when equipment had been damaged and that the group who borrowed that equipment paid for its repair.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to lend/hire items of specific equipment (as per appendix 4 of report) to non-profit groups, subject to the third party agreeing to and complying with Council's terms and conditions which include the payment of a £50 refundable deposit,

providing evidence in the requisite form of appropriate public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £5 million and an indemnity to principal clause, and an appropriately authorised representative of the group completing all authorised documentation in advance of the equipment being lent/hired with all documentation to be completed and submitted no later than 14 days before the third party intends to take possession of the equipment.

D149/18 Project Coordinating Officer for the Sperrins

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought approval for budget to employ a Project Officer and Administration Assistant to coordinate and implement the Sperrin Future Search Action Plans on behalf of the four local Councils within the Sperrins area.

In response to Councillor Clarke's question the Director of Business and Communities advised that the thematic groups are continuing to work together and that an action plan is in place which Council is committed to. The Director stated that the challenge now was to get a resource in place to deliver the action plan and that the report details the mechanism for doing this. The Director advised that so far funding was not available to fund these posts but that Councils were sharing the cost equally between them.

Councillor Clarke stated that the fact Councils were making a commitment may present opportunities for funding in the future.

Councillor Burton asked if the employment of officers would go beyond this Council term.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the terms of employment had yet to be worked up, that the posts would be time bound but this could not be specified at the moment. The Director stated that the Sperrins had never had a coordinated approach from Councils before now and that the post being proposed would be a demanding position.

Councillor Burton stated that Council already have a number of staff working in tourism and asked if the project coordinating officer post was that specific that staff already employed would not have the necessary skills.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that internal staff from across the four Councils would be able to apply for the position.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to provide funding (2018/19 - £6937, 2019/20 - £16273) to appoint a Project Coordinating Officer and Administration Assistant.

Matters for Information

D150/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018.

D151/18 Culture and Arts Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on progress across Culture and Arts Services and to highlight events that took place in the last quarter. The report also highlighted specific events and activities within the Culture and Arts Service which are currently being developed by the officer team and will take place in the future.

D152/18 US Grant Ancestral Homestead Grading

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the grading application for US Grant Homestead.

D153/18 Visitor Information Centres Mystery Shopper 100% Achievement

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of both Cookstown and Dungannon Visitor Information Centres receiving 100% in Tourism Northern Ireland's Mystery Shopper reports.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that to achieve a 100% score was a credit to all involved.

Councillor Clarke stated that the 100% score was a great achievement which did not come about by chance.

D154/18 Corporate Events

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of forthcoming corporate events taking place during August and September 2018.

D155/18 WorldHost Ambassador Training – Lake Torrent, Coalisland

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the WorldHost Ambassador initiative for Coalisland in preparation for the World Superbike Championships in Spring/Summer 2019.

Councillor Doris welcomed the WorldHost Ambassador Training for Coalisland.

D156/18 Big Ted's Party 2018

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the annual Big Ted's Party Event at US Grant Homestead from 4-8 June 2018.

D157/18 Upskilled and Ready for Business

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the recent business engagement initiative “Upskilled and Ready for Business” aimed at realising the skills needs of the local tourism and hospitality industry in Mid Ulster.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Burton 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 D158/18 and D1/18.

Matters for Decision

D158/18 Maghera Town Centre Forum – Proposed Membership

D159/18 Cyclical Replacement Plan for Leisure Fitness Equipment

Matters for Information

D160/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
14 June 2018

D161/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.03 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____