

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 5 July 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor McKinney Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Gildernew, Kearney, McPeake, S McGuigan, Molloy, M Quinn

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Mrs Kerr, Head of Finance
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR150/18 Apologies

Councillors Bateson, Totten, Forde, McLean.

PR151/18 Declaration of Interest

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

PR152/18 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR153/18 Lease of lands at Pomeroy Forest from DAERA/Forest Service – Update

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on DAERA/Forest Service's ("FS") legal arrangement with the Council in relation to lands at Pomeroy Forest and to seek approval to the amended terms.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree the revised terms of the Agreements as annexed at section 6 of the report between DAERA/FS and the Council.

PR154/18 Village Renewal Scheme: Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 Lease of non-owned Council Lands

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Members' approval in principle to enter into a lease agreement with various landowners in respect of different projects under the Village Renewal Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the Council to enter into a Lease with the relevant Landowners in respect of the Projects listed in section 3.2 under the Rural Village Scheme, the terms of each individual Lease to be agreed and approved by Council.

PR155/18 Gas to the West – Option Agreement and Easement request re Lands at Railway Park, Dungannon

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Members' approval in principle for the Council to enter into an Option Agreement for an Easement in relation to the laying of a natural gas pipeline at lands at Railway Park, Dungannon ("the Site").

Councillor Ashton said that there was a lot of disruption within Dungannon and enquired how much disruption was anticipated for Railway Park.

The Council Solicitor said that she couldn't be sure but would be liaising with the relevant officers and third parties to get all the relevant details and update members on the situation.

Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in the item as he owns some land beside the path.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the Council to enter into an Option Agreement and subsequent Easement with SGN in relation to lands at Railway Park, Dungannon, the final terms of which are to be negotiated.

PR156/18 Service Improvement Plan – Finance

The Head of Finance drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with an update in relation to the Finance Department Service Improvement Plan for 2018/19.

Councillor Cuddy referred to item 4.1 of the report and said that the plan starts off with what was said in the previous year and felt that it should be saying what it should be now and felt that it would be beneficial to have a traffic light system to show members where we currently were.

The Head of Finance said what was circulated tonight was only a summary as the overview of the performance is produced by the Performance Manager.

Councillor Cuddy said it was all good results, but should pick up for what is planned for next year and show it on the report.

The Director of Finance was that Councillor Cuddy had made a valid point but that his department was following the format of what other departments had done within their plans.

Councillor Cuddy said that from what he could see, the listed items were all wins and positive results and asked was there anywhere it showed not so positive items.

The Director of Finance said that there had been some delay in delivering the benefits of relocating the finance staff to Cookstown which had been identified in the previous year's plan due to delays in agreeing job descriptions, etc. Some of the anticipated actions had therefore been rescheduled into the current (2018/19) plan.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was important that measures were kept including all minuses also.

The Chief Executive said that the plan was done in a house style, but said that it was up to this committee how they wish to see the report i.e amended or targets not reached or achieved and said that this could be easily remedied.

Councillor Cuddy said that members needed to see the not so good things as members were here to support officers anyway they could.

In response to Councillor Molloy's query about the end of year plan, the Chief Executive advised that some are done and some are not as it can be extensive, but actions could be traced back through quarterly indicators.

The Chief Executive said that an additional column could be added if members so wished.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to adopt the Service Improvement Plan for Finance and note the contents of the report and that an additional line be included in future service improvement plans for targets amended/not reached etc. in the previous year.

PR157/18 Request to Illuminate Council Property – July 2018

The Head of ICT drew attention to the previously circulated report to consider a request from Pancreatic Cancer UK to mark Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month by lighting up/illuminating Council Buildings on World Pancreatic Cancer Day – Thursday 15th November 2018.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the request to light up Ranfurly House & Visitor Centre, Dungannon; Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown and; Bridewell, Magherafelt purple on the evening of Thursday 15th November for World Pancreatic Cancer Day.

Councillor Cuddy said that it may be beneficial to find a way of drawing people's attention to what the colour represented as it was important for this to be highlighted.

PR158/18 Internal Bi-lingual Signage Mid Ulster District Council Facilities

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to ask Members' to consider draft designs for new Internal bi-lingual signage for Mid Ulster District facilities accessed by the Public.

Councillor Cuddy enquired about the costs incurred to implement the signage at the relevant sites.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that the installation of internal signage would be rolled out as part of the wider signage programme led by the Technical Services team. Installation of internal signage would coincide with the erecting of the external signage at each location. Given the variances in signage requirements at each venue, the costs would vary from location to location.

Councillor Cuddy asked that costs be brought back to a future committee meeting.

The Chair said that signage must be implemented at council facilities in line with policy which included any facilities that were open to the public.

Councillor Ashton said she wished to voice her Party's objection to the proposal and that her party was consistent throughout this approach due to the public's disapproval of the whole initiative.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the proposed designs for internal bi-lingual signage with Council facilities. Costs incurred to be brought to a future meeting.

PR159/18 Peace IV Shared Space Project – Donaghmore Riverside Project Agreement

The Council Solicitor advised that upon review, it would be more appropriate to take item PR159/18 Peace IV Shared Space Project - Donaghmore Riverside Project Agreement in Open Business as opposed to Confidential Business.

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Members' approval with regard to entering into a Project Agreement with Donaghmore District and Community Association ("DDCA") in respect of lands at Donaghmore Riverside Walkway.

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the first and last paragraphs of section 3.2 of the Report, in that the lands were actually owned by St Patrick's GAA and DDCA has a permissive path over them.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Project Agreement between the Council, St Patrick's GAA and Donaghmore District Community Association as set out in Appendix A of the report.

Matters for Information

PR160/18 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 June 2018

Members noted minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 June 2018.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan 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 PR161/18 to PR172/18.

Matters for Decision

- PR161/18 Proposal to consider the purchase of property 12, 14 and 15 Market Square, Dungannon (also known as Castle Buildings)
- PR162/18 Proposal from Dungannon Enterprise Centre to transfer ownership of part of Drumcoo Playing Fields, Dungannon
- PR163/18 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR164/18 Dungannon Leisure Centre Repairs

- PR165/18 Dungannon Youth Project Delivery
PR166/18 The re-calculation of holiday pay to recognise regular
 voluntary overtime worked by staff in 2016/17 and
 2017/18 leave years following recent case law

Matters for Information

- PR167/18 Policy & Resources Confidential Minutes of Meeting held
 on Thursday 7 June 2018
PR168/18 Contracts and DAC
PR169/18 Financial report for 2 months ended 31 May 2018
PR170/18 Staffing Matters for Information
PR171/18 Managing Attendance
PR172/18 GDPR Compliance and Progress Update

PR173/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____