

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 4 October 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Bateson (7.04 pm), Doris, Forde, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, McPeake, Molloy, M Quinn (7.04 pm), Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR196/18 Apologies

Councillors Buchanan, Cuddy and McLean.

PR197/18 Declaration of Interest

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

PR198/18 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR199/18 Cyclical Replacement Plan for Leisure Fitness Equipment

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a Cyclical Replacement Plan for Leisure Fitness Equipment.

Councillor Ashton asked if the monies being requested were within a current budget or if it would be a new budget for next year.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that Council would likely get a loan for the equipment.

The Director of Finance advised that the £300,000 being requested would essentially be additional in the rates.

Councillor Ashton referred to previous discussions related to pressure on the capital programme and asked how this additional cost would affect this programme.

The Director of Finance advised that the capital programme had not included leisure equipment and that the capital expenditure for the cost of the equipment was a new budget going forward. The Director advised that rates predication had not been undertaken yet as to how this additional cost would affect rates for next year.

Councillors Bateson and M Quinn entered the meeting at 7.04 pm.

Councillor McPeake proposed the officer recommendation as he felt an investment in leisure equipment was needed.

Councillor Gildernew seconded Councillor McPeake's proposal.

In response to question from the Chair the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the replacement plan would include all Council leisure facilities and highlighted that if Council does not invest it cannot compete with other privately run facilities.

Councillor Molloy asked if the cost included a maintenance contract for the equipment.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that maintenance would be built into the cost of the future contract.

The Director of Organisational Development referred to ongoing restructuring within leisure services and that staff had also raised the need to invest in leisure equipment if Council facilities are going to be able to compete with other gyms in the future.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To develop and implement a cyclical replacement plan for all leisure facilities equipment that would see its replacement on a 7 year cycle. This would support the leisure transformation agenda by ensuring Council facilities and equipment are modern and of sufficient quality. Spin bikes to be replaced initially, due to the demand for the programmes and the age of the current spin bikes.
 - To release £300,000 per annum to undertake the Cyclical Fitness Equipment Replacement Plan and that a phased approach be adopted in line with Council procurement guidelines.

PR200/18 Davagh Dark Skies Project

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which advised of increased project costs and sought approval to progress project based on revised costs.

Councillor Ashton asked if there was any more funding available from DAERA for this project.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was no further funding available from DAERA and that officers were constantly seeking funding avenues, the Director advised that Council were currently bidding for additional funding for the outside of the visitor hub building to make it more of a visitor attraction.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney referred to the road on which the visitor hub will be located and stated that this was a narrow road with nowhere to pass when two cars met. The Chair stated that this will cause difficulties accessing the attraction in the future and suggested that consideration be given to creating laybys along the road to allow passing to take place.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that she would bring the Chair's comments to the attention of the technical team for their consideration.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to progress Davagh Dark Skies Project based on revised construction costs of £1,009,169 (an increase of £259,169) and additional Council contribution of £259,169 (total Council contribution of £504,169). Revised total project cost being £1,254,169.

PR201/18 Strategic Business Case for the proposed development of Railway Park

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which sought approval to progress developments at Railway Park to the next stage as outlined in the strategic business case.

Councillor Gildernew stated that this project had been on the go for a long time and proposed the recommendation.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney asked for an update in relation to project at Thomas Street.

The Council Solicitor stated that discussions were ongoing in relation to Thomas Street project and that there was agreement in principle however there were some issues still to be determined and that a further update would be provided in due course.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –
▪ To appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop detailed design options for the

complete Railway Park Project. Create detailed specifications and prepare all associated tender documentation for agreed phases of the Railway Park development proposal.

- To allocate phase one capital budget of £431,500 as projected under option 2 of Railway Park (Western Section) Strategic Business Case.

PR202/18 Beechland Park, Clady – Proposed Transfer to Northern Ireland Housing Executive of lands for Community Development Scheme

The Council Solicitor presented previously circulated report which provided update in relation to a proposed Community Development Scheme at Beechland Park, Clady and sought agreement in principle to transfer lands at Beechland Park, Clady to Northern Ireland Housing Executive in order to progress the scheme.

Councillor McPeake stated that this was a good news story and proposed the recommendation.

Councillor Kearney seconded Councillor McPeake's proposal and stated that this was an excellent scheme in which the community would be delighted to be involved.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- To agree in principle to transfer lands at Beechland Park, Clady to NIHE.
- To agree the engagement with Land and Property Services to seek a valuation and to approve that negotiations with NIHE are progressed in relation to the proposed transfer.

PR203/18 Request to Illuminate Council Property

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered request from Diabetes UK (Northern Ireland) to light up/illuminate buildings blue to mark World Diabetes Day on Wednesday 14 November 2018.

Councillor Molloy proposed the recommendation however he stated that Diabetes was one of the major health concerns of the modern age and suggested that Council should be doing more to promote Diabetes awareness.

Councillor S McGuigan seconded Councillor Molloy's proposal.

The Head of Marketing and Communications stated that a communications campaign could be undertaken to mark World Diabetes Day and that staff awareness of Diabetes could be promoted through the Health and Wellbeing Group.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to –

- Approve the request to light up Ranfurly House and Visitor Centre, Dungannon; Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown and Bridewell, Magherafelt blue on Wednesday 14 November 2018 for World Diabetes Day.

- Undertake a communications campaign to mark World Diabetes Day and promote Diabetes awareness through the Health and Wellbeing Group.

PR204/18 Elected Member Development Working Group

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the report of a meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on Wednesday 12 September 2018. The Head of Democratic Services advised that assessment for the Elected Member Development Charter had taken place on 2 October.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Elected Member Development Steering Group meeting held on Wednesday 12 September 2018.

Councillor Ashton advised she had sent apologies for the working group meeting in September however she noted it had went ahead with only one member and asked how this had happened and how minutes could be approved.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that Councillor Ashton's comments were valid however there were no governance arrangements in place regarding minutes of this working group and that it was decided to go ahead with one member on the night of the meeting as the charter assessment was coming up.

Councillor Ashton stated she thought there were Terms of Reference for the working group.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that there was a Terms of Reference for the working group but would check if a quorum had been agreed and was in place.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney stated he was Chair of this working group and had sent in his apologies late for the September meeting as he was unable to attend.

Councillor Doris stated she had went to Dungannon for the September meeting and therefore her apology was also late.

Councillor Gildernew stated that no decisions had been taken at the meeting on 12 September and that discussion had related to upcoming assessment.

Councillor McPeake suggested increasing the membership of the group to avoid similar circumstances occurring again.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that the membership of the Elected Member Development Working Group was currently five but that other working groups had a membership of ten.

Councillor McPeake proposed that the membership of the Elected Member Development Working Group be increased from five to ten members.

Councillor Gildernew seconded Councillor McPeake's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the membership of the Elected Member Development Working Group be increased from five to ten members.

Matters for Information

PR205/18 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 September 2018

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 September 2018.

PR206/18 Somme Association – 2018/19 Subscription

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence received from the Somme Association on annual membership contributions payable for period 2018-2019.

PR207/18 Corporate Health Indicators: 2017-18

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's Corporate Health Indicators for the period 2017-18.

PR208/18 Marketing and Communications Activity Update

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

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor M Quinn
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 PR209/18 to PR218/18.

Matters for Decision

- PR209/18 Transfer of Council owned lands situated at Coagh Road, Stewartstown
- PR210/18 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR211/18 Employee Healthcare Provision

- PR212/18 Procurement of and Integrated HR/Payroll/Expenses and
Time and Attendance IT System
PR213/18 Procurement of Valuation Services

Matters for Information

- PR214/18 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee
held on Thursday 6 September 2018
PR215/18 Contracts and DAC
PR216/18 Financial Report for 5 months to 31 August 2018
PR217/18 Managing Attendance
PR218/18 Staffing Matters for Information

PR219/18 Duration of Meeting

The commenced at 7pm and concluded at 7.46 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____