

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 3 September 2020 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Quinn, Chair

Councillors Ashton (7.05 pm), Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew*, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, S McPeake, Molloy

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr McKeown, ICT Support
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor Quinn welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Quinn in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

PR0126/20 Apologies

Councillors Hughes, McLean and Totten.

PR127/20 Declarations of Interest

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

PR128/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Quinn stated this was his first meeting Chairing the Policy and Resources Committee and that he looked forward to working with Members and Officers over the next year.

Councillor S McPeake referred to the General Power of Competence workshops organised last winter but had been put on hold due to the Covid pandemic. He stated that he was aware of a paper but not aware of any projects and asked that an update be brought on how to advance this in the future.

The Director of Environment & Property advised that several workshops had been organised last year and agreed that these had been put on hold due to Covid but agreed to bring a report to the next committee meeting.

Matters for Decision

PR129 Request to illuminate Council Property for Recycle Week 2020

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which sought permission from Recycle Now to highlight Recycle Week 2020 by lighting up/illuminating the Burnavon, Cookstown; Ranfurly House, Dungannon and the Bridewell, Magherafelt on Monday 21st September – Thursday 24th September 2020 (inclusive).

He also referred to the following requests received to illuminate buildings:

- Marie Curie “Light up the Night” to encourage people by taking part in a Twilight Walk in memory and celebration of a loved one and asked that Council buildings be lit up yellow on Friday 25th September 2020 to show support for families through their toughest time.
- Children with Cancer “Children Childhood Cancer Awareness Month” in September – specific date not known
- Dyslexia Awareness Week – commencing 5 October 2020. This request to illuminate will be before the October Policy & Resources Committee

Councillor Ashton entered the meeting at 7.05 pm.

The Head of Democratic Services in referring to Marie Curie “light up the night” said that it would be anticipated to light up Council facilities on Friday 25 September.

The Chair in referring to Children Childhood Cancer Awareness month stated that it would be important to support this worthy cause and asked that a date be worked on.

Councillor Doris agreed with previous comment and said that she would be happy to propose this as she is aware of a family in Coalisland who’s child was battling cancer. She suggested that Childhood Cancer Awareness be investigated by Communications Department and articles included on social media be shared on early signs of detection of cancer so people are able to have the best chance of survival.

Councillor Molloy concurred with comments and said that dates be worked upon for the worthy causes.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was important that these worthy causes are supported and was easy to change the light colour of buildings.

He referred to buildings being illuminated in blue last weekend to remember Noah Donohoe and said that it would be beneficial going forward if reasonably sized posters be developed to indicate to people what the coloured lighting represented and what the worthy cause was.

Councillor Forde concurred with all the previous comments and said that she was aware of an individual and his family receiving cancer treatment and felt that this would be a great support to his family and families in a similar position. She also concurred with member's comments about banners being erected to indicate what the coloured lighting represents.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that a meeting of the Working Group on Lighting Up Buildings Policy was due to take place on Wednesday 16 September at 6 pm in Dungannon offices.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to request from:

- i) WRAP to light up/illuminate the designated properties (Ranfurly House & Visitor Centre, Dungannon; the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown and the Bridewell, Magherafelt) green on the evenings of Monday 21st – Thursday 24th September 2020 (inclusive) to mark Recycle Week 2020.
- ii) Marie Curie "Light up the Night" to encourage people by taking part in a Twilight Walk in memory and celebration of a loved one and asked that Council buildings be lit up yellow from Friday 25th September 2020
- iii) Children with Cancer "Children Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" to be supported when a specific date is known in September
- iv) Dyslexia Awareness Week – first week in October 2020 – to be supported when specific date is known

PR130/20 Annual Report (2019-2020): Performance Improvement Plan Self-Assessment

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to inform members on the progress made towards the delivery of the 2019 to 2020 Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) by way of a self-assessment report. Section 3.1 – four improvements objections drew attention to.

Councillor Cuddy thanked officers for such a comprehensive document and enquired if this document had to be completed by the end of this month and who makes the decision to do so.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that Local Government (NI) Act requires that this is completed by 30 September and subsequent statutory guidance.

Councillor McFlynn said that it was a very comprehensive report and thanked officers for their time and effort and in referring to Planning said that although it wasn't up to scratch where it currently was, it was very close considering the impact of Covid.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note, review and comment as necessary on the Improvement Plan 2019-2020 Annual Report and Self-Assessment.

PR131/20 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR132/20 Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 2 July 2020

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 2 July 2020.

PR133/20 Service Improvement Plan – Finance

Members noted previously circulated report in relation to the Finance Department's Service Improvement Plan 2020/21.

Live broadcast ended at 7.14 pm

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Forde 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 PR134/20 to PR147/20.

Matters for Decision

- PR134/20 Leisure Management Review
- PR135/20 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR136/20 Contract for Works at Fivemiletown Recycling Centre
- PR137/20 Increased ICT Costs for Seamus Heaney Open Ground Project
- PR138/20 Financial Update in Relation to Covid19 and Associated Works
- PR139/20 Network Service Contract Extension (MPLS Services)

Matters for Information

- PR140/20 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 2 July 2020
- PR141/20 Staff Furlough Scheme Update
- PR142/20 Staff Matters for Information
- PR143/20 Dungannon Leisure Centre – ICT Costs
- PR144/20 Contracts and DAC
- PR145/20 Financial Report for 3 Months ended 30 June 2020
- PR146/20 Planning System Replacement May 2020
- PR147/20 Full Fibre NI (FFNI) Project

PR148/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____