

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 4 June 2018 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Ashton, Chair (Outgoing) Councillor McPeake Chair (Incoming)
<b>Members Present</b>	Councillors Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mulligan, Mullen, J O'Neill, T Quinn, M Quinn, Reid, Robinson, G Shiels, J Shiels, Totten and Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer Mrs Hobson, Executive Officer to Chief Executive

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

**AC1/18      Apologies**

None

**AC2/18      Declarations of Interest**

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

**AC4/18      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Ashton expressed thanks to her party for nominating her for the position in 2017 and for their continued support throughout her term of office. The Chair also extended her appreciation to the Deputy Chair, Councillor Glasgow and the Chairs of Committees for their support in ensuring Council was represented through the year, the senior management team, Executive Officer, Business Support staff and staff across the Council for their excellent support, her employers past and present, her family and husband.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton reminded Members of the undertaking she gave when accepting the position of Chair in 2017 to 'carry out her duties in a professional manner' and expressed her outrage in reading the comments of Councillor M Quinn when he accused both her and the Deputy Mayor of being bigots in relation to a

recent event. The Chair, Councillor Ashton was emphatic that the remarks were utterly unjustified and stated that alone she had hosted 15 receptions for people from across the district and had not been found wanting. She further stated that throughout the year all parties had on occasions represented the Chair's office and requested that Councillor M Quinn get his facts right the next time he issued a statement against her character.

In conclusion, the Chair Councillor Ashton thanked constituents throughout the district for being so respectful during her term and wished the incoming Chair and Deputy Chair every success for the year ahead.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Glasgow thanked the Chair for her kind remarks and stated that he had been happy to cover events and had enjoyed a busy year across what is a great district. He referred to the comments made by Councillor M Quinn as aforementioned and stated that he had taken them 'to heart' reminding Members that he had travelled to represent the Council area in relation to Brexit as he felt it was vital that the district was heard and had attended meetings at the Irish Senate. He emphasised that the comments were a farce and asked for an apology.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Glasgow expressed thanks to his party colleagues for nominating him for the position, to his mother who had 'kept the white shirts' going and to his colleagues who had supported him in his work in aviation with the air ambulance.

In conclusion, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Glasgow extended thanks to the Executive Officer and both the present and former Business Support Officer together with the people from his district electoral area for their continued support. He shared that he had enjoyed the year, congratulated Councillor Ashton on her successful year stating it had been a privilege to share the role and extended best wishes to the incoming Chair and Deputy Chair.

Councillor McLean expressed his thanks and appreciation to Councillor Ashton on the fair manner in which she had carried out her duties and reminded Members how he too had been taken to task at a recent meeting. He stated that both she and the Deputy Mayor had been great ambassadors for the area.

Councillor McGinley on behalf of Sinn Féin congratulated both Councillors Ashton and Glasgow on how they had fulfilled their respective roles and commended the 100% commitment both had displayed emphasising that it was a personal sacrifice but both should be proud of their professionalism. In conclusion, Councillor McGinley led the Chamber in a round of applause.

Councillor Wilson thanked both Councillors Ashton and Glasgow for their excellent work stressing that having fulfilled the role he understood the commitment required especially when holding down employment. He stressed that both Councillors had represented the Council well and had shown great dignity at all times and that it was a shame that in the closing days it had been spoilt by a 'headline grabber.'

Councillor Kearney concurred with all the previous speakers and emphasised that both Councillors Ashton and Glasgow had promoted Mid Ulster both at home and abroad and wished them both well.

#### **AC4/18      Positions of responsibility for periods 2018/19**

The Chair, Councillor Ashton referred members to the previously circulated meeting pack containing the agreed grid for Positions of Responsibility for the period 2018/19, filled using the d'Hondt method and previously agreed by Council.

**Resolved**      That the selected positions of responsibility set out in the grid below be noted.

	<b>Year 1 2015/2016</b>	<b>Year 2 2016/2017</b>	<b>Year 3 2017/2018</b>	<b>Year 4 2018/2019</b>
<b>Council</b>				
Chair	SF	UUP	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	SDLP	UUP	DUP
<b>Audit Committee</b>				
Chair	UUP	SF	SDLP	SF
Deputy-Chair	SF	UUP	SF	DUP
<b>Development Committee</b>				
Chair	DUP	SF	UUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	IND	SDLP	SF	DUP
<b>Environment Committee</b>				
Chair	SDLP	DUP	SF	UUP
Deputy-Chair	SF	SF	SDLP	SF
<b>Planning Committee</b>				
Chair	SDLP	SF	SF	SF
Deputy-Chair	SF	DUP	DUP	UUP
<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>				
Chair	SF	SF	SF	UUP
Deputy-Chair	DUP	UUP	DUP	SDLP

Housing Council for NI				
1 Representative	SF	SF	SF	SF
Partnership Panel for NI				
1 Representative (term of Council)	SDLP			
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for NI				
1 Representative	UUP	DUP	UUP	DUP
Policing & Community Safety Partnership - Mid Ulster				
10 Representatives (term of Council)	SF	DUP		
	SF	DUP		
	SF	UUP		
	SF	UUP		
	SF	SDLP		

#### **A5/18          Nominations to hold Positions throughout 2018-2019**

The Chair Councillor Ashton sought the nomination for the incoming Chair from the Sinn Fein Nominating Officer. Councillor McGinley nominated Councillor McPeake.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton stood down and Councillor McPeake took the Chair.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake sought a nomination for the position of Deputy Chair from the DUP Nominating Officer. Councillor Mclean nominated Councillor Burton.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Burton took the position.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake invited Nominating Officers from parties to nominate Members to hold the remaining positions of responsibility for 2018-2019.

<b>Positions of Responsibility</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
Council, Chair	SF	Councillor McPeake
Council, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Burton
Audit Committee, Chair	SF	Councillor McGinley
Audit Committee, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Ashton
Development, Chair	SF	Councillor McNamee
Development, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Forde

Environment Committee, Chair	UUP	Councillor Reid
Environment Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor S McGuigan
Planning Committee, Chair	SF	Councillor Mallaghan
Planning Committee, Deputy Chair	UUP	Councillor Glasgow
Policy & Resources, Chair	UUP	Councillor McKinney
Policy & Resources, Deputy Chair	SDLP	Councillor Kearney
Housing Council for NI	SF	Councillor Elattar
Partnership Panel for NI (term of council)	SDLP	Cllr Sharon McAleer
Reserve & Cadets Association for NI	DUP	Councillor Robinson
Policing & Community Safety Partnership (term of council)	SF	Cllr Phelim Gildernew
	SF	Cllr Seán McPeake
	SF	Cllr Peter Bateson
	SF	Cllr Cáthal Mallaghan
	SF	Cllr Catherine Elattar
	DUP	Cllr Frances Burton
	DUP	Cllr Clement Cuthbertson
	UUP	Cllr Derek McKinney
	UUP	Cllr Kenneth Reid
	SDLP	Cllr Denise Mullan

## **A6/18 Appoint of Councillors to Committees**

<b>Audit Committee</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2018-2019 Membership</b>
1. Chair	SF	Cllr Ronan McGinley
2. Deputy-Chair	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton
3. Member	SF	Cllr Cáthal Mallaghan
4. Member	SF	Cllr Brian McGuigan
5. Member	SDLP	Cllr Christine McFlynn
6. Member	UUP	Cllr Walter Cuddy
7. Member	UUP	Cllr Trevor Wilson
8. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

<b>Development Committee</b>
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<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2018-2019 Membership</b>
1. Chair	SF	Cllr John McNamee
2. Deputy-Chair	DUP	Cllr Anne Forde
3. Member	SF	Cllr Sean Clarke
4. Member	SF	Cllr Niamh Doris
5. Member	SF	Cllr Catherine Elattar
6. Member	SF	Cllr Kate McEldowney
7. Member	SF	Cllr Niamh Milne
8. Member	SF	Cllr Dominic Molloy
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Frances Burton
10. Member	DUP	Cllr James Shiels
11. Member	UUP	Cllr Walter Cuddy
12. Member	UUP	Cllr George Shiels
13. Member	UUP	Cllr Trevor Wilson
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Christine McFlynn
15. Member	SDLP	Cllr Sharon McAleer
16. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

<b>Environment Committee</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2018-2019 Membership</b>
1. Chair	UUP	Cllr Kenneth Reid
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr Sean McGuigan
3. Member	SF	Cllr Mickey Gillespie
4. Member	SF	Cllr Ronan McGinley
5. Member	SF	Cllr Brian McGuigan
6. Member	SF	Cllr John McNamee

7. Member	SF	Cllr Joe O'Neill
8. Member	SF	Cllr Darren Totten
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Wilbert Buchanan
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Frances Burton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Clement Cuthbertson
12. Member	UUP	Cllr Mark Glasgow
13. Member	UUP	Cllr Robert Mulligan
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin Kearney
15. Member	SDLP	Cllr Christine McFlynn
16. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn

Planning Committee		
Position	Party	2018-2019 Membership
1. Chair	SF	Cllr Cáthal Mallaghan
2. Deputy-Chair	UUP	Cllr Mark Glasgow
3. Member	SF	Cllr Peter Bateson
4. Member	SF	Cllr Gavin Bell
5. Member	SF	Cllr Sean Clarke
6. Member	SF	Cllr Phelim Gildernew
7. Member	SF	Cllr Kate McEldowney
8. Member	SF	Cllr Seán McPeake
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Clement Cuthbertson
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Wills Robinson
11. Member	DUP	Cllr James Shiels
12. Member	UUP	Cllr Derek McKinney
13. Member	UUP	Cllr Kenneth Reid

14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin Kearney
15. Member	SDLP	Cllr Sharon McAleer
16. Member	SDLP	Cllr Denise Mullen

Policy and Resources		
Position	Party	2017-2018 Membership
1. Chair	UUP	Cllr Derek McKinney
2. Deputy-Chair	SDLP	Cllr Martin Kearney
3. Member	SF	Cllr Seán McPeake
4. Member	SF	Cllr Peter Bateson
5. Member	SF	Cllr Niamh Doris
6. Member	SF	Cllr Catherine Elattar
7. Member	SF	Cllr Phelim Gildernew
8. Member	SF	Cllr Sean McGuigan
9. Member	SF	Cllr Dominic Molloy
10. Member	SF	Cllr Darren Totten
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton
12. Member	DUP	Cllr Wilbert Buchanan
13. Member	DUP	Cllr Anne Forde
14. Member	DUP	Cllr Paul McLean
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Walter Cuddy
16. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn

#### **A8/18      Chair of Mid Ulster Policing & Community Partnership**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake drew attention to previously circulated report and sought a nomination from the SDLP Nominating Officer for position of Chair of Mid Ulster Community Safety & Policing Partnership.



Councillor Kearney nominated Councillor Mullen.

### **A9/18 Nominations for representation on Outside Bodies**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake invited any changes to the nominations in the Report on Outside Bodies.

Councillor McFlynn referred to Agewell receiving funding from Council and sought clarification as to whether Members should continue to be representatives bearing in mind conflict of interest.

In response, the Chief Executive stated he would seek clarification.

Councillor McPeake drew attention to the Drainage Council representative, which is a Public Appointments process, and requested that clarity be sought from the Department on the opportunity for Council to obtain representation.

Councillor Ashton clarified that she no longer represented Council on Dungannon Enterprise Centre. Councillor McLean stated he would submit nomination to a future meeting.

Councillor Kearney advised that Councillor Mullen would replace Councillor M Quinn on the Lough Neagh Partnership Board.

Councillor Wilson advised that Councillor Cuddy would replace Councillor Reid on the Mid Ulster Community Plan.

**Resolved** That Councillor Representation on Outside Bodies for year 2018/2019.

### **A/17 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule 2018/19**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake drew attention to the previously circulated 2018/19 Schedule of Meetings for Council and Committee meetings and sought approval for the amendments to Audit Committee dates.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley  
Seconded by M Quinn and

**Resolved** That Council approved the revised Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for 2018/19.

### **A8/19 Chair's Remarks**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake expressed his thanks to the Sinn Féin party for his nomination stating that he looked forward to working with Members, the Chief

Executive and staff in together facing the challenges of the year ahead and striving to deliver in the best interest of the people of the district.

The Chair, highlighted that Mid-Ulster had the youngest, growing population pro-rata of any of district in the north and stressed that as well as providing opportunities it presented challenges in finding young people employment, homes and safe and welcoming communities both now and in the future. He spoke of his belief that Council even with its limited powers could contribute positively towards these goals. He made mention of the Local Area Development Plan and the opportunities it presents in providing a framework for the protection of environmental assets, stimulating and sustaining business and industry stressing the importance of agreeing planning policies that will deliver homes for the people that wish to live within the district. He further spoke of his belief that the ability for people to find a home close to where they grew up was crucially important in sustaining rural communities. He emphasised that Council needed to do all it could to ensure the delivery of more social and affordable homes to address housing need in the district.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake spoke of the impact of the Tory cuts to Welfare support and Council's consultation on how poverty and disadvantage might best be tackled within the district and his desire to drive the work in addressing these issues. He highlighted the importance of the health and wellbeing of citizens the increasing pressures on the health system and the necessity for all agencies to be working together in delivering the best in health care, illness prevention and treatments. He emphasised the valuable role Council plays in the commencement of joint strategies developing through the Community Planning Health and Well Being Forum at tackling these challenges. He further stressed the importance of Council playing an increased role in assisting in tackling the scourge of mental health and mental illness problems which is so prevalent within people of all ages and particularly in young people.

Commending Council's role in developing businesses and local Entrepreneur's the Chair highlighted the Mid-Ulster Skills Forum which has been lauded as an exemplary model at collaborative working. He stated that he looked forward to the further development of a Training Centre of Excellence within the district which Members had lobbied for and which was in high demand. He stressed the importance of access, infrastructure and communications for any business and highlighted recent lobbying by both the Mid-Ulster MP and a cross-party Council delegation which had resulted in the securing of plans to progress the A29 Cookstown by-pass and whilst this was welcomed he stressed the need to progress the A29 corridor in general, the A5 and A6 roads all which are key essential transport hubs within the district. The Chair also spoke of telecommunications and welcomed the establishment of a working group to further promote the provision of Broadband in the district highlighting that Council needs to be collectively lobbying to demand that the District which has the second poorest Broadband coverage of any of the new council areas, is provided with the Broadband infrastructure that is so necessary for its businesses and population in general.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake referred to the Brexit decision, its impact to date and Council's role to date in raising objections highlighting specifically the wishes of people from Mid Ulster and the wider North to remain in the European Union emphasising the disastrous consequences if these wishes are not respected. He

spoke too of the changing times and the differing political opinions across the Chamber but also of the huge commonalities in the needs of the communities Members serve. He stated that his plan for the year ahead would focus both on the things that unite us and those that continue to divide. He stressed his 'door would be open' for anyone in need of assistance, regardless of their background and emphasised the responsibility of all Members to work collectively to make the District even better. The Chair continued highlighting the changing times and the rights of access on citizens throughout Ireland who were demanding rights which were not dissimilar to those campaigned for through the creation of the first civil rights movements here almost 50 years ago. He made mention of recent events in Ireland such as civil marriages and the removal of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment, use of minority languages and the equality of access similar to those in other jurisdictions across the islands. The Chair stated that Mid-Ulster District Council had to date played its role in promoting equality and responding to the needs of Mid Ulster.

In conclusion the Chair, Councillor McPeake thanked both Councillors Ashton and Glasgow for the manner in which they carried out their respective roles in the previous year and stated that he looked forward to working with the Deputy Chair Councillor Burton in the coming term.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Frances Burton thanked her party the DUP for the nomination expressing her delight that it was a unanimous decision. She stated that it was a real honour and privilege to accept the role and shared that she had fulfilled the role of Deputy Mayor in the legacy Council and thus looked forward to the challenges that it would bring in what was now a wider district. The Deputy Chair spoke of being an elected Member since 2005 and thus her understanding of the supportive role a family plays and stated that although her daughters lives and careers had moved on her two sons still shared the family home but had pledged to assist more with housework in the coming year, thus she was in a 'win win' situation.

The Deputy Chair referred to the role of all Members and how they represented ratepayers and stressed that she enjoyed working hand in hand with local community projects and seeking the support they needed. In particular, the Deputy Chair highlighted the work of Agewell commending them for their work and voiced her hope that no conflict of interest would be found in Members being representative on it given that Council had provided support. The Deputy Chair stressed that it was her belief it was the role of each Member to make the wider Mid Ulster area a safer place for families, visitors and locals in both urban and rural communities.

In conclusion the Deputy Chair reiterated that she would give the role her very best stating that she loved representing the Clogher Valley and meeting its people and thus she looked forward to meeting many more people across the District.

## **AC12/17      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.33pm

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_