

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Clarke, Corry, Doris, Elattar, Hughes, Kerr, McNamee, Molloy and Monteith

**Officers in Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Mr Brown, 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  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**D114/19 Apologies**

Councillor Burton, attending an event as current NILGA President  
Councillors Cuddy, Kearney and Milne

**D115/19 Declaration of Interests**

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

**D116/19 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Wilson reminded Members that following a notice of motion carried at the Council meeting on 27 June 2019 it had been agreed that Council would explore the possibility of VE Day commemorations in the District. The Chair requested that a paper be presented to the September meeting of the Development Committee.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to present a paper to the September committee regarding VE Day Commemorations in the District.

**Matters for Decision**

**D117/19 Community Development Report**

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

*Declaration of Interest: Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Father Rocks, Cookstown*

- **Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards - Good Relations and Local Community Festivals as per grant recommendations in Appendix 1 of the report to a value of £13,545.

- **Peace IV Partnership**

*Declaration of Interest: The Chair, Councillor Wilson and Councillor Ashton declared an interest as Members of the Peace IV partnership.*

The Head of Community Development drew attention to appendix 1 tabled at the meeting detailing the grant recommendations totalling £169,774 noting that Positive Steps application had been withdrawn.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Peace IV Partnership Grant Awards as listed and continue with the Peace grant programme, to promote and keep open the application process to September for potential projects.

- **Housing Working Group**

Members noted the Housing Working Group Minutes.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

## **D118/19 Economic Development Report**

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

*Declaration of Interest – Councillors Ashton, Molloy and Monteith declared an interest in Dungannon Regeneration Partnership as Council representatives.*

- **Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal**

Councillor McNamee drew attention to the proposal outlined in the report and sought officers' opinion on the proposal and how it sits with the rest of the towns across the district.

Councillor Kerr raised the issue of Donaghmore and other such villages regarding provision of off street car parking. In response the Chair Councillor Wilson advised he would take the issue under Chairs Business.

Councillor Ashton questioned the proposal in terms of the significant cost to Council and the fact that the Department for Communities funding appeared to be off the table. The Councillor suggested that officers should go back to DRP and seek further clarifications.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Ashton as did Councillor Molloy who suggested that following Officers findings perhaps DRP should make a presentation to the committee in due course.

The Chair Councillor Wilson summarised the comments that Officers review the proposal with Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and have discussions with Department for Communities and report back to the Development Committee following which DRP could make a presentation to the Committee, if required.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that Officers review the proposal with Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and have discussions with Department for Communities and report back to the Development Committee following which DRP could make a presentation to the Committee, if required.

- **Mid Ulster Skills Forum/Skills Action Plan 2018-21**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to grant approval to:

- (i) Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme  
Submission of an application form to Invest NI and allocate match funding of 50% (up to £25,000) out of existing Local Economic Development budget for a detailed Scoping Study (Phase 1) into future 'industry/education engagement' products and services. If the study produces a positive outcome, this may lead to further funding opportunities.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

- (ii) Mid Ulster Jobs Fair

Funding of up to £8,000 out of the existing Local Economic Development budget to hold a Mid Ulster Jobs Fair in Cookstown during Enterprise week (November 2019) in partnership with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, Department for Communities and Network Personnel.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

- (iii) Careers Attractiveness Initiative  
Funding of up to £20,000 out of the existing Local Economic Development budget to appoint a suitably qualified company to create appropriate content including storyboards and videos etc. to showcase the attractiveness of jobs/careers in key priority sectors within Mid Ulster.

- **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 Proposal**

Councillor Ashton drew attention to the detail of the venue sponsorship packages and highlighted that the pre-event news coverage was detailed as Larne Times, Carrick Times and Ballymena Times and asked why local papers were not involved. In response the Head of Economic Development stated it was her understanding that the Awards venue was Corrick House and that it would appear the newspaper coverage aforementioned was a typographical error on behalf of the organisers not Council.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that it was his view that Council supports efforts to promote local businesses and acknowledges business achievements through the Civic Awards process.

Councillor Monteith stated that clarity was needed regarding the newspaper coverage as he understood one of the titles mentioned in the proposal was closing. He expressed some concerns about how the Business Awards would be promoted in that particular part of the district, and indicated there was a need for Mid Ulster Council to receive value for money.

In response the Head of Economic Development said that JPI Media were doing some work in the Clogher Valley area to promote the Business Awards such as having coverage on the local radio station, visiting local businesses, promotional activities at the Omagh and Clogher Valley Shows etc.

Councillor McNamee proposed that Council should sponsor an Award Category this year and carry out a comprehensive review for next year.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Economic Development advised that Council had sponsored the "SME Business of the Year" award category last year.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that

- (i) approval be granted to Mid Ulster District Council sponsoring the Mid Ulster Business Awards in 2019/20 at Category Sponsorship £1,750 + Vat (SME Business of the Year Award Category); and
- (ii) a comprehensive review of Council sponsorship of the event be completed prior to the 2020/2021 event.

- **Review of Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Rating System -**

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised that a paper had been requested for committee but on reflection it was a sizable document which was beyond the remit of just the Development Committee but would cover all of Council. The Chair said much consideration was needed and as such he would propose that an all Member workshop/briefing session be held in the near future.

Councillor Monteith stated he would second the proposal as long as the response is completed in time. He stated such issues highlights the need for committees in August.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that it was a complex piece of work which impacted Councils income capacity and thus any response should be well prepared and thought through as Council would have to stand over it. He clarified that Council was aware that a consultation process was due to open in July 2019 but no further details are available at this time. He advised that Council's Head of Economic Development had written to the Department of Finance to raise objections and that it was scandalous that the Department is considering opening a consultation process at a time when many local authorities were in recess.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that an all Member workshop be held to discuss Council's response to the Review of the Northern Ireland Non- Domestic Rating System.

It was noted that Mid Ulster District Council has registered its interest in the forthcoming stakeholder engagement sessions. If any interested member wishes to register to attend, they can do so by emailing [ratingpolicy@cfg@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ratingpolicy@cfg@finance-ni.gov.uk)

- **Business Eye Article on Mid Ulster**

Members noted Business Eye Article on Mid Ulster (June 2019).

- **Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes**

Members noted Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes (10 April 2019).

- **Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes**

Members noted Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes (11 April 2019).

- **Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes**

Members noted Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes (10 April 2019).

- **Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI)**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- (i) Note receipt of the Full Fibre NI Consortium Agreement with Newry Mourne and Down District Council and associated letter of offer and grant agreement from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and that approval to accept and seal the documents will be sought from Council's Policy & Resources Committee and Council Meeting in July 2019.
- (ii) Director of Business & Communities (or his nominee) represent Mid Ulster District Council on the FFNI Steering Group, the body responsible for strategic oversight of the programme.
- (iii) Economic Strategies Manager and Head of IT represent Mid Ulster District Council on the FFNI Operational Group to oversee operational programme delivery and participation in the procurement exercises undertaken by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, on behalf of the Consortium to deploy the funding.

**D119/19 NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – Village Renewal Scheme – Update on Village Projects in Group 7**

*Declaration of Interest: Councillors Wilson and Clarke declared an interest in NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020*

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide members with an update on the Village Renewal Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Black

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Recommendation to progress projects and reallocate underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes, to the six remaining villages as undernoted, which have not been allocated funding.
  - Knockloughrim/Curran
  - Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush
  - Dunnamore, gortacladdy, Killeenan
  - Ballymaguigan/Creagh
  - Washingbay/Killeen
  - Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey

- (ii) Provision of 25% match funding from Council (£60,000) being sought at the Policy and Resources Committee in September 2019.

**D120/19 Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding 2019/20**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for annual contribution for year 2019/20 to the core running costs associated with Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) in the delivery of marketing tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh (LN) and the shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Corry

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Mid Ulster District Council funding Lough Neagh Partnership £22,000 as requested subject to funding being secured from all five Councils on the shores of Lough Neagh.
- (ii) Lough Neagh Partnership submitting a quarterly update to MUDC.

**D121/19 Learning Journey to The Midlands for 40 Tourism Cluster Group Members and Lead Officers**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform Council of plans to develop a one-day Learning Journey to the Midlands on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September with Tourism Cluster Business members (40 people) and tourism staff. Cost per person £15.00 to help cover admissions and coach costs.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the Council supporting the Midlands Learning Journey proposal.

**D122/19 Sperrins Sculptures**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Members approval for additional funding for the Sperrins Sculptures Trail.

Proposed by Councillor Sean  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the increase Councils' potential contribution by £8,633 to progress to the next stage of design with the preparation of an artists' brief for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project. (Both Derry and Strabane and

Fermanagh and Omagh Councils have obtained approval for the potential additional funds as detailed in this report).

#### **D123/19      Tourism Skills Programme**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the delivery of a bespoke tailored training and mentoring skills programme to the Tourism sector across Mid Ulster.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Corry

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Council to approve the proposal and agree to deliver the Tourism Training Skills Programme with an option to deliver a phase 2 in 2020/2021.

#### **D124/19      Trade & Consumer Platforms 2019-2020**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report which sets out the plans for Mid Ulster to promote and profile the Mid Ulster tourism product, key themes and cluster experiences to consumers and the travel trade worldwide who are planning to holiday in Ireland.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Council that representatives from Tourism attend and promote Mid Ulster Council key themes and tourism product at these events and capitalise on all FOC opportunities, including branding and Taste the Island.

#### **D125/19      GOGA#2 Project Plan (2021-2024)**

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform members about the GOGA (Get Out Get Active) 2 Project Plan (2021 – 2024). Live Active NI is a community interest company established by Disability Sport NI to bring the benefits of active recreation to everyone in the community, with a particular focus on under-represented groups. Mid Ulster District Council has been highlighted as a potential partner due to the lack of previous funding by the Spirit of 2012 and its geographical mix of both rural and urban and its area.

Councillor Monteith spoke of a meeting between Sperrinview Special Needs School and Members at which time they had raised items for consideration to accommodate inclusion of people with special needs in activities. He highlighted that many of the suggestions had been easy non cost initiatives and proposed that officers meet with representatives of special needs schools and groups to promote inclusion.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to

- (i) agree in principle to support the GOGA#2 proposal with more detail to be presented to committee if the funding application submitted by Disability Sport NI is successful and an offer of support is received.
- (ii) meet with representative of Special Needs Schools/Groups to see how the programme could be developed to promote inclusion of people with Special Needs.

#### **D126/19 Sports Representative Grants**

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to present to members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of Sports Representative Grant – Team and Individuals.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to agree the Sport Grant Allocations.

#### **D127/19 JC Decaux Advertising Licence Agreement at Railway Park**

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to ask for consideration to extend billboard advertising rental contract with current provider JC Decaux at Railway Park, Dungannon.

Councillor Monteith stated that the billboards were an eyesore as was the area surrounding and they were used as an excuse not to maintain the area. He stated that the money received from them should be used to provide activities in Railway Park and he had an issue that this was not the case. He was emphatic that the area was not maintained to a satisfactory standard and this had been the case for years, he said the Council was neglecting this area, that the billboard was an eyesore and the grass hadn't even been trimmed.

Councillor Molloy proposed that the Head of Parks investigate investment in the area to upgrade it, he concurred that the grass was an eyesore and suggested that even if Meadow flowers were planted it would improve the appearance.

The Head of Parks acknowledged that Members had pointed out that there is a maintenance issue and that Council hoped to address it. He stated that the development of the new path is nearer to the Ballygawley Road side of the park and advised Members that the budgets were reliant on the income from the billboards in the current financial year.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that

- (i) approval be given to extending the current Licence Agreement for one year under the current terms and conditions;
- (ii) Officers explore investment for the maintenance and upgrade of the area of the bill boards.

**D128/19 Knockmany Forest and Washingbay Capital Projects Revised Letter of Offer Sport NI**

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval to accept revised Letter of Offer from Sport NI in relation to additional funding for Knockmany Forest and Washingbay Capital Projects.

Councillor Doris advised that she had been approached by users of the Washingbay facility who had highlighted that the public conveniences are closed when the centre is closed and sought an extension to the opening hours to accommodate park users. In response the Head of Parks advised that there was a service level agreement with the Community Centre and extended access to the public conveniences could be explored.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Accept the terms and conditions associated to the revised Letter of Offer and to manage the programme of works as agreed in conjunction with Sports NI and associated stakeholders.
- (ii) Additional funding package from Sport NI for the Knockmany Project and increase the IST contract Value from £261,796.84 to £304,386.64 + 10% contingency sum resulting
- (iii) Additional funding package from Sport NI for the Washingbay Wetlands Park Project and increase the IST contract Value from £229,415.10 to £237,612.10 + 10% contingency sum resulting in upper limit of potential spend of £261,373.31 for construction scheme delivery costs excluding VAT.
- (iv) Existing IST contracts being extended to cover this additional spend.
- (v) The extension of the opening hours of the public conveniences at the site to be discussed with the Community Centre.

**Matters for Information**

**D129/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 June 2019**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 June 2019.

Councillor Ashton sought an update on the barbeque area of Dungannon Park. In response the Head of Parks stated that there was a request for an upgrade and costings were being sought.

**D130/19 Leisure Services Update**

Members noted Leisure Services Update.

**Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Ashton

**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 D131/19 to D134/19.

**D135/19 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.37 pm

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



**Development Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 - Community Development Report**  
**PEACE IV Partnership Meeting -Grant Recommendations**

The PEACE IV grants phase 4 programme closed on 31st May 2019, there were six grant applications received as detailed below:

Grants	Theme	Grants overview	Grant Award Amount Up to
Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society: Getting Caulfield Buzzing	SSS	To offer a range of activities and opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and ability in Castlecaulfield. To decrease levels of social isolation and learn new skills – more opportunity to socialise and meet people in the community building.	£25,000
Dungannon Enterprise Centre: Project LEAD	BPR	Develop capacity building to support increased cohesion through the development of leadership and social entrepreneurial skills for 16 women from across all communities reflective of the diverse range of community and voluntary groups.	£40,320
Gaslight Media Trust: Project 'JustUs Training the Trainer Prog'	BPR	Gaslight Media Trust will deliver a training programme to Youth Educator Practitioners currently working with young people in youth work settings across Mid Ulster. The programme addresses identity and diversity and good relations issues with a view to broadening young people's perspectives.	£13,016
NIRWN: Project #selfie	BPR	To develop and empower women of Mid Ulster to contribute to the community development and community cohesion of their area. The project will support women to build confidence and develop relationships at individual and group level so that they can be enabled to voice their own concerns and those of their area	£41,438
Rural Action: SMART Schools – new thinking for Rural Schools	BPR	Smart Schools is an Innovative Pilot Programme designed to facilitate new thinking towards the sustainability of small rural schools across the Mid Ulster District Council. 9 rural schools will be targeted to come together across the district and will look specifically at a sustainable schools model.	£50,000
Positive Steps	BPR	Application withdrawn; potential to work with the group for a potential resubmission	
Total value of Grants			£169,774

Proposal - It was agreed to continue with the Peace grant programme and continue to promote and keep open the application process to September for potential projects. Officers to continue to support groups access grant funding where possible.