

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 7 April 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Kearney, Chair

Councillors Ashton*, Buchanan, Cuddy* (7.34 pm), Doris* (7.24 pm), Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, S McAleer, S McGuigan*, S McPeake, Molloy*, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Mrs Dyson**, Head of Human Resources
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Ms McNally**, Assistant Director of Finance, Legal, Governance and Transformation
Mr O'Hagan**, Head of ICT
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance
Miss McIlwrath, Business Support Manager

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor McKinney, Councillor Kearney, Deputy Chair took the Chair.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Kearney 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.

PR067/22 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

PR068/22 Apologies

Councillors McKinney, McLean and Quinn.

PR069/22 Declarations of Interest

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

PR070/22 Chairs Business

None

Matters for Decision

PR071/22 Report of Corporate Good Relations Working Group Meeting: March 2022

The Assistant Director: ODSP presented previously circulated report which provided details of the outworkings of the Corporate Good Relations Working Group that was held on Wednesday 9 March 2022.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Corporate Good Relations Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 as set out at appendix A of report.

Councillor Ashton asked to note that the makeup of the Council Good Relations Working Group is now the Nationalist Working Group of Council as there are no Unionist Members attending the meetings of the group. Councillor Ashton advised that her party objected to the amount of money being spent through this channel on looking at a united Ireland.

Councillor S McPeake invited the Unionist parties to participate in the Working Group once again as they have essentially boycotted the Working Group from its inception. Councillor S McPeake stated that the Working Group would be stronger if there was Unionist representation and appealed to Unionist Members to come on board with the group.

PR072/22 Committee and Council Meetings: 2022-2023

The Assistant Director: ODSP presented previously circulated report which considered the rescheduling of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting scheduled to take place on Thursday 5th May 2022 in light of the Northern Ireland Assembly Election. The report further considered the 2022-2023 Committee and Council Meeting Schedule for approval due to commence from June 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor S McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that –

- I. In light of the NI Assembly Election due to take place on Thursday 5 May 2022, that the May Policy and Resources Committee be brought forward to Wednesday 4 May at 7.00 pm.
- II. The Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for the period June 2022 to April 2023 be approved.

PR073/22 Requests to Light Up Buildings

The Assistant Director: ODSP presented previously circulated report which considered requests to illuminate/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark;

- Foster Care Fortnight
- International Nurses Day
- Irish Vasculitis Organisation (IVO)
- World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day
- Boom Foundation: Sarcoma Awareness

Further to the report, the Assistant Director: ODSP advised of additional request received from Linking Generations Group Northern Ireland. The officer advised that the request was to light up designated buildings at a time between 25 April and 1 May to highlight global intergenerational week, the designated colour to be pink.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McAleer and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –
- I. 9 May 2022 to highlight Foster Care Fortnight designated colour to be orange
 - II. 12 May 2022 to highlight International Nurses Day designated colour to be blue
 - III. 15 May 2022 to highlight Irish Vasculitis Organisation (IVO) designation colour to be red
 - IV. 17 May 2022 World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day designated colour to be blue
 - V. 4 July until 8 July 2022 to highlight Boom Foundation: Sarcoma Awareness month the designated colours to be yellow.
 - VI. 25 April 29 April 2022 to highlight Linking Generations Group – Global Intergenerational Week, designated colour to be pink.

PR074/22 Member Services

None.

Matters for Information

PR075/22 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 March 2022

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 3 March 2022.

PR076/22 Digital Transformation Strategy: Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the progress towards the development of a Digital Transformation Strategy.

PR077/22 Ability to hold Remote/Hybrid Meetings - Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on legislation that was passed which enables the Council to continue to hold remote/hybrid meetings until 24 September 2022.

Live broadcast ended at 7.10 pm

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Forde

Seconded by Councillor S McAleer 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 Member consider items PR078/22 to PR089/22.

Matters for Decision

- PR078/22 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR079/22 Members Allowances Update
- PR080/22 Postal VAT Claim – Update and Agreement re Discontinuance
- PR081/22 Treasury Management
- PR082/22 Procurement Policy Review
- PR083/22 Banking Services – Resolution and Update
- PR084/22 Property Update, Cookstown

Matters for Information

- PR085/22 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 March 2022
- PR086/22 Staffing matters for Information
- PR087/22 Staffing Matters for Information – Planning Team
- PR088/22 Financial report for 11 months ended 28 February 2022
- PR089/22 Contracts and DAC

PR090/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.12 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.