

**Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 9 July 2015 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor McGuigan, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy (7.07 pm), Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, McKinney, McPeake, Molloy, T Quinn, M Quinn (7.04 pm), Totten

**Officers in Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure  
Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources  
Mrs Kerr, Head of Finance  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT  
Mr Tohill, Lead Officer for Finance  
Miss Thompson, Committee Services/Senior Admin Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**PR105/15 Apologies**

Councillors Mallaghan and McLean

**PR106/15 Declaration of Interest**

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

**PR107/15 Receive and confirm minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 4 June 2015**

In relation to item PR94/15, Mid Ulster Council Draft Procurement Policy, Councillor McPeake indicated that procurement should be wider than the Northern Ireland context as referenced in the minute and be widened to the island of Ireland.

The Lead Officer for Finance advised that no restrictions could be placed on a geographical area and noted the Members comments. He explained that the minutes were not intended to imply that procurements could be restricted to the Mid Ulster District Council area.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 4 June 2015 (PR89/15 – PR98/15 and PR104/15) were considered and signed as accurate and correct

## **Matters for Decision**

### **PR108/15    Ulster Scots Policy EQIA**

*Councillor M Quinn entered the meeting at 7.04 pm*

The Director of Culture and Leisure presented the previously circulated report in relation to progress of the Ulster Scots Policy, the Director sought approval for an equality impact assessment of the policy to be undertaken.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved**    That it be recommended to Council to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment of the Council's Ulster Scots Language Policy

## **Matters for Information**

### **PR109/15    Democratic Services Service Improvement Plan**

The Head of Democratic Services presented the previously circulated Service Improvement Plan for Democratic Services within Mid Ulster District Council.

Members noted the content of the paper and plan.

### **PR110/15    Usage of Council 03000 Telephone Number**

The Lead Officer for Finance presented the previously circulated report on the introduction of the Council's non-geographic telephone number.

*Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 7.07 pm*

In response to Councillor Gildernew's question regarding direct dial contact with officers the Lead Officer for Finance advised that there is capacity within the system for this option and it would be given consideration in the future.

Councillor Ashton enquired if there is a system whereby calls can bounce back to the switchboard if unanswered after a given number of rings.

The Head of ICT informed Members on how incoming calls are handled and advised of a monitoring system being put in place to record how long a call takes to be answered or if unanswered. He advised that if there are particular problems being encountered regarding call answering these should be brought to the attention of officers.

Councillor Gildernew felt it important that voicemail is not used at reception during business hours.

The Head of ICT acknowledged the comment and advised that this would also be the view held by the Chief Executive.

**PR111/15    Service Level Agreement for Council ICT Services**

The Head of ICT presented the previously circulated report on a Service Level Agreement for Mid Ulster ICT Services.

Members noted the content of the report.

**Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn and

**Resolved**    That items (PR112/15 – PR119/15) be taken as confidential business.

**PR120/15    Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.04 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_