

A

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 August 2015 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Members Present: Councillor Dillon, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke , Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Forde, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, M Quinn, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson, J Shiels, G Shiels, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance:

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Culture & Leisure
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development
Mrs Mezza, Head of Marketing Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

C148/15 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Bell and Elattar

C149/15 Chairs Business

Councillor McGinley spoke of the untimely death of Mr Aaron Devlin, commended local people for the tremendous community spirit displayed and requested that a letter of sympathy be forwarded to the Devlin family.

Councillor B McGuigan requested that the Chair forward a letter to Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrigde commending him on 19 years of public service in the Ambulance Service as he was having to retire due to ill health. Speaking about Lughaidh Councillor B McGuigan stated that his public service went beyond his paramedic duties and that he drove the Library Board bus in Dungannon, worked as a volunteer, was a great fundraiser and had served as an elected Member of Magherafelt District Council where he had been Vice Chair in 1985. It was further requested that it be put on record Council's appreciation of all frontline workers all of whom make a valuable contribution to society.

Councillor Buchannan congratulated Cookstown Bowling Club on becoming All Ireland Champions and requested that the Chair host a civic reception for the club. The Chair stated that she would most certainly acknowledge the achievement and in the future would be hosting a reception for many achievers and the club could be included.

Concurring with the request Councillor T Quinn stated that Cookstown Bowling Club had won the Irish Junior Cup which was a massive achievement as clubs from all over Ireland participated and referred to the achievement as the FA Cup in bowls and requested that it be recognised as a single event emphasising that the bowling community represented all ages, communities, religion and was a great cross community organisation and the request regarding this achievement should be treated as a special circumstance.

The Chair stated that she would not give a commitment but would consider the request.

Councillor McLean requested that on agreement of a Civic Receptions policy Abigail Wenlock winner of the European Scottish Championship Drum Major title and Paula Braiden who came second in her grade as Drum Major be recognised for their achievements. Councillor McLean also stated that he would like a policy in place as soon as possible as there was a frustration in the community that people were not being recognised. Concurring with the comment the Chair, Councillor Dillon stated that the names would be included on the list to be undertaken.

Councillor Wilson supported Councillor Buchanan and McLean in their proposals for recognition and requested that Emily Crooks who attained third place in the Drum Major Junior Section in the All Ireland Pipe band competition be included. Councillor Wilson further requested that Lukasz Kowalczyk be included in a civic reception for being the second person from Northern Ireland to swim the English Channel.

Councillor McGinley expressed appreciation to the Chair for visiting Mrs J O'Neill from Ardboe who had celebrated her 100th birthday.

Resolved That the aforementioned be recognised at forthcoming civic reception and letters as requested be forwarded by the Chair

C150/15 Declarations of Interest

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

Matters for Decision

C151/15 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at Council meeting held on Thursday 23 July 2015

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 23 July 2015 (C130/15 – C140/15 and C147/15), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C152/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee (Development and Enforcement) held on Tuesday 28 July 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee (Development and Enforcement) meeting held on Tuesday 28 July 2015 (P83/15 – P94/15 and P96/15) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

Councillor Mulligan drew attention to a recent article in the Tyrone Courier newspaper regarding the classification of towns and villages and sought clarification as to what stage the process was at and if the situation could be reviewed. Continuing Councillor Mulligan stated that many leading people in Fivemiletown had been contacted by the media to query their views on villages recommended for town status and it was not popular with the community that Ballygawley had been recommended for town status and Fivemiletown which was the gateway to the district had not.

Councillor Kearney stated that the document had been a proposal document and that the community in Fivemiletown would have opportunity to discuss and feed into the process. Concurring the Chief Executive stated that the paper was a discussion paper for Members and no decisions had been made.

Councillor Mulligan sought assurance that the consultation process would be open and available for the community in Fivemiletown and other areas affected. The Chief Executive advised that consultation would take place with the entire community.

Councillor G Shiels stated that architects had expressed concern to him regarding the planning website remarking that there were now eleven sites as opposed to the previous one. The Chief Executive, in the absence of the Planning Manager, advised that there was one website which was the Planning Portal and that Council's website hosted some planning information but had a link to the main planning portal. The Chief Executive also stated if anyone had difficulty accessing information they should contact the Council's planning office.

The Chair stated that it had been suggested that the planning department hold a meeting with architects. The Chief Executive stated that a meeting had been held with the construction sector and other interested parties.

Councillor Burton stated that architects had expressed concern to her that the planning process had been slowed up. Continuing Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Mulligan's comments regarding Fivemiletown stating that at the meeting it had been commented upon but many settlements and villages would be effected and that development organisations and Chamber of Commerce should be contacted.

C153/15 Conferences and Seminars

The Head of Democratic Services referred to details of the undernoted conferences and sought approval for the attendance of Members and Council officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

- (i) Recycling Waste Management Conference & Exhibition on Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 September, at NEC, Birmingham;
Attendance request 1 day only: for two officers.
- (ii) Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Planning Conference (LG Training Group) on Wednesday 23 September at Civic Centre, Lisburn.
- (iii) National Association of Councillors – Training and Development Seminar Planning & Partnerships on Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September at the Carleton Hotel, Blackpool.
- (iv) Chartered Institute for Waste Management Conference on Wednesday 30 September at Titanic Centre, Belfast.
Attendance request for two officers.
- (v) Annual Economic Conference (Agenda NI) on Tuesday 20 October at Culloden Hotel, Belfast.

Councillor Cuddy to attend.
- (vi) Building Better Supply Chains (Social Enterprise NI) Thursday 22 October at Dunadry Hotel, Templepatrick.

In addition to the conferences aforementioned the Head of Democratic Services sought approval for undernoted conference to be included:

- Half day seminar Environmental Better Regulation Bill in Northern Ireland on Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at the Law Society, Belfast at a cost of £40 per delegate for non-members, £30 for UKELA and EPLANI members.

One staff member to attend at cost of £40.

Councillor Mulligan referred to report for Members of Tullyvar Joint Committee to attend RWM Conference and Exhibition at NEC, Birmingham.

Councillor McPeake stated that he wished to attend NILGA conference 'The new General Power of Competence' on Wednesday 28 October at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown which was also being repeated on Friday 29 October at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon and noted that places were limited to 35.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required

C154/15 Responses to the Northern Health & Social Care Trust and Southern Health & Social Care Trust

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report which detailed both responses to the Northern Health & Social Care Trust and Southern Health & Social Care Trust regarding Consultation on the future of residential homes and sought approval for same.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That the letters to Northern Health & Social Care Trust and Southern Health and Social Care Trust be approved.

Councillor McNamee also stated that at the meeting with the Northern Trust Members made it clear that they wanted Westlands retained, the non-admission policy removed and investment by the Trust resumed and whilst the suggested community services hub on Westlands site would be positive it was not to be in place of the residential care. Concluding Councillor McNamee emphasised that Council had a mandate from the community to campaign for the retention of Westlands and if Council did not win Westlands would be privatised. Concurring Councillor T Quinn stated that he had attended a protest rally against the closure of the home and yet again residents, family and staff did not know what was going on.

Councillor Wilson concurring with the comments of Councillors McNamee and T Quinn stated that it was imperative that Westlands Home was retained and that consultation must be meaningful. Expressing disappointment that the Northern Trust had expected Council to support them in the closure when previously the same Councillors had campaigned against it Councillor Wilson stated that the Trust had to act on the results of the consultation.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that he had attended the meeting with the Southern Trust and that the tone was the same they were seeking Council support for the closure of residential care and although tabling other services to be delivered it was imperative that they understood that additional services were welcome but not in place of residential care. Councillor S McGuigan emphasised that the argument for consultation must be strengthened and that the conclusions are acted upon.

Councillor Monteith concurred with previous speakers and stated that the Trusts were using the meetings with local councillors as political cover for decisions already made. Councillor Monteith stated that he had asked the Southern Trust what response would change the decision for closures and had been told that consultation must prove they were 'doing their sums wrong'. Continuing he stated that Council must make it clear the decision for closure had no democratic mandate and no

credibility and that political representatives must shout for the people who had elected them.

Councillor Buchanan concurred with previous speakers and stated that the Democratic Unionist Party had met with senior people from the respective Trusts to campaign to keep the homes open.

Concurring with previous speakers Councillor Reid suggested that Council organise a petition to be signed in public buildings. Councillor Wilson supporting the sentiments stated that Council must think the process through and suggested that the matter be brought to the Development Committee for further discussion. Councillor Glasgow seconded the suggestion subject to discussion on the matter at the Development Committee.

Matters for Information

C155/15 Correspondence

The previously circulated paper on correspondence notified to Mid Ulster District Council was noted.

Resolved That the correspondence contained within the previously circulated report be noted

C156/15 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council

The previously circulated paper on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council was noted.

Resolved That the consultations contained within the previously circulated report be noted

C157/15 Consideration of Motions

C157.1/15 Councillor Glasgow to move the motion

Councillor Glasgow in moving the motion stated there were approximately 2684 dairy farms in Northern Ireland which represented approximately 279,500 dairy cows, 1290 dairy farms were within the Mid Ulster area and played a big role in the Northern Ireland milk market. Continuing he stated that in recent months all would have witnessed the protests farmers were holding at supermarkets to highlight the seriousness of the crisis within the dairy industry and that in July farmers had been receiving 18p per litre for milk produced and that prices had been in steady decline since January 2014 yet overhead costs had increased. Councillor Glasgow further stated that by the time farmers had paid all overheads there was almost nothing left for them to live on and drew attention to the fact that in Mid Ulster the farming tradition had been a way of life handed down through generations. Emphasising that farmers could not continue to produce milk at a loss Councillor Glasgow stated that the dairy industry was being destroyed and many were opting

out of farming due to stress brought on by financial pressures and the huge losses being incurred could not be sustained. Concluding Councillor Glasgow sought support for the dairy farmers of Mid Ulster and proposed the undernoted motion.

“That this Council agrees to write to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the three elected members of the European Parliament expressing our concerns that the dairy farmers of Mid Ulster are at breaking point due to the current prices they are having to accept for their produce. The Minister for Agriculture must now realise her absolute main priority should be promoting local produce as well as identifying and opening new export markets. In addition she must work with all her Ministerial counterparts most especially Liz Truss, Secretary of State at DEFRA, on increasing pressure on Commissioner Hogan to raise the intervention price for milk. Unsustainable milk prices are destroying the dairy farms in Mid Ulster, farms will have to close, and generations of farming families will no longer exist as their way of life will be taken from them if action is not taken at once”

Councillor Molloy left the meeting at 7.43pm

Supporting the motion Councillor Clarke stated that in the North of Ireland in 1993 milk production was 1439 million litres, from 4596 holdings whilst in 2013 it was 1979 million litres from 2684 holdings which represented a 38% increase in production from a region which had been an exporter from 75% to 85% of its dairy product and supply and demand was impacting the market.

Continuing Councillor Clarke stated that the Minister for Agriculture had endeavoured to raise the issues and that there should be a joint approach throughout the Island of Ireland to the common problems experienced in the farming industry where over 50% of milk produced was purchased by large companies. Calling for a proactive approach to the difficulties for all sectors of farming throughout Ireland Councillor Clarke emphasised that the structure of farming families at the heart of rural communities would disappear for ever if all producers did not receive a sustainable return.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that as Chair of Northern Ireland Government Association Rural Development Committee he was encouraged by the work of the Minister of Agriculture working with all counterparts for farmers and indeed for the new markets secured from China.

Councillor Molloy returned to the meeting at 7.48pm

Councillor Kearney stated that the farming industry was in turmoil throughout all sectors and issues with the single farm payment needed to be addressed. Stating that 75% of all farms in Magherafelt were less than 30 acres he emphasised that all made a valuable contribution to the community and that the SDLP supported the motion.

Seconding the motion Councillor McKinney stated that the industry was in crisis, that words would not help farmers action was needed from the Minister of Agriculture. Referring to single farm payments Councillor McKinney stated that farmers were dependent on the payment.

Supporting the motion Councillor Robinson stated that he had a dairy farm which was now run by his son and that in 1977 milk per litre produced was 14p approximately yet in 2015 it was 18p and that the rise in costs were high. Speaking of the difficulties Councillor Robinson emphasised that dairy farmers could not continue, that milk was oversupplied thus prices were low and this was a result of the removal of milk quotas. Referring to the world arena such as the political decision by Russia to ban imports, the financial crisis in China Councillor Robinson stated that effective decisions needed to come from Brussels. Speaking regarding the single farm payment Councillor Robinson stated that whilst the Minister for Agriculture was doing all she could and 90% of single farmer payments arrived on time it was imperative that 100% were paid on time as if you were unfortunate to be one of the 10% it resulted in severe difficulties and although banks would offer assistance farmers paid dearly for same.

Councillor Mulligan supporting the motion stated that in a lifetime he did not recall a period when farming was in such a precarious position and it was the only business that operated without knowledge or guarantee of end price and stated that both the Minister for Agriculture and the European Union should ensure the industry is maintained as it was a major employer in Northern Ireland.

Councillor McGinley stated that it was ironic that the Ulster Unionist Party were requesting that Council write to the Minister for Agriculture the same week their party walked away from the Northern Ireland Executive. Responding Councillor Glasgow emphasised that his aim was to support 2190 farmers in Northern Ireland.

As all parties had expressed support for the motion the Chair Councillor Dillon declared the motion carried.

Councillor C O'Neill left the meeting at 7.55pm

.Declaration of Interest

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Cookstown Enterprise Centre

C157.2/15 Councillor Wilson to move the motion

Councillor Wilson spoke of the skills deficit across Mid Ulster emphasising the impact it was having on many industries and proposed the undernoted motion:

"That this council resolves to give full support to its officers to research the extent of the skills deficit manifest across Mid Ulster. Our entrepreneurs, of which there are many, for example within the Engineering Sector, are battling soul destroying pressures regarding recruitment of skilled personnel. A high level of skills through intensive training provides the staple diet of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. We would ask our officers to come back to council with a short interim report.

Further that this council requests the Minister for Employment and Learning Mr Stephen Farry to attend a future Council meeting to explain what his Department can do to help"

Seconding the motion Councillor G Shiels stated that the skills dearth was preventing companies from expanding to a level where they have economy of scale to the point they can teach skills 'in-house' thus young people travel abroad to acquire skills and experience and not returning. The impact of the economic downturn resulted in the upper level i.e. 40 to 50 year old leaving construction, the 20 to 30 years olds were now working in England and thus there is nothing for the 30 to 40 year olds or the teenagers who are referred to as NEETs i.e. 'not in employment, education or training'. Councillor G Shiels emphasised the needs for proper training grants continuing all the way through apprenticeships, employment grants for three to five years and then industries should step up to the mark. Referring to the former Maghera school site Councillor G Shiels stated that it is a golden opportunity to develop a new skills base and endeavour to set in place a set of circumstances whereby the construction industry workforce is reskilled and simultaneously create the circumstances to strengthen the engineering sector which in turn would complement the wider industrial base.

The Chair, Councillor Dillon supporting the motion commended companies in the engineering sector offering the 'gold programme' whereby young people took GCSEs, sat an aptitude test and were employed by the company and whilst working were educated to degree standard. Stating that unfortunately there were not enough of these opportunities the Chair, emphasised the need for Council to support companies and stated that those saying foreign nationals were taking jobs were incorrect as many young people did not have the skills required to fill the posts. Continuing the Chair spoke of the work of Francie Molloy MP who was pushing for a centre of excellence for engineering as this sector was a massive employer in the District and stated that he had met with the Minister of Department of Enterprise, Trade and Industry to drive the initiative forward.

Councillor McPeake concurred with the comments and spoke also of the deficit in skills in the metal work industry especially trailer manufacturing together with the aerospace and quarry industries. Referring to a similar motion brought to the former Magherafelt Council in 2013 Councillor McPeake stated that Council should be proactive and that a centre of excellence for engineering was essential.

Concurring Councillor McLean stated that a distinction should be made between construction and engineering speaking of engineering outlets that had undertaken training of young people to find that four out of every ten would leave to travel thus the companies were suffering the loss of the employee and the investment cost of training and although a supporter of apprenticeships there needed to be direction. Referring to the construction sector Councillor McLean acknowledged locally there was not a lot of work but companies who had sourced work across the water were keeping airports busy flying personnel to and from England each week. Referring to the skills deficit Councillor McLean suggested putting it on an agenda for development committee to see how it could be addressed.

Councillor Molloy supporting the motion stated that like the engineering sector the agri-food sector was also a major employer effected by a skills dearth and companies needed to explore options. Councillor Molloy also referred to exploitation of unskilled labour whereby people entered the workforce unskilled and left it unskilled and thus young people did not see it as a viable career.

Responding to Councillor M Quinn's question the Chief Executive stated that the motion suggested a scoping exercise to be carried out by officers and reported back to Members. Councillor Ashton concurred with comments that young people are up-skilled to match the work opportunities on offer and that she would await with interest the response from the Minister of Employment and Learning as what was really required was investment in colleges.

As all parties had expressed support for the motion the Chair, Councillor Dillon declared the motion carried.

C157.3/15 Cllr McNamee to move the motion.

Councillor McNamee proposed the undernoted motion:

"This Council calls for an urgent meeting with the chief Executive of Translink and the Minister for Regional Development, Mr Danny Kennedy MLA to discuss the potential closure of Cookstown Bus depot and the impact this would have on the service to Cookstown and the surrounding area"

Councillor McNamee stated that Translink had indicated that the bus depot was not closing but there was scepticism as cessation of parcel services, refuelling of buses and closure of driver base had been suggested and it was essential that Council seek a meeting with Translink and the Minister for Regional Development whoever it may be to seek answers as it was imperative the busy depot did not turn into a mere bus shelter.

Councillor McKinney left the meeting at 8.23 pm

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had attended a public meeting with the Regional Manager at the Dungannon site at which time a new timetable was issued which indicated that the smaller town bus which went through the housing estates accommodating elderly users was being withdrawn and some people would have to walk, in some instances half a mile, to the main road to board a bus. Supporting the motion Councillor Cuthbertson asked that the removal of smaller town buses be added to the agenda for the meeting being sought.

The Chair, Councillor Dillon agreed with this stating that whilst the motion referred to the Cookstown depot the whole service was important and wider discussion was essential.

Councillor Buchanan supporting the motion emphasising the need to support public transport especially as it had suffered attacks for many years.

Councillor Mallaghan added his support to the motion stating that the closure of the services at the Cookstown depot would be a major loss and it would be interesting to see who would meet Council given the current political situation.

Councillor McKinney returned to the meeting at 8.27pm

Councillor T Quinn supported the motion stating that although Translink had retracted on the closure assurance was needed to ensure the retention of the

services and that the public should be encouraged to use them. Responding the Chair Councillor Dillon stated that it was not Councils remit to encourage people to use public transport but that Council did need to ensure the service met the needs of the people.

Councillor Wilson stated that Cookstown was a regional hub and the A29 a major transport corridor yet Translink had given no consideration to this when cutting services to the depot and the timetable.

As all parties had expressed support for the motion the Chair Councillor Dillon declared the motion carried.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That items C158/15 to C 162/15 be taken as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 8.30 pm

C163/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.45pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

B

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee (Development Management) of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 1 September 2015 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor Kearney, Chair Councillors Bateson, Bell, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Mallaghan, McAleer (7.12 pm), McEldowney, McKinney, McPeake, Mullen (7.09 pm), Reid, Robinson, J Shiels
Officers in Attendance	Mr Tohill, Chief Executive Dr Boomer, Planning Manager Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer Ms McNally, Solicitor Miss Thompson, Committee Services/ Senior Admin Officer
Others in Attendance	Councillors Ashton, Forde, Gillespie Applicant Speakers M/2015/0340/F Mr Montgomery Ms Jackson M/2014/0593/O Mr Wylie LA09/2015/0352/ Ms Harkin Mr Loughran LA09/2015/0519/F Mr Loughran I/2012/0463/F Mr Loughrey Mr Rolston

The meeting commenced at 7.04 pm.

P97/15 Apologies

None.

P98/15 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in application M/2014/0340/F and advised he would speak on this item later in the meeting.

Councillor Reid declared an interest in application M/2014/0340/F and advised that he would also speak on this item.

Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest in application I/2012/0463/F and also application LA09/2015/0184/O advising he would speak on this item later in the meeting.

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in application I/2012/0463/F and advised he would speak on this item.

Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in application I/2012/0463/F advising he would speak on this item. The Councillor also declared an interest in application LA09/2015/0349/F.

The Planning Manager reminded those Members speaking on an application to withdraw from the meeting after speaking.

Councillor McPeake declared an interest in application H/2014/0086/F. In relation to application I/2014/0361/O the Councillor requested that the applicant be afforded the opportunity to speak on the application due to missing deadline for submitting speaking rights, if this could not be permitted the Councillor requested that this application be deferred.

(Councillor Mullen entered the meeting at 7.09 pm)

The Planning Manager advised that those in attendance at tonight's meeting had all followed protocol in relation to seeking speaking rights and that the agent for this application would be aware of said protocol. The Planning Manager advised he would find it difficult at this stage to grant speaking rights to the applicant/agent for this application, however, the Councillor could still make representation on the matter on behalf of the applicant.

Councillor McPeake advised he would not have all the details relating to the application.

(Councillor McAleer entered the meeting at 7.12 pm)

The Planning Manager advised that the reasons given for requesting speaking rights tonight were not exceptional and would set a precedent.

In relation to application LA09/2015/0232/F Councillor Cuthbertson requested speaking rights on behalf of the applicant who had missed deadline for submitting speaking rights but who was in attendance at the meeting.

The Planning Manager advised that he could not permit the applicant to speak but the Councillor could still make representation on their behalf.

Councillor Reid asked if the quality of the maps being shown on the screen could be improved.

P99/15 Receive and Confirm Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7 July 2015

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 July 2015, (P74/15 – P79/15 & P81/15-P82/15), were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

Matters for Decision

P100/15 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

M/2014/0340/F 500kw centralised anaerobic digestion plant, combined heat and power plant (CHP) to include change of use of existing building to facilitate feedstock storage, upgrade of existing access and ancillary site works at lands immediately adjacent and S of 111 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland for Callan Renewables

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application M/2014/0340/F advising that it is recommended for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that several requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Montgomery in the first instance to address the committee.

Mr Montgomery welcomed the opportunity to address the meeting advising he was speaking on behalf of Ballynakelly residents. Mr Montgomery outlined the concerns of residents regarding this application –

- The application is contrary to PPS11 WM1 and PPS18 RE1.
- Scale and nature of the proposal is out of character in the area and would be more suited to being located in an industrial environment.
- Plant should be located close to source.
- Impact of additional traffic movements in the area.
- Noise issues from the plant and additional traffic movements will be detrimental to the area and are not believed to have been fully assessed.
- Concerns regarding odour and dust from the plant.

Mr Montgomery concluded by asking the committee to take into account the concerns of local residents refuse this application.

Councillor Cuthbertson highlighted the large volume of objections raised in relation to this application and reiterated Mr Montgomery's earlier comment in that a plant such as the one being proposed should be located close to feed source, the Councillor commented that this is also the view taken by the Environment Minister when speaking about such plants. Councillor Cuthbertson advised Members it is not clear where the feed source for this plant is coming from as the detail had not been provided by the applicant and questioned the need for the facility in the area given that a 4 mega watt plant at nearby Granville is not running to its full potential. Councillor Cuthbertson also referred to a similar application in another area which was refused and felt that a precedent had now been set.

Councillor Cuthbertson felt that the application will alter the rural landscape and will bring no benefits to the area. The Councillor also referred to previous planning breaches at this site and felt these needed to be taken into consideration when making a decision regarding this application.

Councillor Reid concurred with previous comments in relation to the health risks of such a plant and added that if planning permission be granted for this application homes in the area will be devalued. The Councillor also referred to vehicle movements and highlighted that such movements coming out of the plant have not been quantified. Councillor Reid also advised that a plant such as the one being proposed requires a high quality feed source which could be difficult to obtain given the current farming crisis.

Ms Jackson, as agent for the proposal, advised that this is a legitimate application which has been robustly assessed by planners, statutory consultees have been consulted and no objections were received and the scale of the proposal is consistent with planning policy. A site meeting had been undertaken at the proposed site in October 2014.

With regard to vehicle movements, Ms Jackson advised that vehicles will enter the plant from the M1 direction thus limiting movements through the village. In relation to feed source for the plant, Ms Jackson advised that this information is economically sensitive and detail does not need to be given.

The Planning Manager advised that planning policy does not require sources of feed to be provided but does state that type of supply should be located close to source and that this detail should be provided. For this reason many types of waste were ruled out in favour of green waste and animal feeds from farms.

Ms Jackson advised that the plant will be fed by an agricultural supply and that there is an abundance of stock available in the area, negotiations for supply of feed cannot be entered into until planning permission is given. Ms Jackson advised that it would not be the intention of the applicant to change waste codes once operational as this would require further planning permission.

Councillor J Shiels felt that sources of supply do need to be given and was not satisfied that PPS18 had been met. The Councillor also concurred with comments regarding visual impact, odour and noise and proposed refusal of the application.

Councillor Bell asked that if the proposal should be approved that a condition could be added stipulating that the feed supply to the plant comes from a local source.

The Planning Manager advised that this would be difficult but that a reasonable assumption would be that green waste would come from local farms. The Planning Manager stated that he understood the concerns of residents in that this is a new technology but advised that decisions need to be made based on evidence and there is no evidence of substantive harm being caused as a result of having such a proposed plant located nearby.

Councillor Bell stated that he would like reassurance that the waste won't be harmful and asked if anyone had seen this type of plant in operation.

The Planning Manager agreed that as this is a new type of technology it would be reasonable to undertake a site visit to a similar type of plant to see it in operation and also visit the site of the proposed application. After the visits Members should be in a position to make a more informed decision.

Councillor Mallaghan agreed that this application is one of the biggest brought before the committee to date and that a site visit would be helpful in coming to a decision regarding the application. The Councillor proposed that a site visit be undertaken.

Councillor McAleer agreed that it would be helpful to speak to someone with experience of the technology.

Councillor Robinson advised he was aware of a similar plant located and operational in another area and stated it requires a large volume of material to keep going. The Councillor felt that more clarification needs to be given to the type and source of material coming to the proposed plant and seconded Councillor J Shiels proposal to refuse the application.

Councillor Glasgow asked who attended the previous site meeting.

The Planning Manager advised that the planning officer involved with the application visited the site previously but felt it would be important for Members to also view the site of the proposed application and see such a plant in operation.

Councillor McPeake agreed that a site visit is important in relation to this application and seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal to undertake same.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney advised that the committee now had two proposals before them –

- 1.To refuse the application – Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor Robinson
- 2.To undertake a site visit to a similar operational plant and location of proposed plant – Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McPeake

Members voted on Councillor Mallaghan's proposal –

For – 9

The Chair declared Councillor Mallaghan's proposal to undertake a site visit to a similar operational plant and location of proposed plant carried.

M/2014/0593/O 3 no. tourist accommodation chalets to be associated with existing lake /fishery approved under M/2008/0025/F at lands approx. 30m N of 41 Gorestown Road, Dungannon for Mr Gavin Wylie

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application M/2014/0593/O advising that it is recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Wylie to address the committee.

Mr Wylie advised Members that the lake was initially developed over 4 years ago, visitors to the fishery were increasing month on month and that the fishery is outperforming expectation. Mr Wylie commented that there is no immediate accommodation close to the fishery and that the proposed chalets will serve to rectify this by improving self-catering accommodation in the area.

The Planning Manager commented that one part of the site had been identified as a location for the chalets and asked if consideration would be given to relocating the chalets within the site.

Mr Wylie confirmed that further consideration could be given to the location of the proposed chalets.

In response to the Planning Manager's question regarding type of structure Mr Wylie advised that the chalets would be bespoke in nature but not a permanent structure, in relation to the number of chalets planning application is for three although Mr Wylie advised this number could possibly be reduced.

The Planning Manager advised that the planning application needs more work and suggested that Mr Wylie further consider his application.

Councillor Gildernew expressed his support of the application stating that the proposed development will definitely attract tourists to the area.

Councillors McKinney, Robinson Mullen and Bell all spoke in support of the application stating that the applicant should be encouraged to progress the development of the fishery and bring tourism to the area.

Councillor Reid referred to recent newspaper article which highlighted the lack of hotel type accommodation in Dungannon and that the chalets being proposed are essential.

Councillor McAleer supported the application and highlighted that for such applications where funding could be sourced planning permission must be attained first.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application M/2014/0593/O be deferred.

(Councillor J Shiels left the meeting at 8.30 pm)

LA09/2015/0352/F Installation of a 20m high lattice tower with 6 antenna and 2 dishes; installation of 6 equipment cabinets and ancillary development within a 2.2m high fence and new access at lands 200m NW of 6 Glenwiggan Road, Draperstown for Argiva Ltd

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0352/F advising that it is recommended for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Ms Harkin followed by Mr Loughran to address the committee.

Ms Harkin advised that the installation of this proposed telecommunications tower is part of a government funded project and felt that given the current farming crisis the money could be put to better use. Ms Harkin also expressed concern in relation to visual impact, property value, including not being able to build close by the proposed site in future and health concerns associated with such towers.

Mr Loughran advised that the proposed tower does form part of a publicly funded programme called the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP) which seeks to deliver mobile coverage to communities throughout the UK who currently have no mobile coverage. Mr Loughran confirmed that this is a one off opportunity for residents of the area to obtain mobile service of 4G standard and that the proposed site is the only one viable in the area, if this application is refused then telecommunications operators will not return to the area. The installation of the tower will bring benefits to local residents and businesses.

Mr Loughran reminded Members that the programme is coming to an end in March 2016 and that in order to obtain funding the tower will need to be erected before close of the programme.

In response to the Planning Manager's request Mr Loughran explained 4G and its benefits.

Councillor Reid felt that clarification is needed with regard to health concerns and that a guarantee is needed that there are no health risks associated with such towers. The Councillor also commented that rural areas need improved mobile service.

The Planning Manager advised that research shows there are no demonstrable health risks associated with telecommunication towers such as the one being proposed.

Councillor Robinson commented that having good mobile coverage would help to keep young people in an area instead of having to move away to get a similar service.

Councillor McPeake felt that there are equal risks in refusing the application and not having a mobile service in an area ie. Contacting emergency services.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0352/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

LA09/2015/0519/F Installation of a 20m high lattice tower with 6 antenna and 2 dishes; installation of 7 equipment cabinets and ancillary development within a 2.2m high fence at lands at NI Water compound NW of junction of Sessiadonaghy Cappagh Road, Cappagh for Argiva Ltd

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0519/F advising that it is recommended for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Loughran to address the committee.

Mr Loughran re-iterated that this application also offers a one off opportunity for residents/businesses to receive mobile coverage where previously there has been none. Mr Loughran also referred to previous comments regarding health concerns stating that the proposed towers pose no risk to health.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0519/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

I/2012/0463/F Wind turbine at site 300m N of 156 Drum Road, Drumard, Cookstown for JJ Loughran

Councillors Clarke, Glasgow and Mallaghan declared an interest in this application.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application I/2012/0463/F advising that it is recommended for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Loughrey to address the committee.

Mr Loughrey advised that this application shows an unacceptable linear visual impact stating that there are four other wind turbines along a two mile stretch of road and it was felt that the area has reached saturation point for these type of applications.

Mr Loughrey expressed concern regarding sensitive tourist amenities in the area along with the noise and visual impact from the turbine for residents living close by the proposed site. In relation to the size and output of the proposed turbine it was felt that this application should be treated as a large turbine for commercial use.

Mr Rolston, as agent for the proposal, referred to the length of time this application has been in the system stating that this application has come before Members previously under legacy council. Mr Rolston commented that planners have carried out a robust assessment of the application and that specialist noise consultants have also carried out assessments and the applicant has agreed that noise conditions will be met.

Mr Rolston concluded by advising Members that it is the intention of the applicant that the output from the turbine will feed into the applicant's business in the first instance with any remainder output being fed into the grid.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that he has previously met with both the applicant and objectors regarding this application but would object to the proposal due to the visual intrusion the turbine will have on neighbouring properties and the detrimental effect this will have on its residents. The Councillor also commented that the Lennon family home is not accurately displayed on the map provided by planners and that there are additional wind turbines further along the same stretch of road.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to the size and output of the proposed turbine stating that is clearly of a commercial nature and that guidelines from NIE would dictate that larger type turbines such as the one being proposed would have to feed directly into the grid meaning supply could not be used by the applicants business as proposed.

Councillor Mallaghan concluded by saying that the proposed turbine will be 238 metres away from the closest dwelling with a further two dwellings close by. The Councillor stated that these three families should be able to live in their homes without hindrance.

Councillor Clarke advised that he had previously been involved with this application through the legacy council. The Councillor referred Members to page three of the ETSU document in which there is a disclaimer for what is written in the report.

Councillor Clarke concurred with Councillor Mallaghan's comments regarding proposed use of output power from turbine and stated that, as per NIE, turbines with an output of more than 20kw must be fed directly to the grid.

Councillor Glasgow referred to the applicant's long established business in the area and plans for expansion in the future. The Councillor commented that the proposed turbine will secure the electricity supply of the business and help fund future growth.

Councillor Glasgow commented that the proposed turbine is to be located at the furthest point of the site to lessen any visual intrusion. He stated that the application has been in the planning system for three years and requires a decision to be made and as a resident living in the area he would support the proposal.

Councillor Reid stated that clarification is needed on whether or not the turbine can feed into the business or would have to go the grid.

Mr Rolston advised that confirmation can be provided that the turbine will be able to connect to the business as its primary source of power and that any remainder output will be exported to grid.

The Planning Manager commented that the application is finely balanced but would be happy to concur with the officers recommendation to approve. He went through the grounds of objection to advise as to what could and could not be considered as reasonable and concluded that based on professional advice noise, shadow flicker and impact on countryside could not be considered as reasonable grounds for refusal in this case.

However in relation to objectors concerns regarding the impact on their amenities due to visual intrusion from an over dominant structure, the Planning Manager advised that this was a matter where it would be reasonable to form a different view from officers. Therefore if it was the intention of the committee to refuse the application then this would form the basis of grounds for refusal.

Councillor Bell enquired as to the number of times enforcement action has been taken regarding noise complaints.

The Planning Manager advised that numerous cases have been taken in the past. In relation to this application the Planning Manager advised it should be possible to include, as a condition of approval, an acceptable noise limit for sensitive properties.

Councillor Bell referred to the numerous similar applications made by the same applicant.

The Planning Manager stated that economic reasons are taken into consideration as part of the planning process, however the weight attached to these are matters for the decision maker. In this case there is evidence to suggest that the turbine would create an income stream for the business, however there is no convincing evidence this is necessary for the continued operation of the business.

Councillor Robinson felt that the applicant has waited long enough for a decision to be made regarding this application and that as an employer for the area should be supported with their proposal.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Reid

That planning application I/2012/0463/F be approved with delegated powers being given to the Planning Manager with regard to conditions for approval re. noise.

Councillor Bateson felt that the balance of need for turbines in the area had been tipped.

Members voted for the proposal –

For – 4

Against – 5

The Chair declared that planning application I/2012/0463/F be refused.

(Councillor Gildernew left the meeting at 9.55 pm)

Councillor Reid asked for clarification on how the proposal for this application had been handled.

The Chief Executive stated that the proposal was voted on and as there were no further proposals the original proposal was lost and the application was therefore refused.

LA09/2015/0232/F Retention of existing 2 storey building (domestic garage, tool store and workshop to ground floor and storage to first floor) and associated site works at 10 Tamlaghtmore Road, Cookstown for Mr Mark Hamilton

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0232/F advising that it is recommended for refusal.

Councillor Reid proposed that this application be deferred pending further investigation.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that this was the application he had requested speaking rights for earlier and confirmed that he had since clarified details regarding the application with the applicant. Councillor Cuthbertson requested that an office meeting be held to discuss the application further regarding disputed distances.

The Planning Manager highlighted that the application is for retention of a building already on site and therefore the consequence of a refusal would be that enforcement action would be needed for its removal. Members were provided with a photograph of the building.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor McKinney

To defer this application for the attention of the Planning Manager for further investigation.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

That the application be approved.

Councillor Bateson felt that this application appeared to be a back door attempt to establish a domestic dwelling.

Members voted on Councillor Reid's proposal

For – 8

The Chair declared that planning application LA09/2015/0232/F be deferred for the attention of the Planning Manager for further investigation.

Members considered the remaining planning applications as per agenda.

H/2012/0052/RM Residential development including site access, associated landscaping and parking at 21 Hospital Road, Magherafelt for M and T Properties

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That planning application H/2012/0052/RM be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

H/2014/0335/F Extension to existing church hall complex at 106 Desertmartin Road, Moneymore for Lecumpher Presbyterian Church

H/2014/0339/LBC Extension to existing church hall complex at 106 Desertmartin Road, Moneymore for Lecumpher Presbyterian Church

Applications listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning applications H/2014/0335/F and H/2014/0339/LBC be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

H/2014/0340/F Erection of dwelling and garage (reposition and amendment to design of previously approved H/2005/0747/F PAC 2007/A0821), at site approx. 65m S of 117A Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt for Mr P Evans

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application H/2014/0340/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

I/2014/0342/F 2 storey dwelling and garage on a farm adjacent to 47 Drumhubbert Road, Stewartstown for Mr Kevin Devlin

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application I/2014/0342/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

I/2014/0361/O Off-site replacement dwelling and garage with relocated access at approx. 310m SE of 66 Loup Road, Moneymore for Mr Sean McVey

Application listed for refusal on the grounds stated in the officer's report.

Councillor McPeake advised that this was the application he had requested speaking rights for earlier and confirmed that he had since clarified details regarding the application with the applicant. Councillor McPeake asked that this application be deferred to allow applicant to provide more information.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application I/2014/0361/O be deferred.

I/2014/0383/F Removal of stockpiles of boulders within previous sand and gravel working to facilitate regrading and restoration in accordance with approval I/2010/0086/F at land approx. 1000m N of 49 Blackrock Road, Dunamore for Blackhill Aggregates Ltd

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application I/2014/0383/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

I/2014/0386/F Extension to existing factory for new automated plant at Derryloran Industrial Estate, Cookstown for BA Kitchen Company

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application I/2014/0386/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

H/2015/0023/O Replacement dwelling and garage at 134 Mayogall Road, Portglenone for Ronan and Shauna Kehoe

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That planning application H/2015/0023/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

H/2015/0071/F 2 dwellings at site opposite 5 Brough Road, Castledawson for NM Developments

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That planning application H/2015/0071/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

M/2015/0108/O One and a half storey dwelling and garage on a gap site between 7 and 9 Annaloughan Road, Augher for Mr Brian Conway

M/2015/0109/O One and a half storey dwelling and garage on a gap site between 7 and 9 Annaloughan Road, Augher for Mr Brian Conway

Applications listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning applications M/2015/0108/O and M/2015/0109/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

M/2015/0150/O Dwelling on a farm at 150m NW of 36 Murley Road, Fivemiletown for Mr Stephen and Mrs Karen Houlihan

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application M/2015/0150/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

LA09/2015/0030/F 2 storey dwelling adjacent to 17 Meetinghouse Avenue, Maghera for Mr Tom Scullion

Members were advised this application had been withdrawn.

LA09/2015/0049/F Car park adjacent to existing minor playing field at O'Neill Park, Ballymaguigan for Mid Ulster District Council

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Members present declared an interest in this application.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0049/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

LA09/2015/0184/O Domestic dwelling with remainder of site used for domestic garden at 30m S of 46 Tullagh Road, Cookstown for Paul and Louise Byrne

Application listed for refusal on the grounds stated in the officer's report.

Councillor Mallaghan asked that this application be deferred as applicants were not aware that the application was up for refusal at tonight's meeting. Councillor Mallaghan advised that the applicants intend to provide further information regarding the application.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0184/O be deferred.

LA09/2015/0349/F Proposed re-location of carry out hot food unit at land opposite 89 Westland Road South, Cookstown for Rea Development Ltd

Application listed for refusal on the grounds stated in the officer's report.

Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in this application.

Councillor Mallaghan advised he had been made aware of objection submitted regarding this application which had been misplaced by Roads Service. The Councillor asked that this application be deferred to consider content of objection.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0349/F be deferred.

LA09/2015/0356/F Variation of condition 2 of previous approval I/2006/0836/F to add 2 additional waste streams at civic amenity site at Molesworth Road, Cookstown for Mid Ulster District Council

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Members present declared an interest in this application.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0356/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

H/2014/0086/F Extension to existing building to provide dry feed store at 25m SW of 8a Naval Lane, Tyane, Portglenone for Mr Stephen Duffin

Application listed for refusal on the grounds stated in the officer's report.

Councillor McPeake declared an interest in this application.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application H/2014/0086/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

P101/15 Appeal Statements Received

The Planning Manager referred to appeal statements received for applications I/2013/0018/O, H/2014/0173/LDP, M/2014/0346/O, I/2015/0006/F as previously circulated.

The Planning Manager advised that an additional appeal statement for application M/2013/0246 had been received and sought delegated authority to progress statement for this application to Planning Appeals Commission.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That delegated authority be given to Planning Manager to progress appeal statement for application M/2013/0246/ to Planning Appeals Commission.

P/102/15 Report on regionally significant applications – O/2009/0792/F and O/2013/0214/F

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on regionally significant planning applications O/2009/0792/F and O/2013/0214/F. DoE have jurisdiction in relation to these planning applications and a duty to consult with the Council on the applications.

Councillor McPeake expressed concern that DoE had asked for a response to the consultation within 21 days stating that this is not an appropriate timescale during a holiday period. In relation to the response, Councillor McPeake felt that comment should also be included giving consideration to conservation issues, archaeological interests and community objections.

Councillor Reid felt that Blackwater Regional Partnership may also be able to offer comment on these planning applications.

The Planning Manager advised that the draft response before Members states that Council are in support of the proposal in principle but if Members wanted to take up individual concerns in relation to the applications they can do so.

Councillor Robinson proposed that the Committee agree the response to DoE as set out in report.

Councillor Bell expressed concern that the planning applications are moving forward without the public being aware.

Councillor Reid asked that Members be provided with a copy of the Planning Manager's response for consideration before being submitted to DoE.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved That draft letter of response with regard to planning applications O/2009/0792/F and O/2013/0214/F be brought before September Council for Members' consideration.

Matters for Information

P103/15 Report of Delegated Decisions Issued in July 2015

Members noted the content of the report of delegated decisions issued in July 2015.

P104/15 Appeals received 1 April 2015 – 31 July 2015

Members noted the content of the report of appeals received 1 April 2015 – 31 July 2015.

P105/15 Correspondence from Department of the Environment – Section 26 Information regarding an 11 turbine wind farm at Corlacky Hill, 3km West of Swatragh, in the townlands of Corlacky and Knockoneill

Members noted correspondence from Department of the Environment regarding 11 turbine wind farm at Corlacky Hill, 3km West of Swatragh, in the townlands of Corlacky and Knockoneill.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That item P/106/15 be taken as confidential business.

P/107/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00pm and ended at 11.07 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

C

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 3 September 2015 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor McGuigan, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Cuddy, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Mallaghan, McKinney, McLean, Molloy, M Quinn, T Quinn and Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Lead Human Resources Officer
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr J Tohill, Lead Officer for Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR121/15 Apologies

Apology received for Councillor McPeake

PR122/15 Declaration of Interest

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

PR123/15 Receive and confirm minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 July 2015

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 July 2015 (PR105/15 – PR111/15 and PR120/15) were considered and signed as accurate and correct

Matters for Decision

PR124/15 Performance Improvement

The Chief Executive presented the previously circulated report in relation to Continuous Improvement & Performance Arrangements drawing Members attention to the background of the requirement and highlighting the identified improvement objective as undernoted:

“To enhance Council services by adopting a standardised approach to delivery across Mid Ulster”

Continuing the Chief Executive advised that the Directors and Heads of Service had listed objectives as to how this could be achieved, that progress was being monitored and a progress report would be presented at a future Committee meeting. He stated that as Council was still in a transition period the aforementioned objective was deemed to be the most appropriate and sought Members views.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query the Chief Executive assured Members that the Senior Management team ethos was to determine how objectives were best achieved, as Heads of Service had been recruited from across the three legacy councils there were a range of ideas and that moving forward reports would be comprehensive to highlight improvements but emphasised they would be understandable.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the 2015-2016 Corporate Improvement Plan and Improvement Objective to 'enhance Council services by adopting a standardised approach to delivery across Mid Ulster'"

PR125/15 Mid Ulster District Council Policy Statement on Employer Discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) 2014 Regulations and other related Regulations

The Lead HR Officer presented the previously circulated report on Mid Ulster District Council Policy Statement on Employer Discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) 2014 Regulations and other related Regulations highlighting that whilst compiling the policy she had worked with NILGOSC and other councils. Stating that the updated policy was required to permit for example flexible retirements as NILGOSC would not accept the policies of the legacy Councils the Lead HR Officer sought approval to adopt the policy.

Councillor Ashton asked if staff were coming forward for flexible retirement. Responding the Lead HR Officer confirmed that one staff member had requested consideration under the scheme and as NILGOSC required a Mid Ulster District Council policy this was why the policy was expedited but it would be kept under review noting that pension regulations had changed in recent times.

Councillor Cuddy referring to the 'black hole in pensions' that had been referred to in former times queried if there was a cost to Council. Responding the Lead HR Officer advised that a business case would come to Council for any request, that Council pensions had run at a deficit for the past 5-7 years and moving forward pension schemes would not be as generous and terms and conditions of entitlement were different for those embarking on the scheme now as opposed to a decade ago.

The Lead Officer for Finance assured Members that as the pension scheme was NILGOSC run the 'black hole' was a result of stock and share investment and thus out of Council's control. Speaking on the legislation the Lead Officer for Finance stated

that it was relevant to the pension scheme, that there would be costs but these would only be in exceptional circumstances and be presented to Council as a business case for consideration.

In response to Councillor Bateson's enquiry regarding consultation with Trade Unions on the policy the Lead HR Officer advised that the Trade Unions had received the draft and had raised no issues.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council the Mid Ulster District Council Policy Statement on Employer Discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2014 Regulations and other related Regulations be approved to take effect from 1 April 2015

PR126/15 Photographic Policy

The Head of Marketing Communications presented the previously circulated report on the introduction of a photographic policy and sought Members approval for adoption of same advising that upon adoption appropriate documentation would be implemented.

In response to Councillor Gildernew in relation to photographs being taken at functions the Head of Marketing Communications confirmed that either press are invited to a function or a photographer is commissioned and stated the policy being considered was for all images being taken of people in Council facilities, during Council run activities/events and for use by the Council in printed material, filmed material and on-line. In response to Councillor Molloy's query regarding open spaces the Head of Marketing Communications advised that people may take their own photographs but staff at all times should be vigilant.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the photographic policy be adopted

Confidential Business

Resolved That items (PR127– PR131/15) be taken as confidential business.

PR132 /15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.05pm

Chair _____

Date _____

D

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 8 September 2015 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present Chair, Councillor McFlynn (Chair)

Councillors Buchanan, Burton (7.10 pm), Cuthbertson, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Mullen, Mulligan, J O'Neill, Totten

Officers in Attendance Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control
Miss Thompson, Committee Services/ Senior Admin Officer

Others in Attendance Councillor T Quinn (8.55 pm)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

E135/15 Apologies

None.

E136/15 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in item E162/15 – Tender for Cemetery Management.

E137/15 Receive and confirm minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 6 July 2015

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Monday 6 July 2015 (E107/15 – E125/15 and E134/15) were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

Councillor McGinley referred to item in relation to Lough Neagh Rescue in which it was agreed at last month's meeting that a report would be brought to this committee.

Councillor McGinley expressed disappointment that this item was not on tonight's agenda and asked if there was a particular reason for this.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that negotiations were ongoing in relation to this matter and a report will come before Environment Committee meeting in October.

Councillor McGinley referred to procedures now in place for dealing with dumping of animals and recorded his appreciation.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to item discussed at previous meeting regarding waiting restrictions on Killyman Road and letter which was to be sent to Department of Justice requesting further parking be provided at Dungannon Court. The Councillor enquired if a response had been received.

The Director of Environment and Property advised the Member that he was not aware of a response being received and would follow up on the matter.

Matters for Decision

E138/15 Recycling Education and Environmental Awareness Update

The Head of Environmental Services presented the previously circulated report in relation to recycling education and environmental awareness activities undertaken within the Mid Ulster District Council area and sought approval for Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the continued use of the Waste Education Vehicle at a cost of £3,000 per year.

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn commended the work done in relation to recycling education and awareness.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question, the Head of Environmental Services advised that all schools are contacted each year to advise them of the availability of environmental education talks and activities.

Proposed by Councillor Gillespie
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to enter into Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the continued use of the Waste Education Vehicle at a cost of £3000 per year.

E139/15 Proposed PV Solar Scheme – Magheraglass Landfill Site

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report seeking approval to progress a proposal for the installation of a 250 kW photovoltaic solar scheme at Magheraglass Landfill Site.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the next stage of the process is to submit a grid connection application to NIE to seek their agreement to transfer part of the existing connection to a new connection for the proposed solar PV scheme.

In addition, it was reported that the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) Energy is currently running a local authority collaborative framework that can be used to call down design and build contracts for land based solar PV schemes. A one off fee of up to £5,000 is payable to use the framework, confirmation on exact fee and further details on joining arrangements are currently being sought from APSE Energy.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to make a grid application to NIE at a cost of £6,676 and to avail of the APSE Energy collaborative framework, if deemed suitable, at a cost of up to £5,000

E140/15 Proposed Speed Limit Reduction at Tullydonnell Road, Rockdale Road, Drumballyhugh Road and Oughterard Road, Rock, Dungannon

E141/15 Proposed Speed Limit Reduction at part of Whites Road, Dungannon

E142/15 Proposed Speed Limit Reduction at Loup Road and Dunronan Road, Moneymore, Magherafelt

Members considered previously circulated reports in relation to proposals from TransportNI as above.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the proposals made by TransportNI to –

1. Reduce a 40mph speed limit to 30mph on Rockdale Road, Drumballyhugh Road and Oughterard Road, Rock, Dungannon and to retain part of the Tullydonnell Road at 40mph and reduce part to 30mph.
2. Reduce a 40mph speed limit to 30mph on Whites Road, Dungannon.
3. Reduce a 40mph speed limit to 30mph on Loup Road and Dunronan Road, Moneymore, Magherafelt.

E143/15 Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) Report and Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS)

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report advising Members of the content of the NIEA Municipal Waste Management Statistics report for January to March 2015.

Members were advised that correspondence from NIEA confirms that the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council failed to meet its annual NILAS target by utilising 112.6% of the allocated 8,536 tonne allowance for the 2014/15 scheme year. In order for Dungannon to stay within its allocation for the year a transfer of 1,075 tonnes needs to be made from another Council, it was proposed that this transfer is made from Magherafelt District Council as it had a large surplus allowance of 5,256 tonnes for the year. Members were advised of potential fine of £160,000 if transfer is not made.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.10 pm.

In response to Councillor S McGuigan's question as to why the former Dungannon Council failed to meet its NILAS target the Head of Environmental Services advised that this was due to the brown bin scheme not being rolled out across the entire former borough and that Dungannon did not send any residual waste to landfill.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council make the necessary transfer of NILAS allowances (1,075 tonnes) from Magherafelt District Council to Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council for the 2014/2015 year.

E144/15 Tullyvar Landfill Site – Joint Committee Update and Proposed Site Visit

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report updating Members of the business of Tullyvar Joint Committee and invited Members to visit the facility on 7 October 2014.

Members were agreeable with the Chair's suggestion of visiting the Ballygawley Nature Walk and Garden Project on the same day.

Councillor Burton also referred to facilities run by other Councils in which items of furniture are restored for further use thus extending the life of the item and diverting it from landfill. The Councillor felt it would also be worthwhile to visit one of these facilities in the near future.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that members of the Environment Committee undertake a site visit and tour of Tullyvar Landfill Site to coincide with a Joint Committee meeting on 7 October 2015. Visit to Ballygawley Nature Walk and Garden Project to also be arranged for same date with consideration to arranging visit to a restore facility in a neighbouring council area in the future.

E145/15 Grounds Maintenance: Policy on Roundabout and Flowerbed Sponsorship

The Head of Property Services presented previously circulated report seeking approval for sponsorship arrangements for flowerbeds and roundabouts maintained by Council.

In response to Councillor S McGuigan's question regarding accepting the highest bid, the Head of Property Services advised that the Council is not bound to accept the highest or any bid and that sponsorship applications would be brought back to this committee.

In response to Councillor B McGuigan's question the Head of Property Services advised that Council will advertise in the press for expressions of interest regarding flowerbed sponsorship.

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn commended staff on the attractive flowerbeds and baskets situated throughout the district during the summer months.

Councillor McGinley asked if there is a policy in relation to locations of sponsorship.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that the ongoing review of grounds maintenance will consider the locations to be used.

Councillor Mulligan referred to community involvement in upkeep of flowerbeds and asked if there are many situations like this across the district.

The Head of Property Services advised that there are approximately four instances where the local community are involved in flowerbed upkeep across the district.

Councillor Burton referred to the upkeep of some roundabouts and questioned whether this was the responsibility of Council or TransportNI.

The Head of Property Services agreed to provide Members with a breakdown of what Council is accountable for regarding grass cutting at roundabouts/verges.

Councillor Glasgow referred to recent vandalism of flowerbeds and stated that the public needs to be aware of the cost to Council in creating such flowerbeds.

It was agreed that should there be any further cases of flowerbed vandalism that it be reported through the press.

In response to Councillor McGinley's question regarding criteria for roundabouts to be used it was advised that sponsorship applications will be open for all roundabouts in council ownership that are not already sponsored, however consideration needed to be given to road safety issues before deeming a roundabout suitable for sponsorship.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to -
1. Approve the process of seeking sponsorship for flowerbeds and roundabouts for an initial period of 12 months, plus an option for two further 12 month periods as set out below -
 - The plaque/sign (and any replacements) will be supplied by the successful sponsor for approval by Council and erected by Council
 - The sign will comply with carriageway safety regulations and will be approximately 600mm X 200mm
 - Only one organisation will sponsor each identified location
 - One sign/plaque per flowerbed will be permitted

- Sponsorship will be sought for an initial period of 12 months, plus an option for two further 12 month periods
 - Sponsorship signs will not be erected until payment is received in full for a 12 month period
 - Council is not bound to accept the highest or any bid
2. Provide Members with breakdown of what Council is responsible for with regards grass cutting.

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 7.30 pm

E146/15 Landlord Registration Scheme

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report regarding the content and terms of the Landlord Registration Information Sharing protocol and sought authorisation of officers to access data held by the Department of Social Development Landlord Registrar.

Councillors Cuthbertson and S McGuigan expressed concern at potential for Council accessing data relating to a landlord but then not being able to act on it.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that Council can only seek access to data for specific landlord issues and that there are strict guidelines in place regarding this. It was also noted that the information will only be provided on a request basis.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to Department of Social Development seeking further clarity on how Council could use landlord registration details.

In response to Councillor J O'Neill's question the Head of Environmental Health agreed to provide detail of penalty for landlords who do not sign up to the Landlord Registration Scheme.

E147/15 Dog Kennelling Tender

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report regarding the outcome of the dog kennelling tender carried out for Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor McNamee asked if Council, in the long term, should be looking at providing its own dog kennelling facility and what percentage of dogs are currently being put down.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that the current kennelling provider has a very high rehoming target that is being achieved and also has good connections with other dog kennelling facilities.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that a report relating to dog kennelling issues can be brought to a future meeting of this committee.

In response to Councillor McGinley's question as to how the rehoming target is set the Head of Environmental Health advised that it is part of the criteria of the contract with Council.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to award Mid Ulster District Council dog kennelling tender to Drumbonaway Kennels, 184 Coagh Road, Stewartstown for a period of 3 years at a cost of £70,000 per annum, subject to suitable performance and renewal on an annual basis. A further report relating to dog kennelling issues to be brought to future committee.

E148/15 Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report regarding proposal to bring the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 into operation with effect from 1 April 2016.

Councillor McNamee referred to potential for patrons to be drinking alcohol on the street outside premises and what piece of legislation will be used in that instance.

The Head of Environmental Health agreed that clarification is required on what piece of legislation applies in those sort of situations and advised that further guidance is to come forward in relation to this.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to respond to the consultation on Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 in the manner outlined in the report.

E149/15 Petroleum Licensing

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report regarding petroleum licensing and sought approval for the “Guide for Petroleum Filling Stations” and “Petroleum Licensing Conditions”.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the “Guide for Petroleum Filling Stations” and “Petroleum Licensing Conditions” as set out in report.

E150/15 LPS Vacant Properties

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report advising Members on the Building Control and Land and Property Services Joint Working Programme for the Mid Ulster Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspection Programme and sought approval for same.

Councillor S McGuigan asked if this inspection programme only looks at commercial properties and questioned the length of time it would take to go through the list provided by LPS.

The Head of Building Control advised that this particular inspection programme only focuses on commercial properties and that the number of properties LPS forward to Council for inspection on a monthly basis is a guideline.

In response Councillor S McGuigan asked if a previous inspection programme for domestic properties had been successful.

The Head of Building Control advised that an inspection programme for domestic properties was undertaken a number of years ago however the inspection programme under consideration tonight seemed to be a lot more straightforward and should bear a positive result. Monthly updates can be provided on the programme.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to commence the Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspection Programme for Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8.02 pm

E151/15 Fire Risk Assessment of Buildings

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report regarding completion of Fire Risk Assessments for buildings under the control of Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to complete Fire Risk Assessments on all buildings as detailed on the schedule contained within the report and review as necessary.

Councillor Mulligan commented that Clogher School is not included on the schedule.

The Head of Building Control advised that once the building is ready for occupation an assessment will be carried out and the schedule amended.

Matters for Information

E152/15 Update on Bulky Waste Collection Service

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report regarding the operation and alignment of the Council's domestic bulky waste collection service.

Councillor McGinley asked if there is a limit to the number of requests can be made by one household and does the Council charge for the service.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that there is no limit for the number of requests per household but there would be a limit regarding the number of items that could be collected at one time. The Director advised that this Council does not charge for the collection of bulky waste whilst some other Councils do charge for the service. The Director agreed to research whether neighbouring councils to Mid Ulster charge for a similar service.

Members noted the content of the report.

E153/15 Energy Management – Display Energy Certificates (DEC's)

Members considered previously circulated report regarding Energy Management Certification for eligible properties owned by Mid Ulster District Council and noted its content.

E154/15 Proposed Housing (Amendment) Bill

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report regarding the Proposed Housing (Amendment) Bill and sought approval for draft comments on same to be fed back to Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Social Development.

Councillor McGinley referred to comments within the report regarding disclosing information relating to anti-social behaviour and the knock on effect this may have.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that the Council had no primary interest regarding anti-social behaviour and that this type of information may be requested by Housing Executive or Police in relation to a tenancy.

In response to Councillor S McGuigan's question the Head of Environmental Health advised that Council will access information for the purposes of identifying owners of vacant properties.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree response regarding proposed Housing (Amendment) Bill as set out in report.

E155/15 Mid Ulster Fuel Stamp Savings Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report regarding arrangements for the new Mid Ulster Fuel Stamp Scheme.

The Head of Environmental Health advised Members of launch of rebranded scheme taking place on Thursday 24 September.

E156/15 Ballygawley Nature Walk and Garden Project

Members noted previously circulated report regarding Ballygawley Nature Walk and Garden Project.

The Chair reminded Members of intention to visit Ballygawley project and to advise if interested in attending.

E157/15 Building Control Workload Analysis

Members noted previously circulated report regarding workload within Building Control across Mid Ulster District Council.

E158/15 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted content of previously circulated report regarding Entertainment Licensing Applications received across Mid Ulster District Council.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor J O'Neill and

Resolved That items E159/15 – E166/15 be taken as confidential business.

E167/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.58 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

E

Minutes of Special Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 September 2015 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Members Present: Councillor Dillon, Chair

Councillors Ashton (5.42pm), Bell, Burton (5.40pm), Cuthbertson, Dillon, Forde, Glasgow, Kearney, McAleer, McElDowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McLean, McNamee, Molloy (5.40pm), Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, M Quinn, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson

Officers in Attendance: Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm.

SC6/15 Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors Bateson, Buchanan, Clarke, Cuddy, Elattar, Gillespie and McKinney. It was noted that Councillors Ashton and Burton would be late.

SC7/15 Declarations of Interest

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

SC8/15 Humanitarian and Refugee Crisis Unfolding across Europe and the Middle East

The Chair thanked Members for attending the special meeting and sought practical and realistic proposals as to how Council could assist the Refugee Crisis that had unfolded across Europe and the Middle East. Continuing the Chair commended the community on the initiatives which they had taken and called on Councillor McGinley to speak as he had requested the special meeting.

Speaking on the humanitarian and refugee crisis unfolding across Europe and the Middle East Councillor McGinley stated that according to figures provided by the United Nations there were 19.5 million refugees in the world, 38.2 million people internally displaced, the media were focusing on the 4.9 million refugees from Syria but it should also be noted that there were some 5.1 million refugees from Palestine and that all refugees deserved better, they were people in crisis and deserved a new home.

Councillor McGinley spoke of four stages refugees can experience noting that the most vulnerable experienced all of them; namely (i) persecution; (ii) life in a camp which was often cramped, difficult and unsafe and kept from integrating into the

surrounding community, (iii) high risk journeys to escape the results of which those crossing the Mediterranean have been seen; and (iv) fear of deportation. Acknowledging that Mid Ulster District Council did not have the resources to address the whole problem Councillor McGinley proposed that:

- The Council send a message to the Irish Government, British Government and European Union to do more to resolve the crisis;
- The Chair of Council host a meeting of Chairs and Mayors throughout Ireland to discuss a collective approach; and
- Commit staff time to help the community who were already taking a lead in collating aid.

Councillors Burton and Molloy entered the meeting at 5.40pm.

Councillor Mallaghan proposed that Council supply a vehicle to assist the community in bringing aid to the most appropriate place and volunteered to drive it.

Councillor Ashton entered the meeting at 5.42pm

Councillor M Quinn commended the Council for calling the meeting and spoke on the humanitarian crisis and referred to a motion that he had submitted to be considered at the September Council meeting which called on both the British and Irish Governments to have a joint approach to the crisis and together with the European Union help those people in desperate need.

Councillor M Quinn called on Council to reiterate the message from Councils in England who have appealed to the British Government to accept more refugees. He referred to the 'Gateway Project' and the Vulnerable Persons Scheme administered by the United Nations for sheltering people in such circumstances which would pay for example, English lessons and medical treatment. Councillor M Quinn appealed to Members to support these people throughout and following this period. Concluding Councillor M Quinn suggested that Council write to the Northern Ireland Executive to work with Executives in Wales and Scotland to assist the families and indeed challenge the Foreign Policies that have led to the crisis.

Councillor McLean expressed concern regarding the humanitarian and refugee crisis unfolding across Europe and the Middle East and whilst agreeing that Council should assist where it can, he stated that it should do so with caution as unscrupulous persons tended to exploit such situations. Stating that the community of Mid Ulster were extremely generous and were taking a lead in collecting aid he suggested that Council focus should be on assisting them. Noting that a clear distinction should be made between immigration, migrants and those affected by terrorism and natural disasters who were refugees Councillor McLean stated that together with aid the root of the problem should also be addressed. Emphasising that the British Government were a world leader in providing aid Councillor McLean suggested that Council should look at where money could be identified which would not affect service delivery and redirect same to assist organisations providing aid. Councillor McLean gave the example that in striking the rate approximately £50k was set aside for the provision of Irish language signage and this should be reallocated therefore not directly affecting services.

Councillor Monteith concurred with previous speakers and expressed his outrage at Russia and the USA who have used the Middle East as a pawn and the Irish Government for allowing Shannon Airport to be used as a base for United States to bomb Middle Eastern countries when a few generations ago its own citizens were displaced throughout the world.

Supporting previous proposals Councillor Monteith suggested as a way forward a Council Officer should be tasked with seeking clarity to what is happening in the community and how to transport the aid from a local to an international point and the matter be taken as an item on the agenda at the Special Council in the coming week.

Councillor Wilson stated that his party would support Council offering assistance to the humanitarian crisis and commended groups and organisations doing an excellent work. Expressing uncertainty as to whether a joint approach across two jurisdictions would be practical he concurred with Councillor Monteith that a scoping exercise be carried out to determine how best Council could assist.

The Chair, Councillor Dillon stated that it was clear that all parties were in agreement that Council should assist and sought proposals.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That Council write to the British and Irish Governments together with the European Union urging them to do more to resolve the humanitarian and refugee crisis unfolding across Europe and the Middle East.

Councillor McLean suggested that a press release be issued

Resolved That Council issue a press release from the Chair and Deputy Chair commending the community on taking a lead in collating aid for the humanitarian and refugee crisis unfolding across Europe and the Middle East.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan

That the Chair of Council host a meeting of Chairs and Mayors throughout Ireland both North and South to discuss a collective approach;

Councillor Wilson referred to the logistics of calling such a meeting and Councillor McLean suggested that a way forward would be a letter to every Council seeking their support. Following discussion, Councillor McGinley withdrew the proposal and it was

Resolved That the Party Representatives Group discuss the viability of the Chair of Council hosting a meeting of Mayors and Chairs from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in Mid Ulster District Council area

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 6.10pm

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council staff time is dedicated to engaging with local organisations to obtain their direction as to how best Council support them in their efforts

Councillor Mallaghan reiterated his offer to assist with the logistics of aid distribution by driving a Council vehicle to an aid delivery point.

Councillor Wilson returned at 6.13pm

Councillor T Quinn concurred with foregoing proposals but further stated that Council should be setting its sights on real action which he recently experienced in Newbridge whereby a hotel had been set aside to accommodate refugees and asylum seekers. He added that the Council should also be ascertaining if it had buildings or premises that could be used emphasising that it was excellent to send aid but there was also a bigger picture. Councillor T Quinn acknowledged that the SDLP were not attending Party Representatives meetings but stated they would like an update on progress.

SC9/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 5.30 pm and ended at 6.15pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

F

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 September 2015 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Burton, In the Chair

Councillors Clarke, Dillon, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith, C O'Neill, T Quinn (7.08 pm), Reid, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill, Head of Parks
Ms Linney, Head of Community Services
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development
Mrs Grogan, Committee Services Officer

Other in Attendance

Agenda Item 3: Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership

Mr Enda Daly, Workspace Enterprises Ltd
Mr Jim Eastwood, Cookstown Enterprise Centre
Mr Brian McAuley, Dungannon Enterprise Centre

Agenda Item 4: Cookstown & Magherafelt Volunteer Centre

Ms Michele McKeown, Centre Co-ordinator
Ms Barbara Kennedy, Recruitment and Placement Officer

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

D149/15 Apologies

None.

D150/15 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Social Entrepreneurship Support

Councillor G Reid declared an interest in Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteer Centre

Councillor Reid declared an interest in Brackaville Play Area, Coalisland

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Dungannon Enterprise Centre

D151/15 Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed Messrs Daly, Eastwood and McAuley to the meeting.

Mr Eastwood gave a brief synopsis of the work carried out by the three Enterprise Centres and advised that they will be working in collaboration for the good of Mid Ulster area.

Councillor T Quinn entered the meeting at 7.08 pm.

Mr Daly outlined the services provided by the three Enterprise Centres which include:

- Business start-up support
- Enterprise Awareness including School initiatives
- Programmes to assist unemployed people
- Business development programmes and initiatives
- Support for community groups and social enterprises
- Skills development and training
- Loan funds
- Rural initiatives
- Urban and town centre initiatives
- Project management
- Industrial units/offices/technology suites to let
- Conference and meeting facilities
- Virtual offices facilities
- Points of presence across Mid-Ulster

Mr Daly stated that in the Mid Ulster Enterprise area there were 1,116 new businesses started from November 2012 – September 2015 and 3,000 Ratepayers received Business Start Up advice/training/mentoring.

Mr McAuley advised that Mid Ulster Council region is highly reliant on micro-businesses and the growth of small businesses in the area is vital to the local economy. Any support to grow local businesses is greatly welcomed. Investment of surpluses into a range of programmes helps micro-businesses grow.

Mr McAuley said that Mid Ulster Enterprise are looking towards the future and are striving to support more new entrepreneurs and assist those businesses planning to grow. Now is a good time to explore self-employment as a career option.

Councillor Dillon thanked the group for their impressive presentation and felt that it was good to see the committee having such confidence in the Enterprise Centres. A

lot of good work has been achieved which is beneficial to the Mid Ulster area as a whole.

Councillor Monteith stated that he recognised the good work carried out over the years by Dungannon Enterprise Centre, but his only concern would be that a lot of businesses are moving away from the town centre. He indicated that town centres should have better retail provision than Enterprise Parks to draw footfall into the town centres.

Mr Eastwood agreed that it was a challenge to encourage retailers to move to the town centre, but due to high rates and rent it sometimes isn't viable to do so. He added that Enterprise Centres offer an 'open door policy' to anyone who requires their services, and if a more attractive package is available to businesses, they may choose to locate there.

In response to a query about start up loans for small businesses, Mr Eastwood advised that there are loans available such as the NI Small Business Loan Fund which provides loans to individuals, social enterprises, and micro and small enterprises in the start-up and growth phases of development. The Fund helps bridge a gap where other funding options have been exhausted. It sits alongside other funding sources such banks and credit unions.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked the representatives for their presentation and they withdrew from the meeting.

D152/15 Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteer Centre

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed Messrs Michele McKeown and Barbara Kennedy from Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteer Centre. Ms McKeown made a presentation making reference to the undernoted:

- Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteer Centre was formed in 2000
- Funded by the Department for Social Development (DSD) to deliver in Cookstown and Magherafelt
- The Volunteer Centre became a member of the Association of Independent Volunteer Centres (AIVC) – legally formalised in August 2010 amidst restructuring of volunteering across Northern Ireland. It is made up and representative of five independent volunteer centres
- AIVC were awarded the contract to deliver DSD Volunteering Small Grants throughout Northern Ireland

Ms McKeown stated that their Vision for the future would be:

- To fully recognise the need for an effective and efficient service
- To have local presence and experience, local offices which understand and reflect local needs
- Person Centred Approach – the opportunity to provide a sufficiently flexible service to meet local and individual needs
- Centres which are able to work in partnership with others (to maximise the impact of what they can offer and) to support their sustainability

Ms McKeown advised that Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteer Centre provide a link between *'those who need help'* and *'those who want to help'*.

She continued to say that anyone can Volunteer. It doesn't matter whether you are young or old, male or female, a person with a disability, in paid work or not, there is something that everyone can do.

To date there are 2,621 Volunteers and 391 Organisations registered. There are many opportunities available including:

a) Volunteer Opportunities

- Long term regular commitments
- One off individual or group projects
- Seasonal e.g. Summer opportunities
- International volunteering

b) Placement Organisations

- Work with placement organisations in developing volunteer roles
- Support placement organisations in developing best practice
- Provide relevant training

c) Support

- Training
- Volunteer Events
 - Volunteer Recognition Awards
 - Volunteer Recruitment Fair
 - National Campaigns
 - Volunteers' Week
 - Student Volunteering Week
 - International Volunteer Day
- Monthly e-newsletter – emailed
- Summer Opportunities

Ms McKeown stated that in June 2008 the Volunteer Centre also became a non-funded delivery partner for the Millennium Volunteers Programme. Millennium Volunteers is a UK wide initiative developed to promote and recognise sustained volunteering among 14-24 year olds.

Many Community Partnerships are involved with Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteering Centre, these include:

- Schools/Regional Colleges
- Careers Advisors
- Jobs and Benefits
- Recruitment Agencies
- Healthcare Professionals – Community Mental Health Teams, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, GPs and Learning Disability Teams

A local independent survey revealed that:

- 92% of volunteers claimed volunteering assisted their personal development
- 86% have become more involved in community activities outside of their volunteering
- 84% claimed that their skills had improved
- 100% would recommend volunteering to others

“Carefully Yours” project commenced on 1 April 2015 – has recruited 15 new volunteers and has over 40 participants taking part in a range of regular activities including:

- A Walking Group
- Leisure Activity Classes
- Arts and Crafts Classes
- Luncheon Club
- A Cinema Club
- A Singing Group

The project is delivering a comprehensive programme of volunteering services for older people in the Cookstown and Magherafelt areas aimed at improving their quality of care, health and wellbeing.

The bases at Cookstown and Magherafelt are open 5 days per week (Monday to Friday) and has a Service Level Agreement with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteers Centres purpose is:

- To integrate adults with a learning disability into the community
- Chance for individuals to learn new skills and partake in organised activities with assistance from volunteers
- Service Users get the opportunity to volunteer in their local community
- Staff and volunteers support both bases

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked the group for their presentation and advised that the Council are very aware of the invaluable work that is being carried out by the group and asked for any comments from members.

Councillor Dillon agreed with the Chair and stated that people massively appreciate all the hard work that is being carried out by volunteers as they provide an exceptional service to people who need it.

Councillor Wilson said that he would encourage any Councillor who wasn't aware of the work that the group do to visit their office in either Cookstown or Magherafelt to see the amount of work that is achieved by volunteers.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked the representatives for their presentation and they withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Monteith left the meeting at 7.45 pm and returned at 7.47 pm.

D153/15 Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 8 July 2015

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Wednesday 8 July 2015 (items D121/15 to D148/15 & D145 to D147/15), were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

Councillor Dillon made reference to the planned Centenary 2016 Commemoration Events for The Easter Rising and advised that she is disappointed to see nothing has been planned for Coalisland yet which is the only link outside Dublin.

Councillor Monteith said that the issue was discussed a few months ago and was encouraged to see that there was a lot of political maturity shown towards the planned events and felt it was important that Thomas Clarke be recognised.

Councillor Wilson also referred to the 2016 Centenary of the Somme marking 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the issue is still being worked on and would endeavour to bring a report including budget to Committee in the coming months.

Councillor Wilson advised that he has been receiving negative feedback from staff regarding paying full price for leisure facilities from the new Mid Ulster Council took over and could this not be put on hold until January 2016.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that Dungannon staff had paid for leisure facilities, whilst Cookstown and Magherafelt didn't, so there was a need for a balance between the three.

The Director of Culture and Leisure stated that a notification had went to all staff and facilities to let them know of the arrangements and was aware that staff were unhappy but a decision was made through Council to implement the fees.

The Director of Culture and Leisure stressed that decisions couldn't be changed within 6 months of the Council making a decision.

Councillor G Shiels left the meeting at 7.55 pm and returned at 7.57 pm.

Matters for Decision

D154/15 Use of Grass Pitch for Playing Soccer at the Athletics Track at Meadowbank Sports Arena

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek a decision on allowing the grass pitch in the centre of the Athletic Track at Meadowbank Sports Arena (MSA) to be used for playing soccer.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree that soccer matches can be played on the grass pitch at MSA from 1st October 2015 until 31st March 2016 and from 1st September each year following. Training would not be allowed due to the damage it would make to the pitch.

D155/15 Brocagh & District Regeneration Group Lease Agreement

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to clarify the request from Brocagh & District Regeneration Group to have legal costs associated to lease agreement paid by Council.

Councillor Dillon asked if there was any discussion with the group and were they not of the opinion that they had to pay the fees.

The Head of Parks stated that in his opinion he felt that the group were of the understanding that they were receiving free legal advice from the solicitor and were shocked to know that this wasn't the case.

Councillors Dillon and Reid agreed that a playpark is still badly needed in Brackaville and this should be investigated.

Councillor Monteith questioned why other statutory agencies can avail of getting their fees paid by the Council and this is not the case for a Community Group.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that this is not always the case as it depends on the circumstances.

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that legal fees to the value of £750 + Vat (plus outlay if any) should not be paid by Council as requested by Brocagh & District Regeneration Group.

D156/15 Coagh Street Play Park

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to advise that the Council are in receipt of an expression of interest from The Royal Hotel,

Cookstown in relation acquiring lands currently used as a play park at Coagh Street. Re-consideration of the request that first presented to Cookstown Council in February 1997 and again in October 2000. The land in question is leased from NIHE and is not in the ownership of the Council.

Councillor McNamee stated that he would be reluctant to get rid of the playpark for carparking facilities and felt it would be more beneficial to upgrade the existing playpark as it is very dilapidated.

Councillor Wilson agreed about the playpark equipment not being fit for purpose and raised concern about neighbourhood notification.

Councillor T Quinn said that proper consultation needs to be made with residents. There is a need to ascertain harmony as there is a lot of children living in the nearby houses and flats. He felt that the better option would be to upgrade the existing playpark at Coagh Street as safety of the children in the area needs to be paramount.

Councillor Forde stated that if playpark equipment gets rundown and dilapidated then this can lead to anti-social behaviour. She suggested residents in the area should be approached to get their views on the best way forward.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McAleer

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Officers consider the implications of the request and bring a future recommendation to Council.

Councillor Reid left the meeting at 8.19 pm.

D157/15 Brackaville Play Area, Coalisland

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for an amended valuation from Lands & Property Services for the lease of lands currently held by Brackaville GFC. The one acre site provides access to children's play facilities and for passive leisure activities.

Councillor Dillon stated that the club had requested that this be dealt with a number of times but to no avail. As there are no other play or leisure facilities available in Brackaville, it would be important that the Council recognise the number of years that the lands were given free of charge.

Proposed by Councillor Dillon
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council:

- i) That a lease agreement with Brackaville GFC be entered into for the identified lands for a minimum period of 15 years and that an amended valuation is obtained from Land and Property Services.
- ii) Council should enter into negotiations with Brackaville GFC to establish an operational Service Level Agreement (SLA) to partner Council in the management and maintenance of the facilities at Brackaville. Similar agreements are currently in operation at a number of public facilities across the District.

D158/15 Community Development Section Update

The Head of Community Development drew attention to previously circulated report to update on progress relating to the Community Development Section and to seek approval for independent professional guidance to progress the new Mid Ulster Advice Contract 2016-17.

An update was provided on the following areas:

- Community Support – Grants, Community Support
- Advice
- PCSP
- DSD Neighbourhood Renewal
- Good Relations
- Community Planning (facilitation for Council)

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to note the update on Community Development as outlined above and approve independent professional guidance to progress the new Mid Ulster Advice Contract 2016-17.

D159/15 Tourism Section Presence in Dungannon

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to consider increasing and raising the standards of the Visitor Information experience in Dungannon and to consider the relocation of the tourism staff from Killymaddy Visitor Centre to Hill of The O'Neill Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre.

Councillor Dillon said it was an excellent proposal but felt that there needs to be more done to enhance The Hill of the O'Neill. There needs to be engagement with local people in the area.

Councillor Wilson asked why there was no official recording of tourists at Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre. He advised there is a need for the facilities to be improved. He would also like to see a breakdown of costs associated with Ranfurly House.

Councillor Chair, Councillor Burton said that she would also like to see official tourist numbers at Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre, as this would distinguish between visitor and staff in the number crunch.

The Head of Tourism stated that there is an official visitor clicker at the Burnavon and hope to have an official practice rolled over to Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre.

The Head of Culture and Arts to bring visitor figures to next meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McAleer

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to move the four remaining tourism staff from Killymaddy to Hill of The O'Neill Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre and establish a strong tourist & visitor information presence in Dungannon town centre.

D160/15 Economic Development Update

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- a) Regional Start Initiative (former Business Start Programme)**
- b) Social Entrepreneurship Support**
- c) DETI Telecoms Strategy Consultation 2015**
- d) Best Practice Visit to Rural Broadband Project in Lancashire, England**
- e) EU Open Day, Brussels**

In response to a query from Councillor G Shiels regarding Horizon 2020 European funding, the Head of Economic Development advised that she would liaise with him investigate the matter.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree to approval sought:

- a) Regional Start Initiative (former Business Start Programme)**
 - (1) To note progress to date on the Regional Start Initiative (formerly known as Business Start Programme)
 - (2) Given the tight timescale involved, approval is sought to undertake a twin-track approach to advance interim arrangements (from 23 October 2015 to at least April 2016) for the Regional Start Initiative/Business Start Programme by;
 - (i) Progressing to procure a suitable organisation to deliver a local/sub-regional Business Start Programme for Mid Ulster to meet RSI objectives and targets.
 - (ii) Progressing with Council's participation in a future extended collaborative arrangement for the Regional Start Initiative, via a Service Level Agreement with Invest NI, should a viable procurement and delivery option for RSI emerge that meets Mid Ulster Council's requirements.

Should Option (ii) above be selected, a clause will be included within the tender documentation to allow Council to terminate the procurement process for Option (i).

b) Social Entrepreneurship Support

To proceed to procure a suitable organisation to deliver interim support to the social entrepreneurship sector in Mid Ulster until such times during 2016 when DETI establish new social entrepreneurship targets for Councils which will then allow for a longer term programme to be developed to support the sector.

c) DETI Telecoms Strategy Consultation 2015-2017

To note final Telecoms Consultation Response issued by Mid Ulster District Council to DETI on 31 July 2015.

d) Best Practice Visit to the '*Broadband for the Rural North (BARN) Project*' in Lancashire

One officer to attend the Best Practice Visit to the '*Broadband for the Rural North (BARN) Project*' in Lancashire on 28/29 September 2015 to be fully briefed on the project.

e) EU Open Day, Brussels

Councillors were invited to attend an EU Open Day in Brussels on 13 October 2015 from 10:00 to 12:30. It is anticipated that one overnight stay will be required on 12 October 2015, as the event commences in Brussels at 10 am on 13 October.

Councillor Molloy felt that it wasn't feasible travelling to Brussels for a 2 ½ hour meeting. Councillor Wilson agreed that it wasn't feasible for such a short event but felt it was an opportunity for Mid Ulster Council to arrange a visit to Brussels in the future to meet with senior officials to explore funding opportunities that would benefit Mid Ulster.

No member expressed an interest in attending the EU Open Day in Brussels on 13 October 2015 in Brussels but agreed that a future trip to Brussels should be progressed to explore funding opportunities for Mid Ulster.

D161/15 Town Centre Update

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report and advised it was to update members on progress being made with town centre initiatives.

Mid Ulster Town Centre Plan was approved by Council in May 2015 and work is progressing on a wide variety of projects. Details of four of the projects are outlined below:

- **Cookstown Retail Week (Cookstown)**
- **Battle of the Buskers (Dungannon)**
- **Creative Shops Network (Magherafelt)**
- **Christmas Lights Switch-on events (Coalisland and Magherafelt)**

In response to a query from Councillor Wilson regarding attendance at the Battle of the Buskers event and how this would be evaluated, the Director of Business and Communities advised that evaluations are sought from Traders as their feedback is important and allows for improvements to be made in future years.

Councillor Dillon stated that there was very positive feedback from Traders in relation to the Battle of The Buskers in Dungannon, but she felt that as this was the first year of the event it would be worthwhile considering a further event next year as this would allow comparisons to be drawn to evaluate the impact on Dungannon town centre.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that a report is being prepared on Festive Lights and will be brought to the next Party Leaders meeting on Monday 14 September 2015.

Councillor Monteith raised concerns about the cost of retail accommodation in Mid Ulster. He indicated that the high costs associated with rent and rates in our town centres are preventing many small businesses from being able to afford a high street presence, which ultimately results in them relocating to other locations such as enterprise parks.

Councillor Monteith asked for a report to be brought to a future Committee Meeting to investigate and consider measures to address the barriers currently preventing retail businesses accessing affordable accommodation in town centres to run their business.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that a report will be prepared over the next few months and brought back to the Development Committee for further discussion.

Councillor Dillon left the meeting at 8.57 pm.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council:

- (i) That Members note the progress that is being made regarding the Mid Ulster Town Centre Action Plan.
- (ii) That Members note Final Evaluation Report on Cookstown Retail Week held on 20-27 June 2015.
- (iii) That Members note initial feedback on Battle of the Buskers event in Dungannon on 15 August 2015.
- (iv) That Members note progress being made on the Creative Shops Network Pilot project in Magherafelt.

- (v) That Members financially support both the CRAIC Theatre Company in Coalisland to the value of £4,200 and Maghera Traders Association to the value of £3,500 to deliver Christmas Lights Switch-on events, subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.

Matters for Information

D162/15 Leisure Progress Report

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested that Members note the previously circulated Leisure Services Progress report.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the Leisure Services report.

D163/15 Parks Progress Report

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested that Members note the previously circulated Parks Service Progress report.

Councillor Molloy enquired about the policy on the sale of alcohol arrangements at an outdoor family event, where you have to leave your children outside the perimeter fence or not go into the bar at all. This will be very difficult for Bar owners to take on board for the future as it wouldn't be feasible.

The Head of Business and Communities said there is no policy and can only review events to date and take it as a learning curve under the environment.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the Parks Progress Service.

D164/15 Culture and Arts Progress Report

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested that Members note the previously circulated Culture and Arts Progress report.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note Culture and Arts Progress report.

D165/15 Seamus Heaney Project – Sneak Peek Event 1st August 2015

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested the Members note the previously circulated report on Seamus Heaney Project – Sneak Peek Event 1st August 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note report on Seamus Heaney Project – Sneak Peek Event 1st August 2015.

D166/15 Halloween Activities Magherafelt and Maghera

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested that Members note the previously circulated report on Halloween Activities in Magherafelt and Maghera.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the report on Halloween Activities in Magherafelt and Maghera.

D167/15 Tourism Strategy

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested that Members note the previously circulated report Mid Ulster District Council – Tourism Strategy.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the report on Mid Ulster District Council – Tourism Strategy.

D168/15 Magherafelt Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch On

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested that Members note the previously circulated report on Magherafelt Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch on.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the report on Magherafelt Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch on.

D169/15 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

The Chair, Councillor Burton requested that Members note the previously circulated report on Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the report on Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That items D170/15 – D176/15 be taken as confidential business.

D177/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 9.30pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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Subject	Conferences & Seminars
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred.

2	Background
2.1	The following conference/ seminar sessions are presented for consideration of representation from Mid Ulster Council.
2.1	Approval for Attendance
2.1.1	<i>CIPFA Conference, Northern Ireland</i> <i>Thurs 8 October, Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick, 9.30am – 6pm</i>
2.1.2	<i>Shaping Place Lives – Place making Symposium for Councils</i> <i>Thurs 22 October, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, 9am – 3pm</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invitation extended to Planning Committee Chair and Committee Members
2.1.3	<i>The New General power of Competence, NILGA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wed 28 October, Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown, 10am - 3.15pm• Thurs 29 October, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon, 10am - 3.15pm
2.1.4	<i>Association of Irish Festival's Events Annual Conference 2015</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday 6 November and Saturday 7 November, Ballinasloe Co Galway
2.1.5	<i>RICS Planning and Development Conference, NI</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tues 3 November, Belfast, 12.30-4.30pm
2.1.6	<i>Infrastructure in Northern Ireland, policy Forum for Northern Ireland Seminar</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 4 February 2016, Central Belfast, Morning Seminar

3	Key Issues
3.1	N/A

4	Resources
4.1	<u>Financial</u>
4.1.1	<i>CIPFA Conference, Northern Ireland</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £361
4.1.2	<i>Shaping Place, Changing Lives</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free
4.1.3	<i>The New General Power of Competence</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free
4.1.4	<i>Association of Irish Festival's Events Annual Conference 2015</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €135 (Euros) per person
4.1.5	<i>RICS Planning and Development Conference, NI</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £113.80 per person
4.1.6	<i>Infrastructure in Northern Ireland, policy Forum for Northern Ireland Seminar</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £210 per person
4.2	<u>Human</u> - N/A
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> - N/A
4.4	<u>Other</u> – N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	Costs associated will be set against 2015-16 member Conference & Seminar allocations.

6	Recommendations
6.1	Approval for attendance and representation at the conferences, where requested.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix A CIPFA Conference Appendix B Shaping Place – Changing Lives Appendix C General Power of Competence , NILGA Appendix D Association of Irish Festival Events Conference Appendix E RICS Planning & Development Conference Appendix F Infrastructure in Northern Ireland

2015 conference programme

Thursday 8th October: CIPFA Northern Ireland Annual Conference 2015

09.30	Welcome to the 2015 CIPFA Conference Speaker: Michael Burton , Chair of the Northern Ireland Branch of CIPFA
09.40	Northern Ireland in the Balance Speaker: Steve Mungavin , Head of CIPFA Northern Ireland
10.00	Ministerial Address Speaker: Arlene Foster MLA , Minister of Finance & Personnel
10.30	Meeting NI Public Service Challenges Speaker: Ian Parsley , Political and Economic Analyst

11.15 Refreshment Break

	Sustainable Services	Developing People	Transformed Services
11.45	Long Term Financial Planning Speaker: James Gray , PwC Formerly CFO Shetland Islands Council	Getting the Most out of Elected Representatives Speaker: Alan George , Capita	Final Accounts at a Press of a Button Speakers : Roger Phare , Technology One; Gareth Davies , CIPFA
	Sustainable Services	Developing People	Transformed Services
12.30	Future of Social Housing in Northern Ireland Speaker: Cameron Watt	Becoming an Exceptional Communicator Speaker: Andrew Toogood	Impact of the new EU Procurement Regulations Speaker: Florence Gregg

13.00 Lunch & Exhibition

14.00	Innovative Design of Public Services Speaker: Greg Keefe
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	Sustainable Services	Developing People	Transformed Services
14.45	Northern Ireland's Balance Sheet – Uncovered Speaker: Alan Bermingham	Excellent People & Excellent Service Speaker: Jane Jones	Better Business Cases Speaker: Graham Divers

15.15 Refreshment Break

15.35	PFI The Cost of the Past – Savings for the Future? Speakers: Alan Jessop , Senior PFI Consultant; Tony Hazell , Senior PFI Consultant
16.15	Transforming People & Skills for the Future Speakers: Paul Buddery , Director Public Services and Communities, RSA London; Brian Rowntree , Civil Service Commissioner
17.00	Close of Conference Speaker: Michael Burton

Evening Programme

17.15	Drinks Reception
18.00	Dinner and Awards

phone: 028 9051 5063
 email: magsecretariat@dcalni.gov.uk



Department of
**Culture, Arts
 and Leisure**

www.dcalni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Cultúir, Ealaíon
 agus Fóillíochta**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fowkgates, Airts
 an Aisedom**

**Cllr. Martin Kearney, Planning Committee
 Chair
 Mid Ulster District Council
 Circular Road
 Dungannon
 BT71 6DT**

Causeway Exchange
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 Belfast BT2 7EG
 Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 8825
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Date: 30 July 2015

Dear Cllr. Kearney,

**SHAPING PLACE, CHANGING LIVES –
 A PLACEMAKING SYMPOSIUM FOR COUNCILS
 MOSSLEY MILL, NEWTOWNABBEY
 THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2015, 9.30am – 3.00pm**

NILGA and DCAL, along with DCAL's Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Architecture & the Built Environment are convening the above Symposium. A draft agenda is enclosed. There is no charge for this event.

The Symposium will concentrate on how Community Planning and Placemaking can positively impact the lives of individuals and communities and tackle common problems such as vacant town centres and antisocial behaviour. It presents an opportunity for all our Councils to share their experiences and enter a dialogue with experts from elsewhere in the UK.

This letter is to inform you of the event, and we would be grateful if you could bring it to the attention of your Committee as soon as possible. There will be a necessarily limited number of spaces and we want to accommodate a number of representatives from every Council. We wish to invite Planning Committee Chairs and their Committee colleagues, elected members of Council, Chief Executives and relevant Officers to attend.

To that end, we invite you to take the opportunity to liaise with your colleagues as necessary and agree a maximum of four or five delegates. Please confirm their names, positions and contact details **by Friday 9th October** to magsecretariat@dcalni.gov.uk, giving details of any dietary requirements as lunch and refreshments will be served. You can also contact this address with any queries.

We look forward to meeting you at what will be a mutually beneficial learning event.

Yours faithfully,



Arthur Acheson, Chair of MAG



Ald. Carla Lockhart, President of NILGA



Enc.

Cc. Council Chief Executive's Office

SHAPING PLACE – CHANGING LIVES

A Placemaking Symposium for elected members and officials

collaboratively organised by

NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association,

DCAL, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and

MAG, the Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment

22 October 2015

Venue: Mossley Mill

SHAPING PLACE – CHANGING LIVES

INTRODUCTION

Northern Ireland's new councils have been responsible for placemaking through planning and community planning since 1 April 2015. From April 2016 they will also accept new regeneration responsibilities.

NILGA, DCAL and MAG support Councils in these new responsibilities and this Symposium listens to councils' experiences to date and describes four Placemaking methods which are being used in England and Northern Ireland. Each council is invited to an Open Forum to share experiences of elected representatives and officials.

1. A MODEL OF PLACEMAKING

In England, CABE at Design Council has developed a model of long term placemaking with Oxford City Council and others, which is producing excellent results within months of starting up.

A multi-disciplinary panel of expert design specialists is appointed by CABE at Design Council and the district council. The panel is available on call when required to discuss all strategic development proposals within the council area from the earliest stages of their commissioning, well before planning applications are submitted.

2. A PLACEMAKING TEAM

Croydon is London's largest Borough. The Council has established its own Placemaking Team with expertise in a number of design disciplines, led by an architect, which sits alongside its Plan Making Team. The Placemaking Team is involved with policy and projects from their earliest conception through to completion and use.

3. PROSOCIAL PLACE

The University of Liverpool's project, Prosocial Place, puts people first, not technocratic convenience, architectural aesthetic or short-term gain. It will deliver long-term resilience within communities thus avoiding the creation of future toxic assets. A prosocial approach to growth in Liverpool will deliver a sustainable city that is self generating and capable of punching its own considerable weight. It will be an exemplar for the modern world.

4. CIVIC STEWARDSHIP AND A SIX WEEK WARD VISION

MAG promotes civic stewardship (active caring for people and places) to improve places and inform design. MAG has instituted a pilot project with a district council to create a pilot 'Six Week Ward Vision', produced and owned by local people. The output and initial outcomes from this pilot project will be described.

SHAPING PLACE – CHANGING LIVES

A Placemaking Symposium for elected members and officials

22 October 2015

DRAFT PROGRAMME

09.00 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

09.30 Opening by DCAL

09.45 N Ireland Councils' experience to date – speaker from NILGA

10.00 Open Forum discussion by council representatives

11.00 CABE PLACEMAKING MODEL IN OXFORD

Speaker – Claire Devine

CABE at Design Council

11.45. THE CROYDON MODEL

Speaker – Representative of Croydon Council

Design literacy, the Placemaking Team and its relationship with the Plan Making Team to form Croydon's Spatial Planning Service

12.30 LUNCH

13.15 PROSOCIAL PLACE – THE ANTIDOTE TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Speakers, Graham Marshall and Rhiannon Corcoran, Co-Directors

The Prosocial Place Project brings together health and welfare service providers and researchers with built environment experts to address these high profile issues.

14.00 THE SIX WEEK WARD VISION PILOT

Speaker – MAG, Council and citizens

Civic stewardship, community involvement and the Ward Vision Pilot

14.30 Plenary Session – Models, models, models, Where next?

Collaboration Resolution prepared by NILGA

15.00 Tea, coffee and opportunities for informal networking at conclusion of Symposium

Reporting by organisers within 2 weeks of close



REGIONAL ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT ***“The new General Power of Competence”***

28th October 2015

Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

29th October 2015,

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon

The **Local Government Act 2014** introduced a new **General Power of Competence** in Northern Ireland. This Power gives councils the ability to do anything an individual can do (subject to restrictions), rather than only being able to do what they are directly empowered to do.

This **FREE** one day course, hosted by NILGA and supported by the Local Government Training Group, will be led by the **Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE)**. It will seek to provide information on the Power, what it means, and how Northern Ireland councils can learn from Councils' experiences elsewhere. It will also discuss what steps Northern Ireland councils need to take in order to utilise the General Power to deliver real, tangible benefits to citizens and communities.

The course is designed for council elected members, and will also be of major interest to senior officers in Councils.

AGENDA

9.30 am 10.00am	Registration and tea / coffee Introduction — NILGA Office Bearer Session Leaders: Jan Kennedy & Andrew Uprichard on behalf of APSE
10.00am	I've Got the Power! What is the General Power of Competence? Overview / Policy and in Practice (followed by refreshment break)
11.35am	Why do Councils need it? Usage / Need / Policy Illustrations
11.30am	What happens in other jurisdictions? Lessons from neighbouring Councils
12.45pm	Lunch
1.30pm	How is it working out? Good Outcomes / Matters Arising
2.00pm- 3.15pm	Discussion on making use of the General Power in Northern Ireland

These **FREE** events are open to a maximum of 35 Members / Officers per session. Councils should complete the booking form on the reverse and return it to NILGA by emailing s.little@nilga.org, at least 5 working days before your chosen event.

The logo for the aoife 2015 conference. It features the word "aoife" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "conference" in a smaller, pink, sans-serif font below it. To the right of "aoife" is a large, stylized "2015" in a pink, script-like font. Above the "2015" is a circular graphic composed of many small, colorful triangles in shades of blue, green, yellow, and pink, with a white circle in the center.

aoife 2015 conference

6th – 7th November

Festivals and Events

-Co-Operation and Collaboration

-New Processes for Sector

***“Revitalising communities and the visitor
experience through sustainable and thriving
festivals and events.”***

Shearwater Hotel

Ballinasloe

Co. Galway

A decorative border at the bottom of the page consisting of a mosaic of colorful triangles in shades of pink, purple, blue, green, and yellow, arranged in a jagged, mountain-like shape.

**AOIFE celebrates its 22nd Annual Conference this year
on November 6th & 7th.**

AOIFE - Association of Irish Festival Events - is an all-island voluntary organisation that connects experienced and novice festival organisers, suppliers, funders and influential policy-makers as well as the invaluable knowledge and skills gained over AOIFE's 22 year establishment.

Founded in March, 1993, AOIFE now has close to 350 member festivals and almost 100 corporate, associate and individual members, incorporating all kinds of festivals from international festivals to local street festivals. This conference gives you the chance to network, gain useful contacts and rub shoulders with some of the more influential and established members of the industry, as well as gain fresh insight from those recently joining the sector.

This conference will focus on the best practice and innovations from festival specialists, policy-makers and expert commentators involved with the arts, culture and tourism sector.

More and more local authorities and municipalities are engaging with, promoting and producing their own civic cultural tourist and community festivals and events. This is an event which will help your local authority share best practice and recognise the new trends.

Festivals, culture and sporting events are occasions where the identities of people and places are performed, celebrated and shared. Community pride and economic development go hand-in-hand as people gather to celebrate their cultural identity.

2015 Conference is for progressive thinking practitioners of the festival and event sector and for local authorities that wish to harness the power of festivals and events.

It is a unique, interactive and engaging two-day event that provides an exclusive environment for the leaders and stake-holders of the festival and event sector to gain as much knowledge as possible to review the Last Season, lessons learned and possible gains for the year ahead.

Invited speakers include:

Republic of Ireland

- m **Michael Ring** TD is Minister of State, at the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.
- m **Alan Kelly** Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government
- m **Ann Phelan** Minister of State at the Departments of Agriculture, Food and Marine and Transport, Tourism and Sport
- m **Heather Humphreys** Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Northern Ireland

- m **Carál Ní Chuilín** Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
- m **Jonathan Bell** Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

What previous delegates thought...

"Everything was covered excellently," – Louisa Condon, Thurles Chamber

"Conference was fantastic, great speakers who never lost the attention of their audience," – Anne Marie McCormack, Shannon Development

"Speakers were excellent communicators. Their presentations and information handouts were valuable and useful," – Mary Houlihan, Waterford County Council

"Great Conference! Very informative," – Emma Day, Ballyhoura Fáilte

Fees:

€95 per day or a €135 rate for 2 days

(Price per delegate, not includes evening meals or accommodation)

Visit our Conference Blog:

WWW.AOIFEBLOG.COM



T (090) 9643779 E info@aoifeonline.com www.aoifeonline.com



How to get to Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Ideally located on the M6 motorway, Ballinasloe is easily accessible for everyone.

By car:

From Dublin - under 2hrs
From Cork - under 3.5hrs
From Belfast - under 3.5hrs
From Galway - under 1 hr

By train:

Less than 2hrs by train from Dublin Heuston
Less than 4hrs from Cork, Killarney, Belfast, Waterford and Wexford
Visit www.irishrail.ie for more information

By bus:

Regular bus services from all major towns and cities
www.citylink.ie www.gobus.ie www.buseireann.ie

Further information on how to get to Ballinasloe or for updates on speakers and other conferences events visit www.aoifeonline.com, email us on info@aoifeonline.com. You will also receive GPS co-ordinates for the hotel from their website.

Early bird discount group rate available if payment received by Oct 14th, 2015.



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

SHEARWATER
HOTEL & C SPA
BALLINASLOE
★★★★



Association of Irish Festival Events
Town Hall Theatre, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway



Irish Festivals and Events

Co – operation & Collaboration
– New Processes for The
Sector

Shearwater Hotel,
Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
22nd Annual AOIFE Conference
November 6th - 7th 2015



Conference Registration Associate

Complete the registration form by either typing details in the boxes provided, or by printing the form and returning it into the AOIFE office. *Please copy this form for each additional delegate*

Delegate details

Name to appear on delegate ID	
Organisation	
Address	
Telephone	
Website	
Email	

Fees/Packages	Member	Non-Member		
	Indicate your choice of package below			
Conference participation one day rate	€ 95		€ 115	
***Conference participation Friday & Saturday ***	€ 135		€ 165	
Total				

Early Bird discount group rate available if payment received by October 14th, 2015

Registration fees include delegate pack and refreshments for days in attendance. (Accommodation is the responsibility of the individual delegates.)

Payment details

Cheque		Laser		VISA		Mastercard	Invoice
Card number							
Expiry date							
Cardholder's name							
Signature							

Cancellation policy Refunds are made for cancellations received prior to Friday October 30th. Cancellations must be received by letter, email or fax and will not be taken by phone. A €40 service charge will apply. Delegate substitutions may be made at any time subject to notification as soon as possible. If the conference is not held for any reason, AOIFE is limited to a refund of conference fees.

Return completed form to:

Patrick Greaney – Conference Co-ordinator AOIFE Conference 2015

Town Hall Theatre

Society Street / Ballinasloe/ Co. Galway / Ireland

T +353 (0) 90 964 3779 / F +353 (0) 90 964 6540 / info@aoifeonline.com

www.aoifeonline.com



For details on the Shearwater Hotel, the venue for the 22nd Annual AOIFE Conference, visit www.shearwaterhotel.com

RICS Planning and Development Conference, Northern Ireland

- Reforms, investment and performance - the way forward for Northern Ireland
- 3rd November 2015, Belfast City Hall

1230 Chair's opening remarks

Diana Fitzsimons, Director, Diana Fitzsimons Planning and Development

1240 Welcome address

Gerry Millar, Director, Property & Projects, Belfast City Council

1250 Keynote address

Investment flow: where is it coming from and where is it going?

- The current trends in Northern Ireland investment
- The impacts and outlook
- Sustainable investment as a key priority

Jonathan Bell MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment

1320 Session 1

The Smart City approach to attracting investment

- Latest innovations in technology and IT to improve regional attractiveness
- How planners have succeeded in changing perceptions - case study Birmingham
- Ensuring timely and appropriate infrastructure for new business

Waheed Nazir, Director, Planning and Regeneration, Birmingham City Council

1350 Session 2

New forms of engagement how to make them work

- The impact of the new public consultation requirements upon development
- Successful Community consultation
- Recent case studies

James Anderson, Associate Director, Head of Engagement, Turleys

1435 Networking refreshments

1500 Panel Session

Regeneration, viability & competitiveness

- Positioning Northern Ireland as a competitive area to invest
- Regeneration and the viability issue
- Attracting investment to retain current growth
- Emergence of area based business initiatives

Phil Williams, Director, Planning and Place, Belfast City Council

Graeme Johnstone, Property Director, Real Estate Team, Belfast City Harbour

Quintin Oliver, Director, Stratagem

1550 Session 3

What property professionals can do to attract investment

- Attracting investment – the practicalities for the new planning system
- Encouraging the right floor space in the right locations
- Encouraging change of use to match market requirement

Jeremy Fitch, Executive Director, Invest NI

1625 Closing remarks

1630 Close of conference

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar
Infrastructure in Northern Ireland

with

Dr Martin Spollen, Head of Investment Strategy, Strategic Investment Board (SIBNI) and **Colette FitzGerald**, Head of Office, The European Commission Office in Northern Ireland

and

Clive Bradberry, *Translink*; **William Curry**, *Arthur Cox*; **Bob Hanna**, *Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources*, Republic of Ireland; **Graham Keddie**, *Belfast International Airport*; **Chris Williams**, *Bank of Ireland* and **Suzanne Wylie**, *Belfast City Council*.

Chaired by:

Trevor Clarke MLA, Committee Chair, Committee for Regional Development, Northern Ireland Assembly and **Fearghal McKinney MLA**, Member, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly

*Morning, Thursday, 4th February 2016
Central Belfast*

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Subject Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Reporting Officer Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment, since the last meeting of Council.

2	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues which may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.

3	Key Issues																											
3.1	<p>The following outlines the open consultations of which Council has been notified:</p> <table><tr><th>Organisation</th><th>Issue</th><th>Closing Date</th></tr><tr><td>Department of Justice</td><td>Proposal for secondary legislation under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (NI) 2015</td><td>22 Oct 2015</td></tr><tr><td>Department for Culture, Media and Sport</td><td>BBC Charter Review</td><td>08 Oct 2015</td></tr><tr><td>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment</td><td>NI Renewables Obligation closure grace period – DETI response to consultation proposals in relation to all non-wind renewable technologies</td><td>Autumn 2015</td></tr><tr><td>Department for Regional Development</td><td>Proposed policy change on compensation for compulsory land acquisition</td><td>16 Oct 2015</td></tr><tr><td>Northern Health & Social Care Trust</td><td>Commissioning services from the community and voluntary sector</td><td>20 Nov 2015</td></tr><tr><td>Department for Regional Development</td><td>Accessible Transport Strategy 2025</td><td>20 Nov 2015</td></tr><tr><td>Northern Health & Social Care Trust</td><td>Future of Norfolk Court Supported Living Schemes</td><td>27 Nov 2015</td></tr><tr><td>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</td><td>Policy proposals for a Fishery Management Plan for Lough Erne</td><td>04 Dec 2015</td></tr></table>	Organisation	Issue	Closing Date	Department of Justice	Proposal for secondary legislation under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (NI) 2015	22 Oct 2015	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	BBC Charter Review	08 Oct 2015	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	NI Renewables Obligation closure grace period – DETI response to consultation proposals in relation to all non-wind renewable technologies	Autumn 2015	Department for Regional Development	Proposed policy change on compensation for compulsory land acquisition	16 Oct 2015	Northern Health & Social Care Trust	Commissioning services from the community and voluntary sector	20 Nov 2015	Department for Regional Development	Accessible Transport Strategy 2025	20 Nov 2015	Northern Health & Social Care Trust	Future of Norfolk Court Supported Living Schemes	27 Nov 2015	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	Policy proposals for a Fishery Management Plan for Lough Erne	04 Dec 2015
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	Documentation on the aforementioned consultations can be provided on request from the office.
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4	Resources
4.1	<u>Financial</u> - N/A
4.2	<u>Human</u> - N/A
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> - N/A
4.4	<u>Other</u> - N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	Not applicable

6	Recommendations
6.1	Members review and note the open consultations.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Not applicable