



23 January 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Circular Road, DUNGANNON, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 23 January 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputation: South West Regional College, Northern Regional College and Education Authority

Matters for Decision

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| 5. | Council minutes of meeting held on 16 December 2019 | 3 - 10 |
| 6. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 7 January 2020 | 11 - 26 |
| 7. | Policy and Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 9 January 2020 | 27 - 32 |
| 8. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 14 January 2020 | 33 - 46 |
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Matters for Information

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Notice of Motions

15 Councillor Brown to move
That Mid Ulster Council resolves:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for future firework displays.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

16. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 December 2019
17. Planning Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 January 2020
18. Policy and Resources Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 January 2020
19. Special Planning Committee (Development Plan) Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 January 2020
20. Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 January 2020
21. Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 January 2020
22. Document for Sealing: “Lease of Lands at Lime Kiln Lane to Women’s Aid”

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 16 December 2019 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair Councillor Kearney

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuthbertson, Elattar, Forde, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, McLean, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, O'Neill, Quinn, Robinson, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

Others in Attendance **Deputation: NI Water**

Dr Stephen Blockwell, Head of Investment Management
Mr Grahame Millar, Head of Wastewater Infrastructure Delivery

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C253/19 Apologies

Councillors Bell, Black, Cuddy, Doris, Gildernew, S McGuigan, McKinney and McNamee

C254/19 Declarations of Interest

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

C255/19 Chair's Business

None

C256/19 Deputation: NI Water

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed representatives of Northern Ireland Water, Dr Stephen Blockwell and Mr Grahame Millar to the meeting. Dr Blockwell delivered presentation as detailed at appendix 1.

Councillor M Quinn left the meeting at 7.03pm and returned at 7.13 pm during presentation.

Councillor Mallaghan left the meeting at 7.12pm

At the conclusion of the presentation the Chair, Councillor Kearney referred to the 81 upgrades deferred and sought clarification as to when those in Mid Ulster would be addressed.

Councillor McPeake drew attention to funding figures required of £3.36 billion and the recommended investment of £2.54 billion and asked what the difference was.

In response, Dr Blockwell advised that the figures listed was maximum spend emphasising that to deliver such major projects took a lead in time of approximately 8-10 years and comprehensive studies needed to be in place.

In response to Councillor Glasgow, Dr Blockwell advised that PC15 would finish on 31 March 2021.

Councillor Glasgow referred to a recent presentation by the Chief Executive of NI Water to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association during which challenges in water, waste and drainage had been highlighted. He also made mention of rural areas where water pressures were being turned down due to the age of the pipes and requested that Dr Blockwell report back the need for investment in rural areas.

Dr Blockwell advised that water supply and resilience plans for the west of Northern Ireland was incorporated in the future plan but stated that water gets priority and thus wastewater investment does not receive the same attention.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that at previous meetings NI Water had advised that Belfast is the number one priority but posed the question if there was not sufficient to fund Belfast would Dungannon go up the list.

In response, Dr Blockwell stated that NI Water did not know how much money they would be granted that currently Newry was number one priority, that the Belfast proposed works would benefit five Council areas but emphasised that NI Water had to spend for best value and had only received full funding allocation for three years thus the under investment.

Councillor Burton stated it was disappointing that discussion was curtailed as Council and NI Water did not meet often but requested that the issue of the survey in Clogher Valley could be put forward and sought clarity as to how answers could be sought.

In response, Dr Blockwell requested that the Councillor forward the details to him and highlighted the Elected Member hotline.

Dr Blockwell reminded Members that the presentation referred to the whole of Northern Ireland and requested that they bring the issues back to their political parties.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked Dr Blockwell for his presentation following which he withdrew from the meeting.

Matters for Decision

C257/19 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 28 November 2019

Councillor Kerr drew attention to C238/19 Notice Motion on Health Workers and reminded Members that the Nurses strike would commence on Wednesday 18 Decembers and urged fellow Members to support pickets.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to C227/19 Chair's Business in relation to proposed meeting with Northern Ireland Housing Executive and registered his disappointment that the proposed meeting had yet again been postponed.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to C228/19 Deputation: Northern Health & Social Services Trust and Southern Health & Social Services Trust highlighting discussion on the proposed GP Hub for Dungannon. He stated at a meeting of Dungannon General Medical Services on 5 December 2019 a different message had been communicated and therefore proposed that Council seek a meeting with the Southern Health & Social Services Trust to explore this further.

Councillor Monteith highlighted that a further meeting of the aforementioned group was scheduled for 5 March and stated that perhaps the matter could be on the agenda for that but he would leave it to Council Officers discretion.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson

That Council seek a meeting with appropriate bodies regarding GP Hub Dungannon proposals.

Councillor Colvin stated that the reality was that Mid Ulster was in a pecking order, whilst Dungannon GP Hub is number two and Lisnaskea number one subject to circumstances other areas could take priority. Councillor Colvin said the Council should continue to lobby

Councillor Elattar in referring to earlier discussion regarding the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) advised that as per agreement at November Council meeting she had raised the matter of the postponed meeting with the Chief Executive of the NIHE who had advised he was unaware and would ensure the matter was addressed.

The Chief Executive referring to discussion on the GP Hub stated that the Health & Social Care Board would need to attend any meeting regarding same as they were responsible for GPs.

Councillor Monteith stated all appropriate agencies should be involved.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that either a meeting be sought or alternatively discussion be scheduled for proposed meeting 5 March 2020, as appropriate.

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with SHSST & Health Board regarding proposed GP Hub

Councillor Wilson highlighted that it was not acceptable for public funded bodies not to respond to Council and referenced a meeting with Translink in August 2019 at which Council had lobbied for improved bus services from the District to Antrim Area Hospital and highlighted that no update had been received.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that officers would seek an update.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 28 November 2019 (C225/19 – C252/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C258/19 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 2 December 2019

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to *E295/19 Chair's Business Refuse Collection Route Optimisation* and expressed concern that five weeks from the introduction of the changes there were still problems communication being a major one highlighting, that messages on social media in the evening was insufficient. He stated that people were leaving three bins out each week as they were unaware which bin would be collected. Councillor Glasgow asked why there was no communication.

The Chief Executive stated that in the absence of the Director of Environment and Property he could not provide a detailed update but he was aware that the service in question had fallen short of the usual standard. He stated that changes had previously been implemented on a larger scale with minimal impact and apologised for the difficulties experienced by residents on this occasion. The Chief Executive stated he would ensure the communication issues was investigated.

Councillor Glasgow stated he would appreciate aforementioned and outlined the area from the Drum Road, Cookstown towards Sandholes noting that it was an extensive rural area. He stated that he could take on board there would be teething problems but highlighted that communication was the core problem and that in order for Council to implement change successfully it needed to bring residents with them.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E309/19 Dual Language Signage Requests and speaking in relation to damage to dual language signage stated that such attacks were despicable and appealed to the perpetrators to contribute something useful to the District.

Councillor Burton referred to a NILGA meeting in relation to Consultation on Environment Strategy to Northern Ireland and highlighted that the strategy Council was currently working to was dated 2010.

The Chief Executive advised that Council had submitted a response to the Consultation and he would envisage tenure of the policy would have been a consideration.

Councillor McGinley referred to *E292/19 Deputation – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service GoodSam App* and asked if Restart a Heart initiative could be linked to this.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney advised 'Restart a Heart' day was in October and said it could be explored.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Monday 2 December 2019 (E292/19 – E325/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C259/19 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 3 December 2019

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 3 December 2019 (P143/19 – P156/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C260/19 Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2019

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 (D211/19 – D229/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C261/19 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2019

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2019 (PR213/19 – PR238/19) transacted in

Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C262/19 Conferences, Seminars & Training Report

Approval was sought for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

(i) Member Approvals

- *NILGA – Councils Driving the Local Economy*

Canal Court Hotel, Newry on 23rd January 2020

Up to eight representatives

Free Event and Travel costs only

(ii) Officer Approvals (retrospective approvals)

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/No)
Planning in Times of Change	6 Nov 2019	1	L/Derry	Yes
Changes & Trends in International VAT	11 Nov 2019	1	London	No (Flights only)

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan

Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

C263/19 Requests for Civic Recognition

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, as detailed within the report.

Councillors requested amendments and additions as undernoted:

- Councillor McGinley's name be added to nomination for Katie Rose Lavery

Proposed by Councillor Kerr

Seconded by Councillor Hughes and

Resolved That subject to the foregoing, approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report.

Matters for Information

C264/19 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council as outlined:

- Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities
- Projects Officer, Muintir Na Mointeach Ltd

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That Council accept the invitation extended by Muíntir Na Mointeach Ltd and a visit be organised for Members to view the facilities.

C265/19 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Councillor McGinley drew attention to consultation undernoted and requested that council respond.

- The Executive Office, (Northern Ireland Assembly), Draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2025.

Resolved That Council respond to Consultation by The Executive Office, (Northern Ireland Assembly), Draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2025.

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 7.54pm

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That items (C266/19-C272/19) be taken as confidential business

Matters for Decision

- (i) Audit Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 26 November 2019
- (ii) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 28 November 2019
- (iii) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 2 December 2019
- (iv) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 3 December 2019
- (v) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 4 December 2019

- (vi) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held
5 December 2019

C272/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 7.55 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Mallaghan, Chair

Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Mr Bowman, Head of Development Management
Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McEvoy, Head of Development Plan
Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor B McGuigan

Applicant Speakers

LA09/2017/1083/F	Jim Maneely Eamonn Loughrey Nigel McGurk
LA09/2019/0511/O	Councillor Glasgow
LA09/2019/1121/O	Patrick Bradley
LA09/2019/1226/O	Councillor Glasgow
LA09/2019/1245/O	Councillor Glasgow
LA09/2019/1262/O	Chris Cassidy
LA09/2019/1367/O	Chris Cassidy
LA09/2018/1282/O	Councillor Forde

The meeting commenced at 7.03 pm

P001/20 Apologies

None.

P002/20 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in planning applications LA09/2019/0511/O and LA09/2019/1245/O.

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in planning application LA09/2019/1283/F.

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in planning application LA09/2019/1283/F.

P003/20 Chair's Business

The Planning Manager referred to appeal hearing regarding housing development which was refused at Draperstown. He advised that the hearing was scheduled to take place on Thursday 31 January 2020 and that Ms McCullagh and himself would be representing the Council.

The Planning Manager updated members on statistics for the first half of the year had advised that Mid Ulster had 709 applications received which was the third highest amongst councils in Northern Ireland. He stated that a decision was made on 690 applications again ranking in the third highest amongst Councils, resulting in 674 approvals which indicated an approval rate of 96.8% which had to be commended.

The Planning Manager referred to the average processing time of applications and advised that Mid Ulster had a 12.6 weeks remit which was the best since Mid Ulster took over. He said that he was very satisfied with the targets with 102 Enforcement cases opened which is the largest number in all the Council and enquired why this might be. He advised that the key reasons were that Mid Ulster Council has an Enforcement Strategy which required complaints to be put forward in writing which cuts out mischievous complaints being made. He said that we have the lowest number for complaints but the highest number for enforcements which were always open for negotiations and solution solving, which results in Enforcements reaching targets.

In conclusion, the Planning Manager invited any member who wished to make comparisons with other Councils to do so by logging onto the planning portal.

Matters for Decision

P004/20 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting/submission of further information –

Agenda Item 4.11 – LA09/2019/1226/O – Site for dwelling and garage approx. 70m N of 31 Gortinure Road, Maghera for Mr Gerard McElDowney

Agenda Item 4.13 – LA09/2019/1262/O – Site for dwelling and domestic garage at approx. 45m W of 140 Kilrea Road, Upperlands for Mr Daniel O'Kane

Agenda Item 4.16 - LA09/2019/1367/O – Dwelling and domestic garage at site adjacent to 2a Tonaght Road, Draperstown for Mr Jim Hegarty

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above for deferral be deferred for an office meeting/submission of further information/removed from schedule.

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

LA09/2017/1083/F Retail developments to include supermarket and 2 retail units with associated carparking, site access and landscaping at lands including 2 to 10 Church Street, also lands in between Fountain Road and Loran Way, Cookstown for T J Hamilton

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/1083/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Glasgow raised concern about the number of objections to this application and enquired who carried out the traffic survey.

Ms Doyle advised that the traffic survey was carried out by the consultants.

Councillor Glasgow said that this was a very busy junction and referred to the proposed 109 carparking spaces which could intensify the situation and felt that the traffic survey didn't take this into consideration. He also raised concern about a high number of HGV's travelling to the pig unit.

The Planning Manager said that when the transport assessment was submitted, officers investigated the situation and consulted with Roads Service on issues. He stated that the carparking space allocations were logically placed commensurate with floor space. The impact assessment also addressed traffic movement, traffic lights etc, and Road Service advised the application was not unacceptable. He said that he could appreciate neighbouring residents concerns but had to bear in mind that relatively few houses were directly affected and the site had previously been used as a car sales establishment. He advised that a lot of time had been put into considering this application as it was for a retail development inside the town and all concerns had been thoroughly considered, including retail impact.

Councillor Glasgow said that he remained concerned as he had seen far too often the tailbacks into the town and felt that this quiet residential area would become a bottleneck.

The Planning Manager said that opposite to the proposed site was a public house and advised the committee that the road was quite wide and so movement wouldn't be impacted much and advised that it would be difficult to say that the proposal was unacceptable when everything was taken into account.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2017/1083/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2017/1403/F Drying store and extension of existing site curtilage for Relocation and Storage at 2 Lisnamuck Road, Tobermore for Tobermore Concrete Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/1403/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2017/1403/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0215/F Dwelling N of and adjacent to 27 Ballynakilly Road, Dungannon for Philip Brady

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/0215/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0215/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0315/F Extension to existing butchers at 15-16 The Square, Stewartstown for Lowe Butchers

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0315/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0315/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0511/O Gap site for dwelling and garage between 255 & 259 Orritor Road, Orritor, Cookstown for Mr Isaac Barnes

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/0511/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request to speak in support of the application had been received and advised that in the absence of the agent, he invited Councillor Glasgow to address the committee.

Councillor Glasgow advised that he would be speaking on behalf of APS Architects tonight.

He said that he knew the area of Orritor quite well and felt that the application would fit in well with the characteristics of Orritor as the road was in a linear line and would blend in well and not impact on the area.

Councillor S McPeake referred to the decision regarding the application for Moortown in 2016 which was a similar scenario and enquired if there was a different policy as he recalled going to the site meeting at the time and asked what the difference was between that one and this one.

Ms McCullagh said that the two applications were similar and the same policy applied. However in the Moortown case consideration was given to the overlapping nature of the settlement limit.

The Planning Manager stated that the guidance was very clear on infill and how the countryside was to be treated. He said that there were similarities with the Moortown case. In that instance an exception to policy was made because it read more like a rounding of of the settlement than an infill development in the countryside.

Councillor Clarke said that he was familiar with the area and the point where the lane goes back into the house was agricultural land with the Church sited at the junction. He stated that the Church would be the centre of the settlement and there was no reason why there couldn't be another space for a dwelling and a way of stopping it.

The Planning Manager advised that he had given members reasonable considerations and there was an onus on the Council to continue the characteristics of the area.

Councillor McFlynn asked where this fitted in with CTY13.

The Planning Manager said that the whole concept of this would be creating an infill without changing the rural character of the area.

Councillor McKinney said that he would be happy to recommend the application for approval as the distance between the Church and neighbouring properties was not going to make a huge difference as it would rounding off and causing no detrimental effects to the area.

Councillor Black seconded Councillor McKinney's proposal.

Councillor Glasgow advised that Orritor Church and Church Hall have been extended to the left-hand side.

Councillor Clarke advised that the dwelling on the opposite side of the road was previously an old school.

The Planning Manager said that it was important that the character of the area was kept, he drew the Committees attention to the photographs of the site which showed a modern bungalow close to the church and street lighting across to the site and the degree with which it appeared urbanised and therefore a dwelling would not change rural character. On that basis if members were so minding he felt an exception to policy could be made on the basis of rounding off.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0511/O be approved as per conditions within the case officers report.

LA09/2019/0844/F New temporary building and associated car parking at lands Lissan House, Drumgrass Road, Cookstown for Lissan House Trust

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/0844/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair asked that there be an opportunity for this application to avail of an office meeting.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0844/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2019/0992/RM Dwelling and garage at 145m SE of 16 Creevagh Road, Cookstown for Kevin Heron

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0992/RM which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0992/RM be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1121/O 2 dwellings in substitution for approved application LA09/2018/0424/O at lands 20m E of 29 Gortinure Road, Maghera for Patrick Bradley

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1121/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1121/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1133/F Steel clad outbuilding for storage of caravan, vintage tractors and machinery at 98 Drumbolg Road, Tamlaght, Maghera for Ciaran Bennett

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1133/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1133/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1148/O Dwelling and detached domestic garage at 140m SW of Drumearn Road, Cookstown for Thomas David James Harkness

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1148/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request to speak had been made and in the absence of the agent, Councillor Glasgow would be making representation and invited him to address the committee.

Councillor Glasgow said that he was here tonight to speak in support of the Harkness family which had 3 generations of farming. He referred to the 10-year rule policy and said that the son was 2 years away from being able to apply. He said that other problems were overcome relating to issues and that Mr Harkness was anxious to keep the next generation at home and carry on farming business and asked that members consider deferring the application until an alternative site is investigated and believed that this was worth a shot.

The Planning Manager enquired how there could be an alternative site as it failed the policy. He said that a replacement or infill opportunity would be the best avenue as the current application was going nowhere and suggested going back to the applicant recommending that the application be withdrawn and then discussing new alternatives.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1148/O be held for 30 days to discuss options.

LA09/2019/1226/O Site for dwelling and garage approx. 70m N. of 31 Gortinure Road, Maghera for Gerard McEldowney

Planning application LA09/2019/1226/O deferred earlier in the meeting.

LA09/2019/1245/O Gap site for dwelling & garage at junction of Craigs Road & Killycurragh Road, Orritor, Cookstown for Wesley Carson

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1245/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor Glasgow withdrew to the public gallery.

The Chair advised that Councillor Glasgow would be speaking in place of the agent who had previously been granted speaking rights.

Councillor Glasgow thanked the committee for allowing him to speak in support of the application.

Councillor Glasgow advised that the application at Killycurragh Road was at the junction with the Braeside and a number of houses on the left and right up to Craigs Crossroads. He said that he didn't see approval of the application as a negative impact on the area as there were continuous houses on both left and right hand-side right up to Killycurragh Road and felt that this would not be a detrimental effect on the character of the area.

The Planning Manager referred to the overhead photograph and also street level photos. He advised that from both different conclusions could be drawn. From the overhead it appeared that there was a substantial ribbon and this would only link the settlement with that substantial ribbon. However from the street level photo it appeared that the site represented an important break defining the settlement and the ribbon did not read against the settlement. He therefore advised members that the best way to reconcile the arguments was to conduct a site visit.

Councillor Clarke said that he was familiar with the area and stated that there was very little traffic on the Killycurragh Road and felt that this application if approved wouldn't make an impact due to the light traffic on this stretch of road. He stated that the roads marked blue for zoned development may never come to fruition.

Councillor McKinney suggested that this application would merit a site meeting so members could get an accurate view.

Councillor Gildernew said that this situation arose before and it was important that the photos showed some accuracy.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1245/O be deferred for a site visit.

Councillor Glasgow returned to the meeting.

LA09/2019/1262/O Site for dwelling and domestic garage at approx. 45m W of 140 Kilrea Road, Upperlands for Daniel O’Kane

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in the meeting.

LA09/2019/1283/F Removal of 5 mobile classrooms, replace with 5 classrooms; re-organisation and extension to existing school at Crossroads Primary School, 157 Drumagarner Road, Kilrea for the Very Rev Father John Cargan PP

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1283/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1283/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer’s report.

Councillor Glasgow left the meeting 7.52 pm.

LA09/2019/1351/F Variation of Condition 4 of LA09/2018/0554/F (completion date for provision of public open space) at site adjacent to NW of 22 Tamnamore Road, Killyman for Corove Developments Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1351/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson enquired about green open space and whether this will ever happen.

Mr Marrion (SPO) advised that on the current planning permission this open space should be provided before houses are occupied. During the development of the houses, construction traffic and machinery is likely to impact on the open space. It is appropriate to wait until the houses are built at the back before providing the open space.

Councillor Glasgow returned to the meeting at 7.53 pm.

In response to Councillor Cuthbertson’s query regarding the timeframe, Mr Marrion (SPO) advised that the condition requires the open space to be provided prior to any of the houses at the back being occupied.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1351/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1367/O Dwelling and domestic garage at site adjacent to 2a Tonaght Road, Draperstown

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in the meeting.

LA09/2018/1282/O Dwelling and garage 110m NE of 4 Tamnymullan Lane, Maghera for Mr Robert Sufferin

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2018/1282/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request to speak in support of the application had been received and invited Councillor Forde to address the committee.

Councillor Forde advised the committee that the farm policy was to be welcomed as it allowed people to build new dwellings on the land. She said the proposed new dwelling was visually linked with an established group of buildings on the farm and was contrary to Policies CTY1 and CTY10 of PPS21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside and said that Mr Sufferin had a fully working farm and was in receipt of farm payment subsidies. She said the laneway was 400m in length and had households belonging to 6 different parties on the stretch of lane, with Mr Sufferin's dwelling being the last one. It has been established that the existing homeowners on the laneway were unwilling to provide easement to Mr Sufferin in this instance and it's a requirement from Mortgage Brokers that a right of way is in place before they can commit to lending the funding required.

Councillor Forde said that it wasn't feasible to build the dwelling where Officers had previously suggested and felt that as other houses were built on this stretch of road, a new site would integrate well with a few modifications and wouldn't be detrimental to the area. She also stated that the junction remained safe as no accidents were recorded.

Councillor Forde advised that Mr Sufferin was a man in his seventies with an agricultural farm and his married son had agreed to take over the daily running of the business, but he required a new site on their own land and asked members to look at this favourably to allow the next generation of Sufferins' to continue their heritage.

The Planning Manager felt that the presentation had missed fundamental reason for refusal which was the road was classed as a protected route where the policy was to keep access to a minimum. He said that this would be in conflict with the Protected Route Policy and would advise that the farmer speak to his neighbours to seek a favourable agreement to access or investigate an alternative site.

The Council Solicitor reminded members that issues relating to mortgages or private matters including private rights of way, were not material considerations and cannot be taken into account by the Committee when making a decision.

Councillor McKinney said that this was a short laneway which had 6 other householders coming out onto this stretch of road and felt getting commitment for a right of way would be like winning the lottery as it would be virtually impossible and would like to see where the other sites were being permitted as the land was quite a size. He said that Mr Sufferin was in his later years and his son was willing to carry on the land and felt that in the past dwellings on farms has been approved when criteria wasn't met which was very unfair.

He said that he finds it hard to believe that this application had been refused as there was a house built across the road from the proposed site within the last two years and the occupants come out onto the same road.

The Planning Manager advised that Protected Routes are law and that the Planning Policy was our guide regardless if a decision had incorrectly approved a dwelling on a different site. He said that planning permission would only be approved if the criteria was met and he referred to PPS21 CTY10 and said that policy stated that a field gate was not an access.

The Planning Manager stated that the Council Solicitor's advice was very accurate and he was concerned that a decision be taken based on rights of access, particularly as in this case there was no evidence to prove or disprove the neighbours had control over rights of access.

The Chair stated that when infrastructure issues within Mid Ulster were looked at, there was a need to keep traffic moving at a reasonable speed and the next instance of a person seeking to build a dwelling on a protected route, members would need to carefully consider this as the advice of TNI has been provided and as we get very little, we need to keep whatever we have and look after it.

Councillor Gildernew said that he had sympathy for the farmer and asked if there was any possibility of getting a right a way through his land.

The Planning Manager said that the best option would be to go back to his neighbours to see what can be achieved or seek an alternative site.

Councillor McPeake said that he had sympathy for the farmer as he knows the road well and felt there was no other road for the access lane.

The Planning Manager said that it was horrific that the neighbours had such little respect for this farmer to not grant him permission for a right of way and felt that there should have been some leeway.

Councillor Black stated that he agreed with members comments regarding having sympathy for the applicant and felt it was unfair that he had a 150-acre farm but couldn't utilise a site. He felt it was unjust that 6 homeowners had access onto the protected route and asked if there was an issue when these sites were previously approved. He enquired if it would be worthwhile deferring the application until further investigations were carried out.

The Planning Manager advised that the application had already been taken away and looked at again and any possible suggestions were rejected by the applicant and we

have to be careful as we are trying to protect the routes properly otherwise, we could leave ourselves open for criticism within Mid Ulster.

Councillor Glasgow said that the Policy was extremely specific and asked if this was the law.

The Planning Manager advised that it was law in so far as protected routes were declared by Order.

Councillor Glasgow said that letters had been received to indicate that permission for a right of way was not permitted on the shared laneway and enquired if there were any exceptions within the Policy that would allow for this dwelling. He also asked if it was shown that letters of objections had been drawn up by legal establishment, could it have an impact on the situation.

The Planning Manager said that the Council Solicitor was correct in her advice that in a case such as this case rights of access were not material.

Councillor Glasgow enquired if there were any exceptions within the Policy when all other avenues have been exhausted.

The Planning Manager advised that the Policy was clear.

Councillor Black referred to his previous comments and said that it was worth investigating again as it was unfair that the applicant didn't have the same right as the others which built on land and came out onto the protected route.

The Planning Manager said he did not want to give the applicant the false impression that the application as stood was in his view a non-runner and we have regularly given the same outcome to others in the same position.

The Chair said that he would be happy to accept the officer recommendation to refuse the application.

Councillor McKinney sought a deferral so he could go and investigate for himself the proposed area where the dwelling was to be situated. He said that he wanted to be confident that there were no other mitigating circumstances why this dwelling couldn't be approved as he was aware of a house being built not far away from Mr Sufferin's land within the last few years.

The Planning Manager said that he only provides members with advice and guidance, but it was up to them to make the decision. He advised that the information on the other house was very vague, and before he instructed Officers to explore further could he be given further details.

Councillor McKinney said that under no circumstances was he undermining the advice and guidance from the Planning Manager but would be content if he could investigate for himself the situation at the proposed site.

Councillor Black said that he would be happy to second Councillor McKinney's proposal of deferring the application as he felt that the Policy needed to be applied fairly to all on the Protected Route.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/1282/O be deferred until additional information on other approvals in the area is forthcoming.

LA09/2019/0408/F Dwelling and garage approx. 50m SE of 25 Longfield Lane, Desertmartin

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0408/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0408/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor McKinney left the meeting at 8.25 pm.

Councillor Bell left the meeting at 8.26 pm.

Councillor Quinn left the meeting at 8.27 pm.

P005/20 Report on consultation from DfC, Historic Environment Division on consideration to List a Lodge at Benburb Bridge.

The Planning Manager presented previously circulated report to provide members with background and draft response to a consultation by Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division (DfC, HED) regarding their consideration a list of Gate Lodge at 180 Maydown Road, Benburb, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.

The Chair advised that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Councillor B McGuigan to address the committee.

Councillor B McGuigan said that he had been contacted by an agent regarding the live application which has now been triggered by DfC and HED for listing. He said that the agent has raised concern as the landowner was not notified about the building coming forward for listing before the application was submitted.

Councillor Bell returned to the meeting at 8.29 pm.

Councillor Quinn returned to the meeting at 8.30 pm.

The Planning Manager said that it was up to the HED to consult with the landowner. He said that to some degree it was not the Council's decision and we could remain neutral.

Councillor Cuthbertson felt that a response should not be send as the timeframe will pass.

The Planning Manager said if the Council doesn't want to become involved, we could write back advising that we are aware of the situation but make no commitment.

In response to a query from Councillor B McGuigan, the Planning Manager agreed that it would be up to the agent to liaise with HED as the Council should be seen to remain neutral.

Councillor Gildernew said that it was strange that this has only arisen now. He said that the land was part of Benburb Priory and was a small cottage at the side of the road which was previously used as a dwelling house and in later years a family purchased it and obviously wanted to make changes. He aired on the side of caution and felt that the Council shouldn't get involved in this.

The Council Solicitor said that the Committee needed to look at this situation objectively, assess the information based on relevant criteria and decide what response should issue. She said that the Council is a consultee and should not be seen to be the decision-maker or advocating on any other party's behalf in relation to the matter.

The Chair said that this needs to be carefully considered in the event of the application being submitted in the future and he would suggest writing back to the Department advising that the Council would not be making a decision until a planning application was submitted and that no comments were to be made at this time.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved To note the consultation and advise that the council had no comment on the proposed listing.

Matters for Information

P006/20 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 3 December 2019

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 3 December 2019.

P007/20 Receive Report on Correspondence from DfI – Former William Clark and Sons Linen Mill Complex at Upperlands, Maghera

Members noted previously circulated report on Correspondence from Department of Infrastructure regarding Planning Applications (H/2009/0246/O, H/2009/0270/F & H/2009/0271/LB) at the Former William Clark and Sons Linen Mill Complex at Upperlands, Maghera.

Councillor S McPeake said that he was concerned about the quantitative of housing at Upperlands and the determination of the development plan. He stated that this item was brought before Planning Committee in September 2019 and advised at the time although

he wasn't against the proposal, he felt that the housing spread needed to be more equal and not up to 200 houses in a small area. He said that in Swatragh only 7 to 10 houses were proposed which makes a folly out of the whole process.

The Planning Manager said that he was conscious that Upperlands was afforded the opportunity for 200 houses but would be curious about where the people were going to come from to occupy these dwellings and felt that there could be flaws in the Department's.

Councillor Colvin said that in his opinion a decision could have been made and very unprofessional to pass it over to the PAC to make the decision.

Councillor S McPeake suggested that a response to the letter should be submitted expressing this Council's grave concerns regarding the matter.

The Planning Manager said Mid Ulster District Council was looking for some clear transparency and felt that this may be the best route to proceed down.

Councillor Bell enquired about the proper process being carried out in other Council areas and felt that if the same scenario was happening in Belfast or elsewhere, there would be an uproar.

Councillor S McPeake said that local area plans should be guided by local needs and felt that there was no thought put into this issue.

The Council Solicitor enquired if they were avoiding answering the issue and if at any point this type of situation would feature as part of the representations/ counter-representations in the Plan process.

The Planning Manager advised that the Department had objected to the allocations in Mid Ulster District Council's Draft plan strategy. He also noted that no equality impact assessment had been undertaken.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he was aware of another small village of having 100 to 150 houses being due to be built with no amenities.

The Planning Manager said that he had read the letter and felt that one page contradicted the other.

Councillor S McPeake suggested writing back to the Department expressing this Council's disappointment on not being availed of a response back but hearing about the plans from an MP from another area.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That the Planning Manager write back to DfI expressing the Council's disappointment at the lack of response regarding previous concerns raised.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items P008/20 to P011/20.

Matters for Information

P008/20 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on
3 December 2020
P009/20 Enforcement Cases Opened
P010/20 Enforcement Cases Closed
P011/20 Miscellaneous Matters

P012/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded 9 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 9 January 2020 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Colvin, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake, Molloy, Quinn, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Head of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm.

PR001/20 Apologies

Councillor McLean.

PR002/20 Declaration of Interest

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

Councillors McFlynn, McKinney, McPeake and Molloy declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 – Update on appointment process of Independent Members to Mid Ulster PCSP.

PR003/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed Members and Officers to the first Policy and Resources meeting of 2020 and wished all a Happy New Year.

Councillor McKinney stated that on 13 January the law would change with regard to marriage equality and asked if Council had made any provision for those of faith who did not want to conduct same sex marriage ceremonies.

The Director of Organisational Development stated that guidance had been issued in relation to this from NIO at the beginning of the week which stated that the regulations do not provide religious protection for registrars in Northern Ireland not to carry out same-sex marriages and it would be discriminatory if someone did not want to perform such duties.

Councillor McKinney asked if there was an opportunity to react and respond to this guidance.

The Director of Organisational Development stated that Council would have to follow the guidance directed to it.

Councillor Colvin stated that the law change would not only effect Christians but those of other faiths as well and it was his understanding that there were some protections in the UK. The Councillor felt that the advice being given to Council was dismissive.

The Director of Organisational Development confirmed that there was no protection for registrars in the UK.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy suggested that Members be provided with the guidance in written form.

Councillor McKinney stated that it appeared that there was no protection for people with faith.

The Director of Organisational Development stated that the guidance stated that those acting for a public authority (an employee) should not be able to discriminate on the matter.

Councillor McKinney stated that for those who have been employed in post for years this change in legislation would alter the terms of their contract.

The Director of Organisational Development confirmed that this change in duties does not alter a contract of employment.

Councillor McPeake felt that to deviate from the guidance which had been issued would leave Council in a dangerous position. The Councillor also felt that the guidance being provided offered protection for staff.

The Director of Organisational Development stated that civil partnerships had been in place from 2005 and that there had been no issues or complaints raised from staff in relation to these ceremonies.

Councillor McKinney stated that staff are concerned of the consequences of raising a concern and that those of faith are being persecuted. The Councillor stated that staff do not have the option to opt in or out and asked if an employee would have to leave their job if they refused to conduct a ceremony.

The Director of Organisational Development stated that the situation had not arisen to date.

Councillor McKinney asked if all staff had been involved in civil partnership ceremonies.

The Director of Organisational Development stated that as far as she was aware all staff had performed civil partnerships.

Councillor Quinn stated that it appeared that civil partnerships had been conducted for a number of years without issue. The Councillor referred to legislation being drawn up and ongoing consultations.

The Director of Organisational Development stated that the guidance does not provide for exceptions.

Councillor McKinney stated that no Churches will be expected to conduct these ceremonies and he did not know why individuals could not be offered an exemption.

Matters for Decision

PR004/20 Revised Mid Ulster District Council Media Protocol

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which outlined proposed revisions to the Council's Media Protocol.

In response to question from Councillor S McGuigan the Head of Marketing and Communications advised that Committee Chairs will act as official spokespersons and that it will only be on a very rare occasion that an officer will be required to undertake an interview.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to adopt the revised Media Protocol for Council as set out at appendix to report.

PR005/20 Working Group on Outside Bodies – Report of Meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2019

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which provided report of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies held on 5 December 2019.

The Chief Executive advised that the group will meet again and that a final report with recommendations will be brought forward in due course.

Councillor S McPeake felt it was important for Council to be able to nominate to A5/N2 Cross Border Group.

In response to question from Councillor McKinney the Chief Executive stated that Members would be advised of the date for the next meeting of the working group.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies held on Thursday 5 December 2019.

PR006/20 Response to Consultation on the Disability Action Plan of The Executive Office (TEO)

Members considered previously circulated report which provided draft response to the Executive Office consultation on its Disability Action Plan 2020-2025.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve for submission the draft response on The Executive Office Draft Disability Action Plan as set out at Appendix A to report.

PR007/20 Members Services

The Chair, Councillor Molloy referred to corporate branding and suggested that Council look at providing a branded umbrella.

The Chief Executive stated that there were some branded umbrellas in stock and that Democratic Services would make contact with Members to ascertain who wanted one.

Matters for Information

PR008/20 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2019

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2019.

PR009/20 Performance Improvement – Local Government Auditor’s Audit and Assessment (Section 95) Report 2019-20

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the key findings of the Local Government Auditor’s Audit and Assessment Report 2019-20.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Totten and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items PR010/20 to PR024/20.

Matters for Decision

- PR010/20 Verbal Briefing from the Director of Environment and Property on the Council's Contract for the Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclates
- PR011/20 Aughnacloy Changing Rooms Relocation – Capital Project
- PR012/20 Legal Matter for Decision
- PR013/20 Staff Recruitment, Dark Sky Park and Observatory
- PR014/20 Pay, Grading and Harmonisation Review within Leisure Services
- PR015/20 Update on Appointment Process of Independent Members to Mid Ulster PCSP
- PR016/20 IT system contract extensions for Public Health and Email/Archival Systems
- PR017/20 Former High School Site, Maghera
- PR018/20 2020/21 Rates Estimates

Matters for Information

- PR019/20 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2019
- PR020/20 Staff Matters for Information
- PR021/20 Managing Attendance
- PR022/20 Contracts and DAC
- PR023/20 Financial Report for 8 months ended 30 November 2019
- PR024/20 Building Control Staff Location

PR025/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and concluded at 8.33 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present

Councillor Buchanan, Chair

Councillors Brown, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, McAleer,
McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan,
McNamee, Milne, O'Neill, Totten, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Breslin, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

The Chair welcomed all members to the committee and wished them all a Happy New Year.

E001/20 Apologies

Councillor Burton and Graham.

E002/20 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in Capital Projects Update – Knockmany Forest.

E003/20 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that a number of issues were requested to be raised under Chair's Business and invited them to address the committee.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised members that the Public Health Agency had granted funding towards ongoing work around Age Friendly Communities and Network across Mid Ulster Area to promote healthy and active lifestyles for all ages.

He also advised members that an Intergenerational Event was due to take place on Thursday 16th January 2020 in the Dungannon Council Offices and is available for anyone wishing to attend.

Councillor McGinley referred to Motion passed by Council on 26th September 2019 regarding Protect Life 2 suicide prevention Strategy. He said that a delegation from Mid Ulster District Council including the Head of Environmental Health, the Chair, Councillor Kearney, Councillor Colvin and himself, (apology from Councillor Burton) had met with Dr Michael McBride which was a great meeting and the group had been very well received.

He said that after the meeting, the three Councillors which attended agreed that positive action should come out of the meeting and work towards this and felt that it should be put through the structure of the Council and suggesting a briefing paper be brought to the next Committee /Council meeting on commitment to the Public Health Agency Strategy.

He suggested that the following be investigated for Council to contribute to the Protect Life 2 Strategy:

- A regional meeting being held every quarter organised through Environmental Health Department on suicide prevention.
- Adequate training for Councillors and Council Staff on suicide prevention
- Looking at terminology on what to use and collectives of the ripple effect
- Exploring a Council Charter for Mid Ulster District Council on suicide prevention
- Looking at establishing a Directory of Services for Mid Ulster District Council that wasn't Trust area specific. He said that it would be useful to have a print and digital version available also
- Work with Public Health Agency to consider options to assist Council representation at Project Life Implementation Groups.

He said that the delegation of Councillors which attended the meeting on the day were adamant that a commitment should be made, and a high-level briefing paper drawn up for the next Council meeting.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that there could be an issue drawing up the briefing paper at such short notice due to the early submission of Council papers and staffing matters.

Councillor McGinley said that he was aware of the short timescale but that the Regional Steering Group would be meeting in early February and this needed to be brought to Council for agreement this month otherwise it wouldn't be signed off.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a briefing paper be brought to the Council meeting on matters raised.

Councillor Wilson said that over the Christmas period he was contacted by members of the public regarding issues relating to skips in Cookstown. He said that when bins are full, there is nothing in Cookstown Amenity Site to empty bins automatically, resulting in the gentleman losing his bin and unable to retrieve it. He said that he was aware of automatic bin facilities in Drumcoo and Coalisland Amenity Sites and asked if this could be investigated for Cookstown also.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the amenity sites in Drumcoo and Coalisland had waste compactors and that he would investigate options for the same facility in Cookstown.

The Director of Environment and Property said that this could be easily solved and an asset for Cookstown.

Matters for Decision

E004/20 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed 40 MPH Speed Limit on Farlough Road and Derryvale Road, Newmills

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval in relation to proposals from DfI Roads to introduce measures to enhance the safety and development of the transport network with a range of transport proposals.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by DfI Roads for Proposed 40 MPH Speed Limit on Farlough Road and Derryvale Road, Newmills.

E005/20 DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval in relation to proposals from DfI Roads to introduce measures to enhance the safety and development of the transport network with a range of transport proposals.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by DfI Roads for Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown.

E006/20 Recycling Collaborative Change Capital Funding

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report to update members on the outcome of a capital funding project/application submitted by DAERA under the Recycling Collaborative Change Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the delivery of a (funded) capital project to extend and refurbish Magherafelt Recycling Centre and to note the contents of the report.

The Director of Environment and Property advised members that as this scheme was going to be done in parts, there was a need for this to be carefully managed and alternative provision made.

The Chair commended Environmental Services team on their commitment to the scheme.

E007/20 Environmental Services Proposed Scale of Charges for 2020/21

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report and sought approval for a proposed scale of charges in relation to Environmental Services for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Councillor B McGuigan referred to residual waste and enquired if there had been an increase in cost per tonne.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that this was the most expensive waste to dispose off as there is more work involved to try and break it up.

Councillor B McGuigan said that the general public doesn't realise the work that the Council is doing regarding waste and felt that educating people should continue.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed scale of charges as outlined for 2020/21.

E008/20 Cemetery Administration and Management Update

The Head of Property Services presented previously circulated report and sought approval on the updated Draft Council's administration of burials in relation to Cemetery Management including Rules, Regulations and Memorial Safety.

Councillor McNamee referred to item 3.3 of the Policy and raised concern about the erection of headstones after six months.

Councillor McNamee said that families had contacted him in a distressed stage unable to erect a headstone after six months due to financial issues and drainage issues in certain areas within Cookstown cemetery. He felt that wooden crosses should be erected by the undertaker to mark the grave in the interim and extend the scheme to 12 months.

Councillor McGinley referred to item 3.1 (b) said that he agreed with "All religions and none" being included in the draft assessment.

Councillor Glasgow said the Rural Impact Assessment does not consider the needs of the rural community when interment is due to take place as there was issues with Church times and travelling to the cemetery to try and make it on time before the gates are closed at 3 pm.

The Head of Property Services said there was a need to capture those who use the cemetery and Officers would be looking at current patterns as a way to proceed as there wasn't a significant number effected.

Councillor Glasgow stated that he disputed this and said as a member of Orritor Church there was quite a number who use Cookstown cemetery and would rarely go elsewhere for interment, unless on the odd occasion Kildress is used. He said that a funeral should be a place of respect and if a cortege has to hurry down a road from Orritor in a rush to try and get to the cemetery before the gates were locked was shocking. He said that he was also disgusted that his rural Church in Orritor wasn't consulted on the matter.

The Head of Property Services advised that he would follow up the issue to see if Orritor was included.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if accommodation was made for persons of a particular religion which had certain traditions if notices were given.

The Chair felt as the funeral cortege was expected at the cemetery, it wouldn't be turned away.

Councillor McNamee said that he would be content if the six-month deadline for erection of headstone be extended to 12 months and also look at the implementation of wooden crosses as a grave mark.

Councillor Milne enquired if headstones were a requirement for the look of the cemetery.

The Head of Property Services stated that a non-perishable headstone would create a tidy environment as a wooden cross would deteriorate and become withered.

Councillor Cuthbertson agreed with the Head of Property Services and said that some rule was needed and said it was irrelevant to him whether it was for six months or 12 months.

Councillor Milne enquired why a wooden structure couldn't be considered as a permanent marker for the grave.

The Director of Environment and Property Services advised that it wasn't a solid fixture and would fall over and deteriorate.

Councillor Milne referred to someone who hadn't got anyone belonging to them and asked if this would remain as an unmarked grave.

The Director of Environment and Property Services advised that there was a high number of unmarked graves which remained the remit of the deedholder of the grave.

Councillor McNamee said that there was a need to investigate the cross being a permanent marker for the grave.

Councillor Milne suggested that it may be a worthwhile investigating the use of plastic crosses as a way of a compromise.

The Director of Environment and Property said if approved the issue of the permanency of a wooden cross could be extended to 12 months and then reviewed after this date.

Councillor B McGuigan enquired about the mapping out of people and graves.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that modern cemeteries display a map of graves but that older historical graveyards don't have the facility.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure suggested that a plaque could be installed onto a plinth which would keep the grave tidy and display a mark on the grave.

Councillor Glasgow said that he had no issue with what was being said about the wooden cross as a marker, but he felt that the Rural Needs Assessment needs looked at again as his Church in Orritor wasn't consulted. He said that he doesn't see why a rural Church should be disadvantaged in this way and deem what is a reasonable timeframe and distance.

The Director of Environment and Property said that any funeral booked for buried would not be turned away if the cortege didn't arrive as expected.

Councillor Glasgow said he wished for the previous comment by the Director of Environment and Property to be recorded.

Councillor Wilson referred to the rule brought in by Cookstown cemetery that flowers/floral wreaths and holly wreaths to be removed after six months which caused some people some distress. He said they had worked with the people and reached a compromise. He raised concern about some people taking things too far and referred to a grave which had sleepers installed which was very dangerous as people could fall over them in the dark and said there was a need to follow rules but felt that the assessment was good pending the amendments.

The Councillor McNamee said that consideration should be given to wooden crosses becoming a permanent fixture.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure said that the wooden crosses would be reviewed after 12 months with the greatest respect shown.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

6 – Environment Committee (14.02.20)

Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the contents of the draft document with the included amendments to review the timeframe for erection of headstone from six months to twelve months and then reviewed thereafter and flexibility on closing time of cemeteries to allow burials to take place.

E009/20 Council Representation on Outside Bodies – Sustainable NI All Party Working Group on Climate Change

The Director of Environment and Property declared an interest in Sustainable NI as he was a member.

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report and sought approval to appoint two nominees to the Sustainable NI *All Party Working Group on Climate Change*.

He said that this was to be progressed through Environment Committee using Council d'Hondt calculation in the order:

SF	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP
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Councillor McNamee advised that Sinn Fein would make a nomination in due course.

Councillor Brown advised that DUP would also nominate in due course.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to appoint two Members to the Sustainable NI Working Group on Climate Change on Council d'Hondt calculation in the order as set above. Nominations to be received from Sinn Fein and DUP in due course.

E010/20 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report to ask for consideration regarding the naming of streets within proposed residential developments as follows:

- Site of Torrent Valley, Coalisland

The proposed following options have been submitted for consideration:

- 1) Torrent Close
- 2) Torrent Heights

Proposed by Councillor O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with Option 1 – Torrent Close.

- Site off Larden Meadow, Donaghmore

The proposed following options have been submitted for consideration:

Street 1

- 1) Larden Lane
- 2) Larden Close

Street 2

- 1) Larden Place
- 2) Larden Grove

Street 3

- 1) Larden Gardens
- 2) Larden Walk

Street 4

- 1) Larden Vale
- 2) Larden Avenue

Street 5

- 1) Larden Court
- 2) Larden Mews

Proposed by S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with:

- i) Street 1 – Larden Lane
- ii) Street 2 – Larden Place
- iii) Street 3 – Larden Gardens
- iv) Street 4 – Larden Vale
- v) Street 5 – Larden Court

Matters for Information

E011/20 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 2 December 2019

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 2 December 2019.

E012/20 NIEA Waste Statistics and NILAS Annual Reports 2018/19

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on NIEA Waste Statistics and NILAS Annual Report 2018/19.

E013/20 Building Control Workload January 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E014/20 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E015/20 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

E016/20 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests.

E017/20 Live Here Love Her, Small Grants Scheme, Information Session – Mid Ulster District Council Area

Members noted previously circulated report which updated members of the Live Here Love Her, Small Grants Scheme, Information Session – Mid Ulster District Council area on Thursday 5th March 2020, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm in the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown.

E018/20 Food Sampling Rationale for Mid Ulster District Council

Members noted previously circulated report which informed members about the Food Sampling Rationale used to assist Officers from the Environmental Health Department when undertaking food sampling.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan

Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E019/20 to E024/20.

Matters for Decision

E019/20 Forthill Cemetery Burial Space Development

E020/20 Tender report for appointment of a supplier to provide HGV and Small Plant Lifts

Matters for Information

E021/20 Confidential Minute of Environment Committee held on 2 December 2019

E022/20 Disposal/Sale of Assets – Fleet and Plant

E023/20 Fleet Operator Licence Update

E024/20 Capital Projects Update

E025/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.55 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Mid Ulster District Council:
Matters Resolved by Committee
Open Business

Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 14 January 2020

The following provides those matters resolved by the above named Committee as decisions to be considered for approval at the next meeting of Mid Ulster District Council.

Minute Ref	Matters Resolved by Committee
E003/20	Chair's Business Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a briefing paper be brought to the Council meeting on comments raised relating to the progression of Protect Life 2 Strategy.
E004/20	DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed 40 MPH Speed Limit on Farlough Road and Derryvale Road, Newmills Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by DfI Roads for Proposed 40 MPH Speed Limit on Farlough Road and Derryvale Road, Newmills.
E005/20	DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by DfI Roads for Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown.
E006/20	Recycling Collaborative Change Capital Funding Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the delivery of a (funded) capital project to extend and refurbish Magherafelt Recycling Centre and to note the contents of the report.

E007/20	<p>Environmental Services Proposed Scale of Charges for 2020/21</p> <p>Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed scale of charges as outlined for 2020/21.</p>
E008/20	<p>Cemetery Administration and Management Update</p> <p>Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the contents of the draft document with the included amendments to review the timeframe for erection of headstone from six months to twelve months and then review thereafter and flexibility on closing time of cemeteries to allow burials to take place.</p>
E009/20	<p>Council Representation on Outside Bodies – Sustainable NI All Party Working Group on Climate Change</p> <p>Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to appoint two Members to the Sustainable NI Working Group on Climate Change on Council d'Hondt calculation in the order as set above. Nominations to be received from Sinn Fein and DUP in due course.</p>
E010/20	<p>Street Naming and Property Numbering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site of Torrent Valley, Coalisland <p>Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with Option 1 - Torrent Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site off Larden Meadow, Donaghmore <p>The proposed following options have been submitted for consideration:</p>

	<p>Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Street 1 – Larden Lane ii) Street 2 – Larden Place iii) Street 3 – Larden Gardens iv) Street 4 – Larden Vale v) Street 5 – Larden Court
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Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 16 January 2020 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor Wilson, Chair Councillors Ashton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy, Elattar, Kerr, McNamee, Milne, Molloy, Monteith
Officers in Attendance	Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Agenda Item 4 – Social Enterprise NI Mr Arthurs and Ms Johnston

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D001/20 Apologies

Councillors Black, Burton, Doris, Hughes and Kearney.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson extended the committee's sympathies to Councillor Black on the recent death of his grandmother. The Chair also sent the best wishes of the committee to Councillor Burton who is ill.

D002/20 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Fianna.

D003/20 Chair's Business

None.

D004/20 Deputation – Social Enterprise NI

The Chair, Councillor Wilson welcomed representatives from Social Enterprise NI and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Arthurs outlined the mission and vision of Social Enterprise NI and provided an update on their activity to date. Ms Johnston set out the economic contribution of

Social Enterprise, the Social Enterprise business sector share, how Social Enterprise can help in the community and the barriers and enablers to their success.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the social enterprise sector and that statistics show this sector has doubled in the last 5 years and asked how this increase has come about.

Ms Johnston stated that social enterprise has become more popular in recent years and that there are a number of businesses that may previously have been a charity or are a charity with a trading arm who have felt that the best way for them to succeed is to have a business which is supporting social need.

Councillor Cuddy asked if it was felt this sector would continue to increase.

Ms Johnston stated she believed that the social enterprise sector would continue to increase and that Social Enterprise NI would like to conduct bi-annual surveys in this regard.

Councillor Kerr referred to Coalisland Credit Union which has won Credit Union of the year for the second year running and stated that this Credit Union does go above and beyond in the community.

Ms Johnston agreed with Councillor Kerr and stated that Coalisland Credit Union does have some unique ideas which Social Enterprise NI are keen to work with them on. Ms Johnston stated that Social Enterprise NI want to expand their work into more rural areas and that they would welcome referrals through Council.

Mr Arthurs advised that a business referred through Council would get one year free membership with Social Enterprise NI.

Councillor Corry asked how many businesses in Mid Ulster were registered with Social Enterprise NI.

Ms Johnston advised that most of their membership was in the larger towns and cities and that there were approximately half a dozen businesses in Mid Ulster that are registered with Social Enterprise NI.

Mr Arthurs advised of the Social Enterprise NI conference taking place on 5 March and stated that two free spaces were being offered to each Council. Mr Arthurs stated that the details of the conference would be forwarded to Council.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked Mr Arthurs and Ms Johnston for their attendance and presentation following which the representatives withdrew from the meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that Social Enterprise NI seemed to be a good organisation and that Council should provide assistance where possible.

Matters for Decision

D005/20 Economic Development for Decision

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on key activities as detailed below -

- **Prince's Trust Proposal 2020/21**

Councillor Ashton suggested that in addition to the recommendation, that Council provide the contact details of local enterprise centres to the Prince's Trust.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- (I) To decline the request from the Prince's Trust, as the Economic Development budget is already committed for next year 2020/21, with priority being placed on funding Council's five new business programmes and the district wide Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme.
- (II) To provide the Prince's Trust with contact details of local enterprise centres.

- **Orchardville Proposal 2020/21**

In response to question from Councillor Kerr, he was advised that Orchardville do not currently have a presence in Mid Ulster.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to decline the Orchardville funding request as Council's budget to fund projects of this nature is already committed to supporting a number of other local ESF projects until 2022, which assist individuals to re-engage with the labour market. It is further recommended that Orchardville be directed to:

- i. Make an application to Council's new Social Enterprise Programme when it opens to applications in Spring 2020 to seek assistance to help their organisation investigate other avenues of funding and methods whereby the company could become more self-sustaining.
- ii. Liaise with the Project Lead on Mid Ulster's Community Planning Health & Wellbeing Group with a view to making representation to this Group about their work.

- **Irish Central Border Area Network**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the release of the 2nd (and final) 50% payment of £6,250 for 2019/20 to ICBAN.

D006/20 Community Development Report

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

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

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations (£2,700) and Local Community Festivals (£2275) as per grant recommendations at Appendix 1 of report.

- **Community Development**

Members noted the Community Development update.

- **Community Planning Social Housing Working Group**

Members noted update on the Community Planning Social Housing Working Group.

D007/20 Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report which sought approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the call for Expressions of Interest to be issued inviting submissions from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020.

D008/20 Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought agreement for a Service Level Agreement between Council and Lough Neagh Rescue covering the period April 2019 to March 2020.

Councillor Kerr suggested that Lough Neagh Rescue be invited to provide presentation to Committee.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised that Lough Neagh Rescue had recently made a presentation to the Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Service Level Agreement between Council and Lough Neagh Rescue for the period April 2019 to March 2020 and that Council provides funding of £6,000.

D009/20 Recommendations on allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants (Re-advertised)

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which advised on the advertised Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants as set out at appendix to report.

D010/20 Sports Representative Grants

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which sought approval for proposed Sports Representative Grants.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree Sports Representative Grants as set out at appendix to report.

Matters for Information

D011/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 December 2019

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 December 2019.

Councillor Kerr asked if there was an update on the Cappagh issues.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that there had been a meeting before Christmas and from this there was a commitment to meet with Forest Service and Water Service. The Director advised that officers have met with Forest Service and the meeting with Water Service has been arranged, the Director further advised that officers will also need to meet with colleagues from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as part of the forest is in their area.

Councillor Corry referred to the workshop on domestic violence and asked if there was a date for this to be held.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the event would be organised but a date had yet to be confirmed.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson suggested that dates for the workshop be brought to the January Council meeting.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the recent meeting in relation to Castlehill and that following this meeting it had been agreed that some broad concept proposals would be brought forward. The Councillor stated that there was no paper on the matter this month and asked for an update.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that officers were working on a paper and it was hoped that this would be ready for next month's committee meeting.

Councillor Monteith stated it was disappointing that there was no paper this month and that it was important to build on the momentum of the previous meeting. Councillor Monteith felt that a meeting with Water Service would also be beneficial.

Councillor Cuddy agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments.

D012/20 Economic Development For Information

The Chair, Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the launch of Mid Ulster's new suite of Business Programmes.

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on matters related to Caledon Regeneration Partnership, NI Apprenticeship Week and the launch of Mid Ulster's new suite of Business Programmes.

The Head of Economic Development advised that further to the report the launch of the new suite of business programmes may have to be delayed to a later date.

In respect of Caledon Regeneration Partnership Wool Store Project Councillor Ashton asked when the Capital Discretionary Grants would close and when this project could move forward.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the application from Caledon Regeneration Partnership had been received and is pending the estimate process. The Director advised that the three grants available for 2019/20 have been allocated and the process has commenced for this year and that Caledon Regeneration Partnership would seem to be the most advanced recipient for the 2020/21 allocation.

D013/20 Halloween and Christmas Events Overview 2019

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the successful Halloween and Christmas events delivered throughout October to December across the District.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson commended staff on the recent events held. Councillor Wilson stated that the Chair of Council, Councillor Kearney had also asked him to pass on his thanks to staff for the organisation of the events.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that any of the events he had attended were very good and asked if it was possible to get an idea on how much Council spent on each event compared to the number of people that attended.

The Head of Tourism advised that this is something officers look at after an event, he stated that some events are easier to gauge than others and that counters and cctv are used. The Head of Tourism stated that the formula to calculate was simple enough however it did need to be used with caution.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that numbers can become skewed and used the Burnavon as an example in which someone coming in to use the toilet in the building is counted as a visitor.

Councillor Kerr referred to the suggestion of the Christmas Light Switch On in Coalisland being moved from a Sunday to a Friday night and that officers should engage with businesses and the community in the town on their opinion on this before coming to a decision.

The Head of Tourism advised that officers are engaging with businesses and communities in Coalisland at the moment in relation to the Christmas Lights Switch On.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that officers appreciated the positive comments of Members and advised that Council organises twelve civic events per year for a total cost of £120,000 which he felt represented good value for money. The Director advised that officers would like to improve on the events year on year but that this tends to increase the overall cost of the event. It was advised that officers will try to find monies within existing budgets this year but that additional monies may be required in future years.

Councillor Monteith stated that he had also received good feedback from those attending recent Council events and asked if Council had spoken with businesses within towns to get a feeling on what their experiences have been over the Christmas period. Councillor Monteith felt it is incumbent on Council to engage with these businesses.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that town centre forums would be able to engage with businesses and provide a report back.

Councillor Milne referred to the amount of organisation which goes into events and that, particularly in rural areas, a lot of voluntary work is needed. Councillor Milne commended this voluntary work.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor Milne's remarks and stated that some events do rely on a lot of goodwill and that everyone who gives of their time should be congratulated.

D014/20 Report on Tourism Groups Mid Ulster - 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of progress made through the tourism teams work at trade shows and exhibitions in 2019.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the tourism team does do a lot of good work but that the tourism industry was something this Council needed to work on and that more momentum was needed in this area. Councillor Cuddy referred to Northern Ireland Tourism Board annual figures and that Council should measure itself against these and seek a 5% annual year on year improvement.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson suggested that as Councillor Cuddy was on the Tourism Group that he bring his suggestion forward through this forum.

Councillor Milne left the meeting at 7.37 pm.

Councillor Kerr asked if there was going to be a more localised effort in relation to tourism.

The Head of Tourism referred to the 'Embrace the Giant Spirit' brand being promoted by Northern Ireland Tourism and that officers are currently looking at putting together three experiences within the Mid Ulster area under this brand, namely – Sheepdogs at Work, Stars and Stones at Davagh and Seamus Heaney HomePlace. The Head of Tourism advised that officers will market the experiences as much as possible and that tourists will be able to build experiences into an itinerary.

Councillor Clarke referred to the proposed motorsport track in Coalisland which would have been a game changer for tourism in the area but that now looked as if it would not come to fruition.

Councillor Kerr stated that more investment should have been made in Coalisland Canal.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D015/20 to D022/20.

Matters for Decision

D015/20	Faber & Faber Licencing Agreement
D016/20	Caravan Tariffs 2020/2021
D017/20	Tariffs and opening hours for the Dark Sky Park & Observatory 2020 / 2021
D018/20	Catering Contract Davagh Dark Skies Park

Matters for Information

- D019/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 December 2019
- D020/20 Update on Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open Ground Project
- D021/20 Maghera High School Site
- D022/20 Women's Aid

D023/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 7.55 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Mid Ulster District Council:
Matters Resolved by Committee

Committee: Development Committee

Date: 16 January 2020

The following provides those matters resolved by the above named Committee as decisions to be considered for approval at the next meeting of Mid Ulster District Council.

Minute Ref	Matters Resolved by Committee
D005/20	<p>Economic Development for Decision</p> <p>Prince's Trust Proposal 2020/21 That it be recommended to Council –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) To decline the request from the Prince's Trust, as the Economic Development budget is already committed for next year 2020/21, with priority being placed on funding Council's five new business programmes and the district wide Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme. (II) To provide the Prince's Trust with contact details of local enterprise centres. <p>Orchardville Proposal 2020/21 That it be recommended to Council to decline the Orchardville funding request as Council's budget to fund projects of this nature is already committed to supporting a number of other local ESF projects until 2022, which assist individuals to re-engage with the labour market. It is further recommended that Orchardville be directed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Make an application to Council's new Social Enterprise Programme when it opens to applications in Spring 2020 to seek assistance to help their organisation investigate other avenues of funding and methods whereby the company could become more self-sustaining. ii. Liaise with the Project Lead on Mid Ulster's Community Planning Health & Wellbeing Group with a view to making representation to this Group about their work. <p>Irish Central Border Area Network That it be recommended to Council to approve the release of the 2nd (and final) 50% payment of £6,250 for 2019/20 to ICBAN.</p>

D006/20	<p>Community Development Report</p> <p>Rolling Grants Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals That it be recommended to Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations (£2,700) and Local Community Festivals (£2275) as per grant recommendations at Appendix 1 of report.</p> <p>Community Development Members noted the Community Development update.</p> <p>Community Planning Social Housing Working Group Members noted update on the Community Planning Social Housing Working Group.</p>
D007/20	<p>Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020</p> <p>That it be recommended to Council to approve the call for Expressions of Interest to be issued inviting submissions from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020.</p>
D008/20	<p>Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement</p> <p>That it be recommended to Council to approve the Service Level Agreement between Council and Lough Neagh Rescue for the period April 2019 to March 2020 and that Council provides funding of £6,000.</p>
D009/20	<p>Recommendations on allocation of Schools’ Sports Facilities Access Grants (Re-advertised)</p> <p>That it be recommended to Council to agree the Schools’ Sports Facilities Access Grants as set out at appendix to report.</p>
D010/20	<p>Sports Representative Grants</p> <p>That it be recommended to Council to agree Sports Representative Grants as set out at appendix to report.</p>

Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	23 January 2020
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
2.0	Background
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2019-20 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members There are occasions when it is beneficial to Members to attend training, conferences and seminars to better equip them in their role as elected representatives. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix A to this report is sought.
3.2	Officer Approvals There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2019/20 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member

	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A Member Conferences, Seminars & Training Appendix B Officers Approvals

Appendix A

Member Training

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests

Conferences

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
National Association of Councillors	24th-26th January 2020	The Ripon Spa Best Western Hotel, Ripon (North Yorkshire)	Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan, County, Unitary, Borough & District Councils plus travel and subsistence	
31st Colmcille Winter School 2020	28 and 29 th February 2020	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Co. Donegal	€130 per delegate plus travel, accommodation and subsistence	



15/12/2019

Environment / Climate Change.

The Ripon Spa Best Western Hotel, Ripon
(North Yorkshire)
24th-26th January 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to invite you to our Conference at The Ripon Spa Hotel. The venue has great facilities it is located a few minutes walk from Ripon town centre and comes well recommended.

As the new government has promised to reduce carbon emissions throughout the United Kingdom we all strive to reduce damage to the Environment in various ways. Local Authorities are driving ahead with innovative projects both to protect the environment and give good value for money schemes to the public.

This weekend we will have a range of speakers who are heavily involved in award winning schemes. We will be discussing how they are working and what the practicalities are including the political advantages.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions to all of the speakers. The conference will be of use to members from all local authorities including members of police and fire committees.

To book your places at this important Conference please complete the form attached and return it to me by email or post.

Yours Faithfully

B. Nelson

Councillor Brian Nelson

General Secretary

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

Environment & Climate Change

The Ripon Spa Hotel, Ripon

24th-26th January 2020

Delegate Booking Form

Name of Delegate.....

Organisation

Delegate's Email

Telephone Number.....

Authorising Signature.....Order No if reqd.....

Printed Name.....

Position.....Organisation.....

INVOICE, email address for invoice.....

To Register – Complete the delegate details above, and either:-Email a copy of this form to Cllr Brian Nelson
Generalsecretary@nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

or Post form to NAC Bookings, 16 Frederick St North, Meadowfield, Durham DH7 7NB

Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan, County, Unitary, Borough & District Councils

£295 plus VAT - Town, Parish and Community Councils

Accommodation is available for delegates at the Conference Hotel at the special NAC Conference Delegate rate of £60 plus VAT per night. The accommodation fee is payable by delegate on departure from the hotel unless otherwise indicated on the booking form.

Delegate Accommodation Friday & Saturdays nights YES / NO

Local Authority to be billed direct for accommodation YES / NO

Please note that double and family rooms are also available (prices available on request)

Booking Condition: Please note that a charge is payable on any bookings cancelled. These charges will be kept to a minimum and will be in accordance with cost incurred by the NAC.

National Association of Councillors

Environment / Climate Change

Agenda

Friday 24th January 2020

5 – 6pm Registration

6pm Session One

Chairman's Welcome, Cllr. Brian Stephens

1st Speaker TBC

Questions

7.15pm Dinner

Saturday 23rd November 2019

10.00am 2nd Speaker TBC

Questions to the speaker

10.45am 3rd Speaker TBC

Questions to the speaker

11.30am Coffee Break

11.45am 4th Speaker

Questions to the speaker

12.30pm Lunch

2.00pm Regional Management Meeting

7-00pm Conference Dinner

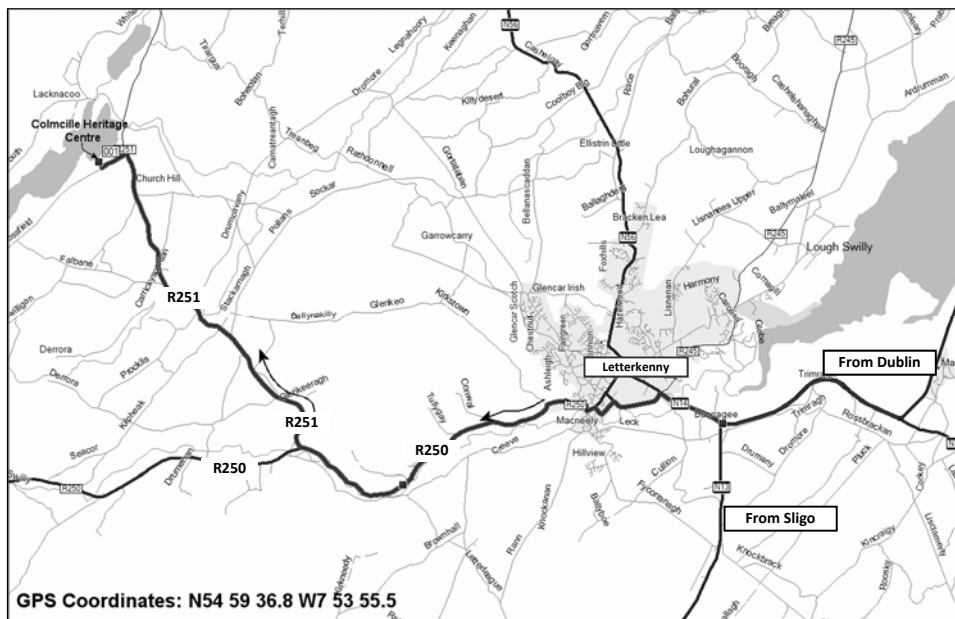
Sunday 24th November 2019

10-00am Cllr Brian Nelson, NAC General Secretary

Interactive Workshops

12-30pm Lunch & end of event

Directions from Letterkenny



Directions: At Letterkenny; take the R250. Continue on the R250 for ~ 6km and then take the R251 to Church Hill. After Church Hill follow the signs for the Colmcille Heritage Centre.

Sat. Navigation GPS Coordinates for Colmcille Heritage Centre are:
N54 59 36.8, W7 53 55.5

See www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie for more details.

31st Colmcille Winter School 31^ú Scoil Gheimhridh Cholmcille

28th and 29th February 2020



**The Contribution of Irish Christianity to Irish, European and
World Civilisation**

**Tionchar an Chríostaíocht Éireannch ar Shíbhialtacht
Éireann, Eorapa agus Dhomhanda**



etb
Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Dhún na nGall
Donegal Education and
Training Board

**Organised by the Colmcille Heritage Trust with the co-operation of
Donegal Education and Training Board**

31^ú Scoil Gheimhridh Cholmcille
Clár an Deiridh Seachtaine

Venue: Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Friday, 28th February 2020

Dé hAoine 28^ú Feabhra 2020

Oíche Ghaelach

Seisiún 1

5.00 p.m. **Clárú** – Registration Tae/Café

7.00 p.m. **Fáiltiú** – Reception *Ceol Ghaelach*

7.30 p.m. **Cathaoirleach: Gráinne Duggan**, príomh oide s.n. rathdomhnaill

Oscailt Oifigiúil : Sár-Oirmhinneach Alan Guckian Uas,
Easpag Ráth Bhoth

Téama: ‘Colmcille agus an Bealoideas áitiúil’

Dr. Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh Uas., Starai, údar, oide scoile

8.40 p.m. *Béile*

Saturday, 29th February 2020

Session 2:

9.00 a.m. **Registration** Tea/Coffee

9.30 a.m. **Chair: Cllr. Liam Blaney**, Member Donegal Co. Co.

Topic: ‘Colmcille: national and international influence’

Dr Brian Lacey, Historian, Archaeologist, Author

Topic: ‘Irish Scribes at home and abroad: aspects of a long tradition’

Prof Tim O'Neill, Historian, Calligrapher, Adjunct professor UCC

Discussion

11:15 a.m. *Tea/Coffee*

31st Colmcille Winter School
Weekend Programme

Contd. Saturday, 29th February 2020

Session 3:

11:45 a.m. **Chair: Margaret Noel Alcorn**, Member of Colmcille Heritage Trust.

Topic: ‘The importance of Iona as a centre of literary and historical studies in the period c.563 to c.704 A.D.’

Prof Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, MRIA, FSA, Professor Emeritus of History NUIG.

Discussion

12:45 p.m. Lunch

Session 4

1:45 p.m. **Chair: Brian Smeaton**, Retired canon C.I.

Topic: ‘The Irish influence in the Christianities of North America’

Rev. Dr Neil Xavier O'Donoghue, Lecturer, St Patrick's College, NUI Maynooth.

Topic: ‘The Church in a Changing World – A Church of Ireland Perspective’

Rt. Rev. Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

3:15pm Tea/Coffee

3:30 p.m. *Open Forum on the Future of Christianity*

4:30 p.m. **Close of Conference**

Programme available to download from: www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie

Contact Details

Mr. Martin Egan, Secretary

Gartan

Church Hill

Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. (Eircode: F92 WR6)

Tel:(074) 9137044

Email: martinjegan@eircom.net



31st Colmcille Winter School

31^ú Scoil Gheimhridh Cholmcille

**The Contribution of Irish Christianity to Irish,
European and World Civilisation.**

**Tionchar an Chríostaíocht Éireannch ar Shibhialtacht
Éireann, Eorapa agus Dhomhanda**

Friday 28th & Saturday 29th of February 2020

BOOKING FORM



31st Colmcille Winter School

31^ú Scoil Gheimhridh Cholmcille

**The Contribution of Irish Christianity to Irish,
European and World Civilisation.**

**Tionchar an Chríostaíocht Éireannch ar Shibhialtacht
Éireann, Eorapa agus Dhomhanda**

Friday 28th & Saturday 29th of February 2020

BOOKING FORM

The 31st Colmcille Winter School
28th & 29th February 2020

BED & BREAKFAST:

Mrs. Sophia Boyle, Bridgeburn Hse, Trentagh
Mrs. Theresa Farrell, Corderry, Church Hill

Tel: (074) 9137167
Tel: (074) 9137839

Gartan Outdoor Education Centre

Tel: (074) 9137032
(9:30 – 5pm)

Hotels:

Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny
McGettigan's Hotel, Letterkenny
Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny
Dillon's Hotel, Letterkenny
Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny
Station House Hotel, Letterkenny

Tel: (074) 9124369
Tel: (074) 9122066
Tel: (074) 9122700
Tel: (074) 9122977
Tel: (074) 9194444
Tel: (074) 9123100

Contact Details:

Martin Egan, Secretary
Gartan
Church Hill
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Eircode: F92 WR6A
Tel: (074) 9137044
Email: martinjegan@eircom.net
Web: www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie
GPS: N54 59 36.8, W7 53 55.5

An 31st Scoil Gheimhridh Cholmcille
28th & 29th February 2020

Venue: Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan,
Church Hill, Co. Donegal

APPLICATION FORM

Conference Fees: €130 per delegate
(Incl. VAT)

Accommodation Is Not Included – See Attached List

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No. _____

Name of Sponsoring Organization:

Number Attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please Return To:
Martin Egan, Secretary
Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Tel: (074) 9137044
Email: martinjegan@eircom.net

Appendix B Approval Sought –JANUARY COUNCIL**Retrospective Approval**

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
Celtic Connections	22/1/20	1	Glasgow	£315

Approval

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
American Conference for Irish Studies in Houston	4/4/20	1	Houston, Texas	No
NILGA Annual Conference		2		
Nilga Conference, Exhibit & Gala Awards Dinner	20 th February 2020,	2	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast	yes

Report on	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
Date of Meeting	Thursday 23 January 2020
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	E Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report				
1.1	To consider approval of request(s) for civic recognition from members, in line with council's <i>Civic Honour and Receptions Policy</i> .				
2.0	Background				
2.1	The policy was reviewed and subsequently agreed at April 2018 Council. All requests for recognition are to be submitted with Democratic Services using the pro-forma, <i>Request for Civic Recognition: Civic Honour & Civic Reception</i> . Requests for recognition are reviewed against the categories and associated criteria contained within the policy as detailed at 2.2.				
2.2	<p><u>Recognition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Civic Honour: recognition will be permissible when the following has been achieved at an All-Ireland, European, International, or National level:<table><tr><td>Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table>Civic Reception: will be permissible for individual, groups or organisations when:<table><tr><td>Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level</td></tr><tr><td>Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr></table>	Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition	Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition	Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level	Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition
Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition					
Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition					
Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level					
Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition					

	<div> <p>Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</p> </div>
2.3	<p><u>Processing the Request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed against the policy/criteria • Reviewed to identify if recognition provided for similar achievement within 3 years prior to this • Requests meeting criteria will be recommended to Council for Civic Honour or Civic Reception • Requests not meeting criteria will be recommended to Council to receive letter from Council Chair
2.4	<p>Appendix A to this report sets out those requests received for recommendation to and approval by council. The request have been categorised in line with the revised policy.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Implementation of the policy facilitates the Council in acknowledging the achievements of organisations and persons from the district, as put forward by members.</p>
3.2	<p>Recognition requests received from members since the last meeting of council have been categorised, details of which are set out within appendix A to this report.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>That consideration be given to approving request for civic recognition requests</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A – Civic Recognitions Recommended for Approval</p>

Appendix A: January 2020 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Category: Civic Honour

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
None				

Category: Civic Reception

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
Ethan Doherty	Ulster College All Star Danske Bank Football Allstars 2020	Cllr Keaney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Conor McAteer St Pius X College	Ulster College All Star Danske Bank Football Allstars 2020	Cllr Totten Cllr D McPeake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Eve Diamond St Pius X College	Ulster College All Star	Cllr Totten Cllr McFlynn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Geraldine & Eugene Kielt Laurel Villa	John & Sally McKenna's Guide	Cllr Totten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attained an outstanding achievement 	For: N/A Date: N/A

	Best in Ireland (Places to eat and stay)			
	2020 Plaque			
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt Under 16 Girls Championship	Ulster Under 16s Girls Championship (Football)	Cllr Totten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Henry Brothers	National UK Chamber of Commerce Family Business	Cllr Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Alan Mullan	Team member of Ireland in the over 40s Hockey Team in European Championship 2019	Cllr Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at International Level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
St Patrick's College Maghera Rannafast Football Team	Ulster School's Rannafast Cup Under 16 Age group	Cllr Kearney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field 	For: Ulster Schools GAA Dalton Cup (Under 13s) - July 2017 Danske Bank Ulster Colleges' Mageen Cup (Hurling) November 2017 Gallagher Cup – Ulster Schools Title Hurling June 2018 Ulster Colleges' Camogie Year 8 Championship June 2018

				Ulster College Under 15 Football Champions - Dec 2019
St Joseph's Convent Donaghmore	Sciath Na Nog Ulster Title (Grade A Competition)	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Robert Clarke	Competed at World's Strongest Man Competition (U105kg) at Daytona Beach	Cllr Forde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at International Level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Ronan Love	Ulster Champion at 44KG weight	Cllr McFlynn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field 	For: N/A Date: N/A

Other: Letter from Council Chair

Where it is deemed that conditions/criteria have not been met for a civic reception, civic award or chair & deputy chair reception a letter from the Council Chair is recommended. This may also be in instances where recipients have previously received a reception or award for the same or similar achievement.

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by
Gerald Bradley Emmets GAC, Slaughtneil	Ulster GAA Writers November 2019 Merit Award for Hurling	Cllr S McPeake
Erin's Own GAC Lavey Minor Football Team	Ulster Club Champions Minor Football Tournament	Cllr S McPeake Nominated for Civic Award 26 October 2017 Under 15 Football Team Ulster Winner

Cookstown Hockey Club 2 nd XI	Ulster Junior Cup	Cllr Wilson Cookstown Hockey Club 25 May 2017 for Ulster Premier League, Anderson cup, Nigel Cheevers Memorial trophy and the Ulster Indoor title
St Conor's College Clady	McDevitt Cup (Ulster under 14.5 Football Champions)	Cllr S McPeake Cllr Kearney Nominated for civic Award January 2019 re Winners of the Danske Bank Gerry Brown Cup Ulster Schools GAA Competition Under 14s
Stewartstown Harps GAA Na Cláirseacha CLG (Harps)	Bronze Medal Recipients of Joe McDonagh Medal (Bonn Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha)	Cllr Kerr
Coalisland Fainna Fianna Oileán an Ghuail CLG	Bronze Medal Recipients of Joe McDonagh Medal (Bonn Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha)	Cllr Kerr
Naomh Colmcille Hurling Club	Silver Medal Recipients of Joe McDonagh Medal (Bonn Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha)	Cllr Kerr

Report on	Northern Ireland Assembly Ministerial Engagement
Date of Meeting	23 January 2020
Reporting Officer	Chief Executive
Contact Officer	Chief Executive

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Members approval for a series of engagements with the newly appointed Ministers of the Northern Ireland Assembly (the Assembly).
2.0	Background
2.1	Members will be aware that the Assembly did not meet for the last three years and following the latest round of negotiations, the Assembly was restored on Saturday 11 January 2020.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Council's strategic priorities are as set out in the Mid Ulster Community Plan and its draft Corporate Plan and associated strategies.
3.2	As the Assembly is now re-established it is important that the newly appointed ministers are made aware of the strategic priorities of Mid Ulster and how the Council, its community, voluntary and business sectors can assist the Assembly in the delivery of its programme for government.
3.3	Over the course of the last three years councillors have raised a range of issues resulting in letters being issued to various departments and in some case meeting with government officials. The return of the Assembly also presents an opportunity to raise these issues with the relevant Ministers.
3.4	Attached at Appendix 1 for Members consideration is a document which outlines the Council's strategic priorities and the outstanding matters raised by Members broken down across each department.
3.5	It is proposed to write to all Ministers and ask that they receive a delegation from Mid Ulster District Council on the matters listed and any other strategic issues the Council agrees to add. Previous engagements with Ministers of the Assembly

3.6	<p>have generally been led by the Council Chair accompanied by the Party Leader of the four main parties or their nominee.</p> <p>In addition, it is proposed to invite the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's to Mid Ulster so that they can hear directly from Members on the priorities of the Council.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Travel costs.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Staff time in preparing briefing documents.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None</p>
4.4	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members approval is sought to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write to all Ministers of the Assembly and ask that they receive a delegation from Mid Ulster District Council on the matters listed in the appendix and any other strategic issues the Council agrees to add. 2. To invite the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's to Mid Ulster so that they can hear directly from Members on the priorities of the Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References

6.1	Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster District Council Strategic Issues
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NI Executive Department Engagement

Strategic Issues

The Executive Office

Responsibilities : *strategic investment and regeneration, Brexit, civil contingencies, programme for government, east/west and north/south co-operation, promoting NI overseas, good relations and social change*

First Minister : Arlene Foster (DUP)

Deputy First Minister : Michelle O'Neill (SF)

Junior Ministers : Gordon Lyons (DUP) / Declan Kearney (SF)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Colin McGrath (SDLP) / Mike Nesbitt (UUP)

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Responsibilities : *to assist the competitive development of the agri-food, fishing and forestry sectors of the Northern Ireland economy, also carries out environmental functions and has policy responsibility for Northern Ireland's Sustainability Strategy).*

Minister : Edwin Poots (DUP)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Declan McAleer (SF) / Philip McGuigan (SF)

Strategic Issues for MUDC

- Exit from EU:
 - Rural Policy Post Brexit, this needs to be co-designed with Council and the local community
 - Replacement of Rural Development Programme funding and opportunities to address the resulting deficit in support for rural communities and businesses. RDP has been critical to enhancing facilities in small rural settlements.
 - Impact on agricultural industry and farming communities generally, especially small farms.
- Mid Ulster has benefited greatly from DAERA funding (e.g. Rural Tourism Scheme funding) for significant investment projects, including the £1.2M Davagh Dark Sky Observatory opening in April, and funding has been very welcome.
- Opportunity for enhanced collaborative working around sustainable development of parks, open spaces, forests, natural assets for recreation purposes and associated well-being benefits.
- Waste Strategy: Mid Ulster is the top performing council for recycling and sends the second lowest amount of waste to landfill. We operate a three bin system which greatly facilitates our performance, imposed changes to this system would increase costs and negatively impact on our excellent performance.

Department for Communities

Responsibilities : *urban regeneration, community and voluntary sector development, historic environment, social legislation, housing, social security benefits, pensions and child support, debt advice, public records, Employment Service, promoting equality, and development of arts and culture).*

Minister : Deidre Hargey (SF)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Paula Bradley (DUP) / Kellie Armstrong (AP)

Strategic Issues for MUDC

- Transfer of Regeneration / Community Development powers and appropriate budget to develop new and sustainable models of support for our town centres is vital for their regeneration and enhancement as economic and social hubs.
- Rates Support Grant: Restoration of Rates Support Grant at 15/16 levels (£20m) with statutory protection is required if less wealthy councils are to have any chance of providing equity in service delivery compared to wealthy councils.
- Housing: Urgent measures need to be taken to address homelessness and the shortage of social and affordable housing. NIHE should start building houses once again and implement rent controls for the private sector to ensure affordability.
- Deprivation in Rural Areas: Currently there is no core central government funding to address deprivation in rural areas, and no department appears to have responsibility for this area. At present, EU funding is crucial to filling the gap. In a post Brexit era, funding needs to be mainstreamed.
- Public realm schemes: Mid Ulster have incurred significant design fees in the preparation of a public realm scheme in Maghera, DfC funding of £2.5m needs confirmed.
- Seamus Heaney HomePlace: Homeplace is the most culturally significant project on the Island of Ireland in recent times. It is an arts and literary centre of national and international significance, as such it should not be left to the local council to provide 100% of the funding needed to run it. Central government needs to step up and co-fund.
- Local Government Division: Growing burden on local government in relation to external audit, particularly in terms of the performance management regime which is becoming burdensome from a resource perspective (time and cost).
- Community Planning: issues around achieving meaningful collaboration at senior level with partners to achieve shared objectives.

- Community funding: where community and voluntary sector lose traditional sources of government funding, the sector turns to councils to plug the funding gaps. This is not sustainable.
- Domestic abuse, victims to have access to the same “intimidation points” as victims of racial/sectarian abuse when assessing housing allocations.
- Welfare Reform: current mitigations need to continue beyond March 2020

Department for the Economy

Responsibilities : *economic policy development, enterprise, innovation, energy, telecoms, tourism, health and safety at work, Insolvency Service, consumer affairs, and labour market and economic statistics services, learning and research, skills training and promoting good employment practice*

Minister : Diane Dodds (DUP)

Committee Chair/Vice Chair : Caoimhe Archibald (SF)/Sinead McLaughlin (SDLP)

Strategic Issues for MUDC

- Mid Ulster is the most entrepreneurial region in NI, with the highest concentration of businesses outside of Belfast and the centre of manufacturing here, yet level of central government support and investment is not reflective of the district's status as a significant sub-economic region.
- Exit from the EU, specifically:
 - Need for a future trade deal that is co-designed by and benefits business in Mid Ulster with unfettered access east/west and north/south.
 - Future Migration policy needs to work for local business, many rely on EU workforce in particular sectors (e.g. agri-food) and potential impact is a major concern.
 - Wider consideration of Mid Ulster as a border corridor local authority and the associated challenges that brings in terms of economic activity, notably the movement of goods and people.
- Growth Deal: Mid Ulster are working with ABC and Fermanagh Omagh Councils and our business community in the preparation of a Regional Economic Strategy. The UK Government have announced a package of £163m by way of a Growth Deal for our area and the CC&G Council area. Executive support to deliver the economic interventions within the deal is essential (to include Manufacturing & Innovation Centre in Dungannon, an Agri-food Innovation Centre at CAFRE). Flexibility in the composition of the deal may be required given the regionals infrastructure deficit.
- Skills Agenda: Mid Ulster has been leading the drive to tackle the skills gaps and address the relevant issues to ensure economic stability and growth. Work recognised and supported by DfE and wish to assure Mid Ulster's significant role in the area is to the fore in future skills development programme.
- Connectivity: broadband connectivity needs addressed urgently, (Mid Ulster is in bottom 1% of UK Local Authorities), the worst areas need to be address first in

Project Stratum. In addition, deficiencies in the electricity network continue to be critical and the North South Interconnector needs delivered as a priority.

- Mid Ulster suffers from a shortage of industrial land which is restricting economic growth, eg Granville. Invest NI need to take forward new sites to address business need without further delay.
- Apprenticeship Levy: Mid Ulster businesses who are contributing to the levy should have the same access to this skills investment money as their competitors in GB.
- Tourism funding: in Mid Ulster has been identified as a key growth area and the Council is continuing to invest (SHHP, Davagh Dark Skies). However, no funding streams available to local government which continues to invest directly in tourism and stimulate economic growth.
- Natural tourism assets:
 - The new approach document notes the need for the completion of the Ulster Canal to Upper Lough Erne. This is welcome however the real prize for tourism is to restore the Ulster Canal all the way to Lough Neagh.
 - The Sperrins AONB is the largest in NI yet receives no funding to help realise its potential in a sustainable way. Match funding is required to deliver the Sperrins Future Search Action Plan.
 - Lough Neagh should be brought into public ownership to ensure its sustainable development and to progress its greatly untapped tourism potential.

Department of Education

Responsibilities : *pre-school, primary, post-primary and special education; the youth service; the promotion of community relations within and between schools; and teacher education and salaries*

Minister : Peter Weir (DUP)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Chris Lyttle (AP) / Karen Mullan (SF)

Strategic Issues for MUDC

- Levels of educational under achievement (no to low qualifications) and link to areas of deprivation as much a factor in Mid Ulster as elsewhere.
- Cross-over with DfE in terms of skills development, with priorities in schools for programmes around STEM, entrepreneurial and creative skills.
- Pre-school places and early years interventions with 30 hours free childcare to be provided for working parents
- Sustainability of schools within Mid Ulster: Council urges the Department to work with local communities and the Council in designing solutions to situations where the sustainability of a school has been brought into question.
- Investment in the school estate is long overdue with some schools waiting decades for investment, eg Holy Trinity Cookstown.

Department of Finance

Responsibilities : *to prioritise the use of resources available to Northern Ireland, make sure that these are used efficiently and secure the reform and modernisation of public services; and to deliver efficient and cost effective services to the public in the Department's areas of executive responsibility*

Minister : Connor Murphy (SF)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Steve Aiken (UUP) / Paul Frew (DUP)

Strategic Issues for MUDC

- The historical uncertainty around local government funding, specifically:
 - Restoration of Rates Support Grant at 15/16 levels (£20m) with statutory protection.
 - the percentage split among qualifying councils which in the 2020-21 financial year is projected to be 3.48% less than anticipated for Mid Ulster (expected drop from 24.93% to 21.45%).
 - the disconnect between the Department's budget-setting cycle and the Council's striking of the rate.
- Business rates system review: '*strategic importance for government to ensure that the business rating system is fit for purpose in order to fund Northern Ireland's key services, both at regional and district level*'. Strategically important for local government equally. Critical to involve local government at early stages of potential new policy development.
- Public sector jobs: Need to address the public sector jobs deficit in Mid Ulster. Decentralisation of public sector jobs is a Community Plan priority.
- Dormant Account fund, need for co-design with Council on how this funding is spent

Department of Health

Responsibilities : *to improve the health and social well-being of the people of Northern Ireland and Public Safety, which covers policy and legislation for fire and rescue services*

Minister : Robin Swann (UUP)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Colm Gildernew (SF) / Gary Middleton (DUP)

Strategic Issues for MUDC

- Access to acute care: Mid Ulster is already adversely impacted by geographic distance to acute hospitals
- Investment in emergency ambulance services, Mid Ulster has the worst response times in NI. (The Council recognises the very clear link between roads infrastructure investment and the ability to move acute patients at speed).
- Primary Care Services
 - interventions to address chronic GP shortages (critically in Dungannon),
 - Mid Ulster has no acute hospital, our communities have had to cope with a continual withdrawal of services from the Mid Ulster and South Tyrone sites while very significant investment has gone into Community Care & Treatment Centres in areas that have acute hospitals. Preparatory work on the establishment of CC&TCs in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt has been either stopped or significantly delayed. This is unacceptable, the health of Mid Ulster's population is as important as any other area and it is about time this is recognised, and action taken to redress the regional disparity in health care provision.
- Measures to address Mental Health and suicide prevention in Mid Ulster need accelerated
- Opportunity for Regional Services to be brought to Mid Ulster and South Tyrone Hospital sites, eg imaging, drug dispensary
- Welcome the partial resolution to the Nurses pay dispute and encourage the Executive to work to ensure safe staffing levels as soon as possible.

Department for Infrastructure

Responsibilities : *to develop infrastructure and services including water and sewerage networks, roads and footpaths, public transport services, vehicle regulation, road safety, driver licensing, and rivers and inland waterways*

Minister : Nicola Mallon (SDLP)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Michelle McIlveen (DUP) / David Hilditch (DUP)

Strategic Issues for MUDC

Department for Infrastructure
(*Main responsibilities are*).

- Key strategic issues centre on the historical underinvestment in infrastructure 'West of the Bann', specifically:
 - the strategic road network. Key roads identified in the Community Plan are A29/A31, A4, A5. Welcome the ongoing work on the delivery of the A6.
 - the A29/A31 need to be re-designated as a Key Transport Corridor and prioritised for investment.
 - lack of progress over the past 2 decades in delivering bypasses for Dungannon and Cookstown which have now reached a critical point if Mid Ulster is to optimise growth potential, retain indigenous business and attract investment.
 - issues with waste-water/sewerage infrastructure are already beginning to impact on development and are as critical for Mid Ulster's towns as it is for major urban areas.
- Public Transport: While roads investment is critical, there is also the need to address issues of rural access to services (public transport) and to develop an integrated transport scheme, as well as an intra-town transit scheme which includes bus, cycling and walking links.
- Rail Network: A feasibility study to be carried out on the possible extension of the rail network to Mid Ulster, ie Antrim to Castledawson, Portadown to Dungannon and onwards to Cookstown
- Local Development Plans: We are told our LDP is the spatial manifestation of our Community Plan, if this is truly to be the case and if the transfer of planning is to achieve its objectives then local councils must be allowed to tailor policy to meet local need.

Department of Justice

Responsibilities : *justice and the law, legal aid, prisons, youth justice, forensic science, policing and community safety, courts and tribunals*

Minister : Naomi Long (AP)

Committee Chair / Vice Chair : Paul Givan (DUP) / Linda Dillon (SF)

Report on	Correspondence to Council - January 2020
Date of Meeting	Thurs 23 rd January, 2020
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne & Down DC</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council has corresponded with the Council to give notification that it passed a motion on budgeting for the NI Fire & Rescue Service requesting that this Council write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health. Refer to appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from Permanent Secretary, Department of Health</p> <p>The Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health has corresponded with the Chairman of Council, Cllr Kearney on the council's motion regarding soft-opt out legislation on organ donation and activity been undertaken within the Department. Refer to appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities & the Head of the Appeals Service, Department for Communities</p> <p>The Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities and the Head of the Appeals Service of the Department for Communities have corresponded with the Chair of Council, Cllr Kearney on the support of the motion carried by Newry, Mourne & Down DC regarding the location of welfare tribunal hearings. Refer to appendix C and C(i).</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from Northern Area Manager, Ulsterbus, Translink</p> <p>The Northern Area Manager of Ulsterbus has corresponded with the Council in a follow up to a meeting held with officers and councillors regarding the public transport provision and timetabling between Cookstown and Antrim Area Hospital. Refer to appendix D</p>

3.5	<p>Correspondence from Chief Executive, NILGA</p> <p>The Chief Executive of NILGA has corresponded with the Council setting out its Annual Investment and forthcoming Work Programme and benefits. Mid Ulster DC is categorised as a Band B Council with a population between 145,000 and 300,000 resulting in the 2020-21 subscription of £50,259 (excluding VAT), for the delivery of the Investment & Work Programme. The Council is a member of NILGA. Refer to appendix E.</p>
3.6	<p>Correspondence from General Counsel & Company Secretary, Northern Ireland Water (NIW)</p> <p>The General Counsel & Company Secretary of NIW has corresponded with the Council to highlight its current position with regards to wastewater infrastructure. The Board of NIW is asking the Council to support immediate funding of NIW's infrastructure. Refer to appendix F.</p>
3.7	<p>Correspondence from Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health</p> <p>The Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health has corresponded with the Council following his meeting with council officers and Councillors to discuss progression of the Protect Life 2 Strategy at a Northern Ireland level and district council level. The Council previously carried a motion on this matter. Refer to appendix G.</p>
3.8	<p>Correspondence from President, Mary Peter Trust</p> <p>The President of the Mary Peters Trust has corresponded with the Council to introduce the Trust and seek the Council to join in its work to help young people achieve excellence in sport and make a contribution for the year April 2020 to March 2021. Refer to appendix H.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A: Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>Appendix B: Department of Health</p>

	Appendix C: Department for Communities Appendix C(i): Appeals Service, Department for Communities Appendix D: Ulsterbus Appendix E: Northern Ireland Local Government Association Appendix F: Northern Ireland Water Appendix G: Department of Health Appendix H: Mary Peters Trust
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Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Our ref: C/209/2019

9 December 2019

Mr Anthony Tohill
CEO
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 DT

Dear Mr Tohill

Re: Fire and Rescue Budget

At a Meeting of Newry Mourne & Down District Council held on Monday 2 December 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"That this Council contact Mr Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, and ask all other Councils in the North to do likewise, to address the significant shortfall on the proposed budget for the fire and rescue service. The continuing cutting of budgets has left lifesaving services at a critical level. We also call on Mr Pengelly to look again at expanding and sharing emergency services and cover, especially in rural areas".

Newry Mourne and Down District Council would ask for your support in calling on the Permanent Secretary to address these concerns.

Yours sincerely,


Marie Ward
Chief Executive

/PMcK

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Councillor Martin Kearney
Mid Ulster District Council

info@midulstercouncil.org

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559
Fax: 02890520573

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP5075
SGM-0897-2019

Date: 23 December 2019

Dear Councillor Kearney

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2019 regarding the introduction of a soft opt-out organ donation legislation.

As you will be aware, following a detailed examination of all aspects of opt out systems, the Northern Ireland (NI) Assembly decided in 2016 not to proceed with specific legislation to introduce an opt out system as a possible means of increasing levels of organ donation in Northern Ireland. However, the Assembly, in recognition of the importance of promoting organ donation, passed legislation that places a statutory duty on the Department of Health to:

- promote transplantation; and
- increase awareness about transplantation and the donation of human organs.

The legislation also requires the Department to lay before the Assembly an annual report about transplantation in that year. The report must include every five years the opinion of the Department as to whether the legislation has been effective in promoting transplantation and any recommendations the Department considers appropriate for amending the law so as to further promote transplantation. This therefore provides the Assembly with the opportunity to review the policy at appropriate intervals. A Commencement Order is required to enact the statutory duty and this is currently under consideration; however, this has not delayed work progressing in this area.

In December 2018 the Department also launched a Policy Statement giving effect to the requirement to promote organ donation and transplantation. The aim of the policy

statement is to introduce a coordinated approach to promotion, communication, education and medical workforce training, drawing from best practice.

Work on implementing the Policy Statement recently got underway with the establishment of an Organ Donation Steering Group to oversee its implementation. Arrangements are also being made to recruit a Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager/Co-Ordinator, whose role will include working with local Councils, and to establish a sub-group for charities to further help to implement the Policy Statement.

Whilst there are currently no plans to introduce opt out legislation in Northern Ireland, I trust this letter assures you that work is ongoing to achieve higher rates of donation and transplantation to ensure that more people are able to receive the gift of an organ.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



RICHARD PENGELLY



**From: Tracy Meharg
Permanent Secretary**

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG**

**Telephone: 028 90 823301
E-mail: tracy.meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our Ref: PSC 1460.19
Date: 23 December 2019**

**Mr Martin Kearney
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
Co. Tyrone
BT71 6DT**

By e-mail: chair@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Martin,

I am responding to your letter dated 4 December 2019, regarding the use of courthouses for welfare tribunal hearings.

As you are aware The Appeals Service (TAS) provide administrative support to independent tribunals set up by legislation to hear appeals against decisions made by my Department, including Child Maintenance Service, and also Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Land and Property Service (LPS) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Appeals are heard in both public and privately owned venues throughout Northern Ireland, based on factors including the facilities available in each area, the specific needs of individual cases and value for money.

Before any venue is confirmed as suitable for an appeal tribunal hearing, TAS completes a health and safety risk assessment of the location and facilities. The risk assessment is completed based on the following criteria that applies to all appeal case types:

- **Accessibility/DDA compliance;**
- **Location close to car parks/public transport routes;**
- **Size of rooms available;**
- **Location of rooms;**
- **Privacy;**



- Lighting;
- Ventilation/Heating;
- Standard of seating and tables available;
- Facilities offered re refreshments;
- Toilet facilities;
- Security;
- First aid trained staff available;
- Fire safety requirements; and
- Photocopying/telephone facilities available.

My Department holds hearings in bespoke premises at Cleaver House in Belfast and is currently in the process of refurbishing Omagh Library to accommodate appeals hearings. This should be available for tribunal hearings in 2020-21. However, alternative venues are also used so as to reduce travel times for appellants and help reduce delay in securing a hearing date.

My Department currently uses courthouses in order to allow TAS to arrange more tribunal sessions. On occasions where availability causes difficulties, other venues may be deemed suitable for consideration following a risk assessment on facilities, and thereafter in accordance with procurement guidelines.

Rented facilities offer a less formal environment than a courthouse and tend to offer limited access to private waiting areas or consultation rooms, something which tribunal users have complained about in the past.

Courthouses are regularly used for civil and family justice matters. Appeal tribunals are part of a statutory process, adjudicated by judicial office holders and therefore listing appeals in courthouses is entirely consistent with the standing and independence of these arrangements. However, I would welcome sight of Mid Ulster District Council's findings regarding the possibility of offering Council facilities for Appeals tribunals.

In relation to the delay in hearing appeals, I am currently liaising with the President of the Appeal Tribunals in order to expedite a resolution to this matter. Therefore there is no need for the establishment of a review panel to examine the issue.

I hope this goes some way towards addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,



TRACY MEHARG
PERMANENT SECRETARY

From: Nash, Denise <Denise.Nash@courtsni.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 December 2019 14:08
To: Mid Ulster Info <info@midulstercouncil.org>
Subject: Use of Court houses for appeals

Good morning,
I refer to the letter I received yesterday from Councillor Martin Kearney regarding the use of court houses for welfare appeals.
I understand that Ms Meharg, Permanent Secretary DfC, has written to Mr Kearney outlining the position.

Kind regards
Denise Nash

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise Nash', with a stylized, cursive script.

Denise Nash | Head of The Appeals Service | Department for Communities
4th Floor Cleaver House | 3 Donegall Square North| Belfast | BT1 5GA
Contact: denise.nash@courtsni.gov.uk **Tel:** (028) 90544 097 | **DD:** 44097

18th December 2019

Dear Mr. McCreesh,

Re: Cookstown to Antrim Area Hospital Service

Further to our meeting on Thursday 29th August regarding the current service provision from the Cookstown Area to Antrim Area Hospital, I have now taken time to review the service provision and consider the proposals you had put forward at the meeting.

During our meeting we had agreed that altering the 212 service to operate via Antrim Hospital was not feasible due to the time taken to traverse through the hospital would have an adverse impact on the vast majority of passengers who use this service to travel between Belfast and Derry/Londonderry and the towns in between.

The Committee put forward a proposal asking that the 212 service would come off at Ballymartin P&R and allow passengers to transfer onto the Airport Service (300 Service) which would then serve Antrim Hospital. Again we have considered this option but would not be able to put this option in place. The Airport Service operates as a frequent service between Belfast City Centre and Belfast International Airport, the current route comes off the M2 at Ballymartin P&R and then services Templepatrick on route to the Airport. Any detour of this service to Antrim Area Hospital would add an additional 14 miles of a detour onto the route which again would impact on the vast majority of customers who use this service to travel between the Airport and Belfast City Centre.

From our discussions at the meeting I do recognise that the public transport service provision between Cookstown and Antrim Area Hospital is not attractive and requires two service changes with waiting time in between. In order to improve this service, I have taken an extensive review of the services and bus workings within the Magherfelt/Cookstown area and have been able to alter the timetable to make this journey more appealing. I have detailed below a new version of the timetable that only requires one bus change in Antrim and I have been able to include a daily direct service from Cookstown to Antrim Hospital at 10.00 with a direct return service at 13.35. I have detailed a simplified version of the new time table below.

Monday – Friday

Cookstown Bus Station	06.50	08.30	10.00	11.30	13.30	15.10
Antrim Area Hospital	08.40	10.05	11.35	13.05	15.01	17.05
	1 bus change	2 bus changes	Direct Service	1 bus change	1 bus change	1 bus change

Antrim Area Hospital	11.05	12.35	13.35	16.06
Cookstown Bus Station	12.08	14.23	15.08	17.58
	1 bus change	1 bus change	Direct Service	1 bus change

As you can see from the attached timetable, we have been able to reschedule a number of services to ensure the passenger has minimal service changes to get to their destination as previously all journeys between Cookstown and Antrim Area Hospital required two service changes to complete the journey. This helps make the service more attractive and less arduous for those passengers who may have accessibility issues. The 13.35 service out of Antrim Hospital is an additional service that I have added into the timetable.

We also discussed during the meeting that any information from Antrim Hospital regarding the travel patterns of the hospital users from the Cookstown Area along with the number of weekly appointments would also be useful in helping to inform any alterations to the service. However, in the absence of this information I have still decided to review how we can alter the timetable to improve the service to the hospital from the Cookstown Area.

In order to progress this new refreshed timetable there are some scheduling alterations that need to be implemented before this can be operated so I would therefore propose to implement this new timetable from March 2020. I am happy to further meet to discuss of proposal if need be along with any assistance that the Council or the Hospital could help to promote the use of this service.

I would also like to apologise in the delay in responding back to you on this request but due to the scheduling configurations and increased cost to deliver this new timetable I had to seek further authorisation for this to be accepted as part of our future budget.

Thanks again for taking time to meet with me and discuss the options of improving this service and please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Woods
Northern Area Manager
Ulsterbus

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

13th January 2020

Dear Anthony

I have pleasure in enclosing NILGA's Annual Investment & Work Plan for 2020/21, as part of NILGA's all council approved Corporate Plan 2020- 2023 for the present electoral term.

This year's work has been designed by your council members, officers and finalised by NILGA's all council Executive and cross Party appointed officer bearers. We are fully integrated into the work requirements of Mid Ulster District Council and must recognise the work of your members and officers – this past twelve months, now and into the challenging year ahead, with a productive agenda in terms of our all Council, Member & Officer, Policy & Learning Networks, new to this Corporate Plan and part of the sector's transformation agenda.

The Assembly has returned, and we will be an "ever present" at it, working with and for your council and your 10 counterparts. This is a year of major challenge for local government – financially, legislatively, policy and performance wise. Despite such challenges your team in Mid Ulster will have dynamic support from NILGA every day, including lobbying to gain new resources, protect grants, secure a fair and affordable pay deal for council's 12000 staff, strengthen the NI Local Government Act, get new money rather than increased rates cash into your investment & growth plans, and champion what you do by celebrating and communicating your successes and seeking solutions to service and governance difficulties you encounter with other institutions.

The Work Plan regionally (all councils) and specifically for Mid Ulster fulfils the sector's requirements but has been carefully designed to adapt to the wider political and fiscal environment you and the other 10 councils are operating within regionally, nationally and trans-nationally. A restored Assembly has been anticipated but so too has national & Commonwealth level negotiations on matters as important as NI's £3.5 billion share of the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund.

Councils, NILGA asserts, **should be lead deliverers of such funding**, not relying on transactional letters of offer and exacting criteria from other parts of government which inhibits locally led decision taking and investment. We have also prepared statutory draft legislative papers to protect you – a New Burdens Insurance Policy if you like - from transfers of responsibility which come with inadequate resources.

We would particularly like to thank the following members and officers from Mid Ulster for their advice and participation throughout the year: the Full and Executive members – Cllr Wills Robinson, Cllr Darren Totten, Cllr Frances Burton, Cllr Niamh Doris, Cllr Mark Glasgow, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Sean McGuigan and Cllr Sean McPeake. This cross party, combined leadership is supported by excellent working relationships with you and your officer team, including Adrian McCreesh, Andrew Cassells, Fiona McClements, Michael McCrory, JJ Tohill, Chris Boomer, Eileen Forde and Fiona McKeown.

We will continue to use the council's venues such as Seamus Heaney Home Place, Magherafelt and Dungannon Civic Centres for member and officer training, awareness events on matters as important, yet diverse, as the Code of Conduct, new economic investment opportunities, Strategic Planning, Civic Leadership, post EU investment, and the emerging devolution campaign and actions which you and the 10 councils will shortly be consulted with and co-design.

NILGA continues to yield very high levels of performance and value for money, as the Work Plan provides testimony of, similarly, you will note from the Benefits Statement provided that despite below 1% average uplifts in investment since 2014, our work is more deeply performance and council led, yielding >20 times return per annum on the investment.

Please thank your members and officer team; other than confirming acceptance do please let me know if there is anything that you, members and the Corporate team further require.

I look forward to working with you in 2020/21 as your Local Government Association.

Yours sincerely



Derek McCallan
Chief Executive

Enc

Annual Investment & Workplan for 2020/21
NILGA Benefits Infographic
NILGA Benefits Statement



MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL INVESTMENT & WORK PLAN – THE 1st PHASE OF NILGA’S CORPORATE PLAN 2019 – 2023



INTRODUCTION

The most complex year for councils in Northern Ireland is upon us. Delivering public services of a high standard at affordable costs to ratepayers is a huge challenge compounded by uncertainty in constitutional, legislative, electoral, policy and performance terms, for the local government sector in Northern Ireland. NILGA has a dynamic regional programme of work, governed and owned by the 11 councils through member and officer participation, across VITAL policy and learning networks that will yield over £1 million p.a. in investment savings per council in the coming year.

The Work Plan for the collective councils and specifically for your authority’s elected members and corporate management team has been co-designed by all 11 bodies as well as strategic partners including SIB & APSE, to fulfil your specific requirements whilst as the national voice of local government, stand together strongly, clearly and as one voice to protect and sustain local government in Northern Ireland.

It supports a **substantial forward planning programme** to ensure councils are skilled, sustainable and resilient now we have 462 returned councillors since May 2019 and massive LOCAL investment planned as part of economic, community and sustainable development across the towns, villages and communities of Mid Ulster. Delivery will focus on regionally and sub regionally co-ordinated work programmes and learning events which **develop, promote and protect** councils in equal measure.

We will provide evidence on policy which makes it easier for councils to get things done and makes it easier for councils to develop & sustain with non-rates funding more locally led partnerships. This includes the delivery of robust, evidence-based representation on matters like an Environment Strategy, stronger Community Planning legislation, devolution within Northern Ireland and drawing in new investment for every council via the £3.5 billion Shared Prosperity Fund. A revitalised Legislative Assembly will see NILGA – formally in Committee and informally through evidence-based lobbying - rolling out the delivery of an improved Local Government Act, acceptable performance and ethical standards policies and protected / additional funding for councils. It prioritises elected member learning & development, new models of investment and best practice, the sharing of very practical ideas and projects which deliver locality based planning, economic development, civic leadership, regulatory and compliance work, all of which materially assists your Corporate Plan and key support strategies.

Executive Summary: Key Work for the coming year

PROTECT

- Engage in a full year of dynamic, formal policy & resource work with the **restored Legislative Assembly** at Stormont - putting the needs of local councils and communities front and centre with newly appointed Ministers, Committees and the **Central - Local Partnership Panel** for which NILGA is joint secretariat
- Finalise in 2020 a **National Pay Agreement** for 12000+ staff, support performance appraisal and Green Book queries across all 11 councils
- Development of a modern forward-thinking **Programme for Local Government 2021 - 2030**
- Extensive **engagement** with the National UK Local Government Forum, NI Affairs Committee & Irish Regional Assemblies
- Putting councils' needs foremost in joint work with government on an overarching **Rates Review, Entrepreneurial & Environment Strategies**, plus other key policies, strategies and legislation, to protect, advocate and sustain the 11 councils in Northern Ireland.
- Chair the **National Association of Regional Employers** in 2020-21, with associated **procurement benefits**, and **guidance** on Chief Officer pay, resilience and performance
- **Lobbying** for and with councils, on matters such as infrastructure investment and new rates models, to sustain future local government
- Participation in **strategic national work** within the UK & Ireland wide Local Government Group, including the £3.5 billion **Shared Prosperity Fund** for NI and the launch of the **Civility in Public Life initiative**.
- Support the policy, partnership, lobbying and legislative work of **the NI Strategic Migration Partnership**, drawing on its expertise to further community planning and knowledge at council level
- Seek out potential additional funding & benefits for councils from **European Entrepreneurial Region award**
- Commission work on a new **Devolution Framework** for Northern Ireland, supported by a New Burdens Framework, firstly & materially involving direct consultation with & input by councils

PROMOTE

- **“Your Local Council, Delivering for All”** initiative – knowledge bank/social media/regular media/community showcases – to communicate the pivotal role of councils in the community
- **8 Web Bulletins** per year, Press Releases, presentations, party conference visibility
- Delivery of **Ulster in Bloom**
- Delivery of **Annual Flagship Conference and Awards** event, with SOLACE (February 2021)
- Collaboration with other LGAs to lobby DEXEU and other government departments to ensure councils are **materially resourced for Brexit impacts** and that **there is adequate and early consultation for all matters repatriated under the EU Withdrawal Bill**
- Design, develop & bid for a 52 nation **Commonwealth Local Government Forum Investment Summit**, in partnership with councils and Invest NI to bring buyers and investment into council areas.
- Provision of guidance and support to members of the **EU Committee of the Regions and relevant EU Steering and Monitoring Committees; seeking further benefits**
- **Improved communication** with councils, a new **constitution and investment framework** and **improved governance** for NILGA

DEVELOP

- Co-ordination of **20 learning and networking events** on key issues such as Devolution, Improvement, Economy, Broadband, Housing, Energy, Tackling Poverty, Leadership, Planning, Climate Action and Ethical Standards.
- Roll out of the first full phase of the **NI Elected Member Development Programme**, co-designed with councils, NAC and LGTG
- Provision of **specific policy advice, guidance** and **regional co-ordination** on key policy areas
- Delivery of a **‘Local Councils -Transforming Northern Ireland’** summit (October 2020)
- Delivery of **Charter, Charter Plus and Charter Renewal** programmes for all 11 councils, as a nationally recognised learning provider.



NILGA ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2020-21

Theme One: Effective Regional Representation

Strong and effective local government needs individuals, councils and councillors working together to ensure that the sector can deliver for citizens. In 2020 – 2023 this case will be made regionally by NILGA, as is the case in all neighbouring jurisdictions, because strong and effective local government costs less and often provides better value than central government provision; is responsive to the needs of citizens; and is good at promoting participative democracy, with inclusive, sustainable results. NILGA will ensure that Northern Ireland local government's voice and needs are heard and understood. It will ensure that councils' key policies and resource requirements are supported within Stormont, with the NIO, in Westminster, island-wide, nationally and internationally.

Corporate Plan Priorities	What action will we take in 2020-21?	Anticipated Outcomes
Action 1: Consolidate and promote the position of NILGA as a 'go-to' organisation for the sector, for our member councils, for external organisations and governments who seek views from NI local government.	Represent the views of the NI local government sector at Select Committees, Assembly Committees, UK Local Government Forum, national & regional representative bodies Devise policy campaigns on NILGA's priority issues Engage with external bodies on policy issues & provide evidence to inform policy development	Strong, consensus-driven & timely local government views are articulated The positive work of councils is communicated Interests of councils are promoted & defended
Action 2: Provide dynamic, ongoing support to the work of the Partnership Panel, the (interim) Central-Local Government Political Partnership Forum and other regional policy and representation bodies / meetings.	Ensure elected members can be effective on CLGPPF, Monitoring Committees, programme development committees, representative bodies Facilitate & convene the CLGPPF and ensure issues are brought to the table, including community investment, environmental sustainability, emergency planning, waste management, replacement of EU funding, preventative health, audit & performance. Host & Manage the NI Strategic Migration Partnership (through Home Office contract) and deliver an agreed work programme Deliver the agreed work plan of the Policy & Learning Networks (<i>see Annex 1</i>)	Matters of common policy and budgetary concern are considered by MLAs and councillors to ensure local democratic scrutiny MLAs receive clear local government policy & delivery messages to protect and properly resource councils Transfers of powers and services are fully & adequately resourced

	Participate on relevant boards & working groups to represent the local government sector, including MHCLG EU Exit Delivery Board, LGA Brexit Task Force, Carnegie Embedding Wellbeing, Sustainable NI, DTNI, Consumer Council Responsible Lending Forum, NI Horticultural Forum, RHS UK Bloom Forum, NI Business & Human Rights Forum, S2020 Sports Strategy Steering Group, Heritage Forum, NI VCS Joint Forum, NIHE Rural Strategy Forum, DOJ Policing Joint Forum, Climate NI	
Action 3: Provide support for members and officers to engage in lobbying, and in policy and strategy formulation internationally and at UK and NI levels.	Ensure members are informed to represent the views of local government on relevant bodies by providing evidence, research, briefings & advice, including on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform, devolution & improvement • Place-shaping & infrastructure • Economy & international affairs • Health, social & environmental wellbeing • Brexit implications & replacement of EU funding • Asylum & migration matters Seek out opportunities to engage & lobby appropriate external bodies, groups and individuals Continue to promote learning from EER network and seek opportunities for NILGA to influence national and international policy	Members and officers have the evidence-base to influence change and ensure councils are protected & sustainable Councils will have co-designed and availed of relevant investment opportunities
Action 4: Actively support and develop council, party and councillor engagement with NILGA to identify areas of benefit and achieve positive participation in strategic work, at all levels.	Collaborate with members & officers on policy development, representation, communication Engage with relevant external bodies to broaden our policy influence Participate on relevant groups, including SOLACE NI, NAC, APSE, LGCS Health & Wellbeing and Equality & Diversity working groups, NARE, LGTG Elected Member Development Steering Group, Local Government Performance Improvement Working Group	Members and officers understand the benefits of collaboration through NILGA Councils will be working collaboratively with each other and with government on regional policy & initiatives

<p>Action 5: Promote the recognition and revise the 2016 – 2021+ Programme for Local Government as a companion document to the NI Executive’s 2016-2020 Programme for Government (PfG), to inform policy and strategy on local government and to feed into a post-2021 PfG.</p>	<p>Alongside a council led consultation, contemporise the Programme for Local Government</p> <p>Develop work on the new burdens’ doctrine – ensure local government is protected into the future</p>	<p>Local government is strengthened, resourced & future-proofed</p>
<p>Action 6: Assist government and opposition to develop and improve approaches to policy development; and promote and protect the furtherance of local government views within the unfolding policy landscape.</p>	<p>Participate in relevant policy development groups and events to highlight the views of local government on policy issues</p> <p>Provide research & evidence which shapes the future of local government on <i>i.a.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Programme for Government • Devolution Framework • Amendments to Local Government Act • Councillor Code of Conduct • Rates Reform • Entrepreneurial Strategy • Environment Strategy • Energy Strategy • Regeneration • Stronger Community Planning legislation • Community Safety Strategy • Policing Plan • Shared Prosperity Fund / Peace Plus Programme • Rural Development Strategy • Brexit • Regulation of gambling 	<p>Views of local government are taken account of in policy development</p> <p>Better public services are co-designed</p>

Theme Two: Effective Regional Communication & Co-ordination

Effective communication within the sector and the promotion of local government activity to stakeholders is vital. NILGA will play its part in communicating and delivering strong, effective, local government. NILGA in 2020 – 2023 will further build relationships within the sector; developing strong partnerships with government and with stakeholders, sharing best practice; communicating what local government needs and what it is doing well.

Corporate Plan Priorities	What action will we take in 2020-21?	Anticipated Outcomes
Action 7: Further build relationships with key personnel in key council roles, and further develop the value of participants from officer groups to NILGA's work.	Ensure officers are engaged in policy & learning networks and relevant regional groups	Policy responses reflect professional experts' views
Action 8: Actively develop new and existing protocols, as part of working for and with NILGA, agreeing roles and responsibilities of key partners to ensure effective working models are established and maintained.	Update constitution & investment framework, AGM protocols, financial / recruitment and other policies as required Negotiate National Pay Agreement that is fair & affordable for 12,000 staff Negotiate / benchmark Chief Executive & Chief Officer pay awards and Provide advice on Green Book terms and conditions to HR Teams.	NILGA adheres to good governance, audit & procurement standards
Action 9: Bring LGA and related expertise into NI from local government in other places, to inform and to enable NI local government to improve.	Work with LGA, COSLA & WLGA to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share best practice on economic & investment issues • Promote & enshrine civility in public life • Understand opportunities for shared services • Asylum & immigration issues (including integration) • Promote regional programme provision to other jurisdictions. 	National lobby on key issues is maximised & best practice is shared Councils & Elected members avail of opportunities to connect with and learn from other countries
Action 10: Consolidate relationships to empower local government with political parties, SOLACE, NAC, other LGAs, government	Attend political party conferences, SOLACE & NAC meetings Proactively engage with government departments, the NI Assembly and sectoral organisations	Stakeholders key to the successful delivery of local government priorities are connected and engaged with members & officers

departments, the NI Assembly, private and VCSE sectors.		Local government is seen as an essential part of contemporary government
Action 11: Promote local government through events such as the NILGA Flagship Annual Conference, Recognition Awards, Ulster in Bloom and actively promote councils' own engagement events.	Deliver Local Government Conference & Exhibition 2020 Promote & deliver Local Government Awards Promote & coordinate Ulster in Bloom competition Sponsor relevant awards for local government Social Enterprise NI Awards - Local Council of the Year - LGANI - Excellence in Environmental Sustainability by a Local Authority - NILGA & SNI - LGANI - Best Local Authority Elected Member Development Initiative - NILGA Attend events to raise profile of the local government sector, including Balmoral Show and relevant conferences & seminars	Excellence in local government is championed Profile & reputation of the local government sector is raised
Action 12: Further develop effective two-way communication between NILGA and its partners through ongoing review of NILGA's Communication and Engagement Strategy	Produce communications which are relevant to member councils, officers & elected members. Develop communications which clearly demonstrate the success and benefits of NILGA's work	Communications champion, protect, sustain and grow support for the sector Councils, members and officers are fully informed on the work of NILGA Importance of local government is communicated to stakeholders & NILGA is a valued local government association

Action 13: Actively monitor all partnership arrangements to identify growth opportunities of relevance to council and eliminate duplication.	Regularly engage with Strategic Partners to communicate and refine priorities including APSE, CES, CLES, DTNI, Enterprise NI, FSB, SIB, Social Enterprise NI, Stratagem & Sustainable NI Maintain existing alliances & establish new relationships with relevant organisations	Strategic Partners are aware of the work & role of councils and amplify NILGA's key messages with their stakeholders / members
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Theme Three: Effective Development of the NI Local Government Sector		
Effective local government requires consensus-driven, evidence-based policy, a body of confident, knowledgeable, articulate members and officers, responsible for policy formulation and the communication of key messages. NILGA in 2020 – 2023 will play a vital role in ensuring members and councils more widely have access to high-quality information, have opportunities to formulate policy on the basis of this information, and are provided with the necessary development and training opportunities to enhance the reputation of and confidence in the sector, across government, media and the public.		
Corporate Plan Priorities	What action will we take in 2020-21?	Anticipated Outcomes
Action 14: Establish, develop and support regional policy development, through member networks, key spokespeople and the NILGA Executive Committee, and target appropriate interventions to engage with national and international partners, responsive to unfolding events.	Deliver work plan of 5 Policy & Learning Networks (<i>See Annex 1</i>) to practically support the delivery of the NILGA Corporate plan and business plans Identify, appoint & develop capacity of spokespeople on relevant policy issues Ensure NILGA Executive & Policy & Learning networks are informed	Development of a confident & effective local government sector Regionally effective policy & learning networks Councillors are knowledgeable, resilient, confident & competent
Action 15: Establish new / maintain relevant existing regional partnerships and policy relationships with MLAs, Assembly Committees (when sitting), NI Executive and NIO	Engage with stakeholders through appropriate partnerships & groups Provide induction information and ongoing advice to councillors	Councillors are aware of the role & support offered by NILGA

Ministers, Departments, councils, local government officer groups, with both new and experienced councillors, and with experienced and new officers, especially in transformed roles for local councils.		
Action 16: Provide regionally developed, prioritised, consensus-driven policy positions on a range of existing and new policy areas to proactively inform government and in response to government consultation.	Develop or commission research & policy papers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution, new burdens & local government reform • Local Shared Services • Community Wealth & Preventative Health • Commissioning & Performance Management • Future EU funding 	The views of local government are considered in & reflected in new policy development
Action 17: Proactively develop local government understanding of and policy positions in relation to new / critical areas of work including planning, housing, circular economy, migration, international relations and emerging devolution and growth deals.	Deliver themed learning events through the Policy & Learning networks (see Annex 1) Deliver joint event with OFCOM on Digital Connectivity / 5G Produce a guide on Modern Slavery for local government Work with TEO & Home Office to develop understanding of migration & asylum issues	Issues prioritised by NILGA are fed into policy development The impact of new arrivals on councils' workplans is understood Investment opportunities are maximised
Action 18: Support and communicate the work of regional policy meetings such as the Partnership Panel/Central-Local Government Forum, NILGA's Executive and networks.	Convene & facilitate regional NILGA meetings, ensure timely communication to councils / members & follow up of outcomes	Councils & members are aware of NILGA's work

<p>Action 19: Member development – promote and further develop Charter (the member development national standard), the regional elected member development programme, and seminars, workshops, guides and training materials, to include Code of Conduct revisions and legislation affecting the roles of councillors and councils.</p>	<p>Delivery of accredited learning provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NILGA (ILM Endorsed Award) Local Planning and Leadership Programme 2019/20 • NILGA Leadership programme 2020. <p>Delivery of workshops and masterclasses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct • Environmental assessment • Scrutiny and challenge • Valuing Data and Evidence in Community Planning • Performance Improvement • Civil Contingencies • Rural Needs • GDPR <p>Lead on the achievement of Charter Level 1 for Mid and East Antrim Council and Charter Plus for Ards and North Down Council</p> <p>Collaboration with the Local Government Training Group as well as the National Association of Regional Employers which NILGA will Chair during the 2019/20 period.</p> <p>Co-ordination of the all council Regional Elected Member Development Network and attendance at individual council elected member development steering groups</p> <p>Work with LGA, COSLA & WLGA on civility in public life and develop a signposting service for councillors on stress and resilience</p>	<p>Elected members have the capacity to make robust and defensible decisions for their area</p> <p>Councils safeguard their reputation as responsible decision makers</p>
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<p>Action 20: To inform member councils of NILGA, consult upon and deliver an Annual Business Plan in each year, reporting on results against targets, maintaining efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Develop new Constitution & Investment Framework</p> <p>Support work of Audit, Risk & Sustainability network to monitor organisational performance & risk</p> <p>Ensure performance standards are in place for all staff through Performance Review & Development process</p> <p>Produce Annual Business Plan report in September 2020</p> <p>Consult on Annual Business Plan for 2021-20 by December 2020</p>	<p>NILGA business plan is co-designed with members & stakeholders</p>
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ANNEX 1

Priorities for NILGA's Policy & Learning Networks

Reform, Devolution and Improvement Network

- Commission a report on Devolution following a council led consultation
- Work on the New Burdens Doctrine
- Contemporise the Programme for Local Government
- Look into requirements for a bespoke system for NI regarding resources and funding
- Rates System and the ability for councils to make changes to them
- In order to develop an evidence base – carry out a SWOT Analysis on Reform
- Commission a report on possible areas of improvement

Health, Environmental & Social Wellbeing Network

- Supporting Council Climate Action
- Network Event: Caring Councils: Addressing Poverty Locally – at the 'cliff edge'
- Overview of progress on Community Planning
- Network Event: Circular Economy (jointly with Economy & International Affairs Network)
- Consideration of the council role in Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- Council parks and leisure services driving improvement in health, well-being and biodiversity

Economy & International Affairs Network

- Respond to consultations on post-Brexit funding (Shared Prosperity / Peace Plus / Rural Development funding)
- Lobbying to improve Digital Connectivity – 5G, Project Stratum
- Revitalising our city and town centres (Urban regeneration theme – including working with DfC on public realms)
- Exploring opportunities to improve International Relations / International Trade
- Lobbying for an Entrepreneurial Strategy

Place Shaping & Infrastructure Network

- Housing supply and location
- Responding to the Energy Strategy Call for Evidence
- Review of planning legislation and policy including setting of planning fees, approach to developer contributions, SPPS
- 'Getting it right' – monitoring performance and addressing knowledge and practice gaps
- Potential for further devolution: transfer of regeneration, consideration of public realm and roads (in liaison with RDIN)
- Addressing the infrastructure deficit - Water and sewerage update
- Digital and broadband (with Economy & International Affairs network)
- Climate adaptation infrastructure and flood risk (With HSEWB network)

Elected Member Development Network

- Review and Implement LGA Charter Framework as a licensed provider
- Chairing NARE for 2020-21
- Deliver programme of training for elected members
- Local Government Training Group review
- Ongoing coordination of Charter & Charter Plus



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster District Council

Mid Ulster District Council's subscription for the above Investment & Work Plan in 2020/21 is £50,259 (excluding VAT)

Mid Ulster along with Newry, Mourne & Down, Ards & North Down, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Derry & Strabane is a Band B Council, which is a Council with a population between 145,000 – 300,000. An invoice will be sent to your Council on 1st April 2020 for payment by 30th June 2020.

In 2020/21 costs for the National Employers Side of the NJC and related services (c. £4,150 per council) is billed separately, as part of the council's invoice for joint services provided by or through NILGA / LGA.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association









Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

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#teamlocgovni

Strong Councils

*Driving Growth, Protecting Resources,
Championed by the Northern Ireland Local
Government Association.*

**NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, is the representative, lobbying, policy, negotiating, development & communication body for all our councils.
It is owned and constituted by the 11 local authorities.**

	The VOICE of local government, communicating the positive work of councils & defending their interests.						
£x20	<p>Return on investment est. = yielding £1.3m p.a. benefits per council</p> <p>Success: lobbied for allocation of c. £4.25m / council for RPA, (£47 million)</p> <p>Success: Lobbying to retain Rates Support Grant, worth £80m since 2015</p> <p>Success: Collective savings through collective sourcing of training & advice</p> <p>Need: Lobbying for replacement of EU funding, worth £3.5bn to NI.</p>						
	Negotiating National Pay Agreement that is fair & affordable for 12,000 staff Negotiating / benchmarking Chief Executive & Chief Officer pay awards and advice on Green Book terms and conditions to HR Teams.						
	Regional Programme of Elected Member Development Best practice through 6 all council Policy & Learning Networks Top class events and workshops at no cost or heavily subsidised.						
	Representation on relevant national & international local government bodies (EU Committee of the Regions, CLGF, LGA, NARE) and EU Monitoring Committees – including direct lobbying of Ministers & Treasury Collaboration with counterparts in Scotland, England, Wales & Ireland – best practice advice & linkage benefits for all 11 councils.						
	Research & policy advice on issues that matter: <i>Reform, Devolution, Improvement, Governance, Place shaping, Infrastructure, Economy, Environment, City & Growth Deals, EU & UK funding, Community Planning, Migration, Code of Conduct, Council income and New Burdens Doctrine.</i>						
	Charter for Elected Member Development Promotion & coordination of Ulster in Bloom.						
	<p style="text-align: center;">ON OUR 2020 RADAR</p> <table> <tr> <td>Code of Conduct</td><td>Improvement & Transformation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Review of Local Government Reform</td><td>EU funding replacement</td></tr> <tr> <td>New leadership in local government</td><td>New investment for councils</td></tr> </table>	Code of Conduct	Improvement & Transformation	Review of Local Government Reform	EU funding replacement	New leadership in local government	New investment for councils
Code of Conduct	Improvement & Transformation						
Review of Local Government Reform	EU funding replacement						
New leadership in local government	New investment for councils						
	Any questions? Just ask, YOUR local government association is here to help YOU						

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Strong Councils, Great Local Government

TOP 10, Ten Minute NILGA Benefits Guide



1. WHO WE ARE

NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, **is the representative, lobbying, policy guidance, negotiating, development and communication body of our 11 councils.** It is owned and constituted by all 11 local authorities. It provides a substantial work plan annually and a Corporate Plan for an electoral term, both driven by councils, their appointed councillors and supportive senior officers on all matters of importance to the sector. NILGA also does specific work as sought by individual and clusters of councils. Your council's investment in NILGA yielded a calculated **20-fold return** of c. **£1.3 million p.a., since 2015**, excluding Rates Support Grant benefits gained by 7 member councils (point 7 over).

2. INVESTMENT - RETURNS FOR COUNCILS

NILGA's investment from councils enables essential, collective work which has even since 2015 yielded huge financial, policy, legislative, training and investment gains for your council and your 10 council neighbours. The work to ensure the NI Assembly gave funding of **£47 million to councils for RPA after stating nothing would be available, resulted from a strong, sector wide, NILGA led, evidence and lobbying, worth approximately £4.25 million per council since 2015 taken simply as an equal benefit.**

3. ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

NILGA's Regional Programme of Elected Member Development co-ordinates accessible, relevant, member and council led training based on sourcing training on a whole sector basis – using our collective purchasing power to save your councils & your ratepayers significant money. The Charter for Elected Member Development has been / will be gained by all 11 councils this electoral term, with NILGA having been licensed to deliver this saving, on average, £16,000 per council on private consultancy over the 3-year lifetime of Charter accreditation. That's another £176,000 off the rates bills we all pay and which provides planning, leadership and development training – often accredited by the community itself - which is of constituent and corporate value to elected member and officers alike.

4. WORKFORCE

NILGA negotiates a National Pay agreement on behalf of the 11 councils which agrees Pay, Terms and Conditions for our 12,000+ workforce. We ensure that fair and affordable pay and terms are implemented by having a direct, council representation at every Pay meeting until an agreement is struck. National Level Pay and Conditions covering England, Wales and N. Ireland avoids regional, sub regional and local inconsistencies which usually lead to more difficult, time consuming and money sapping outcomes. Since 2015, the benefits financially to our 11 councils based on national agreement, compared to local and regional outcomes in Scotland and parts of England, amount to circa **£7,000,000**. Equally importantly, NILGA gives advice on demand on matters to do with staff grading, service continuity, Green Book policies, and other technical matters so as to ensure your council and the other 10 have a CONSISTENT approach to such important yet sensitive Human Resource matters. Over 200 such queries were sought from NILGA in 2018/19 and all were resolved to employee and employer satisfaction. NILGA, on demand, also develops and sources policy guidance on Organisational Design, technical training, Chief Executive and Chief Officer Pay, salary benchmarking and appraisal technique. All this work is provided, on average, at a cost of £4,150 per council p.a., – a vast saving compared to each local authority procuring private sector advice.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

NILGA is a strong, constant communicator on POSITIVE WORK of councils. Our Social Media, Web Based News, online and print Press and TV articles, sourced from all 11 councils as well as our own, unapologetic defence of councils and councillors where unfounded criticism is faced, is an antidote in a negative media world. We also unequivocally communicate sector wide campaigns, including ensuring as many people as possible in N.I. understand what councils do, why local democracy is so important, including the highly acclaimed Campaign to Vote in May 2019. The Voice of Local Government is authoritative and loudly heard through NILGA.

6. REPRESENTATION

NILGA ensures local councils, both officers and councillors, are represented on regional (all NI), national and international bodies which we can learn from and get investment from. For example, a National group of employers and trainers will convene in Belfast and Ballymena during 2020 as NILGA, at no cost to councils, has secured that we – NI – chair their work and get the benefits of their expertise for free this, next and in future years. We are working with Council Chiefs and elected members on getting the best deal, through the UK Government Forum (NILGA one of only 4 bodies represented to meet national ministers and Treasury), in terms of post Brexit funding. An estimated £3.5 BILLION is set to come to N. Ireland. Councils, through NILGA, are pressing for much of that as possible to come to EACH council, to supplement City and Growth Deals, to invest in local skills, jobs, community development and infrastructure. Our target? Government past delivery suggests £175 million of that £3.5 billion goes directly to NI councils. We want and will lobby for at least three times that amount, another £350 million, which will NOT be something ratepayers have to find, as NILGA asserts that is double taxation.

7. RESOURCES

Most (7) councils receive around **£16 million p.a.** from central government through the Rates Support Grant. Whilst arguing that this process is outdated and needs a whole review, NILGA has lobbied, in partnership with many councils, for the PROTECTION of this investment, which raises more money on enterprise and jobs than it costs. The Grant is annually threatened with removal or reduction. NILGA's lobbying with councils has retained over **£80 Million** between 2015 & 2019 for hard pressed councils striking prudent rates each February. We will continue this pressure to ensure 7 eligible councils have investment for growth.

8. POLICY

NILGA's policy work is seen as an invaluable tool for government itself, but only in the sense that we collate and lobby for things your council and the other 10 councils want. A strong Environment Strategy; a deliverable and well-resourced NI Water Strategy; Waste Management policy and strategy that resources, develops and supports the excellent work councils are doing on this expensive but vital service, and which should soon deliver £2m per council per year on an ongoing basis; contemporary and effective place-shaping and infrastructure policy. Funding for councils to lead on delivery of Community Plans deserved by the community, on key issues such as prevention of ill- health. Ensuring the latest round of European including Cross Border and Peace monies are CO-DESIGNED, SCRUTINISED and bring as much funding to councils as possible, funding anticipated to be in the region of €630 Million.

9. DRIVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We are your Local Government Association and in the near future will be working daily with members and officers on new and important work beyond that mentioned here. What further resources and powers and functions, if any, does your Council need / want? How will a revised Code of Conduct be applied to benefit councillors and reduce costs for councils? How can councils corporate income and economic development work be enhanced with a New Business Rates Model. Placing legislation to strengthen the NI Local Government Act and protecting councils against transfers of functions which end up costing your council and its ratepayers more money than you get! NILGA's New Burdens work will indemnify your and the other 10 councils from being "short changed".

10. HERE TO HELP

Any questions? Just ask, we are here to help. No frills, no fuss, just exemplary work from a dedicated team of 10 officers, drawing on the skill and power of 450 councils across the UK and Ireland, bringing it directly to each council here, working WITH – and FOR - for you.



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Northern Ireland Water
Westland House
Old Westland Road
Belfast
BT14 6TE



anthony.tohill@midulstercouncil.org

Date: 19th December 2019

Dear Mr Tohill

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of NI Water to highlight Northern Ireland's current wastewater infrastructure crisis.

NI Water has been warning for some time that inadequate funding would eventually impact on delivery of service. Please see Appendix attached in relation to your Council area.

The level of funding made available to NI Water for the 2015 to 2021 period has already resulted in over 100 areas across Northern Ireland where Wastewater Treatment Works are at, or rapidly approaching, full capacity and where NI Water is unlikely to be able to accept additional sewer connections.

The economic consequences are clear with new housing, businesses, schools, hospitals and tourism all seriously affected. If current levels of funding are maintained we expect a further 33 Economically Constrained Areas (ECAs) to be added to this list by 2027 and 50% of Northern Ireland's sewer system will be full.

We are now facing a tipping point and collectively need to urgently make decisions about the structure and funding of NI Water if we are to continue to provide the water and sewerage services which are expected in a healthy economy.

NI Water's current governance model has been described as 'sub-optimal' both by economic commentators and the Utility Regulator. It is simply no longer fit for purpose. Currently NI Water receives a subsidy in lieu of domestic charging and has access to borrowings; however, it has been constrained in its ability to invest in capital infrastructure. We believe this accounting constraint needs further examination.

NI Water has identified a £2.5bn investment programme for Northern Ireland's water and wastewater infrastructure over the 2021 to 2027 period (PC21), this includes £1bn which is needed urgently to address significant wastewater capacity issues in Belfast and allow new wastewater connections there from 2021 onwards. This investment is critical to maintaining the supply of safe, quality water and to address a large number of wastewater capacity issues across our cities and towns. We need agreement and support from all sectors in Northern Ireland to secure funding to achieve this level of investment.

Northern Ireland's wastewater infrastructure is at serious risk and nearly every main urban area is impacted including; Belfast, Coleraine, Limavady, Newry, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Omagh, Newtownards, Bangor, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne, Antrim, Ballyclare, Armagh, Portadown, Lurgan, Metropolitan Lisburn & Castlereagh, Derry/Londonderry and Strabane.

This is a situation which can be avoided. NI Water knows Northern Ireland's economic growth ambitions, and we have both the costed plans and the skills to deliver resilient water and wastewater infrastructure. We have proven we are an exemplar of how a GO-CO, a Government Company, can provide private sector levels of performance and efficiency.

Never before has Northern Ireland faced a situation where a lack of fundamental infrastructure will restrict the opportunities for economic growth and tourism as well as putting our natural environment and the health of our population at risk.

In the context of a possible return to a functioning NI Executive/Assembly (or even without it) I would ask you to actively support the immediate proper funding of Northern Ireland's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Should you have any questions or concerns please email press.office@niwater.com. We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this further.

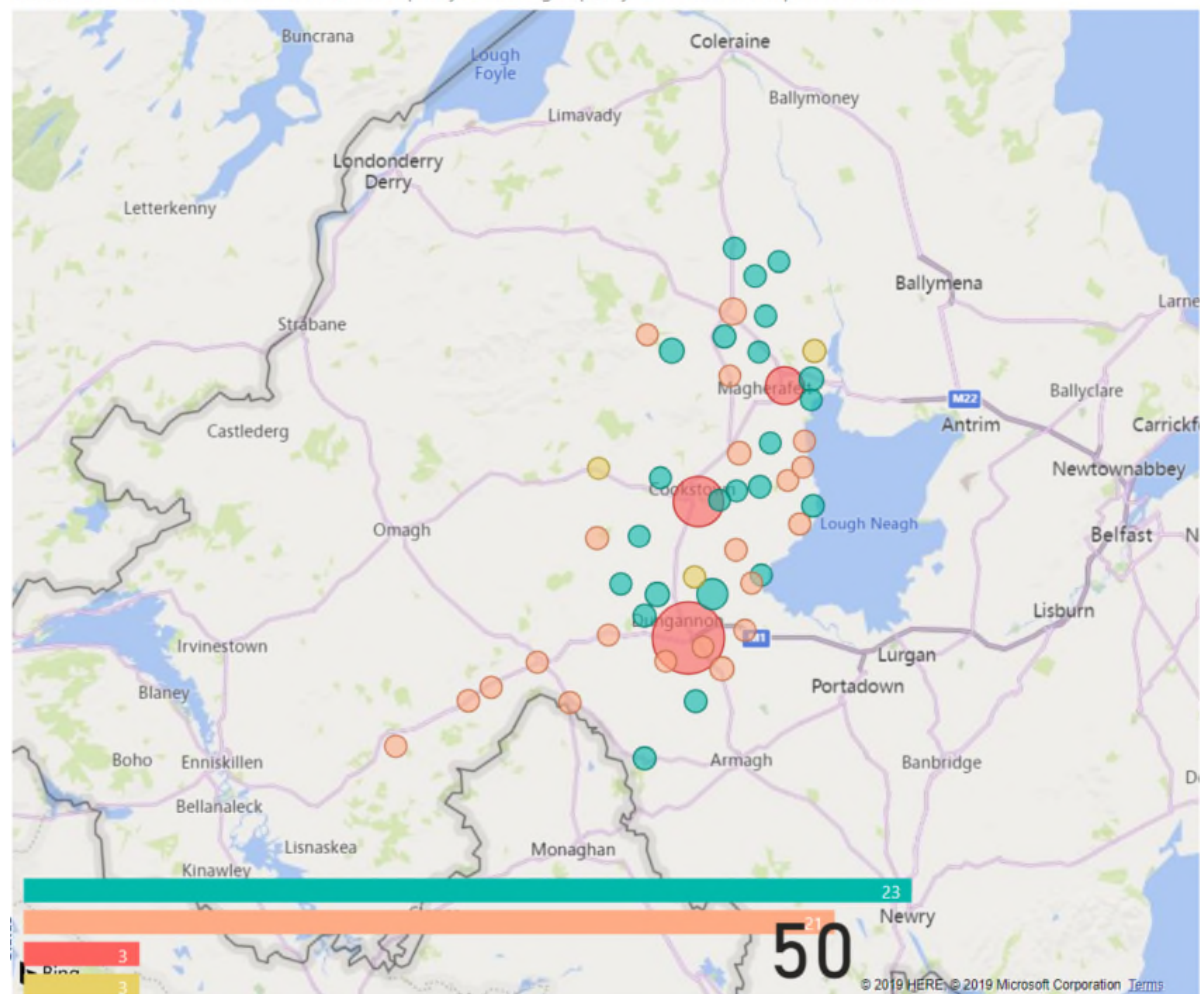
Yours sincerely



Mark Ellesmere
For and on behalf of NI Water Board

APPENDIX

Status ● Economic Constraint Zone ● Has Capacity ● Nearing Capacity ● Serious Development Restriction



**From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride**



BY EMAIL: Eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org

Cllr Martin Kearney
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0563
Email: Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 14 January 2020

Dear Cllr Kearney

I wish to express my thanks to you and Council colleagues for your proactivity in meeting to discuss working together to deliver Council elements of the Protect Life 2 Strategy.

We discussed a range of ways in which the Council could contribute to the Strategy. This included: representation on Protect Life Implementation Groups; focusing on resilience and mental health through local community action plans; Councillors and Council staff training in suicide prevention; awareness raising of support services and investment in suicide prevention initiatives.

Much of the general work the Council undertakes also contributes to suicide prevention in an indirect way such as ensuring access to sports facilities and leisure programmes; actions to alleviate poverty; actions to promote access to green space and physical activity and reducing social isolation.

There were a number of actions we agreed to consider going forward:

- Council to consider a presentation on planned suicide prevention work at next meeting of Protect Life 2 Steering Group (Wednesday 26 February at 10.30am, CAFRE Loughry College);
- Staff to made aware of and encouraged to undertake the Towards Zero Suicide online training through the e-learning platform <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training/> and where appropriate further training to develop knowledge and skills for example Safetalk or Mental Health First Aid;
- PHA could engage Samaritans to deliver a media training session to Councillors;

- Explore Council Charter on Suicide Prevention;
- Work with PHA in developing a Directory of Services for Mid-Ulster that was not Trust area specific: and
- Work with PHA to consider options to assist Council representation at Protect Life Implementation Groups.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with and assisting the Council in progressing suicide prevention in the Mid-Ulster Council area.

Yours sincerely



DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

cc Fiona McClements: Fiona.mcclements@midulstercouncil.org
Fiona Teague: fiona.teague@hscni.net

**Mary Peters Trust**

marypeterstrust.org

*Funding Northern Ireland's Future Sporting Champions*6th January 2020

Mr Anthony Tohill
Mid Ulster Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT

Dear Mr Tohill

Over the years you have assisted the Mary Peters Trust (we are a charity administered voluntarily by Directors) by providing encouragement and financial support. We invest our capital and the interest is distributed in the form of sporting awards to upcoming athletes.

In the year 2019 the Trust disbursed over £80k to 200 young people representing over 50 sports.

We are seeking your support to help maintain our capital base to ensure the level and value of awards continues to grow. We need the support of Local Authorities, commercial organisations and voluntary bodies in order to help achieve this target. A number of fundraising events are also being organised.

We ask you to forward this letter to the relevant Council Committee and respectfully request they join in our work of helping young people achieve excellence in sport, by making a contribution for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Best wishes and many thanks for your continued support.

Lady Mary Peters CH DBE RNR
President

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	Thursday 23 January 2020
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council for comment.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies. As such, it receives documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members review and note consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

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Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for Communities (DfC)	Gambling Regulation in Northern Ireland	DfC is consulting on current gambling law in Northern Ireland and seeking views on whether changes are now necessary to ensure Northern Ireland has a flexible and modern licensing framework capable of responding to the many societal and technical changes in the industry.	21 Feb 2020	Env. Health
	Link to Consultation	https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-regulation-gambling-northern-ireland		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
The Consumer Council	Draft Forward Work Programme 2020-21	The Consumer Council is consulting on its draft Forward Work Programme for 2020-21, the final year of the current corporate strategy (2016-21)	31 January 2020	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.consumer council.org.uk/policy-research/publications/draft-forward-work-programme-2020-21 https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TCC-FWP-2021		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for the Economy (DfE)	Call for Evidence to inform the development of a new Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland	DfE is developing a new Energy Strategy to replace the existing Strategic Energy Framework. This Call for Evidence is part of an on-going public engagement process to inform and shape this strategy. The Dept is aiming to have a draft Strategy for presentation to a Minister for the Economy by end of 2020	20 March 2020	Director advises that this shall be scheduled to the Climate Change WG
	Link to Consultation	https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/energy-strategy-call-for-evidence		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Foras na Gaeilge	Treo Straitéiseach d'Fhoras na Gaeilge 2020-2025 – Consultation Strategic Direction 2020-25	Foras na Gaeilge is consulting on its Strategic Direction for 2020-25	31 January 2020	Culture & Arts
	Link to Consultation	www.forasnagaeilge.ie/nuacht/comhairliuchan https://www.forasnagaeilge.ie/news/consultation/?lang=en		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Invest NI	Draft Disability Action Plan	Invest NI is consulting on its Draft Disability Action Plan for 2020-2024	20 March 2020	

	Link to Consultation	https://www.investni.com/about-us/equality-commitment.html		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
SEUPB	PEACE PLUS Programme – European Territorial Cooperation 2021-2027	The SEUPB is undertaking a programme of stakeholder engagement to shape the PEACE PLUS programme for the period 2021-2027. This includes information sessions across N Ireland and the border counties.	25 February 2020	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.seupb.eu/peaceplus		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)	NIHE draft Community Safety Strategy 2020 – 2023	The Board of the Housing Executive has approved the draft Community Safety Strategy 'Working Together for Safer Communities'. It is now consulting on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in this document.	13 March 2020	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads	Designation of Traffic sensitive streets – Consolidation Order	DFI Roads is consulting local councils on a draft Order which will consolidate four Divisional Orders and update the list of designated traffic-sensitive streets under the Street Works Order (NI) 1995. Councils are invited to lodge any objections.	3 Feb 2020	
	Link to Consultation	The draft Order can accessed by emailing philip.moffett@midulstercouncil.org or mary.mcsorley@midulstercouncil.org		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)	Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy 2019-2022	The Board of the Housing Executive has approved its draft 'Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy'. NIHE is now consulting to get feedback on the strategic direction set out in the document.	21 February 2020	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	

