

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 11 April 2018 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McNamee, Molloy (7.13 pm), Monteith, J Shiels, G Shiels

Officers in Attendance

Ms 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
Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure
Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D069/18 Apologies

Councillor Clarke.

D070/18 Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and advised any declarations could be taken throughout the meeting.

D071/18 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Wilson referred to the recent World Butcher's Challenge event to which Council provided financial support. The Chair stated that this had been a very successful event with some local butchers being involved and passed on the congratulations of the committee.

Matters for Decision

D072/18 Economic Development Report

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

- **LED Outdoor Mobile Screens**

In response to Councillor Cuddy's question the Head of Economic Development stated that the screens would be solely for use at Council events and would not be loaned out.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to award contract for the hire of large LED Outdoor Mobile Screens for key Council events over the next three years at a cost of up to £50,000 (including expenses and excluding vat) to AJC Electrical.

- **NI Women's Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018-21**

In response to Councillor Doris' question the Head of Economic Development advised that if Council decides to provide funding it will be solely for the Mid Ulster area.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to fund the Women's Enterprise Challenge for a one year period (2018/19) initially, at an estimated cost of £6060 per Challenge Year, with potentially slightly higher costs in Year 1 of £6162, reducing in Years 2 and 3. Provision for future years to be reviewed upon receipt of regular reports from Women in Business, detailing the performance and outputs of the initiative in the Mid Ulster District Council area and showing pull through into the Start a Business Programme.

- **Maghera Town Centre Forum**

In response to Councillor J Shiels' question the Head of Economic Development advised that representation from community groups to the Forum was still to be finalised as some groups in the area may have the potential to work together as one. The officer stated that the community representatives selected will be representative of the area.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the establishment of Maghera Town Centre Forum as set out in the Terms of Reference outlined in appendix 2 of the Economic Development report.

- **Village Renewal Project**

Progress Noted.

- **Coalisland Public Realm**

Progress Noted.

- **Hong Kong Trade Visit**

Progress Noted.

- **Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund**

Progress Noted.

- **International Women's Day Events**

Members noted report on International Women's Day Events held.

- **World Butchers Challenge Event**

Members noted report on the World Butchers Challenge Event.

Councillor McNamee asked for status and update in relation to wi-fi provision in Cookstown Town Centre.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council's existing town wi-fi system had come to an end on 31 March 2018 when the contract finished, it was noted however some small pockets of wi-fi remain in certain parts of Cookstown Town Centre. The officer advised that Council is currently out to quotation for a new supplier and provided Council is successful in appointing an organisation to build a new town wi-fi network, it was hoped this would be largely functional by the end of June 2018.

D073/18 CCTV for Park n Rides

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report which sought approval to accept £60,000 funding from the Department for Infrastructure to procure through Council the provision of CCTV at four Park n Ride locations in Mid Ulster District.

Councillor J Shiels stated it was good to see this matter was being taken seriously as there had been several break ins at Park and Ride facilities. Councillor J Shiels proposed the officer recommendation.

Councillor Forde concurred with Councillor Shiels and stated that it will be good to have the CCTV in place at Park and Ride locations. Councillor Forde seconded Councillor J Shiels proposal.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To accept £60,000 funding from Department for Infrastructure for the provision of CCTV at up to four Park n Ride locations in the District.
 - To proceed with procurement of CCTV for up to four Park n Ride locations in the District to a maximum value of £60,000. (Park n Rides located at Ballygawley, Castledawson roundabout, Craigadick, Maghera and Tamnamore, Dungannon). Monitoring of CCTV at Park n Ride locations to be linked to existing Council provision (at no further revenue cost), pending infrastructure.

D074/18 Community Grants

Members considered previously circulated report which set out proposed community grant allocations.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Friends of Killymoon Castle and Fairhill and District Development Committee.

Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Cookstown AOH and Cookstown Community Allotments.

Councillor McFlynn declared an interest in Loup Women's Group.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Craobh Uí Néill CCÉ, Dungannon Gaelic Forum, Ballysaggart Area Community Association and Tyrone GAA.

Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in Dungannon Rugby Club.

Councillor G Shiels declared an interest in Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre and Involve (NI).

Councillor Forde declared an interest in Moyola Park FC and Tobermore PTA.

Councillor Elattar welcomed all grant allocations listed and felt there was a good diversity. Councillor Elattar referred to the Strategic Arts and Culture Programme and the cut to this years funding, the Councillor asked why this had happened and if groups had been made aware of the cuts and if there was any possibility of mitigating these cuts. Councillor Elattar stated that the Arts was not well funded and felt Council should be lobbying for additional funds as Mid Ulster was a rural area.

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in COSTA.

Councillor Molloy entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson referred to the Cookstown 100 event which had received a funding cut this year. The Chair stated that this was a key event that brings tourism to the area and asked why there had been a funding cut.

Councillor G Shiels felt there was some overlap between tourism and arts and culture and that the matter was not clear cut.

The Head of Community Development advised that Council retained its funds for the Arts and Cultural Programme but that grant allocations were scaled back due to cuts to NI Arts Council funding. The officer advised that groups had not been informed of the cuts as it needed to go through Council process, she further confirmed that some lobbying had commenced with the Arts Council regarding the cuts to local groups and that this was ongoing.

Councillor Elattar felt it was important to lobby strongly on this issue as rural groups were being impacted most by cuts from the NI Arts Council. The Councillor also felt that if there is underspend in any funding areas throughout the year that consideration should be given to using these monies to lessen the 25% funding cut to strategic arts groups as they provide a vital role in the community.

In relation to the Cookstown 100 event the Head of Community Development advised there was a reduction in funding due to a minor change in the application score from last year. It was advised that the application was strong and had scored well, as per the award allocated, however the application allows for development of an event from one year to another. All groups were advised that they had to contact an officer re. strategic events prior to application but that this did not happen in relation to this particular application. The Head of Community Development stated that Council realise that this is one of the events of strategic significance in the District and the value the event brings to the area but that officers had to make an assessment based on the application submitted.

Councillor McNamee agreed with Councillor Elattar's comments regarding arts cuts but still felt that the overall allocation of grants was a good news story and commended staff for bringing the grants allocations report forward to this stage.

Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in Aughintoher Regeneration and also commended staff on the work done.

The Head of Community Development advised that after further analysis of the grants it was noted there were three grants that were double categories, these being Kildress GAC, Royal British Legion Cookstown and Killeeshil and Clonaneese Historical Society. The officer advised that the groups will be informed that they will have to decide on which grant to choose but that from a brief review it would seem the requests are festival in nature and the groups could re-apply under this grant as it is rolling.

The Head of Community Development also noted that the allocation of funding for Cookstown Gymnastics Club and Coalisland Dance Centre would be conditional on further clarifications being confirmed.

The Head of Community Development also advised there was a minor error at point 4.1 of the report in that the budget for sports capital is £150,000. Transfer to community festivals detailed at 4.2 of the report should read £12,211.

Councillor Elattar agreed that the grant allocations was a good news story for Council but felt that Council should be reiterating to groups that the reduction to funding for the Strategic Arts and Cultural Programme was as a result of Arts Council cuts and that Council should be assisting groups in seeking other avenues of funding.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the Head of Culture and Arts would discuss cuts with relevant groups and provide assistance with sourcing other funding avenues.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson expressed thanks to the Head of Community Development and staff for work that went into bringing report forward.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve grant allocations as set out in appendix to report with the following exceptions –
 - (I) Kildress GAC, Royal British Legion Cookstown and Killeeshil and Clonaneese Historical Society to decide which grant they want to accept and then re-apply for their second grant.
 - (II) Allocations to Cookstown Gymnastics Club and Coalisland Dance Centre conditional subject to further clarification.
 - That the Head of Culture of Arts liaise with relevant groups in relation to Arts funding cuts and provide assistance in sourcing other funding avenues.

D075/18 Mid Ulster District Council Every Body Active 2020

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report which provided detail on Mid Ulster District Council Every Body Active 2020 Programme for 2017/18 and sought approval for the draft Mid Ulster District Council Every Body Active 2020 Action Plan 2018/19. The officer also advised that Sport NI had stated that Mid Ulster Council was one of the highest performing Councils involved in the Every Body Active Programme.

Proposed by Councillor McEldowney
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to proceed on the basis of the Mid Ulster District Council Every Body Active 2020 Year 2 Report and Draft Action Plan for 2018/19 as presented at appendix to report.

D076/18 Innevall Railway Walk, Stewartstown

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval to progress a programme of works to upgrade the public path at Innevall Railway Walk, Stewartstown.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to procure the necessary resources and complete the required works, subject to available funding, in order to upgrade the public pathway at Innevall.

In response to Councillor Monteith's comments the Head of Parks advised that officers were in receipt of report relating to Railway Park and it was hoped to arrange another Councillor meeting within the next couple of weeks.

In response to Councillor McAleer's comments the Head of Parks advised that work was ongoing in relation to progressing the licence agreement for Knockmany Forest.

D077/18 Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought agreement for a Service Level Agreement proposal for Lough Neagh Rescue covering the financial period April 2018 to March 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Service Level Agreement between Council and Lough Neagh Rescue for 2018/19 and that Council provide £6,000 funding to Lough Neagh Rescue for eligible costs of running the service from Battery Harbour in 2018/19.

D078/18 Special Events on Roads Legislation

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which provided information relating to the impact of the new Special Events on Roads Legislation on Council Corporate events.

Councillor Monteith stated that there was a lot of confusion within the public domain in relation to this legislation, that there were events coming up and that additional costs in relation to this legislation had not been factored in by community groups. Councillor Monteith felt that Council needed to be in a position to provide answers to the public as to what is required.

Councillor McNamee referred to the number of grants just approved and questioned whether these community groups were aware of the upcoming legislation requirements for events that require a road closure. Councillor McNamee also felt that for Council staff to compile traffic management plans was taking them away from their everyday work and that additional staff may be required in this regard. The Councillor questioned if it would cost as much for Council to take on this role as for a traffic management company to prepare.

The Head of Tourism advised that the estimated cost to adhere to this legislation for the Continental Market event in Cookstown is approximately £1000, the officer stated that technical staff within Council had been producing similar plans over the years but

that discussion was required as to what Council needed to do to meet DFI requirements for traffic management.

Councillor Monteith stated that those community groups detailed within Council's database should be contacted with regard to legislation requirements if they are holding an event that requires a road closure as Council was already coming under fire for not providing information in this regard.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson felt that biggest issue related to adhering to this legislation for community groups will be the additional cost element.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that community groups would be written out to regarding legislation requirements for road closures at an event and a further report on this matter would be brought back to committee.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- Follow up with Department for Infrastructure to investigate if Council staff could be suitably trained and qualified to compile Traffic Management Plans for corporate events.
 - Write out to community groups providing advice on legislation requirements for road closures at events and further report be brought back to committee.

Matters for Information

D079/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 March 2018

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 15 March 2018.

Councillor Doris referred to item 057/18 Leisure Services Pricing Policy 2018/19 and asked if there was an update in relation to free usage of facilities for children with disabilities.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that work was ongoing in conjunction with the Corporate Policy Officer in determining the disabled usage of leisure facilities and that a paper would be brought before SMT and Committee on the matter.

Councillor McAleer referred to item D048/18 Deputation – ICBAN and stated that she would prefer her last comment to read –

“Councillor McAleer said that there was a lot of expense upfront to install an internet connection as she was made aware of owners in Killeeshil having to fund this themselves and install underground ducting to their premises.”

D080/18 Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report which provided minutes of recent meeting of Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group.

D081/18 Parks Service Progress/Update Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on progress being made regarding activities associated to the Parks Service and to highlight events or consultations that are occurring in the future.

D082/18 Culture and Arts Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on progress across Culture and Arts Services and to highlight events that took place in the last quarter. The report also highlighted specific events and activities within the Culture and Arts Service which are currently being developed by the officer team and will take place in the future.

Councillor Monteith asked for update in relation to enhancing visitor experience at Ranfurly House and Hill of The O'Neill and in addition asked what progress had been made in relation to mast on Castle Hill.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that tender was being progressed in relation to getting work commissioned to enhance visitor experience at Ranfurly House and Hill of The O'Neill.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that a meeting had taken place in relation to relocation of mast at Castle Hill and that discussions were ongoing with Southern Health Trust in relation to possible relocation of mast to South Tyrone Hospital site. The Director advised that a further meeting would be arranged with Members when appropriate to do so.

Councillor Monteith referred to work ongoing in relation to search for the famine graves in Dungannon. The Councillor advised that the Southern Trust were working with Radius Housing to commission archaeology services to undertake search at a site off Carland Road (behind Loane House). The Councillor stated that this was a worthwhile project and commended the legacy Council of Cookstown on the work they had undertaken in identifying and recognising the famine graves in Cookstown and asked that Council tie in with work and discussions ongoing between Radius Housing and Southern Trust.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
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 D083/18 and D085/18.

Matters for Decision

D083/18 Community Development Report

D084/18 Leisure Tender – Supply of Fitness Equipment
Maintenance and Servicing

Matters for Information

D085/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
15 March 2018

D086/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 7.40 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____