

A

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 25 September 2014 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Members Present: Councillor Mallaghan, Chair (Presiding Councillor)

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

Officers in Attendance: Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Lead HR Officer
Mrs Mezza, Marketing Communications Manager
Mr O'Hagan, ICT Manager
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer (D&STBC)

The meeting commenced at 7pm

C53/14 Apologies

Councillors Buchanan, Totten and M Quinn.

C54/14 Declarations of Interest

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

C55/14 Notice of Motion

In response to a question from a UUP Member the Chair said the Motion was being heard at the commencement of business and not at the end, as standing orders indicated, as there was business to be discussed 'in committee' at the end of the meeting. He also added that business was regularly moved and Chairs had been happy to accommodate.

The Chair invited Councillor Dillon to present the motion,

Councillor Dillon in proposing the undernoted Motion stated that whilst the Sinn Féin party was not opposed to all cutbacks the Tory welfare cuts would have a devastating impact on society with every community being affected which would result in a rise of deaths by suicide, push both individuals and families into poverty and deepen social deprivation. Councillor Dillon also stated that behind the statistics there are real people dealing with the repercussions for example those who experience mental ill health were any change brings great distress. Drawing attention to happenings in Scotland at the time of reform which highlighted that if the

British Government is pushed they may well relent. Councillor Dillon sought support for the motion:

"This Council is totally opposed to the imposition of Tory welfare cuts, which would have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable in our society, including working families, the poor and people with disabilities."

Councillor S McGuigan seconded the motion. He stated that he fully supported it and emphasised that on a daily basis he dealt with people in an advice centre and although rewarding when a case or appeal was won welfare benefits was a highly emotive and stressful issue for people. Councillor McGuigan stressed the importance of looking at the high level figures that whilst £1 billion would be lost the flip side to this was that £750 million was being taken out of the economy the effects of which would impact on employment and local spend. Referring to a joint party working group which met in 2013 looking at the consequences of the introduction of Welfare Reform he reported at the time, similar to other Councillors, impacts on the most vulnerable working families and people with disabilities being hardest hit, and as such he hoped all Members would support the motion.

A SDLP Member stated the Party was opposed to cuts as there would be adverse effects for local people. Referring to bedroom tax he stated 23,000 people would be affected and this strand of welfare reform in particular disregarded the housing profile in the north of Ireland and would be a breach of human rights. The Member reported that three SDLP Members of Parliament (MPs) voted against the Bill in Westminster, noting that they were the only MPs from the north who turned up to vote. Referring to the dedicated committee in the NI Assembly appointed to monitor reform he advised there had been some success but the most vulnerable had not been protected. Current trends if they continued would indicate that by 2020 child poverty would be worse than that in Britain. In concluding, the Member stated that the SDLP was committed to protecting the most vulnerable and they supported a fair and transparent system together with the introduction of a living wage which would make work pay.

A DUP Member stated the motion was that of deepest hypocrisy from Sinn Féin as their stance was bringing massive cuts. Stating that the DUP MPs had attended many meetings regarding the matter where Sinn Féin MPs had not attended he advised that they had proposed a contingency fund and thanks to their party a social fund was being kept. The DUP Member advised they were called to support the people of Northern Ireland and that this was an effort to win votes in the Republic of Ireland. The Member stated that Welfare Reform was better than any cuts and Member advised that the DUP opposed the motion.

Reading from 'Standing Orders' an UUP Member requested that the motion be ruled out.

In response the Chair advised he had checked the matter with the Chief Executive and his original answer remained satisfactory and in consideration of standing orders it is the Chair's discretion to accept the motion.

An UUP Member disagreeing stated that Council had no powers to do anything about Welfare Reform and that when the budget had been agreed for 2011-2015 the UUP had opposed it and that cuts had been made by Sinn Féin's DCAL Minister and also the DRD Minister responsible for roads and again the vulnerable suffer. An UUP Member called for Sinn Féin executive to oppose all cuts.

The Independent Member stated that he dealt with Welfare Reform issues daily and stressed his support for the motion stating that it reflected the austerity of the British Government where every single member of the cabinet is a millionaire. Commending the motion he stated that 50% of the population in receipt of benefits, many of whom were low income workers, are the people who would suffer. The member advised that St Vincent de Paul and Vineyard Church were struggling to cope and stressed it was a shame to all in the Chamber that families in our society are having to seek food. The Independent Member further stated that Welfare Reform is an ideological attack on the working poor, that it was draconian and would bring back the Victorian style workhouse, stressing that it should be rejected. The member stated that the British Cabinet may not care how people feed themselves but Councillors should.

Amendment

Councillor Mulligan expressing disappointment that the motion wasn't withdrawn proposed an amendment as undernoted:

"The Council recognising the dilemma facing the elected Government at Westminster of having to attempt to balance the books after the debacle of the Labour administration commend the Coalition Government for introducing such measures as are necessary to head off a financial meltdown and recommend that the NI Executive determines to follow that model and implement the relevant cuts as to ward off further major financial penalties being imposed by Whitehall which will have further adverse impact on the local scene both fiscal and political, including potential lay-offs and unnecessary hardship."

A DUP Member stated that the main purpose of the shadow council for Mid Ulster was to prepare for 2015 yet issues were being raised that effect the Westminster Government and across the world. He further stated that he could understand the disappointment of the Members as the MPs for the area did not attend Westminster and therefore the constituents are not represented.

Councillor Wilson seconded the amendment.

Councillor Dillon speaking on the motion stated she would not support cuts on Welfare issues either in the north or south of Ireland and that the Minister for Social Development had been asked to bring the matter to the NI Assembly. The member added that she supported the MPs for the area who did not go to Westminster.

A DUP Member suggested that the meeting be adjourned to allow parties time to consider the amendment proposed. The Chair accepted this and the meeting adjourned at 7.15pm

The meeting recommenced at 7.25pm.

The Chair stated that the amendment was invalid and called for a vote on the original motion.

Original Motion

The proposal was put to the meeting and 23 (twenty-three) members voted in favour and 14 (fourteen) members voted against.

The Chair declared the original motion carried.

Councillor Dillon thanked Members for their support and proposed that a letter is sent to the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister advising them of the Motion.

Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

Resolved That a letter be sent to OFMDFM advising them of the Motion and subsequent resolution of council.

On a point of order a SF Member stated Members should refer to each other as Councillor.

Matters for Decision

C56/14 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at Council meeting held on Thursday 28 August 2014

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Gillespie and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 28 August 2014 (39/14 - 50/14 and 52/14) transacted in ‘Open Business’ having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C57/14 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 1 September 2014

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting and the recommendations of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1 September 2014 (P6/14 - P11/14) having been printed and circulated be adopted.

C58/14 Receive and Consider the Minutes and Recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 September 2014

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting and the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Tuesday 2 September 2014 (PR17/14 – PR31/14) having been printed and circulated be adopted.

C59/14 Receive and Consider the Minutes and Recommendations of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2014

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting and the recommendations of the Environment Committee held on Wednesday 3 September 2014 (E6/14 - E17/14) having been printed and circulated be adopted.

C60/14 Receive and Consider the Minutes and Recommendations of the Development Committee Meeting held on Thursday 4 September 2014

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Dillon and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting and the recommendations of the Development Committee held on Thursday 4 September 2014 (D7/14 - D19/14) having been printed and circulated be adopted.

C61/14 Proposed Planning Study Visit

The Chief Executive presented a report outlining a proposed planning function study visit seeking approval for the participation of Members, relevant officers and associated costs to attend and that the matter be passed to the Planning Committee to discuss and develop a detailed programme for roll out. Detailing the proposed visit to Scotland the Chief Executive advised that financial provision for the associated costs estimated at £4750 was made in the DOE Capacity Building and Learning Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn

That approval as sought by the Chief Executive for proposed planning function study visit to Scotland be approved.

A DUP Member stated that it would be more beneficial to pay for one officer from Scotland/Wales to visit Mid Ulster Council than for 20 Members to make the trip to Scotland. Another DUP Member stated that any presentation should be to full Council as planning committee Members was subject to change.

In response the Chief Executive advised that experiencing a planning committee in reality would prove greater benefit to Members but that it was important to do both, a study visit and invite an officer from Scottish/ Welsh Planning Committee to present to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That approval as sought by the Chief Executive for proposed planning function study visit to Scotland at an estimated cost of £4750 and that an officer from Scottish/Welsh Planning Committee be invited to present to Council be approved with the matter passed to the Planning Committee to develop a detailed programme for roll out.

C62/14 Response to DoE on Transfer of Planning to Local Government

The Chief Executive presented a report advising Council on developments in respect of the transfer of Planning seeking approval for a draft response which due to time restrictions could not be brought through the Planning Committee.

The Chief Executive advised that the DOE had written to Councils on the 27 August setting out the position on the financial and other resource consequences of the transfer of planning function to Local Government, both for the sector as a whole and for each individual Council. The paper outlined the proposed resource allocation and sought comments on the allocation model for 3 October 2014 with the final allocations to shadow Councils to be confirmed by end of October 2014 to enable budget processes and the striking of the District Rate for 2015-16. Attention was drawn to the table in section 2.3 of the proposed response which provided the breakdown of projected income with Mid Ulster's noted as £1.27million. Further attention was drawn to what the DOE considered to be necessary staff requirement per Council cluster to deal with the expected volume of applications. It was suggested that 36.5 FTE staff will transfer to Mid Ulster made up of 25.5 technical and 11 administrative staff.

The Chief Executive advised that throughout the region there was a significant discrepancy in figures with similar staff being transferred to councils despite large variance in income from planning applications. Currently the planning function does not break even and has been subsidised by the NI Assembly. Noting that the subvention to Mid Ulster is lesser the Chief Executive advised that the Department was being asked to clarify the difference, emphasising that once the subvention is agreed it would have to be worked within. Drawing attention to the proposed response the Chief Executive sought comments.

A UUP Member stated the costs that Mid Ulster District Council could incur were frightening and supported the response requesting that a paragraph be added emphasising that it had previously been agreed by the Department that the transfer of the function was to be cost neutral.

A SDLP Member suggested that given so many outstanding issues Council should seek a meeting with the Department.

A SF Member reported that at a recent meeting such issues had been discussed and he had emphasised that Councils were not happy, again stressing the cost neutral position at point of transfer. Assurance had been given at the meeting that the DOE would work closely with officers from Mid Ulster to discuss issues. Another SF Member concurred with this stressing that the response should be strongly supported with Council lobbying for cost neutral transfer. It was emphasised that realistic budgets needed to accompany new powers in order to deliver.

The Chair stated that the response was excellent.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That Council note the content of the paper forwarded by DOE and grant approval to the issue of the draft response presented to the meeting.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in item C63/14 as Chairperson of Cookstown Enterprise Centre.

C63/14 Transfer of Local Economic Development Powers from DETI

The Chief Executive presented a report seeking the approval for an extension to the Regional Start Initiative contract to October 2015 making Members aware that there are three areas of responsibility transferring from DETI/ InvestNI to Councils from 1 April 2015.

- (i) Promotion of entrepreneurship and Encouraging Business Start Up;
- (ii) Provision for underrepresented Groups in Entrepreneurship; and
- (iii) Promotion of Social Enterprise.

The Chief Executive stated that the Invest NI contract ends in October 2014 and that Council should consider approving an extension for one year until October 2015. The resources required for an independent review of the Regional Start-Up Initiative would cost Council approximately £1 - £2k.

Approval was sought to

- (i) Approve extension to Regional Start Initiative contract to October 2015; and
- (ii) Local Government commission a review to determine the success of the current programme and agree a way forward in terms of a new programme and brand.

- (iii) Council agree that the programmes for underrepresented groups in entrepreneurship and the promotion of social enterprise be delivered in future at a local level.

A DUP Member drawing attention to appointing consultants to undertake a review suggested that it be more appropriate to use economic development officers who would have local knowledge. In response the Chief Executive stated that the concern was that economic development requirements are very different across councils and that an independent review would better reflect local need.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That approval be granted to

- (i) Approve extension to the Regional Start Initiative contract to October 2015;
- (ii) Local Government commission a review to determine the success of the current programme and agree a way forward in terms of a new programme and brand.
- (iii) Council agree that the programmes for underrepresented groups in entrepreneurship and the promotion of social enterprise be delivered in future at a local level.

C64/14 Recording and Style of Minutes

The Chief Executive presented a report the purpose of which was to approve style, format and record of Council and Committee meetings. He advised Members that the report had been prepared following discussion with party representatives. Members were also reminded that in the future Council would be required to make audio recordings of the meetings.

The Chief Executive sought approval for the core principles detailed in the report to be applied in the preparation of minutes to form accurate records of meetings.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Donnelly and

Resolved That approval is granted for the core principles detailed in the report to be applied in the preparation of minutes to form accurate records of meetings.

C65/14 Approval of Member and Officer Attendance at Seminars and Conferences

The Chief Executive provided an update on seminars and conferences relevant to Members and Officers of Mid Ulster District Council seeking Members interest for attendance and approval for officer attendance along with associated expenses, mileage and fees, where applicable.

- Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2014 on Tuesday 7 October 2014 9am-4pm at the Culloden Hotel, Belfast; and
- Planning – the transition to Local Government Tuesday 30 September 2014 9am-1pm at the Europa Hotel, Belfast

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That approval be granted to Members/ Officers wishing to attend aforementioned conferences.

Matters for Information

C66/14 Responses to Notice of Motion Special Council Meeting 31 July 2014

The responses to Notice of Motion presented to Special Council meeting on 31 July 2014 were noted.

C67/14 Consultation List

Superfast Rollout Programme Phase 2: DETI Closes: 26 September 2014.

IN COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That item C68/14 – C72/14 be taken in committee.

The press left the meeting at 8.10 pm.

C73/14 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at .

CHAIR
(Presiding Councillor)

DATE

B

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 6 October 2014 at 7 pm, in Cookstown District Council Offices

Members Present: In the Chair, Councillor Kearney (Chair)

Councillors Bell, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, McEldowney, McKinney, McPeake, Mallaghan, Quinn (7.08 pm), Reid and Robinson

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr Boomer, Area Planning Manager
Mr Moffett, Change Management Officer
Mrs Grogan, Secretariat (Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council)

Others in Attendance: Ms Hilda Clements, Senior Planning Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

P12/14 Apologies

Councillors Bateson, Gildernew, Mullen and J Shiels.

P13/14 Declarations of Interest

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

Matters for Decision

P14/14 Receive and Confirm Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 1 September 2014

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1 September 2014, (P6/14 – P11/14) were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

P15/14 Receive Paper on Accommodating Population Growth across Mid Ulster

The Area Planning Manager introduced Ms Hilda Clements and stated that she was responsible for the preparation of the paper on Population and Growth. He advised that it was for information purposes only at this stage.

Ms Clements took members through the paper which provided information on:

- (i) a profile of the population including the different Section 75 groups of people, identifying those which the plan is likely to have an impact on;
- (ii) population growth and population projections up until 2030;
- (iii) a settlement strategy for accommodating growth

Councillor T Quinn entered the meeting at 7.08 pm.

Councillor Reid stated the population growth in Dungannon is greater than Greater Belfast due to the migrant worker population.

Councillor Clarke stated that population is growing and that measures need to be put in place to best facilitate this. Mid Ulster District Council area has a massive rural structure which needs to be looked at in all situations including villages and hamlets. He added the older generation needs to be considered in all of this and appropriate facilities such as adequate housing, hospitals and acute services would be required.

Councillor McPeake stated planning did not currently fit the area and enquired how the Committee could influence change.

The Area Planning Manager advised that this is still in the very early stages and evidence would need to be built. The next paper will be much more on the urban and not so much on rural policy. She added it would not be wise to cut the housing growth indicator as people are living longer and if we did not accommodate young people in the countryside there could be difficulties. Mid Ulster District Council area is in an advantageous position with its strong links with construction and engineering.

Councillor Mallaghan stated the rural economy in Mid Ulster is working well. He added that many companies have started on a small scale and have continued to expand. Councillor Mallaghan stated that planning policy was restrictive and did not allow for small family business expansion thus the need to be supporting businesses.

Councillor Reid agreed with Councillor Mallaghan and felt that land needed to be zoned for such purposes away from residential housing.

The Area Planning Manager advised this is what Mid Ulster prides itself in, from quarrying, cement works to joinery.

Councillor Reid stated that PPS 21 was causing tremendous difficulties and asked if anything that could be done.

The Area Planning Manager advised that PPS21 aimed to avoid clustering of housing the countryside. Referring to the paper being presented and PPS21 elderly people with special circumstances and children with special needs could have the opportunity for an extension, but elderly people would not have an opportunity for new builds as this could result in an escalation of houses being built.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that it would be interesting to ascertain the number of lapsed planning applications within the countryside as a way of meeting housing targets to meet population growth.

The Area Planning Manager advised that he would investigate, where the information was available.

Councillor Bell enquired and raised the issue of social housing provision, especially for the elderly and young people.

The Chief Executive advised that it could take up to five years to prepare the Development Plan and enquired on the process to be undertaken by Planners.

The Area Planning Manager stated that land supply needs to be looked at for housing and businesses and involve two stages; core strategy; and land zoning. He stated that it was ambitious but felt the time frames could be met to have the plan prepared and adopted in five years.

Councillor Quinn stated he was concerned about social housing provision indicating that although there was a need for it in the rural area it was of a greater need in the urban area. He added that there was a high number of people on the waiting list for social housing in the Cookstown area, with 240 people on the waiting list 10 years ago compared to 232 in recent times. Councillor Quinn concluded that nothing had been achieved in this 10 year period to relieve the dependency.

Councillor Bell raised concern about the high volume of young people emigrating and felt that planning should be thoroughly looked to revive the construction sector.

Councillor Reid enquired how much control the Council would actually have or would other agencies still have an input in decision making.

The Area Planning Manager advised that there would be parameters to work within but the Council would have a lot of scope to do things differently. He said it would be all new but would have no doubt that Mid Ulster would be testing the boundaries.

Councillor McPeake left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

P16/14 Planning Study Visit

The Chief Executive presented a report to assist the committee on making preparations for a Planning Study visit to a local authority currently delivering and managing a planning function, to strengthen member capacity and knowledge.

The Change Management Officer outlined the proposed itinerary for the visit and recommended a two day visit to North Ayrshire Council, Scotland on Wednesday 12 November, avoiding clashes with Mid Ulster District Council business. It was agreed that the study visit be targeted at the current members of the Council's Planning Committee and relevant officers.

The Chief Executive advised that if any member could not attend another member could attend in their place.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that members of the Planning Committee participate in a Planning Study Visit to North Ayrshire Council, Scotland on Wednesday 12 November 2014.

P17/14 Guidance on Planning Element of Councillors' Code of Conduct

The Chief Executive presented a letter dated 25 September 2014 from the DOE enclosing a copy of a document entitled 'Consultation on Guidance on Planning Element of Councillors' Code of Conduct' and urged members to refer to it as it would be important to all members represented on the Planning Committee. He added that the Code of Conduct used by North Ayrshire Council planning committee members could be considered as part of the Study Visit.

P18/14 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.45 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

C

Minutes of Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 7 October 2014 in Cookstown District Council Offices

Members Present:	In the Chair, Councillor McPeake (Chair) Councillors Ashton, Buchanan (7.05pm), Elattar, Forde (7.07 pm), Glasgow, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McGinley, S McGuigan, McLean, Molloy, M Quinn and Totten
Members in Attendance:	Councillor Wilson
Officers in Attendance:	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Mrs Canavan, Lead HR Officer Mrs Mezza, Marketing Communications Manager Mr Moffett, Change Management Officer Mr O'Hagan, ICT Manager Mr JJ Tohill, Lead Finance Officer Mrs Smith, Council Business Manager (D&STBC)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

PR32/14 Apologies

Councillors Bateson and Reid

PR33/14 Declarations of Interest

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

PR34/14 Receive and confirm minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Wednesday 2 September 2014

Off Street Car Parking (PR20/14)

Councillor Ashton referred to paragraph four and the incorrect figure of £333k which should read £288k.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Tuesday 2 September 2014 (PR17/14 - PR31/14) were considered, and subject to the foregoing correction, were signed as accurate and correct.

Matters for Decision

PR35/14 Introduction of Childcare Vouchers for employees and members of Mid Ulster District Council

The Lead HR Officer presented a report the purpose of which was for members to consider the introduction of a childcare vouchers scheme for employees and members. She added that all three Councils within the Mid Ulster cluster of councils facilitate a childcare voucher scheme through existing payroll systems. The Officer outlined the key issues of the scheme and requested Members to approve the introduction of a childcare voucher scheme using Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council's existing provider - Employers for Childcare.

Councillor Buchanan arrived at 7.05 pm.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the introduction of a childcare voucher scheme for employees and members of Mid Ulster District Council, using Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council's existing provider - Employers for Childcare.

PR36/14 Cycle to Work Scheme

Councillor Forde arrived at 7.07 pm.

The Lead HR Officer presented a report the purpose of which was for members to consider the introduction of a Cycle to Work Scheme for employees and members of the Council. The Officer outlined the key issues of the scheme and advised that currently Dungannon & South Tyrone and Cookstown Councils operate a scheme for staff and members. Members were requested to approve the introduction of a Cycle to Work Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the introduction of a Cycle to Work Scheme for employees and members of Mid Ulster District Council in accessing the scheme and providers used by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council.

PR37/14 Draft interim Communications Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council

The Marketing Communications Manager presented a report on the Interim Communications Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council. The Officer stated that internal and external communications have been identified as a key element of the Council's overall strategy in preparation for the merger of the existing councils. She added that an interim communications plan had been developed to address

communications issues. The strategy deals with the importance of internal communications, as well as utilising existing channels, advocates the development of additional methods, recognises the importance of face to face communication and external activity is required. It includes key projects such as branding, website development and the significance of the media as a communications tool. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements were also proposed.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that as it was an interim document it will allow for change if anything comes through at a corporate level.

Councillor Mallaghan asked if social media was part of the strategy. The Marketing Communications Manager stated the document dealt with the development of a corporate digital media strategy as part of a Mid Ulster District Council communications Strategy for the period 2015-2019.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Council endorses the Interim Communications Strategy & Action Plan August 2014-2015

PR38/14 Introduction of a single, non-geographic telephone number for Mid Ulster District Council

The Marketing Communications Manager presented a report on the introduction of a single non-geographic telephone number for the Council. This system would allow for the existing councils to be connected by a single internal telephony system while also presenting an opportunity to introduce a single contact telephone number. A number of options are open to the Council and the introduction of a 03 number from the gold category was recommended with estimated annual costs of £2,200.

Councillor McLean asked how long the current numbers would be retained and if the infrastructure was fit for purpose. The Marketing Communications Manager stated the unified communications system would support a non-geographic telephone number and it was recommended that old numbers be retained for one year but can be longer if think required.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that this was an excellent way of rebranding the Council.

The Chief Executive stated that with receptionists in each of the three main buildings they can take calls from any part of the district.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Council introduces and promotes a single non-geographic external customer contact telephone number chosen from the 03 range to be effective from 1 April 2015, with the central telephone number for each of the existing Councils being phased out over a suitable period of time.

Matters for Information

PR39/14 Draft Model One Step Grievance Procedure

The Lead HR Officer presented a report setting out the response on behalf of the Council to the 'Draft Model One Step Grievance Procedure to Link with the RPA Independent Third Party Dispute Resolution' issued by the LGTRJF. The deadline for return of comments was 26 September 2014 and the response had been submitted.

PR40/14 Capacity Building Plan

The Lead HR Officer presented a report informing members on the arrangements put in place to ensure members and staff were ready to meet the challenges of change leading to a new organisation. The first phase of the capacity building programme had begun to be rolled out and dates and times were dependent on the availability of trainers. She added if any member wishes to attend a particular event but the date or time was not suitable further sessions could be arranged.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, stated that this is comprehensive list of events with the challenge being making time to attend.

Councillor McFlynn asked how the staff engagement sessions were being received.

The Chief Executive stated that he and other Mid Ulster District Council staff had spent 3 days the previous week meeting staff in Council Offices, depots and leisure centres with over 300 staff attending. Staff were given a detailed briefing on the high level organisational structure agreed by Council and feedback from the sessions were very much welcomed by staff. He added that staff attending were somehow assured and appreciated the time senior management had taken to meet with them, therefore indicating the engagements were worthwhile to see staff in their environment. Issues raised included pay differentials, privatisation and staff location. Staff were advised that management had an open door policy as we move through the process and that should not listen to rumour but to talk to management.

Councillor McGuigan asked if anything new or unexpected had been raised.

The Lead HR Officer stated they identified issues prior to the sessions which may have come up and had not been confronted with anything different.

The Chief Executive stated that all queries raised and responses given across all the sessions would be collated and provided to all staff and members across the cluster of councils.

PR41/14 Draft Location, Relocation and Expenses Policy

The Lead HR Officer presented a report for information setting out the response issued on behalf of the Council on the draft 'Location, Relocation and Expenses Policy' issued by the LGRJF. The Officer stated there were no major concerns with the policy with the issues raised as undernoted:

- the period of time for payment of excess mileage in relation to a change of place of employment should be 3 years rather than 4 years, in line with Central Government Policy and
- Additional mileage incurred should actually be paid at public transport rate rather than the normal NJC mileage rates as this would be a much more affordable option.

PR42/14 Data and System Convergence for Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

The ICT Manager presented a report on the convergence of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and outlined the current situation across Mid Ulster cluster of councils, with reference to planning service.

The ICT Manager recommended that the Council extend the existing ESRI ArcGis licensing to a 10 user concurrent licensing model to provide a flexible and cost effective solution for Geographical Information System provision in Mid Ulster District Council in line with the Councils existing expenditure of £10,100 per annum. He added there would be no purchase of additional licensing, rather the replacement of existing maintenance and support to a single provider at an increase of £492.50 pa.

Councillor Glasgow referred to the cost and asked what level of funding would be coming from the DOE in relation to this system.

The Chief Executive stated that this in one of the areas pointed out in correspondence to Planning Service to identify a budget allocation for GIS, and a reply was outstanding.

Councillor McGuigan asked if there was a reason why there was such a variation in the cost of existing licenses across the existing councils within the Mid Ulster cluster.

The ICT Manager stated that this was down to how the licences were managed, the versions and models used and the level of support provided.

Proposed by Councillor M Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the recommendation set out above is adopted.

PR43/14 Mid Ulster District Council Governance Framework

The Chief Executive presented a report seeking members' approval on the core aspects of an internal Governance Framework for Mid Ulster District Council as listed in appendix A of the previously circulated report. He further advised that under the Local Government Act 2014 councils are required to prepare a council constitution. He added the constitution would include the Council's standing orders, the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors, information as the Department may direct and information as the Council considers appropriate

and as there would be many similarities between the Constitution content and the Mid Ulster District Council Governance Framework it would be prudent to combine these two initiatives into a single suite of documents to avoid duplication.

Councillor McLean asked if there was any conflict or requirement in the process of having two documents and if not there was no sense in have two similar documents.

The Chief Executive stated that there was not and would therefore avoid duplication.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to adopt the draft internal Governance Framework and that this document and the Constitution be combined into one suite of documents for ease of access and to avoid duplication.

PR44/14 State Aid Update

The Lead Finance Officer presented a report, for information, updating Members in relation to the principles surrounding State Aid and stated that a policy on this issue would be required.

PR45/14 Amalgamation of Consilium Finance Systems

The Lead Finance Officer presented a report informing Members of progress made to date in relation to the amalgamation of the three predecessor councils' finance systems. He said each council utilises the Consilium TOTAL finance application but to different extents. The Lead Finance Officer indicated that key deliverables and milestones had been identified with a new budget modelling module having been adopted for preparation of the 2015/16 rate estimates, a single monthly payroll having been established and recognition that significant organisational design changes are likely to be implemented over the early stages of the new Council it has been decided to continue with existing weekly payroll systems for an initial period post 1 April 2015.

Councillor McGuigan referred to the completion of some items and not others and asked if this would have financial implications going forward. He also asked who was guiding the work.

The Lead Finance Officer advised that the Finance working group had been working with Consilium representatives to ensure appropriate design, implementation and testing of all aspect of the combined application is delivered in advance of 31 March 2015. He indicated that the only thing not amalgamating by this date would be weekly payroll.

In response to a question from Councillor McLean relating to the number of staff of being paid weekly the Lead Finance Officer stated that within Magherafelt it is approximately two thirds. He said part of the development moving forward would be the implementation of a HR system which may dictate how weekly payroll advances.

Councillor McFlynn asked for details on the type of HR system being considered.

The Lead Finance Officer stated there had been initial discussions on systems but due to other priorities consideration of the potential benefits of the various systems had not been fully explored.

PR46/14 Finance and Procurement Risk Assessment

The Lead Finance Officer presented a report informing members of risks identified as set out in the Finance Risk Register. He stated that the identification and management of all relevant risks was essential for transition to the new Mid Ulster District Council and effective operation thereafter.

IN COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That items P47/14 and PR48/14 be taken in Committee.

PR49/14 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.50 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

D

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Wednesday 8 October 2014 in Cookstown District Council Offices**

Members Present:	In the Chair, Councillor Cuddy (Chair) Councillors Buchanan, Burton (7.16 pm), Cuthbertson, Gillespie, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Mullen (7.02 pm), Mulligan, J O'Neill, Reid (7.12 pm)
Officers in Attendance:	Mr Tohill, Chief Executive Mr Cassells, Director of Technical Services and Leisure Services (MDC) Mr Kelso, Director of Environmental Health and Building Control (CDC) Mr Law, Waste Operations Manager (DSTBC) Mr McAdoo, Head of Waste and Contracts Management (CDC) Mr Young, Director of Environmental Health (MDC) Miss Thompson, Secretariat (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

E18/14 Apologies

None

E19/14 Declarations of Interest

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

**E20/14 Receive and confirm minutes of the Environment Committee
meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2014**

Councillor Mulligan queried why the minutes are being brought before committee again tonight when they had been adopted at the last Council meeting.

The Chief Executive advised that the minutes were essentially for information tonight as they had already been considered at the September Council Meeting.

Councillor Mulligan requested that item E14/14 of the minute be amended to read:

“UUP Members commented on the Tullyvar site and its potential to be used as a waste processing station in the future.”

The Chief Executive agreed to make the amendment as underlined above.

Councillor Mullen entered the meeting at 7.02 pm

Matters for Decision

E21/14 Receive and consider proposed Waste Management and Technical Services Charges 2015/2016

Mr McAdoo presented a report which provided a scale of charges for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 for the following:

- Commercial Waste - Kerbside Collections

Bin Size	Cost per Collection	
	Residual	Recycling
120 Litre	£2.50	£1.25
240 Litre	£4.60	£2.30
360 Litre	£6.80	£3.40
660 Litre	£12.10	£6.05
1100 Litre	£19.90	£9.95

- Purchase of Wheeled Bins

Bin Size	Cost	Delivery Charge	Total (Exc VAT)
120/180 Litre	£25	£9	£34
240 Litre	£25	£9	£34
360 Litre	£50	£12	£62
660 Litre	£125	£12	£137
1100 Litre	£170	£12	£182

- Disposal of Commercial Waste at Recycling Centres

Landfilled Waste

Active Waste - £134 per tonne + vat

Inert Waste - £54 per tonne + vat

Treated Waste

Active - £120 per tonne + vat

Inert - £40 per tonne + vat

- Bulky Household Collections

It is recommended that all household bulky collections will be provided free of charge from 1 April 2015. This can be re-examined later in the first term of the new Council if necessary.

Councillor McFlynn sought clarity on irregularities relating to how people disposing of waste are charged at landfill sites. Mr McAdoo advised that this is a grey area but

typically households who are bringing small amounts of waste are not charged whereas those attending regularly and bringing larger amounts of waste as part of their business activity are charged.

Councillor Mallaghan questioned whether the collection of commercial waste was something Council wanted to undertake in future. Mr McAdoo advised that Council, where requested, has an obligation to provide for the collection of commercial waste and to levy a charge which covers both the cost of collection and disposal/ treatment of that commercial waste.

Councillor Reid entered the meeting at 7.12 pm

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to adopt the proposed charges as set out above for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

E22/14 Receive and consider paper on Environmental Health Level of Charges/Fees and Fixed Penalties

Mr Young provided a report regarding the current prescribed charges/fees and level of fixed penalties across the three councils.

Mr Young highlighted in some cases the level of fees/charges and fixed penalties are prescribed by applicable legislation whilst in other cases the level is left to the discretion of the Council, within specified parameters. In respect of the fees/charges and fixed penalties that are not prescribed, Mr Young took Members through appendix 1 of the report and asked for Members thoughts on what the level of charge/fee or fixed penalty should be for the Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.16 pm

During discussion the following was noted:

High Hedges Act (NI) 2011

Mr Young advised that investigations of complaints relating to this Act can be costly for Council, however to date, the number of complaints has been low and it was Members' decision whether they wanted to adopt a low fee or look more towards cost recovery.

Councillor Reid felt there is a need for Council to place a charge on the complainant.

Street Trading Act (NI) 2001

Councillor Burton felt that a higher street trading fee will mean the further decline of local markets and there is a need for Mid Ulster District Council to work to promote markets in the future.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Mullen declared an interest in this item but did not leave the room.

Councillor Mullen felt that street trading fees need to be kept low.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985

Mr Young spoke in relation to Schedule 2 of the above Order which defines a sex shop and specifies the requirement and procedure to obtain and hold a licence for such premises. At the moment Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council is the only Council of the three which has adopted Schedule 2.

Councillor McNamee proposed that Mid Ulster District Council adopt Schedule 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985.

Councillor Mullen felt that the fee for acupuncture/electrolysis/tattooing/piercing should be increased as these trades are more profitable than the current fee reflects.

Private Tenancies Order (NI) 2006 (PTO)

Councillor S McGuigan stated there needs to be an appropriate fee to cover costs.

Betting and Gaming (NI) Order 2004

The Chair, Councillor Cuddy, felt that the fee needs to be at the higher end to combat gambling problems.

Places of Marriage/Civil Partnerships

Councillor Cuthbertson felt this fee should be at the upper end.

Dogs (NI) Order 1983 as amended

Some charge to be imposed for the collection of unwanted dogs and harmonisation of kennel charges.

The Poisons (NI) Order 1976 The Poisons Regulations (NI) 1983

Fee should be £5.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to take on board the comments as above and bring back a further report with recommendations for fees/charges and fixed penalties for Mid Ulster District Council.

Matters for Information

E23/14 Receive paper on DARD Review of the Implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act

Mr Young presented a report with regard to the current Review of the Implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 being carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). Mr Young explained how the review will consider the implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 under the following themes:

- Sentencing for animal welfare offences
- Delivery structures for non-farmed animals currently being carried out through four Environmental Health Groups and Belfast
- Working together (both within and between several agencies)
- Serving the public (information and complaints)

The Chair, Councillor Cuddy, referred to the length of time and considerable cost to Councils in bringing such cases to court.

Councillor Burton expressed the need for this review to consider all aspects of animal welfare including provision of veterinary services.

The Chief Executive spoke in relation to the current cluster approach for the delivery of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011. Within the current Local Government Reform process the current structure will require changes but it will be important to maintain some sort of cluster approach to ensure the Act is delivered in the most appropriate way.

Mr Young advised that two officers from the cluster had been involved in discussion sessions. It is anticipated that DARD will produce an interim report by late November with a final report coming forward in early 2015.

E24/14 Receive paper on DSD Affordable Warmth Programme in Mid Ulster

Mr Kelso presented a report in relation to the Affordable Warmth Programme advising that it is now operational across the Mid Ulster District Council area with surveyors in place undertaking household surveys. The Programme is 100% funded by DSD. Cookstown District Council will lead the Programme for 2014/15 with funding of £126,000. The proposed funding for 2015/16 has been set at £153,000 and it has also been confirmed that Programme funding will extend to 31 March 2019 with a review period at end of March 2017.

Mr Kelso reminded Members that eligibility for the Programme is targeted to the most vulnerable households across the three Councils with a prioritised address database provided by DSD. Mr Kelso also encouraged Members to make referrals

onto the Programme if they felt there are other vulnerable households and their eligibility can then be assessed.

Mr Kelso advised that an information workshop will be held in November to make installers of home heating equipment across the Mid Ulster District Council area aware of how to become involved in the Programme.

IN COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That item E25/14 and E26/14 be taken 'in committee'.

E27/14 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.25 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

E

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 9 October 2014 in Cookstown District Council Offices

Members Present:	In the Chair, Councillor Burton (Chair) Councillors Dillon, Elattar, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith, C O'Neill, T Quinn, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson
Officers in Attendance:	Mr Tohill, Chief Executive Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive (CDC) Mr Browne, Head of Development Services (MDC) Mr Cassells, Director of Operations (MDC) Ms Campbell, Director of Policy & Development (MDC) Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Services (CDC) Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer (DSTBC) Ms O'Keefe, Business Support Officer (DSTBC) Mrs McGee, Flavour of Tyrone Officer (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D20/14 Apologies

Councillors Forde and Reid.

D21/14 Declarations of Interest

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

Declaration of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Burton stated that she represented Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council on Flavour of Tyrone and as such declared an interest.

Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest having had association with Flavour of Tyrone in the past.

D22/14 Briefing on Flavour of Tyrone

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed Flavour of Tyrone representatives to the meeting. Mrs McGee drew attention to a power point showcasing photographs from events and promotions the company had worked on.

Mrs McGee tabled a report to informing the Council on the work of Flavour of Tyrone in delivering Tourism Enterprise 3 as part of the Invest NI/DETI Local Economic Development programme, is scheduled to run until April 2015. It also outlined the need for a strategic alliance between Council and Flavour of Tyrone as a vehicle to

develop the tourism industry and promote the region in line with the Mid Ulster District Council area community planning objectives. Mrs McGee gave the background of the company outlining its objectives and targets through business development, new media development events and showcasing, whilst drawing attention to the targets set. She detailed the budget for programme delivery as being £171k and confirmed that Flavour of Tyrone was 50% funded by Council and 50% through Invest NI/DETI, managed by a Board of Directors four of whom were elected Members and two part time staff. She stated that Flavour of Tyrone was an effective and trusted networking vehicle for the local tourism industry representing local needs at a regional level in terms of capacity building and support for existing and fledgling businesses. It was recommended for the future that Council review Flavour of Tyrone's terms of reference and programme in line with recommendations from the community planning process, funding streams available, Council's existing functions and align with Mid Ulster District Council's core tourism activity.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Mrs McGee for the presentation and stated that the work of Flavour of Tyrone had been acknowledged in reports produced by DETI, drawing attention to the jobs both created and sustained.

Councillor G Shiels stated he had enjoyed the presentation and in response to his comments about the name Mrs McGee stated that the Flavour of Tyrone Board had discussed this and although the branding had strengths the name could be changed to for example 'Flavour of Mid Ulster' or 'Visit Mid Ulster'. She added that they had discussed branding with Mid Ulster District Council's Marketing Communications Manager. The Chair, Councillor Burton stated that the brand was a vehicle to attract people to the area.

In response to Councillor Mallaghan's questions Mrs McGee advised that the company had 140 members, 28 of whom are from Cookstown, a few from Omagh, and currently the company was beginning a recruitment drive focusing on Magherafelt and already one business had requested to join and that the remaining members were from Dungannon. In referring to prices Mrs O'Keefe advised that the fees were approximately £100 for hotels, attractions with over 1000 visitors £100, Good Food Circle which includes restaurants £50, Guest houses £45 and others £50. In terms of measurement Mrs McGee explained that the company was evaluated on conclusion of the programme and that statistics regarding visitor spend were being compiled by NISRA and would be launched in the near future. Mrs McGee also suggested that if the company moved forward with Mid Ulster District Council it would be an idea to capture base line statistics as a benchmark for future evaluation.

Councillor Molloy asked if the fact that Tyrone in the new Council structure would be covered by three new councils would create difficulties. In response Mrs McGee advised that this had been a topic of discussion and that businesses would remain or wish to join wherever the best showcasing/ promotion opportunities were, emphasising that the Flavour of Tyrone brand was well respected.

The Chief Executive stated there was a lot of work going on being delivered through a limited resource and that the brand was strong and understood. He added that

care should be taken before changing it and he would have conversations with his peers in other Councils covering Tyrone region in the future.

Mrs McGee and Mrs O'Keefe left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

D23/14 Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 4 September 2014

The Chair requested that the last sentence of paragraph 5 of item D11/14 be amended to read "...and that the thematic working groups be encouraged to work with women in rural areas."

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 4 September (D7/14-D19/14), were considered and subject to the foregoing amendment, signed as accurate and correct.

FOR INFORMATION

D24/14 Update on DSD Transferring Functions

Mr McCreesh advised Members that the matter of DSD transferring functions was still being debated but based on most recent information he outlined prospective options for moving forward. McCreesh noted that the functions to be transferred included:

- Tackling Disadvantage – Neighbourhood Renewal;
- Community Development – Advice Service; and
- Physical Regeneration – Public Realm.

Due to the current political situation the legislative process may not be completed in time to allow for the transfer of functions in April 2015 so therefore the responsibility for aforementioned functions may remain with DSD for at least a further 12 months. In this circumstance Council would need to consider with DSD what activity can occur from now until 31 March 2015.

Mr McCreesh further advised that two applications were currently with DSD for Rainey Street, Magherafelt and a further shop front signage scheme in Cookstown. He indicated that although it may be questionable if they could be delivered in the remaining six months of the existing Councils options would be explored. He further suggested that further revitalisation projects could be developed to include for example shop front, signage, painting, marketing initiatives as part of Town Centre action plans which could then be brought forward when DSD position has been clarified, emphasising that the more schemes completed before transfer the better especially in regard to Public Realm schemes.

With regard to Neighbourhood Renewal Mr McCreesh stated that it would most likely continue in a similar fashion but that programmes may be subjected to ongoing

central government cuts. If functions remain for another 12-18 months with DSD the additional time would afford Mid Ulster District Council time to consider how deprivation in existing Neighbourhood Renewal areas and other deprived areas throughout Mid Ulster could be incorporated within community planning and addressed beyond 2016-17. He added that this time would also allow for negotiations of a realistic funding allocation to take place based upon historical imbalances.

Mr McCreesh advised that since the future was uncertain Council also had to consider its stance if functions do transfer in April 2015. He stated that Council would be tasked with tackling deprivation activity for 2015/16 and given the timescale it would be unlikely that Neighbourhood Renewal activities could be altered other than to reflect budget cuts from central government thus programmes would continue for 2015/16 similar to present.

With regard to Public Realm schemes Council would have to make major decisions on how best to progress the three main towns and Coalisland. Mr McCreesh stated considerations would include whether to progress all, some or prioritise on resources.

Mr McCreesh made reference to advice services reminding Members that currently they are being considered under the review of grant-aid provided by the existing councils. Advising that the piece of work had commenced Mr McCreesh indicated that David Williamson Consultants would be commencing discussions with Mid Ulster Council members.

He concluded by stating that the challenge is to reach an agreed Mid Ulster District Council policy approach and position towards financial assistance, grant allocation and advice service support in the coming months with a view to be ready for delivery in each of the aforementioned areas from 1 April 2015. He stated that due to the fluidity of the situation officers could not offer a definitive sense of direction in relation to DSD transferring functions but it was being observed closely and when a decision had been reached officers would advise, guide and recommend a way forward.

Councillor Wilson thanked Mr McCreesh for the update stating that at this stage of uncertainty it was important to get schemes 'shelf ready' that when and if funding became available Council was ready to go.

Councillor Dillon in concurring with the remarks emphasised that Council needed to plan to tackle pockets of deprivation across the district as the source of the money was irrelevant but a formula to address the needs was essential.

Stating that in some areas Neighbourhood Renewal had not been successful Councillor Monteith stated that DSD had been lobbied but had refused to address the failures. Reiterating the need to have projects ready to go Councillor Monteith emphasised that Councils were in a better position to address the needs of local communities as Neighbourhood Renewal is a line on a map which had dissected communities.

Drawing attention to the officers who deliver Neighbourhood Renewal currently contracted until March 2015, Councillor Molloy stated that Council needed to offer reassurance to them in regard to their employment status.

Stating that Neighbourhood Renewal had been a good yardstick for tackling disadvantage Councillor G Shiels emphasised that disadvantage spans generations.

The Chief Executive in response to comments on staff emphasised that assurances cannot be given until Council knows the way forward but staff members would have employment rights.

In response to questions raised Mr McCreesh stated that he concurred with communities being split by a 'line on a map' and that it would be a challenge to define disadvantaged areas and find the resources to meet the needs. He stated that he had every confidence that the Council would meet the challenge.

The Chief Executive stated that until the position was clear regarding the transferring of functions Council was restricted in moving forward but that population figures in urban centres such as Aughnacloy, Donaghmore and Tobermore were now over 1000 and this needed to be reflected in the budget allocation.

D25/14 Development and Regeneration Update

Ms Campbell provided Members with a progress update on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan presented to a previous committee. Referring to the key activities; Local Economic Development Plan (2014-2016); Evaluation of Linkubator Negotiation Programme; Review of Financial Assistance Policy and Process for the community and voluntary sector; and Social Economic and Environmental Data Analysis Ms Campbell updated Members and requested that they note progress is being made.

Councillor Wilson stated the business workshops had been well organised but expressed disappointment that the voluntary sector had not been represented stating it was a sector within Mid Ulster which provided quite a few jobs and asked if this oversight could be addressed. Having attended one of the workshops Councillor Wilson stated that support for the High Street in all three towns had been a major issue.

In response Ms Campbell advised that the consultants had not completed the piece of work and that she would investigate if this could be addressed or alternatively that the voluntary sectors views would be captured at the community planning workshops.

D26/14 Events Budget and Events Support Audit

Mr Browne advised that the purpose of the report was threefold; to show the levels of expenditure committed to Council run events for 2014/15; to show levels of expenditure and support committed to strategic events with an attendance in excess of 1000; and to establish the objectives for the delivery of events in each of the Councils. Mr Browne advised that the report provided a snapshot of events hosted

by the three Councils which had significant economic and social benefit to the area the costs of which were £346,500 fully organised and supported by Councils and £125,321 where a level of support and financial assistance had been provided by Council. Highlighting Magherafelt's Christmas Food Fair Mr Browne advised in access of 16,500 people had attended, that the shopping centre recorded an additional 3,000 in their footfall and it had significant economic as well as social benefit in the area.

Councillor T Quinn left the meeting at 7.55pm

Councillor Wilson stated groups that hosted events for which Council supplied funding and support would need early clarification as to how funding was to be allocated in the near future as events took place in early April. Concurring with these comments the Chair, Councillor Burton, emphasised the importance of this for groups seeking support.

The Chief Executive advised that the appointed consultants would go through the analysis and advise if it was possible to have a system in place for April or whether there would be a transitional period. Stating that the report gave an overview of an events calendar the Chief Executive stated that it would be helpful to know the time periods for which outside groups needed a determination on funding availability.

The Chair, Councillor Burton, made reference to the small funding allocations which were often the difference between events happening or not. Councillor Burton emphasised the importance of funding and the need to support groups organising events and stated that Council needed to establish a way forward to reassure communities and groups as soon as possible, She referred to the Clogher Valley Show which Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council had sponsored the equestrian element of the Show.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that these events enhanced civic pride and were often the only connection some individuals and communities had with the Council and in order to build good relations the importance of this process could not be underestimated. He further emphasised that often a small grant of £200-£300 could be the difference in a group hosting an event or not. Councillor Wilson concurring with Councillor Mallaghan's comments also suggested that January 2015 would likely be the cut-off date for the organisers of the Cookstown 100.

The Chief Executive sought direction from Members as to whether they were content with events outlined in the report as previous years or whether they wanted to scale up and provide additional events. In response Councillor Wilson stated that Council should work on what they have for the initial year whilst Councillor McAleer said she would like more events for the Clogher Valley area. Councillor Mallaghan stated that through the Mid Ulster brand and budget other events could be attracted giving the example that Cookstown had in the past hosted a strong man competition but due to lack of resources had to decline the opportunity to host Ireland's strongest man.

Councillor G Shiels stated that this area of work would be a major public relations success for the new Council moving forward but it was not a seamless exercise merging three councils into one.

The Chair, Councillor Burton, in closing stated that events budget and support was a work in progress.

IN COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That item D27/14-D31/14 be taken in committee.

D32/14 Duration of Meeting

The Chair thanked Officers for the comprehensive reports. The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 9.10pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

F

Subject	Attendance at Seminars & Conferences
Reporting Officer	Chief Executive

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide an update on seminars and conferences of relevance to members and officers of Mid Ulster District.
1.2	To seek approval for the attendance of members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated, as incurred.

2	Background
2.1	Two conferences are presented for consideration to agree member and officer representation from Mid Ulster District Council. Details are provided at 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.
2.1.1	Building Control Convention - <i>Building Communities beyond 2015: How the new Councils will shape the future (North Eastern Building Control)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 13 and Friday 14 November 2014 (1.5 days)
2.1.2	Applying Principles of Planning: <i>Making Better Decisions for Places (RTPI NI)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 11 November 2014, Guildhall, Derry/ Londonderry (0.5 days) <p>Please refer to appendices A and B for full details.</p>

3	Key Issues
3.1	N/A

4	Resources
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Building Control Convention Full Conference Attendance: £270 per delegate Day 1 Attendance: £138 per delegate Day 2 Attendance: £96 per delegate</p> <p>Applying Principles of Planning £25 per delegate</p>

4.2	<u>Human</u> – N/A
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> – N/A
4.4	<u>Other</u> – N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	N/A

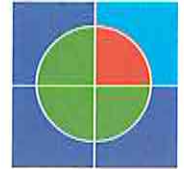
6	Recommendations
6.1	That council considers member and officer representation from Mid Ulster District Council.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	<p>Appendix A: The Building Control Convention - <i>Building Communities Beyond 2015: How the new Councils will shape the future</i></p> <p>Appendix B: Applying Principles of Planning: <i>Making Better Decisions for Places</i></p>

Philjp



North Eastern Group Building Control



Group Chief Officer
Roy Bennett BSc., MSc., CEng MICE FRICS

Our Ref: BG/CA/CEL

Date: 23 September 2014

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Designate for Mid Ulster Council
50 Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Dear Mr Tohill

BUILDING CONTROL CONVENTION 2014

Please find enclosed two copies of the Building Control Convention 2014 Programme for your attention.

This is the last year of 26 Councils and marks a new beginning for the 11 future Councils. The Convention focuses on the new Functions coming to Councils and we would be delighted if you or any of your staff would like to attend.

We would be grateful if you would bring the Convention to the attention of Elected Members who may wish to attend.

The details for bookings are contained in the Programme and all bookings should be confirmed with Claire Alexander on 028 25 633480.

Yours sincerely

W J Gillespie
Acting Group Chief Building Control Officer

Enc

Booking Form

Delegate Details

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Cllr):	
Title:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email: (for booking confirmation)	

Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements:

Payment Options

- ☐ I enclose a cheque for £
(Cheques to be made payable to
North Eastern Group Building Control)
- ☐ I wish to be invoiced
- ☐ I wish to pay by card
(Please contact North Eastern Group Building Control to
arrange payment by card)

Invoicing Details

Invoice Address:	
Email address for invoice: (if applicable)	
Purchase Order No:	

Building Control Convention 2014

This is the 19th year that the Building Control Convention has been organised in Northern Ireland and will be the last occasion when Elected Members from 26 Councils and from Building Control Group Committees will meet with Council Officers to discuss issues of common concern. From 2015 there will be a new dynamic within Local Authorities in Northern Ireland, with 11 larger Councils and more functions to be dealt with.

The 2014 Convention introduces the new functions to Councils of - Community Planning, Local Planning and Regeneration and outlines practices in England and in Northern Ireland.

This year we have speakers who will focus on the new functions coming to Councils, Community Planning, Local Planning and Regeneration and speakers will highlight how this work is undertaken in their Councils.

Workshops will look at how Building Control can contribute to the New Councils and particularly how surveyors can assist with the new functions. Practising officers will indicate ways in which the skills of Building Control surveyors currently benefit the Councils. Specialists in housing will talk on determining the needs and providing the supply of new homes: Sustainability will consider regeneration of towns, maintaining existing properties and a "Green Building Ambassador" will highlight the future for a sustainable environment.

It is hoped that the 2014 Convention will bring together Councillors, Council Officers, Planners and those involved with Regeneration and Community Planning and will provide an opportunity for delegates new to Councils to meet and interact with future colleagues and associates in relaxed surroundings.

The outcome of the Convention will be a Paper to be delivered to Chief Executives of the New Councils to outline the contribution which Building Control can make to assist with the new functions and to add value for the benefit of the citizens of the new Councils.

I hope all delegates learn and benefit from attending our Convention and take the opportunity to network and above all enjoy the company of like minded colleagues.

Councillor Jim Bingham
Chairman North Eastern Group Committee



Organised by North Eastern Group Building Control on behalf of
the Northern Ireland Group Committee for Building Control



THE BUILDING CONTROL CONVENTION

at The Hilton Hotel,
Templepatrick, County Antrim



26 Old Councils

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES
BEYOND 2015:
HOW THE NEW COUNCILS
WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING
REGENERATION**



11 New Councils

**BUILDING CONTROL
PROTECTING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Thursday 13th & Friday 14th November 2014

Day 1

Chairman Northern Ireland Group Committee	
09.15	Registration, Tea/Coffee
09.50	WELCOME Mayor of Antrim, Councillor Brian Graham
09.55	OPENING REMARKS Chairman, NI Group Committee
10.00	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Mark H Durkan MLA – Minister of the Environment

Session 1 NEW FUNCTIONS

10.15	COMMUNITY PLANNING The Community Plan – the driver for future development? Anne Donaghy – Chief Executive, Mid & East Antrim Council
10.50	Tea/Coffee & scones
11.10	LOCAL PLANNING The Return of Planning to Councils Fiona McCandless – Chief Planner Dept. of the Environment
11.45	REGENERATION The New Powers coming to Councils Carol Ramsey – Asst Director Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate, DSD QUESTIONS
12.30	LUNCH

Session 2 BEST PRACTICE

13.30	Planning, Planning Enforcement and Building Control in Local Authorities – Graham Stallwood – Planning and Building Control Department, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
14.00	The Role of Councillors in the New Planning Regime – Councillor Matthew Francis, Rugby Borough Council
14.30	Partnership Working across Councils – Andrew Carpenter, Head of Devon Building Control QUESTIONS
15.15	WORKSHOPS – Tea/Coffee
16.00	FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS – DISCUSSION
17.00	CLOSE
19.00	RECEPTION
20.00	CONVENTION DINNER

Day 2

Councillor James Bingham Chairman of North Eastern Group Committee	
09.00	Registration, Tea/Coffee
Session 1 COUNCIL ADDING VALUE FOR THE CITIZEN	
09.30	HOW BUILDING SURVEYORS ADD VALUE TO COUNCILS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Working with LPS – by Bronagh DoonanAffordable Warmth – by Stephen HipkinsDilapidations & Dangerous Buildings – by Ian HarperProject Management – by Ian Glendinning

Session 2 MEETING CITIZENS' NEEDS - HOUSING

10.20	PUBLIC HOUSING DEMANDS IN NORTHERN IRELAND: OPERATING WITHIN A POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK Mags Lightbody – Acting Chief Executive, NI Housing Executive
10.50	BUILDING HOUSES IN N IRELAND: A CONTRACTOR'S PERSPECTIVE Jamesy Hagan – Managing Director, Hagan Homes QUESTIONS
11.20	Tea/Coffee & scones

Session 3 SUSTAINABILITY

11.40	REGENERATION Cities in Transformation Professor Deborah Peel – Chair of Architecture and Planning, University of Dundee
12.10	Bringing New Life to Existing Properties – TBC
12.40	SUSTAINABLE LIVING Making new and existing buildings greener Chris Twinn, Twinn Sustainability Innovation QUESTIONS
	CONCLUSIONS
	CLOSING REMARKS
13.30	LUNCH

Convention Fees

- ☐ **Full delegate:**
€270.00 plus VAT = €324.00
(Price includes Convention, all meals including Convention dinner,
overnight stay and use of The Fitness Suite and Swimming Pool)
- ☐ **Day 1 Delegate:**
(13th November 2014) €115.00 plus VAT = €138
(Price includes Convention and lunch)
- ☐ **Day 2 Delegate:**
(14th November 2014) €80.00 plus VAT = €96.00
(Price includes Convention and lunch)
- ☐ **Convention Dinner:**
€45.00 plus VAT = €54.00
- ☐ **Partners:**
€60.00 plus VAT = €72.00
(Price includes Convention dinner and Overnight stay and use of
The Health Facilities, including Pool and Spa)

How to Register

By email	claire.alexander@ballymena.gov.uk
By post	North Eastern Group Building Control 10 Galgorm Court, Fenaghy Road, Galgorm, Ballymena, BT42 1HW
By telephone	028 2563 3480
By fax	028 2563 3484

Acknowledgement of Registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates. If you have not received your acknowledgement 7 days prior to the date of the Convention please contact North Eastern Group Building Control.

Cancellations/Substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute delegate may be sent in their place at no additional charge. Alternatively a refund will be given for cancellations received in writing, by post or email up to 14 days prior to the Convention. Cancellations made after the 14 day period will be charged in full.

Additional Information

For those who wish to avail of added nights the agreed rates are:

Wednesday 12th November 2014:
€94.00 per person sharing/€84.00 single occupancy.

Friday 14th November 2014:
€94.00 per person sharing/€84.00 single occupancy.

These nights will have to be booked separately and will not be administered by the North Eastern Group (reference to the Convention should be made).

Golf

For those who wish to play golf, the agreed rate is £25.00.
(again paid individually).

Applying the Principles of Planning: *Making Better Decisions for Places*

11th November 2014

Guildhall

Derry / Londonderry

9.15am-1.00pm

(a light lunch will be provided)

Preparing for RPA

The RTPI Councillor Training Programme 2014

This event is the last in a series of RTPI NI events geared towards preparing for RPA and the transfer of planning powers.

The conference will challenge delegates to think about the impact of the decisions they make on people, places and also in the courts. It aims to encourage better and more confident decision making during and after the period of transition.

Supported by



RTPI 2014

100 years of professional planning

PROGRAMME

9.15am	Registration, Tea and Coffee
9.45am	Welcome
9.50am	Keynote Speech <i>Mark H Durkan</i> <i>Environment Minister</i>
10.00am	Launch of Planning Horizon Paper <i>Making Better Decisions for Places</i> <i>Trudi Elliott, RTPI Chief Executive</i>
10.30am	Update on Planning Reform <i>Fiona McCandless Chief Planner,</i> <i>DOE NI</i>
10.50am	Break
11.15am	Decision Making <i>John Davies, Former Director,</i> <i>Planning Inspectorate, Wales</i>
11.45am	Planning Appeals and Judicial Review <i>Karen Blair, Managing Partner,</i> <i>Cleaver Fulton Rankin Solicitors</i>
12.15am	Enforcement <i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>
12.45am	Q & A
	Conference Close <i>Cath Ranson, RTPI President</i>
13.00pm	Lunch

Booking details - Please complete, detach and return booking form with your cheque payable to "Royal Town Planning Institute" and send to: Julie Sullivan, Administrator, RTPI NI Branch, PO Box 69, CARRICKFERGUS, BT38 8WX or email julie.sullivan@rtpi.org.uk Tel/Fax: 028 93359494

NAME/ADDRESS/TEL NO	Cost	TOTAL AMOUNT
	£20.00 - MEMBERS £25.00 - NON MEMBERS £5.00 - UNWAGED Delegate rate includes VAT RTPI VAT No 524318171	

BOOKING CONDITIONS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE BOOKING A PLACE

Booking Procedure - Please complete and return this form indicating the number of places you wish to reserve along with your payment. An acknowledgement will be sent on receipt of booking slip.
Confirmation of Booking - Please note that bookings must be received in writing either by post, fax or email. Provisional bookings will not be accepted by telephone unless otherwise instructed. **Cancellation of Booking** - Notification of cancellations must be received in writing or by phone at least **7 days** prior to the event. No refund will be given for cancellations received after this date. Cancellations made after this time and non-arrival will result in a charge of 100% of the delegate fee. It should be noted that substitute delegates can be accepted at any time. **Alterations to and Cancellation of Events** - Whilst every effort has been made to give advanced notice of forthcoming events, the organisers reserve the right to make changes to this programme in advance of any event, or at any time. We also reserve the right to cancel any conference. **Speakers and Documentation** - We cannot accept responsibility for the views or opinions of any speakers or guests expressed at the event. **Data Protection Act** - The information collected in this form will be used by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) for administration purposes. The information will only be used in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

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Subject	Banking Services
Reporting Officer	Lead Officer for Finance

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Members' authorisation to initiate a tender for the provision of banking services to the Mid Ulster Council.

2	Background
2.1	The three predecessor councils currently bank with three different banks, i.e. Bank of Ireland, Danske Bank and Ulster Bank. Although the Shadow Council's financial arrangements are currently being managed by Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council it is imperative that appropriate banking arrangements are in place in advance of 1 April 2015.

3	Key Issues
3.1	Banking services will require a full tender exercise. It is not envisaged that the aggregate banking charges over the term of the contract (proposed 3 years) will exceed the EU Procurement threshold of £172,514.

4	Resources
4.1	<u>Financial</u>
4.1.1	Costs yet to be determined but provision made within existing council budgetary arrangements.
4.2	<u>Human</u> - N/A
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> - N/A
4.4	<u>Other</u> - N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	N/A

6	Recommendations
6.1	That the Council authorises the officers to seek tenders for the provision of banking services.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	N/A