

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Wednesday 7 July 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke\*, Corry\*, Cuddy\*,  
Doris\*, Elattar\*, Hughes\*, Kerr\*, McNamee, Milne\*,  
Monteith\*, Quinn\*, Wilson\*

**Officers in  
Attendance**

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive  
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr Browne\*\*, Head of Tourism  
Mr Gordon\*\*, Head of Leisure  
Mr Hill\*\*, Head of Parks  
Ms Linney\*\*, Head of Community Development  
Ms McKeown\*\*, Head of Economic Development  
Mr Fred Greer ICT Support  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

**Others in  
Attendance**

Councillor S McGuigan

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr Molloy in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**D127/21      Apologies**

None

**D128/21      Declarations of Interest**

The Chair, Councillor Molloy reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest highlighting agenda items 10 and 19 in particular which dealt with grants.

## **D129/21      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Molloy advised that the Head of Arts & Culture had taken ill and conveyed best wishes on behalf of the committee.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy drew attention to 'Chatty Benches' and advised that the Chair of Council had unveiled one in Dungannon Park and he had been approached by rate payers seeking similar for Dungannon for example Railway Park, Hill of the O'Neill and also Moy.

Councillor Burton shared that these had been promoted on television and she would like to see them introduced in other areas for example Fivemiletown particularly along areas where people would shop.

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the recommendation to explore the possibility of funding for the provision of 'Chatty' benches in the district to include Moy, Dungannon town, Railway Park, Fivemiletown.

## **D130/21      Deputation: Killeeshil & Galbally First Responders**

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed Paul McCaughey Killeeshil & Galbally First responders.

Mr McCaughey shared presentation entitled Killeeshil & Galbally Community First Responders. He gave an overview of the First Responders and their role in the community.

At the conclusion of the presentation Mr McCaughey highlighted the need for additional kits for first responders. He also highlighted the need for people to display house numbers, the necessity of detailed maps with postcodes and emphasized the difficulties being experienced in attaining banking services.

The Chair thanked Mr McCaughey for the presentation highlighting the need for the service and gave assurance that Council would do all in its remit to help. He said that in relation to banks it had been highlighted by other groups.

Councillor Clarke stated the he himself was a first responder in a very remote area which was at least an hour from an acute hospital and could identify with the issues raised. He concurred with the difficulty in only receiving a postcode as often if you had a name a local person would know where you were looking for. Speaking in relation to the banking issues he suggested that possibly credit unions could help. Councillor Clarke concluded the work of first responders saves many lives and stressed the importance of awareness.

In response Mr McCaughey said that his local credit union did not offer community groups accounts and the only way around it was for a member of the organization to open an account in their name but most members already had a personal account.

Councillor S McGuigan said he was a neighbor of the group and commended them on what had been achieved. In relation to credit unions he stated he had had other groups reporting the same and unfortunately the regulations of the credit unions did not allow this. He thanked Mr McCaughey for the service he was providing to the community.

Councillor Ashton suggested that the group touch base with Armagh and Tyrone First Responders who had been very successful in drawing down grant aid and perhaps they could share knowledge. In response Mr McCaughey advised that the groups had talked but there was a reluctance to merge.

Councillor Monteith commended the work of the group and suggested that Council senior management team discuss the banking issues many community groups were facing and explore the option of a community funded bank hosted by Council or another organisation. He further suggested that Council seek a meeting with credit unions saying that some offer group banking but only if the group was within their boundary. He said the credit union movement across Ireland was based on serving the community and important this continues.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith and spoke of Christen Eriksen the Danish footballer who had a heart attack at the Euro's. On a more local level he shared how a life had been saved at Ardboe when a nurse had access to a defibrillator at a match. He said Council should do all it could to raise awareness for the army of first responders in the district.

Councillor Corry thanked Mr McCaughey for the presentation and said in relation to house numbers Council should promote and encourage this highlighting the necessity for house numbers to be well displayed.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy thanked Mr McCaughey for attending and said that Council would work on the actions which would hopefully prove useful in the future.

Mr McCaughey left the meeting at 7.30pm

The Chair, Councillor Molloy took a roll call at which time all Members were present plus Councillor S McGuigan.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that Council
- (i) Explore bank provision opportunities for community groups who cannot gain access to banking facilities, example a community bank hosted by Council or another organisation.
  - (ii) Arrange a meeting with credit unions in the district to explore options for community group banking facilities; and
  - (iii) Council promote a publicity campaign to encourage people to display house numbers to assist First Responders and NI Ambulance Service in reaching patients as quick as possible.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D131/21      Cyclical Leisure Equipment Replacement Programme**

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report and sought Member's approval to re-allocate and utilise remainder of the 2021/22 budget assigned to 7 year cyclical leisure fitness equipment capital replacement programme for the current purposes of addressing areas for equipment replacement and/or additions where health and safety issues have been highlighted.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the recommendation to re-allocate and utilise remainder of the 2021/22 budget assigned to the 7 year cyclical leisure fitness equipment capital programme for the current purposes of addressing areas for equipment replacement and/or additions at outdoor pitches where health and safety issues have been highlighted.

### **D132/21      Moyola River Inclusive Angling Partnership Project**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for Council Partnership with Moyola Angling Association to provide inclusive angling facilities on Moyola River.

Councillor Elattar said it was a great idea to provide more accessible angling facilities at Moyola River.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar  
Seconded by Councillor Milne

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve –

- (i) The project as described and provide projected match funding of £1,500 from Council Capital Outdoor Recreation Strategy allocation subject to successful DfC application for the Current Inclusive Angling Development project.
- (ii) To extend current management, maintenance and insurance to cover the new additional angling stands and associated improvement works subject to obtaining approval from the Department of Infrastructure (DFI) for the installation of the additional services.

### **D133/21      Iniscarn Forest, (TRPSI) Development Project**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval from Members for the:

- Development of Iniscairn forest and to update on the application made to DAERA for TRPSI funding to assist in the development of Iniscairn Forest.
- Outdoor Recreation capital budget and to enter into a lease agreement with Forest Service NI (FSNI) to allow for the creation of a carpark and play area within the forest.

Councillor Clarke welcomed the progress stating that it was a jewel in the crown of Mid Ulster with the outstanding views. He stated that he had been glad to be involved in the project which has been in progress over a number of years and had been in talks with local farmers regarding various issues. Councillor Clarke stated whilst he welcomed the project's progress he said that there had been no consultation or contact with Members involved on what was being worked up or planned. He said as local councillors they should have been kept on board but for some time had not been aware of any progress and stressed the importance of keeping Members in the loop.

Councillor Elattar concurred with comments especially with regard to communication and stated she was happy to second the proposal which would be welcomed by the local community. In response to her query regarding all ability play equipment and accessible picnic benches the Head of Parks agreed that the project would be inclusive. He further clarified that the 12 picnic benches highlighted in the access and inclusion programme were new and it would be the desire to equip all new facilities with the accessible equipment and furniture and in the fullness of time replace existing.

Councillor Kerr welcomed accessible picnic benches and highlighted that in Drumcairn Forest the area was overgrown with grass and asked if Council officers could make contact with the forestry service to tidy up the area. In response the Head of Parks said he would pass the request to the Forestry service.

Councillor Burton welcomed the project stating that forestry areas had come to the fore during lock down and asked for an update on progress with regard to Lumford's Glen as it had been a long time on the agenda and she was aware of recent meetings between Forestry Service and officers.

In relation to President Grants play park which was recently re-opened Councillor Burton asked if more monies become available if more play equipment could be added as for older children the removal of the slide had been a disappointment.

Councillor Burton also sought an update in relation to White Lough and the request for Council to work with Rivers Agency to provide bins in the area. She highlighted that people from Benburb and Aughnacloy were being encouraged to utilise the facility but the litter problem needed to be dealt with.

Councillor Cuddy sought clarification in relation to the cost of the project in response the Head of Parks clarified that the total cost is £275k 75% funding with Council contribution of £68k which would be allocated from the Outdoor Recreation Strategy capital allocation approve by Council which totals £250k annually.

Councillor Wilson sought clarification in relation to what poses as a conflict of interest stating that a Member said he had been involved with negotiations in the early stages, with local farmers, but had not declared an interest then have proposed the project.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said the Members had been involved in the project initially but it had then been progressed by Council officers.

Councillor Wilson drew attention to comments by a Member in relation to discussing issues with farmers.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation said the project is with the Forestry Service and lands are owned by them thus there was no conflict.

Councillor Wilson stated he had to accept what they were told but negotiations had been mentioned.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Elattar

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve –

- (i) The development proposal for Iniscarn project as described in the report.
- (ii) To present the Iniscarn Forest development proposal to the Policy and Resources committee for approval of the Council match funding subject to funding being approved from DEARA as part of the TRPSI funding allocation.
- (iii) The request to enter into a lease agreement with FSNi to allow for the development of a carpark & play area within Iniscarn Forest.

Councillor Burton again sought an update on Lumfords Glen.

In response the Chair, Councillor Molloy stated the officer would report to the Member.

Councillor Burton stated that it was not easy to get an update unless it was formally requested at Committee. She also sought an update regarding White Lough.

In response the Head of Parks said that Council did not own White Lough but had worked with the Fisheries and had agreed to provide three litter bins. He further stated that this was an interim measure and it was hoped that a service level agreement would be discussed in the future.

With regard to Lumfords Glen the Head of Parks advised that Council had met with the Forest Service and it had been identified as a future TRPSI project. With regard to President Grants play area the Head of Parks advised he had noted the comments and would follow up at a later stage.

**D134/21      Sliabh Beagh Masterplan**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report and sought Members' approval to establish a Sliabh Beagh Partnership and to progress the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan in partnership with Omagh and Fermanagh District Council and Monaghan County Council.

He sought nominations for two elected Members to represent Council on the Sliabh Beagh Partnership.

Councillor McNamee stated that if nominations were by d'hondt Sinn Féin would have the first choice and if it was appropriate to propose a Member who did not sit on Development Committee he would proposed Councillor S McGuigan.

In response the Chief Executive advised there was no compulsion to nominate from the Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That Councillor S McGuigan represent Council on the Sliabh Beagh Partnership.

Councillor S McGuigan stated he would be delighted to be involved with the partnership highlighting that some of the actions would benefit the Clogher Valley which as often stated by Councillor Burton feels left behind.

Councillor Ashton proposed Councillor Burton as DUP would be next to select.

Councillor Burton said as chair of the Tourism Forum this is something that should be progressed and she would be keen to push on and engage with others and put this section on the map. She said there was a lot of hidden gems and it often drove her insane when people indicated that the Clogher Valley was the gateway to Fermanagh. Councillor Burton concluded that she would be delighted to work on the partnership and encourage people to stop and experience what the Clogher Valley had to offer.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton  
Seconded by Councillor Black and

**Resolved** That Councillor S McGuigan represent Council on the Sliabh Beagh Partnership.

Councillor Cuddy expressed concern that Council always reverts back to the beginning of the d'hondt grid thus Sinn Féin and the DUP were always represented and smaller parties and Independents do not get a fair share. He proposed that Council ask if the partnership would accept four representatives from Mid Ulster Council. He said that the UUP had Members who would be equally passionate about the project as those already put forward. He concluded that Mid Ulster Council application of d'hondt was weak in relation to the aforementioned.

The Chief Executive stated that the majority of appointments of representatives to outside bodies took place at the Annual General Meeting of Council and parties receive their allocation according to party strength. He advised that the current d'hondt grid for Council was 1 SF, 2 DUP, 3 SF, 4 SDLP so even with four representatives the UUP would not be represented. He clarified that the Council had been asked for two representatives as was the case of each Council.

Councillor Cuddy asked if the Chief Executive accepted that not carrying on the allocation of d'hondt and going back to the beginning each time eliminated smaller parties and independent Members.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated it was Council policy.

The Chief Executive stated any change to policy should be discussed at Policy and Resources.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that two Mid Ulster Council members to be nominated to join the new Sliabh Beagh Partnership with first meeting proposed for September 2021.

#### **D135/21 Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan – Council Action Plan**

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to agree a Mid Ulster District Council Anti-Poverty Action Plan.

Councillor Monteith proposed the document but suggested that on page 97 in relation to outdoor recreation Council is still approving housing developments without decent recreational open space. He said that the developers are running rings around policies and there is a nut to crack as in 2021 adequate recreational space should equate to a green space in sight of every house. He suggested that Council should promote a village green concept as parents need to be able to see children as they cannot go out on their own. He stated that areas where the houses are cheaper the issues come back to Council with Members being lobbied for green space and this needs to be in the action plan.

Councillor Monteith made reference to Council grant schemes and suggested that grants should be introduced to encourage recreational sport. He highlighted that Council has excellent facilities and should add into the action plan funding for recreational sport. Councillor Monteith referred to page 98 and said it may be an organizational development aspiration but council should state that they are opposed to zero hour contracts and this should be incorporated into tenders. He highlighted that Council should adopt a similar process to that of the Department of Finance seeking assurance that employees of successful contractors appointed in a tender process receive the living wage and that Council's opposition to zero hours contracts should also be included.



The Chair, Councillor Molloy said the aforementioned points should be included.

Councillor Quinn shared that he worked with the foodbank and St Vincent de Paul in Coalisland together with Councillor Kerr and highlighted initiatives such as school uniform recycling. He also stated that good work is carried out by the arts by Bardic and Craic. He concurred with Councillor Monteith in relation to zero hour contracts and the living wage emphasising Council should be promoting same. He also highlighted the challenges in relation to obesity and said that the plan was very good with just a few tweaks needed.

Councillor Doris stated the plan was comprehensive and was a great approach for tackling poverty. She proposed that in the education section it would be beneficial if Council explored the possibility of the credit union hosting money management classes for young adults and teenagers as it would be a good approach in teaching young people about this.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal and commended the team on the initiatives. He concurred with regard to the zero hour contracts stating that they were barbaric and inhuman. In relation to the uniform grant he said he saw the hardship endured by his mother getting uniforms for his brothers and himself.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to - Explore with credit unions the promotion of money management classes for young adults/teenagers;

The Head of Community Development said she would incorporate the comments but said the issue in relation to zero hour contracts would need to be discussed through HR processes and through the Policy and Resources committee. She said that not all zero hour contracts are the same, that some can be based on good principles of the living wage and flexibility.

The Chief Executive concurred and said that whilst all had their view on governance in relation to the issue of zero hour contract the suggestion could be discussed through policies when its appropriateness, legality, implementation and cost to Council would need to be discussed.

Councillor Monteith said that the proposal in relation to the living wage for employees of contractors appointed to Council tender may well have financial implications but Council should have been at this place a long time ago.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said the action plan was a working document across all departments and commended staff.

Councillor Burton commended officers and drew attention to theme three in relation to health and wellbeing and asked if Sure Start now covered the Castlecaulfield area.

In response the Head of Community Development said that Surestart was a superb programme but it was area based at the moment and did not measure the deprivation of the individual and Council was lobbying not for additional coverage regarding area boundaries but for individual people in poverty to be prioritized. Thus for example people in Castlecaulfield in identified need use for example the Dungannon Surestart programme.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to agree a Mid Ulster District Council Anti-Poverty Action Plan incorporating the undernoted points agreed at committee

- New residential developments be designed to take account of quality open space that is usable for children to play and is central to the development and in the sightline of the homes;
- Ensure Council sports grants are targeted at groups who provide for recreational activity over and beyond more formalized sports delivery;
- Explore with credit unions the promotion and delivery of money management classes for young adults/teenagers;
- Future discussions to take place to explore Council policy in relation to zero hour contracts and for procurement of contracts to consider living wage and zero hour social clauses.

## **D136/21      Community Development**

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

- To agree the rolling grant awards - Local Community Festivals, Good Relations and Decade of Anniversaries.
- To consider and approve the Community Planning consultation responses.
- To update on Community Development.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

### **(i)      Rolling Community Grants Awards – Local Community Festivals, Good Relations and Decade of Anniversaries**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve grant award recommendations outlined in Appendix 1.

## **(ii) Community Planning Consultation Responses**

The Head of Community Development said that there was a Housing member meeting scheduled to take place and any amendments or proposals would be incorporated into the consultation.

Councillor Doris stated that she was uncomfortable with the policy only targeting those on universal credit as often people are cut out of childcare provision if they are on a low income and have to incur the total cost.

In response the Head of Community Development said there had been comments received in relation to this regarding the working poor and the response would be strengthened in this area.

In response to the Chair's query the Head of Community Development said that the main aim of the Council response was if you are going to address poverty and educational attainment and good mental health then an accessible pre school place should be available for every child.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Doris and said that if it is based on the income of the house only this leads to economic segregation and stressed that the ethos should be provision for all, and ensure those who are financially deprived don't miss out. He concluded that the Department's approach was simply not good enough and was a make do solution.

With regard to the Department of Communities Housing Supply Strategy Councillor Monteith commended the work but raised the undernoted points:

- Page 109 the last paragraph and highlighted that social housing is not affordable housing and is an issue raised regularly.
- Page 113 affordability – rent allowance is set at £102 per week yet it is at least £150 per week in Dungannon and emphasis needed to be given to this. He stated that social housing should not be pricing rents for profit.
- Page 110 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph in relation to place shaping – this is based on city dwelling houses of multiple occupation for example young professionals renting flats and apartments.
- Page 112 it should be mandatory that every residential development should be mixed tenure and have an element of social housing and stated that in a rush to sort one housing crisis another is created because majority of estates are all social housing.
- Intimidation and Section 75 issues well covered but highlighted that he had dealt with a number of homophobic abuse issues and often what an organization is stating is not the case on the ground.
- Many instances of homelessness is because people can't afford the house they are living in and independent rent assessments would help alleviate this problem.
- Housing Fitness: the district is miles behind in proper decent housing for all.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith and highlighted affordability in private rentals naming areas such as Coalisand and Dungannon where there is

families working and having to decide either to pay the rent or eat and said that it was an indictment that people can only do one or the other. He also spoke of the huge disparity of private landlords with no law to stop them putting financial pressure on people and stressed the need for an independent body to determine rents and give people a chance of living a decent life.

Councillor Elattar commended the report and said affordable housing tends to be a grey area and that housing executive rents were lower than housing association rents as the latter were businesses but it would be hoped that revitalization under Minister Hargey will bring change. She said there had to be affordable housing and opportunity for those who want to buy a home needs to be worked on highlighting that in Draperstown there is currently only 5 houses for sale. She said much work needed to be done and it will take time to alleviate the pressures caused by different decision making by various Ministers over the years but it is hoped that things will now move forward.

Councillor Wilson commended staff and said it was interesting to hear all points of view but the fact that any grants to build only go to housing associations allows them to build the houses and increase rents and that is an issue. He stated that the grants should be made available to other organisations to build social housing.

Councillor Burton concurred and said if it was a proposal she would second. She also spoke of single mothers who would like to send children to school near their place of work not necessarily in the vicinity of their homes and stressed the need for flexibility as the goal is to improve life for everyone which includes the employed.

Councillor Corry said a lot of valid points had been covered. In relation to both affordable and social housing in rural areas older people needed to be considered and ground level homes provided. In relation to private renters Councillor Corry highlighted that Minister Hargey had introduced a bill the previous day aimed at restricting rent increases and it was hoped the NIHE would be building homes again.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the proposed responses with additional comments raised at committee to both consultations and the comments from the working group arranged for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July to the Department for Communities Housing Supply Strategy 2021, note appendices 2 and 3 respectively.

**(iii) Community Development Update**

Noted.

**D137/21 Economic Development – OBFD**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

**i) Mid Ulster Business Marketing Grant Scheme**

In response to Councillor Ashton's query the Head of Economic Development advised that businesses in Mid Ulster must have a company registration number or HMRC self assessment number to be deemed eligible to apply.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Ashton

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to sign and issue letters of offer to businesses, up to a maximum of £300 per company, following the completion of eligibility checks on business applications received. This will allow funds to be disseminated to businesses at the earliest opportunity. A list of approved projects will be brought to Committee for noting in September 2021.

**ii) Mid Ulster Gift Card Programme**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful tenderer following the procurement exercise which will allow work to commence over the summer months. A full report on the tender process will be brought to Committee in September 2021 to update Members.

**iii) DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre**

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report and advised that following discussions with Coalisland Town Centre Forum, it is proposed that Council make an application to the value of £250,000 to the Department for Communities to include festive lighting, development of a town brand and, purchase of branded merchandise and a Lineside Environmental Improvement Scheme which would include a new entrance and welcoming feature signage to the Gortgonis Centre, pedestrian rest areas with street furniture etc as outlined in the report.

Councillor Quinn welcomed the plans especially the works around the Gortgonis Centre and highlighted that smaller businesses in towns needed assistance and that the gift card scheme was excellent.

Councillor Doris said that the town centre looked great but she would request more flowers along Barrack Street, the Dungannon Road and Platers Hill.

Councillor Kerr welcomed the proposal and said that the Coalisland Canal and pathway should have been the centrepiece. He also stated that any new street furniture should be accessible as the area was used by all types of people and the history of the area should be promoted.

Councillor Ashton said that £80k seemed quite a large spend on festive lighting and asked if the funding that is normally allocated from Council for Christmas lighting in Coalisland would be freed up and made available for allocation in other towns in the district.

In response the Head of Economic Development said that following the completion of a public realm scheme, the Department for Communities normally provides some funding to help give the town a boost following the upheaval of the works. She said that the funding is ring fenced for Coalisland town and whilst a small percentage of the funding could be attributed towards revenue projects, DfC prefer the lion's share to be spent on a capital scheme(s).

Councillor Ashton stated her question in relation to Christmas lights funding was not answered.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said this would be reported back.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Ashton and said she had raised it at NILGA the fact that public realm scheme criteria excluded smaller towns and villages highlighting examples in Fivemiletown and Caledon where footpaths were in a woeful condition and that people had to negotiate them to get their shopping. Councillor Burton stated that when Council was meeting Ministers this should be highlighted to get smaller villages on the radar scheme.

The Chief Executive said this was a relevant question and Members would recall that the focus has been regeneration for urban areas which are defined at 5000 people are more. He said there was no specific programme that addresses lesser populations and Council has highlighted this. He said that the statutory agency for rural areas was DEARA and today they had issued their Rural Policy Framework a consultation and Council needed to make its response clear for the need for physical regeneration of smaller towns.

Councillor Monteith supported Councillor Burton and said that there was significant gaps with regard to funding and Council should lobby with other Councils. He also concurred with the Chief Executive but said that Council should continue to lobby as people in the smaller towns and villages were suffering from the poor footpaths. He said he had no argument with Coalisland receiving the funding but asked if Dungannon and Cookstown received a similar funding package following their public realm schemes.

In response the Head of Economic Development said in the past the funding from DfC had generally been around £150,000 per town, following the completion of public realm schemes but when the larger sum of £250,000 was ringfenced for Coalisland Council will gratefully accepted it, subject to making a successful bid to DfC.

Councillor Quinn asked if 'Chatter benches' would be included in the scheme. The Chair, Councillor Molloy advised that he had already raised this in Chair's business and Council would explore their provision throughout the district.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

### **iii) DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve -

- (1) An application be submitted to DfC for Revitalisation Funding in 2021/2022 for the following schemes; Festive Lighting, Developing a Town Brand and Purchase of Branded Merchandise and Lineside Environmental Improvement Scheme
- (2) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to accept a Letter of Offer from Department of Communities (DfC) for the Revitalisation Project, subject to Council's application being approved.
- (3) That the appropriate tender/quotation exercises be commenced, upon receipt of a letter of offer from DfC, to enable works to commence as early as possible as the schemes need to be completed by March 2022. A full report on the tender process will be brought to a future Committee Meeting to update Members.

### **iv) Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland – Consultation**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Corry

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to approve Council's Skills Strategy consultation response and submit the response to DfE by 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The draft consultation response will be furnished to Members for information at the September 2021 Committee Meeting.

### **v) 4C Ur Future Live Careers Event**

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report and in particular to options one and two outlined in the report.

Councillor McNamee expressed disappointment that all post primary schools could not be included but said Council had tried and thus he would propose option one.

Councillor Ashton thanked the Officers for exploring further options but asked could Council host the event in order to facilitate all schools. In response the Head of Economic Development said that Council did not have the staff resource to do this in house and highlighted that this was a pilot scheme and the scheme organisers hoped to upscale the event in the second year in order that all schools could be included and reiterated that Council did not have the resource to do this internally.

Councillor Ashton noted that Cookstown High School was included but Drumglass High School wasn't and asked was there a waiting list if schools dropped out.

In response the Head of Economic Development said that they were proposing that the organisers select the schools with the remit that there is a geographic spread from across the district.

Councillor Doris said whilst everyone had issues with schools left out she thought Council should proceed as it was a pilot scheme.

Councillor Monteith asked if they are using Mid Ulster Sports Arena if this was an additional cost. In response the Head of Economic Development said no MUSA's cost were it was included in the financial request.

Councillor Monteith asked if budget could be identified to provide funding to the schools who could not avail of the opportunity in order that they could do a careers initiative in house.

In response the Head of Economic Development stated Council would not have the budget fund all post primary schools to the same level as those schools who would participate in the 4C Ur Future event, but could perhaps give an allocation of up to £300 per school.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy asked if Council was considering hosting a job fair as had been the case in previous years.

The Head of Economic Development said that offices were in discussion with Department for Communities to deliver a Mid Ulster Jobs and Careers Fair early in 2022 and it is likely to be a virtual event due to the uncertainty around the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Ashton said if Council did not fund the 4C Ur Future event could the £6500 be used to give all schools the opportunity to host a careers event inhouse.

Councillor Monteith said that the £6500 plus additional funding mentioned by the officer could be divided between all schools and said whilst he knew officers had done their best he was angry that the organisers want more money yet only a small amount of schools would benefit.



The Chief Executive said that whilst he understood the concerns of Members this was a pilot scheme across the 11 Council areas and it was designed that the learning could be brought forward in future years. He stated that option one was reasonable and officers could explore if there was any available monies within community budgets to assist schools but the opportunity should not be lost.

The Head of Community Development said that this could be explored with the Community Planning Education Skills Forum.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said that 4C Ur Future event was a pilot scheme and thus he sought proposer for option one with the proviso that other funding is sourced to support schools who are not included.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Monteith and said that rural schools often miss out on such opportunities as it is difficult to transport students to other towns. She said she was not happy and Council should ensure rural proofing and equality for all.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said if Council did not participate it would weaken the experience for all.

Councillor Ashton stated that the £6500 for the 4C Ur Future event should be fairly distributed across urban and rural post primary schools the district.

The Head of Economic Development stated that the choice of schools could be selected to represent urban and rural.

Councillor Monteith proposed that the remainder budget should be distributed to other schools.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to

1. Progress option one with the stipulation that schools are representative of both urban and rural areas throughout the district;
2. Explore with the Community Planning Education Skills Forum opportunities to engage the other schools not identified for the Ur Future Live Careers Event to support them, using remaining Economic Development funding & other Community funding to host 'careers activities' additional to normal curriculum activities to support young people with career development/opportunities.

**vi) Request for Ministerial Meeting to discuss the new Rural Affairs Policy Framework**

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the proposal and sought direction from Members.

Councillor Monteith stated that he would have an issue if there was a meeting with civil servants and independents were not included as had happened in the past.

Councillor Wilson stated that Council had complained about the Minister for Department for Infrastructure not meeting with Members, Land and Property Services refusing to meet and proposed that Council request a meeting with the Minister for DEARA.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that a further request be issued to the DAERA Minister, Mr Poots, acknowledging the update meeting held between DAERA officials and Council staff, but seeking a further strategic level meeting with the Minister and a member delegation from Council to discuss the Rural Affairs Policy Framework, given its importance to Mid Ulster's rural economy.

#### **D138/21 ESF Call 3 Match Funding Requests (2022-23)**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to consider financially supporting a number of match funding requests under ESF Call 3 (2022-23). She updated Members that officers had attended a recent meeting organised by the Department for Economy at which DfE advised it had approached the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government who indicated they are willing to receive a collaborative bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to match fund existing ESF projects for a further year (2022/23). She advised if this was the case, then 3 of the 4 projects (ie, 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3) would be included and if successful, receive funding from this source. With this in mind, approval in principal is sought for all 4 projects, but should projects 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3, receive match funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, then Council funding would not be required.

It was also noted that Council had received a late ESF funding request from Enterprise NI for the 2022-23 financial year and this would be brought to Committee for consideration at the September meeting.

Councillor Doris welcomed the additional funding and highlighted that many groups were desperate for funding and asked if more could be distributed to them.

In response to a query from Councillor Ashton, the Head of Economic Development advised that this is separate funding to that provided by Community Development's strategic projects.

### *Declaration of Interest*

*Councillor Wilson declare an interest of Cookstown Enterprise Centre as the organisation is a member of Enterprise NI.*

Councillor Monteith said if First Steps Women's Group did not receive match funding they could not progress the proposed project and asked if Council could provide the additional monies given them the full £25k requested.

In response the Head of Economic Development said once officers knew the outcome of whether some of the aforementioned ESF projects would get match funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, then an updated report could be brought back to Committee to consider if they wished to uplift the funding to First Steps Women's Group from £12,500 to £25,000.

*Councillor Burton left the meeting at 9.30 pm*

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve –

- 1) In principal the undernoted match funding requests under ESF Call 3 (2022-23) for Mid Ulster District, subject to the organisations being successful in their ESF funding bids, noting that programmes (i) to (iii) may qualify for match funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and if so, then match funding will not be required.
  - i) **SUSE+**  
A financial contribution of up to £25,000 to South West College for the period 2022-23 to deliver the SUSE+ Programme.
  - ii) **Up for Work Programme**  
A financial contribution of £6,250 to Network Personnel for the period 2022-23 to deliver the Up for Work Programme.
  - iii) **Job Match Programme**  
A financial contribution of £6,250 to Network Personnel for the period 2022-23 to deliver the Job Match Programme.
  - iv) **Women Towards Education and Employment Programme**  
A financial contribution of £12,500 to First Steps Women's Centre for the period 2022-23 to deliver the Women Towards Education and Employment Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve in principle that if it is confirmed that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will provide match funding for the SUSE+, Up for Work Programme and Job Match Programme, then Council will uplift it's funding to the Women Towards Education and Employment Programme from £12,500 to £25,000, being the original request received from First Steps Women's Centre.

**D139/21 Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22 and Irish Language Action Plan 2021/22**

Councillor Monteith asked if Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22 and Irish Language Action Plan 2021/22 could be considered in open business. In response the Head of community Development stated that the paper referred to public grants and thus should present no difficulty. The Chief Executive concurred.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve consider agenda item 19 in open business.

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to:

- To seek members approval for the Irish Language Action Plan for 2021/22.
- To seek members approval for the allocation of funding towards the delivery of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve –

- i) The revised Irish Language Action Plan for the remainder of 2021/22 (appendix 1)
- ii) The funding allocation to the groups identified as part of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme as detailed in section 3.3.

**Matters for Information**

**D140/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 17 June 2021**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 17 June 2021.

In response to Councillor Monteith's query regarding an update on lands at Drumcoo were there was dispute over who was responsible for weeds the Chief Executive

advised that a letter had been received and an officer meeting was scheduled to identify solution.

Councillor Monteith stated that on a more strategic level there was unadopted roads throughout the district and proposed that Council lead DEA meetings with the NIHE and DfI Roads to identify unadopted roads and progress a plan to upgrade.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve Council initiate meetings at DEA level with NIHE and DfI Roads to identify unadopted roads throughout the district and progress a plan to upgrade.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to D107/21 and said he had tried to raise the issue at the Council meeting and advised that he had joined the rescue team on a tour and experienced how they had to go at a snails pace at some locations due to waterways not being clear and at times they could experience a 15 minute delay and if someone was in danger in the water this could be fatal.

Councillor Kerr proposed to invite ABC Council and relevant stakeholders to a round table discussion to try to find resolution. He further highlighted that the rescue boat was being damaged and money could be better spent.

In response the Chair Councillor Molloy said it was in the sentiment of the motion to host such discussions.

Councillor Doris advised that Sinn Féin had written to DfI regarding the Lough and said she would support Councillor Kerr's proposal

Councillor Doris also stated she would like to see revitalization plans on the agenda for the September Committee in relation to Sandyrow and Newtownkelly.

Councillor Quinn said that Council should endeavor to find resolution in relation to the issues at the Lough as fishing boats were also being damaged and there was problems at the Blackwater River also.

The Chief Executive stated whilst he agreed with the sentiments of Members Council had no authority or responsibility for Lough Neagh and he would encourage Members to lobby their parties to drive the matter forward at NI Assembly level. He said Council funded Lough Neagh Rescue but what was being requested was beyond the remit of council. He referred back to the motion carried by Council and said it asked Council to engage with neighbouring Council and stakeholders to discuss the issues raised but stressed that only those who have responsibility for the Lough could address these significant issues.

**D141/21      Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme  
2021/22**

Members noted the following:

- 2021/22 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion funding Programme.
- The range of projects being submitted to the 2021/22 Access and Inclusion Programme by Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to proposed resurfacing works at Dungannon Park and said it needed sorted as soon as possible and whilst she did not wish to hold up the applications but asked for a report on maintenance budget as Council did not appear to have the budget to maintain its premises.

**D142/21      Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre Refurbishment Works**

Members noted update on development works/refurbishment works undertaken at the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre during the period of closure.

Councillor McNamee commended the refurbishment works at the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre.

**D143/21      Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group**

Members noted Minutes of the Tourism Development Group meeting held on 24 February, approved at the Tourism Development meeting held on 28 April.

**D144/21      External Investment Leverage 2020/21**

Members noted external investment leveraged by the Business and Communities Department to support Council priorities in 2020-21.

The Chair Councillor Molloy highlighted the total of external funding leveraged and said it did not highlight enough its success in this field.

**D145/21      Economic Development - OBF**

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 2021/22
- Parkanaur College Update
- Mid Ulster MEGA - NI Apprenticeship Week 2021 (NIAW21)
- Rebel On Demand – Pilot Proposal

In response to Councillor Black's query the Chair advised there was a number of organisations on the list to present and there would be a special meeting early September.

*Live broadcast ended at 9.46 pm*

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 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 D146/21 to D147/21.

### **Matters for Decision**

D146/21 Economic Development – CBFD

### **Matters for Information**

D147/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 17 June 2021

### **D148/21 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.55 pm

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Chair

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Date

## Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.