



13 June 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee to be held in The Chamber, Magherafelt and by virtual means Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 5. | Requests to Illuminate Council Properties | 3 - 4 |
| 6. | Member Services | |

Matters for Information

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 7 | Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 April 2023 | 5 - 14 |
| 8 | Somme Association: 2023-2024 Membership Subscription | 15 - 18 |
| 9 | Updated Policy on Consultation | 19 - 28 |
| 10 | Working Groups of Committees: Update | 29 - 34 |

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

Matters for Decision

12. Staffing Matters for Decision
13. Scheme of Allowances Update
14. Closure of dormant bank accounts with AIB
15. Financial Update – Year Ended 31 March 2023

Matters for Information

16. Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 April 2023
17. Staffing Matters for Information
18. Equality
19. Contracts and DAC Registers - Update
20. Treasury Management - Update
21. 2023-24 Rate Support Grant Update

Report on	Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 June 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>To consider requests received to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day • CDH UK: Awareness Day • DoH: National Health 75th Anniversary • ASCERT NI: 25th Anniversary <p>Details on request received are set out below.</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council has a policy and procedural arrangements in place to facilitate the illuminating/lighting-up of its designated properties from requests made by charitable organisations for charitable causes. The designated properties are the Burnavon, Bridewell and Ranfurly House.
2.2	The policy confirms that requests are considered by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee. Should the scheduling of the committee not permit requests being considered within the timeframes for determination, they can be presented to monthly Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The Council has received correspondence from organisations requesting that consideration be given to lighting up our three designated council properties. Requests for consideration and recommendation by Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global MND Awareness Day – 22 June 2023 Colour: Blue • CDH UK: Awareness Day – 28 June 2023 Colour: Pink and Blue • DoH: National Health 75th Anniversary – 5 July 2023 Colour: Blue • ASCERT NI 25th Anniversary – 20 November 2023 Colour: Blue

3.2	<p>Scope of the Council Arrangements</p> <p>The policy scope extends to requests made by charitable organisations for the promotion of its charitable cause on a given date or set of dates.</p>
4.0	<p>Other Considerations</p>
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Not applicable</p> <p>Human: Not applicable</p> <p>Risk Management: Not applicable</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: Council policy and procedural arrangements have been referred to.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: Not applicable</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>That the Committee considers making recommendation to light up the designated properties on the dates specified to mark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day – 22 June 2023 – Colour Blue • CDH UK: Awareness Day – 28 June 2023 Colour: Pink and Blue • DoH: National Health 75th Anniversary – 5 July 2023 Colour: Blue • ASCERT NI 25th Anniversary – 20 November 2023 Colour: Blue
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
	<p>None</p>

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 April 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor S McAleer, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris*, Kearney*, S McGuigan*, McKinney, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Quinn*, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)**

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)

Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources (HoHR)**

Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)

Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Corporate Service and Finance (AD: CS&F)**

Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP)

Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT (HoICT)

Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

* 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 S McAleer welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor S McAleer 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.

PR067/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

PR068/23 Apologies

Councillors Elattar, Forde and McLean.

PR069/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

PR070/23 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR071/23 Amendment to Council Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers – Appendix C Delegated Authority on Planning Matters

The Assistant Director of Corporate Service and Finance (AD: CS&F) presented previously circulated report which sought approval on amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers in relation to planning matters only.

Councillor S McPeake proposed the recommendation. The Councillor stated that the matter was discussed thoroughly some months ago at the Planning Committee and the appendix to the report provides the amendments that were agreed.

Councillor Buchanan seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Amended Appendix C to the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers included at Appendix A to the report and that it takes effect on 28 April 2023.

PR072/23 Review of Learning & Development Policy

The Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to the revisions to Mid Ulster District Council's Learning and Development Policy.

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer felt it was good to include in the policy that an employee has to stay two years after obtaining a qualification through Council.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the revised Learning and Development Policy as set out at appendix to report.

PR073/23 Revision of CCTV, Internet acceptable use and ICT Security Policies

The Head of ICT (HoICT) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Council CCTV Policy, Internet Use Policy and ICT Security Policy.

Councillor Cuddy referred to recent dog attack in Dungannon town centre and the difficulties experienced by staff in obtaining Council CCTV. The Councillor stated that he hoped the amendments to the CCTV policy will make it quicker to get issues like that dealt with. Councillor Cuddy proposed that the policies as outlined be adopted.

The HoICT advised that the aims and objectives of the CCTV policy have been amended to reflect the wider needs of the organisation for people that are looking at public safety and to provide an easier means of access to those systems maintained by the PCSP in respect of the public spaces. It was advised that internal systems are maintained and managed by Facilities Managers and ICT.

Councillor S McGuigan seconded Councillor Cuddy's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the revised Council CCTV Policy, Internet Use Policy and ICT Security Policy as set out at appendix to report.

PR074/23 Response to Consultations

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the draft consultation responses developed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in response to the consultations on:

- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030
- SHSCT Provision of Emergency General Surgery

Councillor Doris referred to Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation response and asked that a further point be included within the response that when a perpetrator is released from prison that they are located a reasonable distance from the area where the victim lives.

The HoSS&E stated he would add the point raised to the consultation response.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Councillor McKinney referred to the Bengoa Report of 2015 and stated things have moved on since then and that he felt that report is now outdated and does not go far enough in today's world and that this should be highlighted within the response including taking into consideration the needs within Mid Ulster Council area.

The HoSS&E agreed to incorporate the Councillor's comments within the response.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve –

- The draft response as outlined in appendix for submission to Department of Health (Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030) by 21 April 2023 to include added comment in relation to the

relocation of domestic and sexual abuse perpetrators being relocated a reasonable distance from where a victim lives.

- The draft response as outlined in appendix for submission to Southern Health and Social Care Trust (Provision of Emergency General Surgery) by 2 May 2023 to include added comment in relation to the Bengoa Report of 2015 being outdated and not meeting the needs of today's community.

PR075/23 Requests to Illuminate Council Properties

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- Make A Wish Foundation Anniversary
- Hope 4 ME & Fibro Northern Ireland
- Shine a Light on Neurofibromatosis
- Foster Care Fortnight

The HoSS&E also highlighted that as Council is now entering the pre-election period there will be no further committees until June 2023 and that requests will be considered in the interim by officers and recommended to the Chief Executive charged with delegated authority.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –

- Make A Wish Foundation Anniversary, 29 April 2023 - Blue
- Hope 4 ME & Fibro Northern Ireland, International ME Awareness Day, 12 May 2023 - Blue
- Nerve Tumours UK, Shine a Light on Neurofibromatosis 17 May 2023 - Blue
- Foster Care Fortnight, 19 May 2023 - Turquoise & Yellow

Members also noted that during the pre-election period requests will be considered in the interim by officers and recommended to the Chief Executive charged with delegated authority.

PR076/23 Arrangements for Annual Meeting of Council – June 2023

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which outlined arrangements for the annual meeting of Mid Ulster District Council following the Local Election scheduled for Thursday 18 May 2023.

Councillor S McPeake referred to local grants and asked that between now and the AGM that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to move funding streams if required.

The HoSS&E advised that a report will be brought to April Council meeting in relation to delegated authority.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the arrangements for the 2023 Annual meeting of Council set to be held on Monday 5 June 2023 as set out in report and report appendix.

PR077/23 Council and Committee Governance Arrangements 2023-2027

The Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report which provided update on the existing Council and Committee governance arrangements and those to be applied during the new Council term 2023-2027.

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer stated that when the timing of meetings was previously decided the option of hybrid was not in place. Councillor S McAleer also referred to the Planning Committee which is often an intense meeting which can go on late.

Councillor Ashton proposed that the arrangements regarding committees and the make up of those committees remains the same. The Councillor stated that the timing of the meetings will be for the new mandate to decide on but felt that to bring meetings into the working day does not suit Councillors who have day jobs. Councillor Ashton also felt that to move the Development Committee to bi-monthly may not be the best way forward.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Ashton's proposal. The Councillor referred to the D'Hondt process at the start of the four year term and felt that if there are new committees identified throughout the four years going forward that the D'Hondt process continue on and that this will then give smaller parties and Independents a chance. Councillor Cuddy also referred to the hybrid option for meetings and felt whilst it is good to have, there needs to be some guidance in relation to the number of meetings Councillors physically attend. The Councillor stated that there were a number of Councillors who he had not actually seen in the Chamber for a long time and felt that there should be a cap on the number of meetings attended remotely and that the majority of Members need to be around the table at meetings as it can help the decision making process.

The AD: ODSP referred to the application of D'Hondt and the rolling D'Hondt principle and that a working group was set up to look at this in relation to outside bodies. From this it was agreed through the P&R Committee that in the new Council term Council would move from D'Hondt being used on a body by body basis but instead would be looking at all outside bodies on a rolling basis and that this matter will be dealt with at the forthcoming AGM.

Councillor Quinn stated that he had sat on the working group referred to and confirmed that it had been agreed that rolling D'Hondt for outside bodies will apply going forward. The Councillor stated he felt the structure of committees and membership works well for this Council, he reflected that being a Councillor is not a full time job and that for those Members who have a day time job it would be difficult to attend meetings if they were held during the day. Councillor Quinn stated that the hybrid option is good for Members who are working and hoped that it is made permanent in the future.

Councillor McKinney stated he would be opposed to changing the times of Committee meetings and also referred to the hybrid option for meetings. The Councillor stated that taking tonight as an example there were as many officers as Councillors around the table and that elected representatives have a duty to serve and attend meetings. Councillor McKinney stated that sometimes the hybrid option is not taken seriously and felt that Members should be encouraged to attend meetings in person. The Councillor spoke in relation to the Planning Committee and that if the time of this meeting was changed to daytime then applicants, who have paid a fee to Council, would also have to take time off work to attend. Councillor McKinney stated that whilst the Planning Committee can last late into the evening on some occasions he felt that the 7pm start for meetings allows Members who do work the time to get to a meeting and that timings should stay as they are. In relation to bi-monthly meetings for Development Committee the Councillor felt that the business needs to be kept moving and that there was no need to slow the process down as he stated the public think Council does not move fast enough.

The AD: ODSP referred to bi-monthly option for Development Committee and clarified that in the month where there would be no committee meeting there would be time for Members to engage in DEA meetings.

The Chief Executive confirmed the comments made by AD: ODSP in relation to Development Committee meetings and stated that when Members request for a project to be done a month does not give a lot of time to make progress so the bi-monthly option is to allow time for officers to progress issues and projects and have something to report back on. The Chief Executive also referred to Members requests for DEA meetings and that the month between Development Committee meetings could be used for these meetings to take place. The Chief Executive stated that the Members comments tonight were appropriate and that the report gives Members something to think about going into the new mandate.

Councillor Quinn commented if there is an option to split the Planning Committee into two meetings if there is a large agenda. The Councillor also stated that the Development Committee is the only Committee Independent Members sit on and that if meetings are held bi-monthly would this be seen as less of a contribution by the Independent Members.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve -
- The operation of a traditional committee system of governance.
 - The committee structure and membership as outlined at 3.1 of report with timings of meetings to be agreed in the new mandate.

PR078/23 Member Services

None.

Matters for Information

PR079/23 Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 9 March 2023

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 9 March 2023.

PR080/23 Rural Needs Annual Progress Return to DEARA (2022/23)

Members noted previously circulated report which set out Council's Annual Progress Report to DAERA in relation to the Rural Needs Act NI (2016/) for the period 2022-23.

PR081/23 Mid Ulster Community Planning: Progress Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on activity in relation to Mid Ulster Community Planning from November 2022 to March 2023.

Live broadcast ended at 7.42 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items PR082/23 to PR087/23

Matters for Decision

PR082/23 Staffing Matters for Decision

Matters for Information

PR083/23 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 9 March 2023

PR084/23 Summary briefing on employee relations relating to NJC pay negotiations in 2023/2024 year for local government staff within the scope of NJCLGS

PR085/23 Staff Matters for Information

PR086/23 Treasury Management

PR087/23 Financial Report for 11 Months ended 28 February 2023

PR088/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.46 pm.

Chair _____

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.

Report on	Somme Association: 2023-2024 Membership Subscription
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 June 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Committee & Member Services Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the committee on correspondence received from the Somme Association on annual membership contributions payable for period 2023- 2024
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council is currently a member of the Somme Association to which it has elected member representation. Details of current Membership are confirmed on the council website under Outside Bodies at https://mid-ulster.cmis-ni.org/midulster/OutsideBodies.aspx
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The council has received an invoice for payment to the Somme Association for the period 2023-24. Provision for the subscription has been made within 2023-2024 budgetary provision (Democratic Services).
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Somme Association - £1,200 (£1,000 + VAT).
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the committee notes request for payment from the Somme Association for the 2023-2024 annual subscription, arising from its membership.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A - Correspondence from Director, The Somme Association

THE SOMME ASSOCIATION



Vice-Presidents
The Viscount Brookeborough, DL

Chairman
Mr Alan McFarland

Director
Mrs Carol Walker, MBE

233 Bangor Road
Newtownards
BT23 7PH

Telephone 028 91823202

Facsimile 028 91823214

Website: www.sommeassociation.com

Email: sommeassociation@btconnect.com

Face Book: The Somme Association

Honorary President:
H.R.H The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

31st May 2023

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Mr McCreesh

Re: 'Friends of the Somme' yearly subscription 2023/24

I am writing to inform you that your council's yearly subscription to the Somme Association is now due. This year's fee, in line with the previous year, is as follows: £1,000.00 plus VAT of £200.00 making a total of £1,200.00. The subscription relates to the financial year ending 31st March 2024. Please find an invoice enclosed which contains our bank details for BACS payments. If a purchase order number is required, could you please arrange for it to be sent to sommeassociation@btconnect.com

As in previous years the annual subscription is extremely important to the Association and its' work going forward in these difficult times.

The Officers of the Somme Association wish me to thank your Council for its continued support over this very difficult time and sincerely hope that it will continue to support our work at the Somme Museum and the Ulster Memorial Tower, France. May I take this opportunity to send best wishes and continuing good health.

Yours faithfully

Carol Walker MBE
Director
Enc.

Report on	Updated Policy on Consultation
Date of Meeting	13 June 2023
Reporting Officer	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Policy Engagement and Equality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of the report is to inform elected members on the updated Policy on Consultation.
2.0	Background
2.1	This policy was developed and subsequently approved in February 2020.
2.2.	In accordance with the Council's policy review cycle, this policy has been reviewed to reflect organisational change within the Council. However no substantive changes have been to the original policy.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>A revised Policy on Consultation is attached as Appendix A to this report. As per the original policy, it provides council officers with a direction on undertaking and approaching consultation, setting out the minimum principles for effective consultation as recommended by the Executive Office of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Cabinet Office. The policy objectives, as detailed within 3.2 of the policy, centre on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicating Council's strategic commitment to appropriate and effective consultation • providing guidance to staff to help them undertake appropriate and inclusive consultation that maximises feedback and improves decision making • ensuring consistency of approach across Council functions and adoption of best practice

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: arrangements being delivered within existing resource.
	Human: arrangements being delivered within existing resource.
	Risk Management: No risks currently identified.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Screening has been undertaken and it has been screened out for the need for an equality impact assessment.
	Rural Needs Implications: A rural needs assessment has been undertaken and consideration given to consultative approaches being applicable and suitable for rural areas.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that the committee note the Revised Policy on Consultation.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A - Revised Policy on Consultation

Policy on Consultation

Document Control			
Policy Owner	Head of Strategic Services and Engagement		
Policy Author	Policy Engagement and Equality Officer		
Version	2.0 (Draft Updated)		
Equality Screened by			
	Policy Engagement and Equality Officer	Date	June 23
Equality Impact Assessment			
	No	Date	N/A
Good Relations			
	N/A		N/A
Approved By			
	Policy & Resources Committee	Date	TBC
Adopted By			
	Council	Date	TBC
Review Date			
	TBC	By Whom	TBC
Circulation			
	Staff		
Document Linkages			
	Equality Scheme Disability Action Plan Customer Service Policy Accessible Communications Policy Rural Needs Impact Assessment guidance		

1.0 Policy Summary

- 1.1 This policy describes Mid Ulster District Council's commitment to undertaking consultation as appropriate to assist it in the development of policy and how. The document is supported with practical guidance for staff who may be required to undertake consultations.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council, as a public service provider, strives to ensure that the services it provides are both responsive and indeed delivered in such a way that the needs of its customers fulfilled. To inform the delivery of its services and functions the Council will on occasion consult with local people and groups about its policies and services to improve the Council's services and ensure that they meet the varied needs of customers. The Council will consider when it is appropriate to consult with different audiences, including individual residents, partner organisations and other authorities. Some of the most common opportunities for consultation arise with the periodic review of an existing service, or the introduction of a new policy or service, and also during the normal day to day contact with customers. Guidance on the type and appropriateness of varying types of consultation will be developed to assist council officers in considering and undertaking same.

- 2.2 In the interests of developing how we do business and in continually improving how the Council does things consultation may be undertaken across a number of council functions to for example ascertain a view on how customers may be affected by their policies and services. The need to ascertain the views of customers through consultation is important to the council which will also go some way to assisting it in meeting its legislative duties. Some duties, amongst others, where consultative arrangements will assist include.

- **Equality and Good Relations:** A key pillar of the Section 75 statutory equality and good relations duties on public authorities is the requirement to consult with service users and others likely to be affected by policies and decisions, and to involve them in the policy development and decision making process. The councils' commitment to consultation is set out in its Equality Scheme.
- **Disability Duties** – Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) requires the council to have regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life.
- **Rural Needs** - Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 places a duty on council to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services.

A policy on consultation is not only necessary to fulfil its duties across various aspects of its activities but will contribute to business planning and improved service delivery.

3.0 Policy Aim & Objective

3.1 Policy Aim:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Mid Ulster District Council carries out effective and appropriate consultation that enables the public, or sections of the public, to have a say in how we design and deliver services that impact on them.

3.2 Policy Objectives:

- To communicate Council's strategic commitment to appropriate and effective consultation
- To provide guidance to staff to help them undertake appropriate and inclusive consultation that maximizes feedback and improves decision making
- To ensure consistency of approach across Council functions and adoption of best practice.

4.0 Policy Scope

4.1 This policy relates to all consultation, irrespective of scale, where the views of service users or potential service users should be sought to inform and influence the development of a policy/plan/project or decision-making.

Consultation may vary in scope and scale according to the significance of the policy/plan/project or decision consulted on, with the expectation that larger scale public consultation exercises will be required for projects of a strategic nature or which involve significant budgets. All new or revised/updated policies/plans, will be considered for the need for some level of consultation – internal, external or both.

5.0 Linkage to the Corporate Plan

5.1 This policy contributes to the delivery of all five Corporate Themes but has a particular focus on Themes One and Two: 'Leadership' and 'Service Delivery'.

6.0 Key principles for effective consultation

- We will ensure that a commitment to consult as appropriate and necessary is built into work plans for policy/project development and implementation.
- We will set out clearly what we are consulting on, why we are consulting and what we will do with the information or feedback that results.
- We will be clear on who we need to consult and plan effectively to ensure that our consultation is targeted appropriately, accessible, user-friendly and inclusive.
- We will allow an appropriate timescale for responses and take factors that may affect response rates into account. For equality-related public consultations, the suggested timescale is 12 weeks, though this may be shortened to no less than 6 weeks in exceptional circumstances when this timescale is not feasible. Smaller scale, targeted consultation will not need this length of time.
- We will also ensure that consultees are made aware of how their input has been considered and ensure that information gained from consultation is shared across departments and functions as appropriate to inform future work.
- We will ensure that staff who carry out consultations comply with data protection legislation.
- We will monitor who is responding to our consultations so that we can be sure we are getting feedback from a cross-section of the population or the targets of the exercise.
- We will always consider if we should try to consult with individuals as well as representative groups, recognising that not all individuals belong to groups or feel they reflect their specific experience.

In drawing up our principles, the council has sought to ensure consistency with practice and those of [The Cabinet Office Consultation principles 2018](#).

7.0 How We Will Consult

- 7.1 The Council will ensure that consultations are accessible to everyone who wishes to participate in them. This will include identifying and overcoming any barriers to full public participation.

8.1 Roles and Responsibilities

- 8.1 The role of managers in relation to this policy is to demonstrate leadership by ensuring that consultation considered as part of work/project plans and to ensure that staff comply with the policy and associated guidance, as developed.

Assistant Directors and Directors should consider and satisfy themselves that adequate consultation has been undertaken with appropriate evidence is available before any policy or plan is finalised.

Managers should also ensure that information or evidence from consultation is made available and shared across teams and departments for others to use and learn from as appropriate.

- 8.2 All staff should familiarise themselves with the policy and any guidance developed. Advice on its application should be sought from the Policy Engagement and Equality Officer and others as appropriate.

9.0 Impact Assessments

Equality Screening & Impact Assessment

- 9.1. The policy has been subjected to equality screening in accordance with the council's screening process. The outcome was that the policy has been screened out without mitigation as no adverse impacts have been identified. This means that it will not be subject to an equality impact assessment at this time.

However, consultation exercises will be monitored and account taken of any feedback from stakeholders about the extent or quality of Council consultation. If monitoring suggests potential adverse impacts that are not currently obvious, or that Council's approach to consultation is not effective, this will be looked at again.

9.2 Rural Needs Impact Assessment

The policy has been subjected to a rural needs impact assessment. The outcome of this assessment is that people in rural areas should not be disadvantaged as a result of this policy. It aims to benefit all service users/potential service users through appropriate and effective consultation which considers how best to include the needs of all those being consulted.

However, it is recognised that a range of consultation methods will be required to ensure that people in rural areas are not disadvantaged and can participate in Council consultations. For example, people in rural areas will find it more difficult to attend consultation events that may require them to travel a distance. Certain categories of rural dwellers may be further disadvantaged because of a lack of access to transport, caring responsibilities, for example women, older people, disabled people or young people.

If consultation is limited to online methods, people in rural areas who do not have Broadband or mobile coverage may be disadvantaged.

9.3 Staff & Financial Resources

Departments or teams which carry out consultation will need to assess the level of resourcing required to meet their statutory duties as outlined in Section 2, and build this into work plans and budgets.

There is no direct cost to the Strategic Services and Engagement section in implementing this policy although there will be staff resourcing required in terms of advice on its implementation.

10.0 Support and Advice

- 10.1 Advice and guidance on the implementation of this policy should be sought from the Policy Engagement and Equality Officer. At departmental level, staff should seek advice from their relevant Head of Service or Assistant Director or Director.

11.0 Communication

- 11.1 The Policy Engagement and Equality Officer/Strategic Service and Engagement section is responsible for the communication.

12.0 Monitoring & Review Arrangements

- 12.1 Implementation of this policy will be monitored and a formal review undertaken 4 years from its effective date.

Report on	Working Groups of Committees: Update
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 th June, 2023
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	E Forde, Committee & Member Services Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update committee members on the Working Groups established by committees of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	Forming part of the council's wider governance arrangements provision is made for the establishment of working groups by committees to progress matters as and when required. Such groups have been established by committees reporting to their parent committee on matters being reviewed and being progressed. Working groups are non-decision making and make recommendations to their parent committees to make the final decision.
2.2.	The current working groups are detailed within appendix A to this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee at its meeting held on 6 th April 2023 considered and agreed the committee and governance arrangements for the incoming Council term 2023-2027 (minute reference PR077/23 refers) together with the continuation of the list of Working Groups reporting to committees.
3.2	In summary, during the 2019-2023 term, committees considered it necessary to establish a number of working groups of Members to consider and make recommendations on a series of nonpolicy related and/or to help in the formulation of policy on a task and finish basis.
3.3	Working Group membership extends to 10 members of Council from the relevant committee. The working groups officially report to and make recommendations to the committee from which it is formed and does not have power to exercise on behalf of the council.
3.4	Appendix A to this report details those Working Groups reporting to committees, considered and agreed upon at the meeting of Committee held on 6 th April 2023. The list is reflective of the change in party representation when applying the updated D'hondt calculation, following the Council election.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Consideration given to these aspects in line with Local Government Act 2014 requirements.
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the committee notes the contents of this report and the list of working groups as detailed within appendix A.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Mid Ulster District Council Working Groups Established by Committees

Mid Ulster District Council
Working Groups Established by Committees:

Working Groups	Membership 2019-2023		Status	Membership 2023-2027	
Bonfire Working Group	DUP SF SF SDLP UUP	Vacant Vacant Cllr B McGuigan Cllr C McFlynn Vacant	Active	SF SF SF DUP DUP	
Broadband Working Group	SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP UUP SDLP	Cllr S Clarke Cllr C Corry Cllr B McGuigan Cllr J McNamee Cllr S McPeake Vacant Cllr W Buchanan Vacant Cllr M Graham Vacant	Active	SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP DUP SDLP	
Civic Recognition Working Group	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF SDLP UUP	Vacant Cllr Buchanan Cllr Brown Cllr Bell Vacant Cllr Mallaghan Cllr D McPeake Cllr Molloy Cllr Quinn Cllr Wilson	Active	SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP DUP SDLP	
Climate Change	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF SDLP UUP	Cllr Black Cllr Buchanan Cllr Forde Cllr D McPeake Cllr Corry Cllr McNamee Cllr Molloy Cllr S McPeake Cllr Martin Cllr Graham	Active	SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP DUP SDLP	

Working Groups	Membership 2019-2023		Status	Membership 2023-2027	
Community Wealth Building Working Group	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF SDLP UUP	Cllr Brown Cllr Burton Cllr Forde Cllr S McPeake Cllr Corry Cllr B McGuigan Cllr N McAleer Cllr Bell Cllr Quinn Cllr Wilson	Active	SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP SDLP	
Elected Member Development Charter	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF SDLP UUP	Vacant Cllr Forde Cllr Buchanan Vacant Vacant Vacant Cllr Mallaghan Cllr Bell Cllr M Quinn Cllr McKinney	Active	SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP SDLP	
Good Relations	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF SDLP UUP	Vacant Cllr McLean Cllr Black Cllr Milne Cllr Corry Cllr McNamee Cllr S McPeake Vacant Vacant Vacant	Active	SF SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP SDLP	
Tourism Development Group	DUP SF SF SDLP UUP	Cllr F Burton Cllr Clarke Vacant Vacant Vacant	Active	SF SF SF DUP DUP	
Regional & Minority Languages Working Group	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF	Vacant Cllr Buchanan Cllr Forde Cllr Milne Cllr Corry Cllr McNamee Cllr S McPeake Cllr S McGuigan	Active	SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP	

	SDLP UUP	Cllr Kearney Cllr Wilson		DUP SDLP	
Modernisation of Waste Recycling, Grass Cutting and Public Toilets	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF SDLP UUP	Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant Cllr Quinn Cllr McKinney	Active	SF SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP SDLP	
Transformation Working Group	DUP DUP DUP SF SF SF SF SF SDLP UUP	Vacant Cllr Black Cllr Brown Cllr Corry Cllr Mallaghan Vacant Cllr S McPeake Cllr Molloy Cllr Quinn Vacant	Active	SF SF SF SF SF SF DUP DUP DUP SDLP	

Report on	Revised timeframe for publication of Council's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan), and Outcome of the consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed improvement objectives 2023 – 2024.
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 th June 2023
Reporting Officer	J Mc Guckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement
Contact Officer	L Jenkins, Performance & Quality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the committee on the revised timeframe for publication of Council's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan) 2023/24 to 2024/25 as per Department for Communities (DfC) guidance, and the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed improvement objectives 2023 – 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	Section 92(4) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (hereby referred to as "the Act") requires council to publish an 'improvement plan' setting out its plans for discharging its duties under sections 84(1), 85(2) and 89(5) of the 2014 Act for a financial year. Paragraph 45 of the statutory guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement (Local Government Circular 21/2016) indicates that the publication of an improvement plan should take place by the <u>end of June each year</u> . Council refers to the 'improvement plan' as set out in the legislation and guidance as Mid Ulster District Council's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan).
2.2.	Section 87 of the 2014 Act requires a council to consult on how it intends to discharge its duties under section 84 and 85 before the improvement plan is published i.e. <u>must consult</u> with persons appearing to the Council, " <i>to be representative of:</i> <i>a); persons liable to pay rates in respect of hereditaments in the district; b) persons who use or are likely to use services provided by the council; and c) persons appearing to the council to have an interest in the district.</i>

2.3	Due to the local elections being undertaken in May 2023 the Department of Communities issued guidance to all Councils in relation to an extended publication date for Councils' Performance Improvement plans (PIP plan).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="240 477 1281 510"><u>DfC Advise of extended Publication Date of Councils' PIP plans 2023-2024</u></p> <p data-bbox="240 517 1418 931">Each year the Council develops an annual Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), containing improvement objectives, with associated activity/measures and outcomes for citizens and local communities. The plan also includes the statutory performance indicators and standards as outlined in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, as well as Council's suite of Corporate Health Indicators (measures). An annual consultation exercise in relation to the proposed improvement objectives is also undertaken in order to inform the PIP plan and to comply with legislation and statutory guidance. As outlined above the associated legislation and statutory guidance requires that the PIP plan be published by the 30th of June each year.</p> <p data-bbox="145 976 1390 1518">3.1.1 A letter was received from Anthony Carleton, Director of Local Government Housing Regulation, DfC - (refer to Appendix One: Correspondence from Anthony Carleton dated 11th May to all Council Chief Executives). The letter outlined that in Section 87 of the 2014 Act requires a council to consult on how it intends to discharge its duties under section 84 and 85 before the improvement plan is published and that in Section 92(4) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires a council to publish an 'improvement plan'. DfC states that given the need to consult and taking account of the upcoming local government elections on 18 May 2023, some concerns have been raised as to whether there would be sufficient time to have plans approved by councils by 30th June. The Department has decided to move the suggested publication date as set out in paragraph 45 of the guidance. For 2023, councils will be required to have their performance improvement plans published by 30th September 2023 at the latest.</p> <p data-bbox="145 1570 1418 1771">3.1.2 The Council had already scheduled the launch of the annual public consultation survey relating to the performance improvement objectives (public consultation survey was held between February through to April) and the results are highlighted below. The PIP plan will be published as per new DfC guidance, i.e. by the 30th of September 2023 having taken into account the local government elections.</p>

3.2	<p><u>Results from the Improvement Objectives Consultation Outworking's Report May 2023</u></p> <p>The Committee at its February 2023 meeting, considered and approved the proposed four Draft Corporate Improvement Objectives for 2023 - 2024 to 2024 - 2025, the objective's rationale and associated links to the community and corporate plan. The improvement objectives were then included in a public consultation exercise.</p> <p>3.21 This year the consultation exercise ran from Monday 27th February to Friday 21st April at 12 noon. Under each improvement objective, the Council asked whether respondents agreed with the objective or disagreed with the objective. Respondents were also asked to provide any related commentary they had regarding the proposed improvement objectives. The consultation survey also asked respondents to outline any improvements the council should consider in the future. The final question asked respondents to provide any further comments relating to the draft Improvement objectives.</p> <p>3.22 The consultation involved a survey made available for completion and submission online and or by post to the council. To ensure engagement the process was promoted through a variety of communication channels including social media outlets, the council's website, press releases, e-mails, staff intranet and internal staff meetings. In total 34 consultees responded to the consultation – refer to Appendix Two (Outworking of public consultation on MUDC Improvement Objectives).</p> <p>In summary the % of respondents who agreed with the Council's proposed improvement objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91.18% of respondents agreed with objective one: - <i>Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action.</i> • 91.18% of respondents agreed with objective two: - <i>We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them.</i> • 93.94 % of respondents agreed with objective three: - <i>To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the environment.</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87.88% of respondents agreed with objective four: - <i>We will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people</i> <p>With such significant endorsement of the four proposed improvement objectives, together with additional commentary provided, the council will be able to develop its Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) around them. When reviewed, the respondent's commentary did not warrant the removal, amendment to or addition to the objectives proposed. The additional commentary and views provided, will inform our wider improvement activity across the services. As outlined the PIP plan will be published by 30th of September 2023.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: NA
	Human: NA
	Risk Management: N/A.
4.2	<u>Screening & Impact Statements</u>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the Committee note the revised date of publication of Council's Performance Improvement Plan and consider the outcome of the Council's Corporate Improvement Objectives Consultation 2023 to 2024.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix One – Correspondence from Anthony Carleton, Director of Local Government and Housing Regulation, Department of Communities 11th May 2023.</p> <p>Appendix Two - Outworking's from Consultation on Mid Ulster District Council's Performance Improvement Objectives 2023 – 2024.</p>



Appendix One

To: Council Chief Executives

**Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 90582 3346
e-mail: anthonycarleton@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref:
Date: 11 May 2023

Dear Chief Executive

Publication of Council Performance Improvement Plans 2023

Section 92(4) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires a council to publish an 'improvement plan' setting out its plans for discharging its duties under sections 84(1), 85(2) and 89(5) of the 2014 Act for a financial year. Paragraph 45 of the statutory guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement ([Local Government Circular 21/2016](#)) indicates that the publication of an improvement plan should take place by the end of June each year.

Section 87 of the 2014 Act requires a council to consult on how it intends to discharge its duties under section 84 and 85 before the improvement plan is published. Given the need to consult and taking account of the upcoming local government elections on 18 May 2023, some concerns have been raised as to whether there would be sufficient time to have plans approved by councils by 30 June.

The Department has decided to move the suggested publication date as set out in paragraph 45 of the guidance. For 2023, councils will be required to have their performance improvement plans published by 30 September 2023 at the latest.

Yours sincerely

**Anthony Carleton
Director Local Government & Housing Regulation**

Outworking's from Consultation on

Mid Ulster District Council's Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-2024

May 2023

Background

As required under Section 84 of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 (hereafter referred to as 'The Act'), the Council is placed under a general duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions.

Part 12 of the Act sets out a series of provisions which the Council should be mindful of in "making arrangements to secure continuous improvement", under section 85, the Council is to identify and set itself corporate level performance Improvement Objective(s) for improving the exercise of its functions and to have arrangements in place to achieve these objectives. Under section 87 of the Act, the Council is also required to consult on our improvement objectives.

This year the consultation exercise ran from Monday 27th February to Friday 21st April at 12 noon and focused on our proposed objectives for 2023/2024.

Under each improvement objective the Council asked whether respondents agreed with the objective or disagreed with the objective. Respondents were also asked to provide any related commentary they had regarding the proposed improvement objectives.

The consultation survey also asked respondents to outline any improvements the council should consider in the future. The final question asked respondents to provide any further comments relating to the draft Improvement objectives.

The consultation exercise was promoted via a variety of communication channels including social media, our Council website, staff intranet/e-mails, and press releases. In total, there were 34 respondents to the Mid Ulster District's Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-2024 consultation.

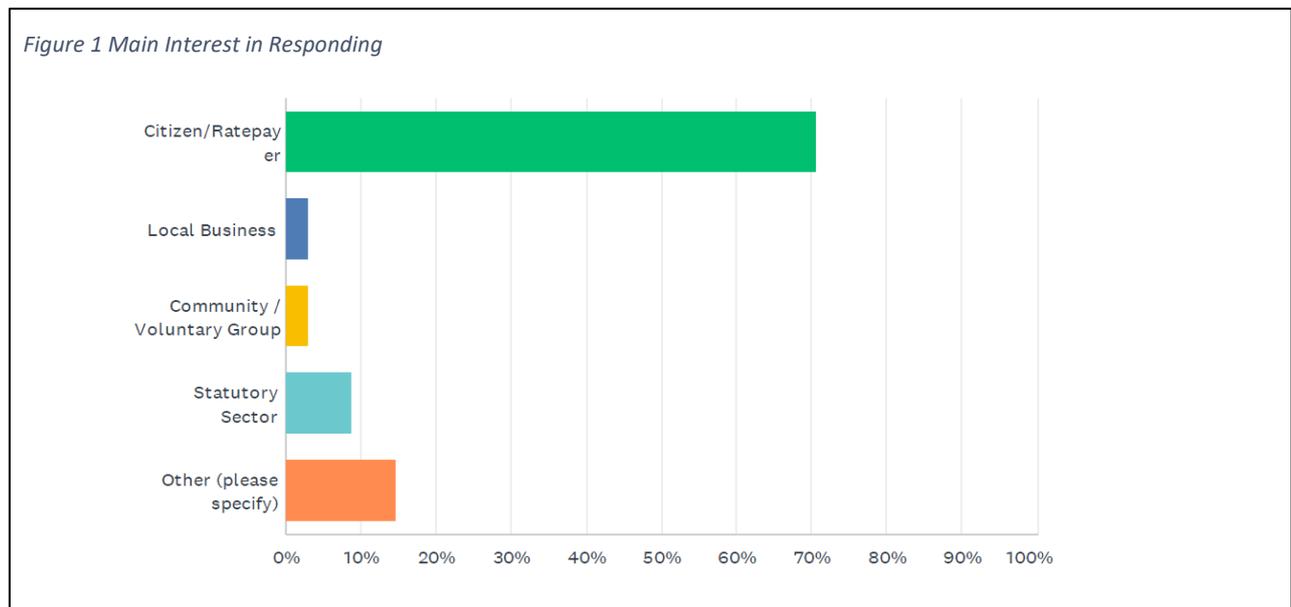
Responses to Improvement Objectives Consultation Questionnaire 2023-2024

QUESTION 1

Consultees were asked what was their main interest in responding to this consultation.

Table 1.0- What is your main interest in responding to the consultation?

Capacity in which responding to survey	Percentage Responses
Citizen/Ratepayer	70.59%
Local Business	2.94%
Community /Voluntary Group	2.94%
Statutory Sector	8.82%
Other	14.71% (employees)



QUESTION 2 –

Percentage of consultees who provided contact details 23.5%

QUESTION 3 -

Do you agree that the proposed Performance Improvement Objectives are appropriate for our district?

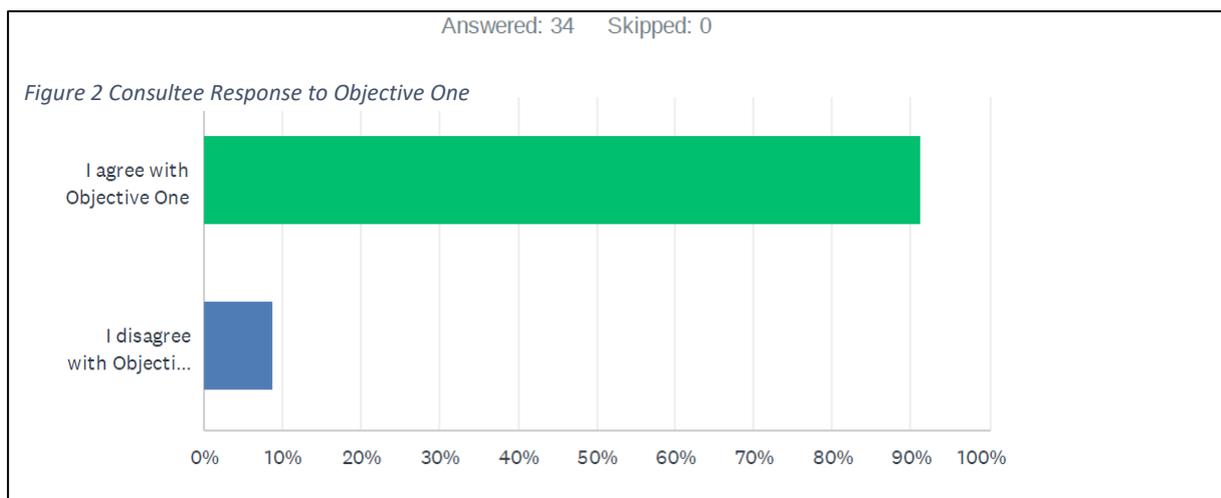
Consultees were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with objective one, and to add comments where applicable

Improvement Objective One

- 1. Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action.**

Table 1.1 Percentage of Consultees who agreed or disagreed with objective one.

	Percentage
Number of Consultees agreed with objective one	91.18%
Number of Consultees disagreed with objective one	8.82%



Outlined below are the consultees' commentary in relation to objective one. There were 15 comments received in total.

#01	Bins are needed in the Killen area and there is nowhere to put waste
#02	This council needs to get real. Domestic violence is everywhere and your no 1 priority is the environment.
#03	I disagree with this objective on the basis of being a self-employed business owner in the Agriculture industry. Unfortunately the drive to Net Zero will drive farmers and agriculture out of business. Too much focus is placed on climate change at the moment and not on serving, helping and supporting citizens with rising living costs.
#11	It is vital that the Council takes positive pre-emptive action to prepare the District for the true impacts of climate change, the current energy crisis and innovative new technologies that support the 'Green Growth Strategy'. For example, I am hopeful that the Council will transform its fleet of vehicles to electric only as soon as possible and invest in providing electric vehicle charging points at its three principal Council Offices and associated Depots. An inter-connected infrastructure of electric vehicle charging points is vital for the District's future growth as Oil and Gas prices will continue to rise rapidly. In addition, I am hopeful that the Council will proactively led on transforming their suite of Council Owned buildings, and those that the Council manage on behalf of a third party, to renewable energy sources only by 2035 - this will require significant financial investment. Such infrastructure will help reduce the Councils overall carbon foot print. Simple, less financially intensive measures should be considered, for example actively encouraging cycle and walking to work programmes (already in place but rarely utilised). What about Electric Bicycles for moving people around the three main towns and two smaller towns. Flexible working and Working from Home also help to reduce the carbon footprint caused by staff travel. I am hopeful that the Council will seek to invest in a programme of routine maintenance, repair and reuse of the physical structures it already owns or manages as this will inherently reduce the Councils negative environmental impacts at a District wide scale i.e. Embodied Carbon – the most sustainable building is the one that already exists. I am hopeful that the Council will consider nature based solutions to adaptation and mitigation measures on an area based approach e.g. DEA scale thereby producing measurable outcomes for each DEA that links with Members jurisdictions.
#15	I agree with this objective but I don't see the appetite /action / initiatives in this area
#16	Yes, I think this is absolutely essential. We are already behind a number of other Councils and it is so important for our future generations. I think the Council needs to take the lead on this and in order to show leadership it needs to look at the impacts of its own activities first. I hope that the new

	Council coming in will take the initiative and declare a climate emergency so that it can move forward with a sense of urgency.
#17	Whilst I agree I think a few more things could help: there should be Electric charging points at all council facilities and bicycle sheds - these should be able to be used by both the public and staff
#19	Where are the electrical vehicle charge points discussed at Council, there is not a single one at any of the offices or parks or leisure facilities Where is the renewable energy sources that the council is investing in
#22	A more joined up approach across all 11 authorities in terms of purchasing, delivery of centralised services would be a more ideal objective
#24	I am not aware of the negative impact the council are currently causing
#25	However done to cost and value as a priority first as don't want rates increase to facilitate change.
#27	I agree, however, mid ulster Council is still growing and stillroom for improvement
#29	Concerned about future impact of accelerating climate change and what this means locally. I am not clear from the web site what sustainability advice and support to residents, communities and businesses across district. Is there signposting for any existing advice, grants, loans (and handhold people through these?). Can Council support residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, save money. Will there be home visits by council staff for elderly etc. to provide high level sustainability advice? Can the council also provide advice on our local ecology and wildlife for residents and businesses
#32	The Council needs to lead by example which should help with the wider environment following suit.
#33	Climate change is one environmental issue of the Anthropocene. Others include, habitat loss, reduced biodiversity and even species extinction. I would like to see what types of mitigation or adaptation strategies the Council will engage in order to meet objective one. Aside from Switching Council vehicles from diesel / petrol to electric ones would be one way, albeit at significant cost. Could MUDC set up its own renewable energy company, erecting wind turbines / farms or solar panels / farms on Council owned assets, this would help offset the cost associated with switching to electric vehicles? This would also aid sustainability going forward (Ecological, economic and social benefits), in the knowledge that MUDC can to some extent control its energy costs if it produced its own energy, and provide a range of new jobs during the planning, construction and operational phases. Prior to COVID, working from home was largely unheard of but there are significant environmental benefits associated with people not commuting to work 5 days per week. Firstly you have the

	<p>reduced carbon emissions from people using fossil fuels to get to work. While a small number of people do have electric cars in MUDC, NI still relies upon coal to generate almost half its electricity, meaning that even though people may have electric cars, a significant proportion is derived from fossil fuels to produce the electricity. Secondly, there would be reduced electricity and heating costs for MUDC buildings. Thirdly, from a social perspective, it provides a better work life balance, especially for anyone who doesn't live close to their workplace.</p>
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QUESTION 4 -

Do you agree that the proposed Performance Improvement Objectives are appropriate for our district?

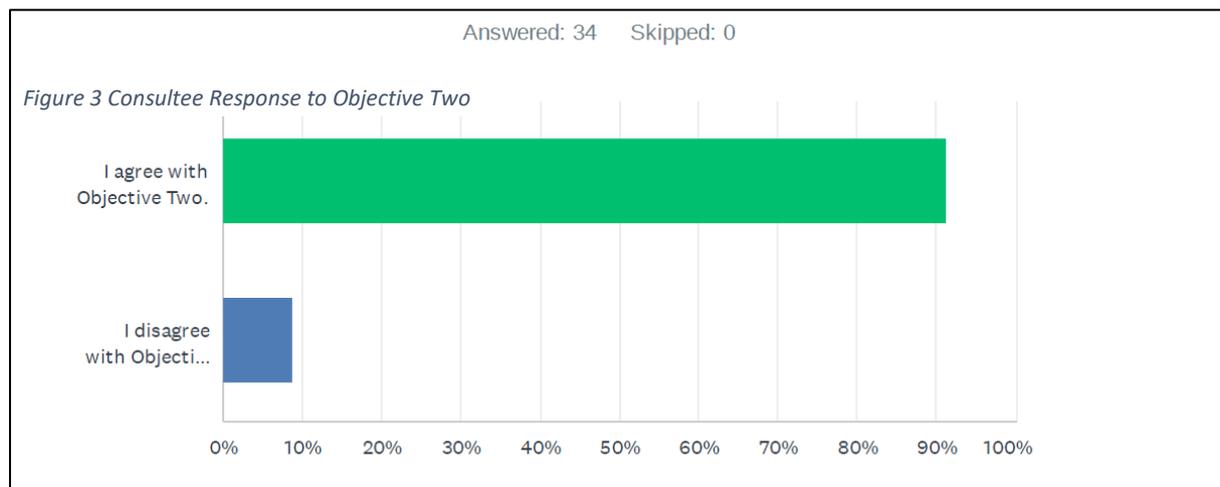
Consultees were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with objective two, and to add comments where applicable.

Improvement Objective Two

2. We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them.

Table 1.2 – Percentage of consultees who agreed or disagreed with objective two.

	Percentage
Number of Consultees agreed with objective two	91.18%
Number of Consultees disagreed with objective two	8.82%



Outlined below are the consultees' commentary in relation to objective two. There were 13 comments received in total.

#01	More engagement is needed with local charities
#02	We need to be able to escape abuse. I live out in the country and I need to be able to get the police or work from home if I have mark's on me or marks on the wee fella.
#03	I disagree with this objective on the basis of being a self-employed business owner in the Agriculture industry. Unfortunately the drive to Net Zero will drive farmers and agriculture out of business. Too much focus is placed on climate change at the moment and not on serving, helping and supporting citizens with rising living costs.
#09	Jobs within Mid Ulster Council seem to be very Magherafelt based which leads to a wide disparity of employment by our local council, as it does not make opportunities for those living in the district from Dungannon or Fivemiletown
#11	There is always a need for better communication between people and place especially in a global market - Technology, Design and Innovation has its place but sometimes Local Authorities need to go back to basics to deliver public services for the people where the people live. Delivery of public services on the ground is key to the resilience of smaller communities and the rural nature of Mid Ulster as a geographical area. The Council's Audit of what it owns and manages should be made public and local communities should be encouraged through structured engagement workshops to identify what the local community needs and wants - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound outcomes that can be reviewed and evaluated on an annual / bi-annual bases .Improvement of Community Engagement and consistent, continuous and coherent feedback mechanisms are needed so that when a constituent engages with the Council on what matters to them at the local level (DEA scale) they receive constructive feedback - to ensure a more connected society, make sure to communicate clearly, consistently ,continuously and in a joint up manner (i.e. between Directorates).Community Planning and Community Development have a vital role to play in terms of providing advice, guidance and expertise in terms of true Public Engagement and Participation. If the Council aims to be at the heart of the community (the people and where they live) then they need to provide a platform for direct communication and engagement on how the people can be involved with designing, maintaining, managing and monitoring their area/place. It is vital that the Council Officers provide constructive feedback, evaluation and reviews back to the people involved. Stop the - 'what happened to that plan? Project, programme?' 'Why did I bother' attitudes Make the organisational chart more easily accessible and available and clearly state who is responsible for what. Provide single points of contacts by DEA...

#16	Services need to be available online so we can access them when free - I suppose though digital doesn't suit everyone and it's important not to forget those people who don't have access to or are unable to use digital means of interacting with the Council
#22	With an aging population the move towards providing everything online can be very exclusionary not just for older people but persons in general who are not all tech savvy
#24	This would make a more Unified, community, friendly place and can only help
#25	However be mindful of citizens who don't have access to technology or don't want to engage with it. Offer suitable alternatives.
#27	I agree, however, mid ulster Council is still growing and stillroom for improvement
#29	Is a more connected mid ulster mean that it will focus only on residents who can self-serve am aware of pockets of high deprivation and not everyone can afford the internet and e enabled phones. How is council and its partners going to help residents to become digitally included? That is devices, connectivity and skills
#32	Having access to a good Broadband service in the Mid Ulster area is a priority service as this helps achieve the best results for availability for other online services.
#33	MUDC's new planning computer system and portal provides a better connection with our stakeholders. It also allows the Council more control with its configuration and the ability to implement technical changes to the systems design and output. I would like to see examples of the types of new technologies being mooted and a strategy for empowering citizens.

QUESTION 5 -

Do you agree that the proposed Performance Improvement Objectives are appropriate for our district?

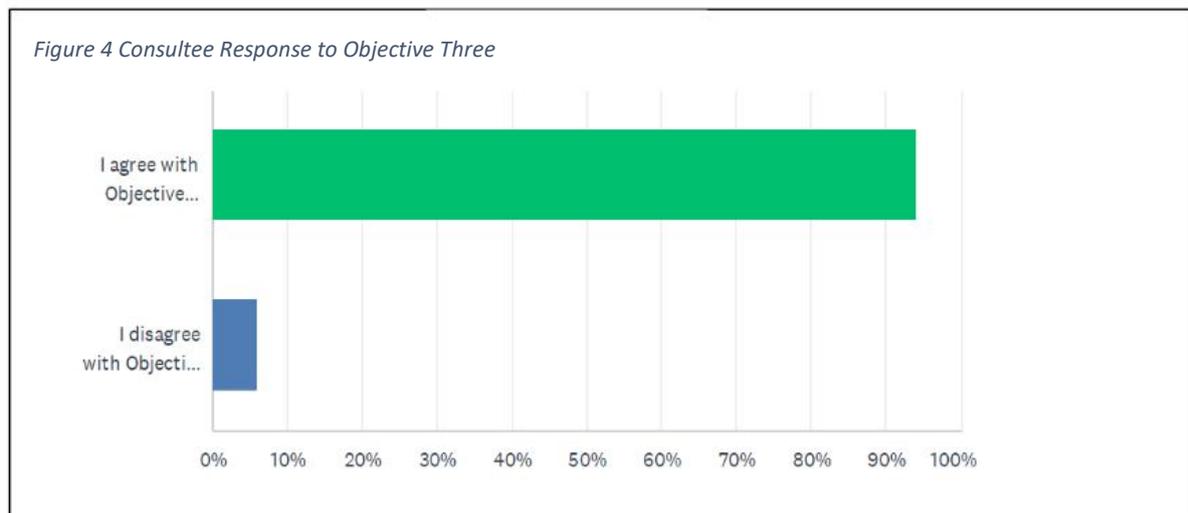
Consultees were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with objective three, and to add comments where applicable.

Improvement Objective Three.

- To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the environment.**

Table 1.3 – Percentage of consultees who agreed or disagreed with objective three.

	Percentage
Number of Consultees agreed with objective three	93.94 %
Number of Consultees disagreed with objective three	6.06%



Outlined below are the consultees' commentary in relation to objective three. There were 12 comments received in total.

#01	We created our own dog poop bag collection points. Residents have nowhere to dispose of the waste
#02	These are money wasting ideas If you are not safe nothing else matters
#05	Mushroom factory - mid ulster council must have a responsibility for issues raised
#10	Will this include sanctions against people who do not take responsibility for their waste and the environment or will such people be simply excused on the grounds of being 'vulnerable' etc.? Have you any way of objectively measuring the extent to which this objective has been achieved?
#11	I am hopeful that the Council will develop an area based approach and natural solutions to adapt and mitigate climate change and reduce carbon footprint within the area. Lands need to be set aside by the local authority for nature, maintained, managed and monitored - see rewilding and Woodland Trust case studies. DAERA should help with financial investment and access to expertise in these areas. However there might be opportunities to partner with Woodland Trust, National Trust etc. NGOs often have better advocates and expertise
#19	More green open recreational quality spaces for leisure, recreational and food experiences needed that are modern and what people actually want to use Should invest in renewable energy sources at existing facilities
#24	This is top of the list for me, as I believe a clean environment is so so important on all levels from hygiene safety and reputation
#25	In particular recycle more waste. Crack down on illegal dumping or fly-tipping. Support and subsidise EV charging points throughout the district to encourage EV uptake which will improve air quality within our towns and villages
#27	I feel the council can do better, regarding taking the lead in setting up programmes to involve the unemployed/young offenders to create a clearer neighbourhood
#29	Is council working with local businesses in relation to corporate responsibility (both big and small) and their contribution to tackling waste especially when comes to dealing with litter
#32	This will be almost impossible to achieve I think especially for dog fouling as those responsible for disposing of their own dog's waste don't seem to understand or care about the need to leave footpaths / streets / walkways

	<p>clear of dog waste for a cleaner, safer and healthier environment for all. Not that all dog owners are irresponsible but it's the minority that give them all a bad name.</p>
#33	<p>Conventional environmentalism sought to separate the environment and society, however there is a growing recognition that the environment and society are entangled in ever increasing ways. In creating green, open public spaces it is important to listen to nature's voice and protect habitats for non-humans so that people have the best chance to enjoy and engage with the natural environment. Seek local volunteers to help with certain types of Council projects, create an experience where residents have a direct connection with their environment - they have a stake in it. This should also involve schools - educating young people on the values associated with clean neighbourhoods, waste and their environment.</p>

QUESTION 6 -

Do you agree that the proposed Performance Improvement Objectives are appropriate for our district?

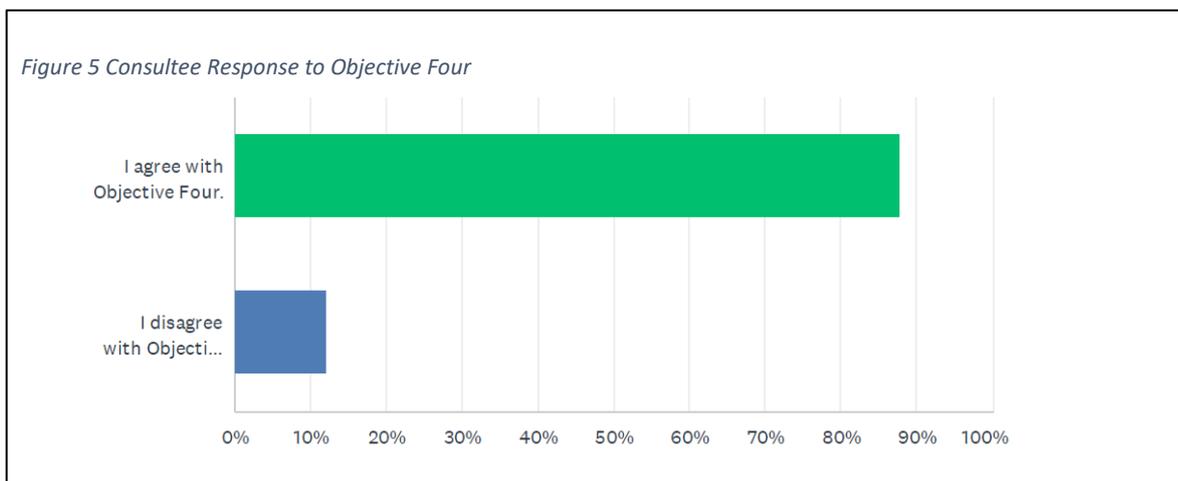
Consultees were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with objective four, and to add comments where applicable.

Improvement Objective Four

- We will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people.**

Table 1.4 – Percentage of consultees who agreed or disagreed with objective four.

	Percentage
Number of Consultees agreed with objective four.	87.88%
Number of Consultees disagreed with objective four.	12.12%



Outlined below are the consultees' commentary in relation to objective four. There were 9 comments received in total.

#02	You need a shelter for men and boys. You need young men being told about abuse and told how to get help They need to be taught in schools about abuse that happens to them.
#03	I absolutely agree with this objective. Capital investment is urgently needed in the right areas
#10	The council can influence regeneration adequately through the planning process. There should be a presumption against the risk of squandering ratepayers' money other than in circumstances where the need is essential.
#11	Any proposed capital investment programme for 2023/24 and beyond must be specific, measurable, realistic, achievable and time bound. The lead in time is crucial and utilising cross directorate and multi-disciplinary teams -pulling existing expertise and staff resources works e.g. .MUDC's Planning Portal is fit for purpose while NIPP is not
#16	I'm not sure this should be an objective when we have to pay additional rates - I can understand maintenance of facilities to keep them up to standard but don't agree with brand new facilities being created just for the sake of it.
#19	The council is designing and implementing non critical white elephants like HomePlace and leisure centres that no longer reflect the needs of the community. Who is going to pay the running costs as none of these facilities deliver cost effective services, make any money or draw in any reasonable tourism or visitors Should invest capital to save in electrical charge points and renewable energies like solar, council vehicles how many are electric or even hybrid?
#25	Events in Ballyronan have been really good for the local community.
#29	Not sure how I can find where capital projects which have been completed are on web site
#33	From a personal experience, I have concerns about the longevity of town centres. I have visited countries across the globe and the thing that has stood out is the difference in night time economies. If you visited any of the towns or villages in MUDC at night, aside from some restaurants and Public Houses, there are very few reasons why people would want to gather or mix in towns and villages. If you compare that with towns and villages in Spain and Portugal, they are thriving at night, with people congregating and mixing in town squares and public spaces, they are not necessarily there for any specific activity other than being human, i.e. being social creatures - it's not cantered on alcohol consumption. The local authorities have created Pedestrianised spaces where people want to go, it's colourful, scenic and vibrant. People of all ages and backgrounds mix, with an emphasis on small,

	<p>local businesses. Although I am from Omagh, Co Tyrone, there are similarities with MUDC towns. There is a high turnover of occupants of business premises, with a proliferation of Solicitors, Estate Agents and unoccupied buildings in our high streets. The increasing cost of living has meant people have reduced disposable incomes and smaller independent shops and businesses cannot afford to be located in town centres, and thus has reduced the variety of business and footfall of town centres.</p>
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QUESTION 7.

Consultees were asked to outline any improvements that they felt could be made by Mid Ulster Council in the future.

There were 14 responses received in total in relation to question 7.

#01	Further support for community groups
#02	Fund men's Advisory to help boys and men in the area How you don't is purely a disgrace.
#03	Less focus on environmental issues that really don't impact people's everyday lives. Focus of objectives should be on customers who are at the centre of the district. The MUDC objectives should serve me as a customer, resident and business owner
#05	Protecting its residents
#06	I would like to see a more in depth look into businesses that are getting approval to manufacture goods within mid-ulster which are causing pollution and whom are actively breaking the law. I have person experience of this with factory near Ballygawley. This has been appalling from the day it opened. Local residents along with members of the council have had to pursue this. No statutory body has acted upon this regardless of thousands of complaints. I would like to see the council taking the lead in such matters and guide these issues to the correct bodies. I am sure there are a lot more companies causing similar distress to residents and they feel like they have no voice. This proposal was approved by local representatives and I am aware that letters that were to be sent out to residents on the Aughnagar Road in Ballygawley went to addresses in six mile cross. Very sloppy or sneaky. I am unsure which!!
#10	The council's overriding priority should be keep rates as low as possible by reducing waste in manpower and other resources as well as eliminating non-essential services which fail to generate sufficient revenue from users

#12	Nothing else to add other than to say that my local council should be working to ensure my rates are kept to a minimum.
#15	Lacking initiatives for teenagers.
#17	There should be Electric charging points at all council facilities and bicycle sheds - these should be able to be used by both the public and staff
#19	Litter alongside rural roadsides is not being lifted in line with the Councils own objectives and plans. Council cannot even enforce litter instead they get a third party who makes over £100k a year fining people for throwing down cigarettes in town.is this where the real problem is ?
#20	Capital being more transparent and available on line in the website with real time information on programme delivery
#24	I live in Cookstown, I am a non-drinker and I feel there should be sociable places open too late for all ages like late night classes at the weekend for arts and woodwork and hobbies
#27	Talk to and (LISTEN) to the staff on the ground and if they have any ideas to improve the quality of service that we all provide, and not to rule with an iron fist.(we're all in this together)
#33	We are part of a westernised, capitalist approach to the economy, and a market led approach to governance, is there a danger we are becoming too focused on unsustainable production and consumption behaviours? I have engaged with case studies on the widespread use of plastic globally, and how micro plastics are a significant environmental problem for coastal and marine environments. The plastics are essentially broken down into smaller and smaller pieces, ingested by marine species and become almost invisible to the naked eye. There is also a danger to public health as the plastics ingested by smaller creatures, are eaten by increasingly larger species, and potentially by humans. A brave step for MUDC, would be to prohibit plastic food packaging in all retail outlets within MUDC - with the end goal of having no new plastic products exported into or produced within MUDC in the future.

QUESTION 8

Consultees were asked to use the space provided for any further comments relating to the draft Corporate Improvement objectives.

There were 5 responses received in total relating to question 8.

#01	Keep areas clean not just towns we all pay rates
#02	Domestic abuse hurts everyone not just women and girls I am a mother and I and my son was discriminated against. We couldn't use a refuge because my son was 17 No help means no getting better.
#15	n/a
#29	Can you join as a volunteer in local parks?
#33	Minor critiques. The four draft objectives are wide-ranging and engaging, however I would like to have saw details on the types of proposed actions or potential plans that will enable meeting the objectives (I did read the word doc that accompanied). In setting draft objectives before having a list of potential and specific ways of achieving those means it's difficult to gauge their meaningfulness. I realise that this is only a draft and that specific actions may follow at a later stage once the objectives have been confirmed. I am also aware that due to commercial sensitivity, potential projects may not be disclosable as part of this consultation. Forgive my ignorance, I am unfamiliar with the process of setting the draft objectives, is there an argument for engaging or consulting stakeholders before setting the objectives, that way Councils corporate values can be entwined with wider stakeholder values to create the objectives.

