

**Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 11 January 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

**Members Present** Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean (7.13 pm), M Quinn, Totten

**Officers in Attendance** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development  
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure  
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor  
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance  
Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

**Other Councillors In Attendance** Councillor Burton (7.04 pm)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**PR001/18 Apologies**

Councillor McPeake.

**PR002/18 Declaration of Interest**

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

**PR003/18 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Molloy wished Members and Officers a Happy New Year and extended the sympathies of the committee to the Director of Business and Communities on the recent death of his Father.

**Matters for Decision**

**PR004/18 Customer Service Policy Review**

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which considered revisions to Council's Customer Service Policy.

In response to Councillor M Quinn's question the Head of Marketing and Communications advised that there were no timescales in place previously and the revisions cited would help to strengthen the process.

Proposed by Councillor M Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to adopt the revised Council Customer Service Policy as set out in appendix to report.

**PR005/18 SIF Capital Build Programme for Moneymore Recreation Centre – Funding requirement with regard to Deed of Dedication**

*Councillor F Burton entered the meeting at 7.04 pm.*

The Council Solicitor presented previously circulated report which sought approval to enter into a Deed of Dedication with the Executive Office which is a requirement of the funding from OFMDFM's Social Investment Fund Capital Build Programme (SIF) for Moneymore Recreation Centre.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to enter into a Deed of Dedication with the Executive Office on the terms set out in appendix to report.

**Matters for Information**

**PR006/18 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 December 2017**

Members noted minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 December 2017.

**PR007/18 Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2017-18: Northern Ireland Audit Office**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided detail on the Northern Ireland Audit Office Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2017-18.

The Chief Executive advised there was significant drift to what Councils were now being asked to do in respect of Performance Improvement compared to the responsibilities required at the outset. The Chief Executive advised that Council already spends significant time on Performance Improvement but felt that what was now being asked for was unsustainable. The Chief Executive advised he had a number of concerns which were shared by other Councils and stated that meetings had been requested with the Department and Auditor in which it was hoped to get a better understanding of what was now being asked for.

Councillor S McGuigan asked if there were penalties for not fulfilling Performance Improvement responsibilities and if there was any methodology of sharing information between other Councils.

The Chief Executive advised that Council are legally obliged to carry out the Performance Improvement function. He stated that he wanted Mid Ulster Council to be a Council that was improving but he had some concerns over the bureaucracy of the process of achieving this.

*Councillor McLean entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.*

Councillor S McGuigan asked if it was possible to put on paper what was agreed to be done at outset of process and what was now being requested.

The Chief Executive stated that more time was needed for further conversations with the Department and Auditor but that this may be done in the future.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy commented that if Council do not achieve a certificate of compliance it may be difficult to get loans etc.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the Auditor appeared to be tightening up on a number of processes.

#### **PR008/18 Concepts on Capturing the Legacy of Former Councils**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided concepts on how Council will capture the legacy of the former Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Magherafelt Councils.

#### **PR009/18 Member Services**

No issues.

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

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items PR010/18 to PR022/18.

#### **Matters for Decision**

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| PR010/18 | Merchandise Agreement (for the use of Seamus Heaney's signature) |
| PR011/18 | Development of Ann Street – Heads of Agreement                   |
| PR012/18 | Staffing Matters for Decision 1                                  |
| PR013/18 | Staffing Matters for Decision 2                                  |

- PR014/18 Treasury Management Update
- PR015/18 Collective Claim for Compensation from Truck Manufacturers
- PR016/18 Capital Programme – Resource Allocation

**Matters for Information**

- PR017/18 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 December 2017
- PR018/18 Report on Rate Estimates 2018/19
- PR019/18 Financial report for 8 months ended 30 November 2017
- PR020/18 Contracts and DAC
- PR021/18 Staffing Matters for Information
- PR022/18 Sickness Absence Update for the period 1 April 2017 – 30 November 2017

**PR023/18 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.11 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_