



22 June 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 22 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. | Council minutes of meeting held on 20 April 2023 | 3 - 12 |
| 6. | Annual General Meeting of Council minutes of meeting held on 5 June 2023 | 13 - 32 |
| 7. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 12 June 2023 | 33 - 94 |
| 8. | Policy & Resources Committee minutes of meeting 13 June 2023 | 95 - 102 |
| 9. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 14 June 2023 | 103 - 110 |
| 10. | Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 15 June 2023 | 111 - 114 |

11.	Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2023	115 - 126
12.	Conference Report June 2023	127 - 130
13.	Civic Recognition Report June 2023	131 - 138

Matters for Information

14.	Consultations	139 - 168
15.	Correspondence Report	169 - 188

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

16. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 20 April 2023
17. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 June 2023
18. Policy & Resources Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 June 2023
19. Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 June 2023
20. Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2023
21. Document for Sealing: Lease to Draperstown Celtic Football Club CLC001-0093 and two counterparts
22. Documents for Sealing: Burnavon Refurbishment Works – Ref MUDC/TS/C/2022/007
23. Document for Sealing: Digital Transformation Strategy Agreement with Tailwind Digital Limited
24. Document for Sealing: MUDC and Dungannon Enterprise Centre for lands at Feeneys Lane Dungannon

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 20 April 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair

Councillor Corry

Members Present

Councillors Ashton, Bell*, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke*, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Doris*, Forde, Gildernew*, Glasgow, Graham, Kearney*, Mallaghan, Martin*, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn*, B McGuigan*, S McGuigan*, McKinney, McLean, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Oneill*, Quinn, Robinson and Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (AD: ODSP)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CS&F)
Ms Keys, Marketing and Communications Manager
Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes**
Mr McKeown, ICT
Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

C088/23 Notice of Recording

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

C089/23 Apologies

Councillor Black, Cuddy, Kerr and Totten

C090/23 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor McLean declared an interest in Mid Ulster Business Awards.

Councillor S McAleer declared an interest in that a family member was a trainee in Council.

C091/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Corry advised that she had been delighted to welcome the new Age Friendly Alliance Mid Ulster to the Council Chamber in Dungannon for its first ever meeting. She said Council was supportive of the initiative and our combined efforts of Age Friendly Alliance and Council would make Mid Ulster a place where you can grow older without any barriers to living a healthy and fulfilling life and feel you are a valued member of society.

The Chair, Councillor Corry advised that the final civic awards of the current Council term had taken place in the Burnavon again shining a light on the districts talent stating the achievements had been varied and many interesting conversations were had once the formalities were over. The Chair said that meeting residents and hearing about their individual and team achievements was one of the highlights of her term as chair.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said that the Five-Year Pitches Strategy had been launched and this demonstrates Council's commitment to grassroots sport and long-term ambitions for the district, both of which will ultimately play a role in improving the social, economic, physical and mental health and well-being of Mid Ulster and all who live in it. As well as laying out the Council's plans for pitch maintenance and development over the five-year period, she advised that the Strategy considers how the Council can work in partnership with clubs and other stakeholder organisations, effectively supporting the delivery of community-based opportunities for participation in sport and physical recreation. The Chair said everyone knew how vital the grassroots support for any sport is, so it was important that it played a key part of the strategy and all would look forward to results in the coming years.

Councillor Mallaghan reflecting on the final council meeting of the current term thanked officers, staff and fellow members for their co-operation and hard work throughout the term, especially given the challenges brought about by the pandemic and cost of living crisis. He extended a special thanks to fellow party members Councillors Oneill, Doris, Gildernew and Elattar and colleagues Councillors Ashton and Cuddy and wished them all the best in their retirement.

Councillor Mallaghan reflected on the 25 years since the Good Friday Agreement stating that all would have seen the news coverage when 'the great and the good' such as Bill & Hillary Clinton, Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair had descended on Belfast to mark the anniversary. He said that Mid Ulster Council to date had no plans to mark the event but it was something that should be considered going forward. He also spoke of the brief visit of President Biden to the North and the successful impact his visit had been on the twenty six counties. He said that whatever had gone wrong

in the diplomatic world between London and the USA Biden's visit whilst good could have been so much better. Councillor Mallaghan pondered as to how good it would have been if President Biden had of spent more time in the North and perhaps incorporated a visit to Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Councillor Mallaghan spoke of Joe Kennedy III and his appointment as the United States of America envoy to the North. He said it was likely he would spend much time in Belfast looking at projects but given especially that there was £6billion investment hanging in the balance Mid Ulster should extend an invitation to the district in order that he might see for himself the expertise that exists given that the area is renowned for its engineering and machinery construction and exporting throughout the world.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said much had been achieved in Mid Ulster and it would be good for Joe Kennedy to see this for himself.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Corry and

Resolved That Council extend an invitation to Joe Kennedy United States Special Envoy to Northern Ireland to Mid Ulster District to view the districts attributes to include Engineering facilities.

Councillor McLean sought an update on the inhouse grants process and said there was much concern with regards to funding being expressed by community groups. He said he would not rehearse the issues of the Good Friday Agreement as each has their own opinion but he said some good had come of it but much more needed to be done. He concurred with the proposal for an invitation to be extended to Joe Kennedy stating that any help with inward investment was welcome.

Councillor McLean extended best wishes to those Councillors 'hanging up the towel' and thanked them for their contribution to Council. He said that whilst much was put forward, many heated debates had taken place which highlighted the strength in the Chamber that people could debate and move on. He said his party had relied much on Councillor Ashton especially in rates setting process and stated they may still call on her services in the future!

Councillor Quinn reflected on the anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and said it would be a shame not to mark the anniversary given how it had changed the prospects of many lives. He too concurred that an invitation be extended to Joe Kennedy to visit the district.

Councillor Quinn paid tribute to Councillors O'Neill and Doris whom he served alongside in Torrent area and wished them well in the future. He also paid tribute to Councillors Ashton, Cuddy and others stating they would be missed in the Chamber.

Councillor Glasgow concurred with much said about the Good Friday Agreement and said that all must realise that peace is the only way forward. He said debate was essential and those that try to lead back to dark days should receive a clear message.

Councillor Glasgow extended best wishes to all those Councillors leaving the chamber stating that he had appreciated their friendship and how life would be dull without healthy debate. On behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party Councillor Glasgow thanked staff specifically Eileen, Martina and Leanne. He also thanked Adrian and Jennifer for the smooth nomination process and said he hoped to return in the future.

Councillor Ashton speaking on leaving Council said, "Thank you Madam Chair and thank you to those Councillors for their kind comments tonight and those that have messaged me over the last couple of weeks. I want to firstly thank the people of Dungannon who have trusted me with this seat for 12 years. The support I have received over the years has been second to none and I sincerely thank them for welcoming me into their homes and communities.

Throughout my political career I have held many roles in the Council and indeed the party, from Chair of this Council, chairs of Committees as part of the Group leader forum and even had a go at being a Special adviser which I think I'll just put down as a life experience. I want to thank the DUP for the opportunities that they provided me at such a young age and wish them well in the forthcoming elections.

As all Elected Members know, it is not just us that gave up our time. I want to thank my husband Rob for putting up with me running the roads every night of the week and weekends. He tells me that he is looking forward to the 19th May but something tells me he will be ringing Paul McLean by the end of the month looking to send me back. Over the years I have tried my best to represent the whole community and show leadership in this Council, whether that be from delivering sports facilities in Dungannon for all, hosting a business delegation from Hong Kong for our business community or indeed preparing for the Coronation Celebrations now in a few weeks. I believe this Council can play its part in building better relations in the district if there is the political will to do so. May I also wish all the Councillors that are retiring all the best as they take a well-earned rest. Finally but certainly not least I want to say thank you to the staff of both Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough and Mid Ulster District Council for all your help and support over the years. I have no doubt that although I won't be in elected office I will still be on hounding you all to see what is the next big project we can bring to this area. My message to all of you seeking re-election or indeed those that are sitting at home going forward for the first time, respect each other, show leadership in this Council and continue to drive it forward as one of the top performing Councils in Northern Ireland."

Councillor Doris said she had not prepared a speech but did want to extend thanks to Council staff and officers who had been there for her in so many different ways. To the Sinn Féin team she said there had been much debate and laughter over the years but emphasized that she would still be around. To the Chamber she said that everyone was more alike than different and together the Councillors had delivered for Mid Ulster and marveled at the wealth of community across the district especially prevalent during the pandemic. She thanked her family, the public for believing in her and concluded by stating her journey at council had been a great experience.

Councillor Gildernew concurred with all previous remarks and extended special thanks to Eileen Forde who since the days of Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough

Council had guided and supported members. He thanked his wife Geraldine and family for their support over the twenty two years and said he was sorry to be departing but was glad to be embracing another phase of life. Councillor Gildernew extended special thanks to those across the benches who throughout the years had been ladies and gentlemen stating whilst they did not always agree in politics they had a lot in common. He concluded stating he still would look forward to continuing debate with Walter!

The Chair, Councillor Corry also paid tribute to all who were leaving council said it had been a pleasure working with each one and extended thanks to them for their contribution to Council and urged them to enjoy life going forward. She extended best wishes to everyone going forward for election.

The Chief Executive reiterated best wishes to departing Members and said it had been a great journey and he together with fellow officers valued the support of Members both in the Chamber publicly and privately as they jointly delivered for the district. He said a wealth of experience and knowledge was departing the Chamber but concluded in wishing each departing Member good luck in the next phase of life.

In response to Councillor McLean's comments about funding from in house grants process the Chief Executive advised that authority had been delegated to him to release funding during the pre-election period. He said the officer team were working diligently to complete assessments and it was hoped to issue letters of offer in the near future.

Matters for Decision

C092/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on 23 March 2023

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 23 March 2023 (C063/23 – C079/23 and C087/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C093/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Environment Committee Meeting held on 3 April 2023

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Monday 3 April (E090/23 – E104/23 and E114/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C094/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 April 2023 (P035/23 – P040/23 and P046/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C095/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2023

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Councillor Burton drew attention to item D069/23 Granville Industrial Estate (Dungannon) and said the money was most welcome. She requested that the penultimate paragraph be amended to read “....She said it was imperative that Council liaise with the Farmers Mart as often the overspill of traffic impacts the housing estate to the left hand side of the industrial area and there was issues of noise and odour. She concluded that the pathways around the development of homes was not up to scratch and opportunities could not be missed to improve the footpaths in the housing estate at Granville and indeed across many villages where footpaths were in bad condition.”

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Wednesday 5 April 2023 (D061/23 – D072/23 and D075/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoin were considered and adopted.

C096/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 6 April 2023

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 April 2023 (PR067/23 – PR081/23 and PR088/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C097/23 Conferences, Seminars and Training

The HoSS&E sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, seminars and training as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

Proposed by Councillor McKinley
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Killymoon Golf club

C098/23 Delegated Authority to Chief Executive on Matters – Period of Local Election 2023

The HoSS&E presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Chief Executive to be given delegated authority to make a series of decisions during the period of the 2023 local election.

The HoSS&E in addition to matters listed in appendix A also sought approval for delegated authority to be granted to the Chief Executive to approve additional items listed at the meeting to include Molesworth Street, Shared Space project and an appropriate budget for the appointment of an Implementation Partner for the Digital Transformation Strategy for a two year period is £200k, to be funded from reserves as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee in July 2022.

Councillor S McPeake spoke of matter he had brought to Policy & Resources Committee regarding flexibilities around inhouse grants that the Chief Executive would have authority to move funds appropriately. He highlighted that European Social Funding had also been discussed and whilst it would be good if Council could assist it would not be possible to fill the gaps the withdrawal of ESF would create.

In response the Chief Executive advised that the movement of monies in relation to Council's internal grants was covered in the appendix to the report.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority on

- (i) the matters listed in Appendix A of the report commencing from 21 April 2023; and
- (ii) additional items listed at the meeting to include Molesworth Street, Shared Space project and an appropriate budget for the appointment of an Implementation Partner for the Digital Transformation Strategy for a two year period is £200k, to be funded from reserves as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee in July 2022.

Matters for Information

C099/23 Consultations

Members noted consultations received for attention of Council.

Councillor Molloy drew attention to the Education Authority re Plan of Arrangements for Special Educational Provision (Targeted Consultation), closing date: 26 May 2023. He proposed that Council prepare a response to incorporate comments made at a recent workshop by local autism groups who highlighted lack of provision in schools particularly the lack of identification of the needs of children with autism and the lack of identification of children under pressure.

The Chair, Councillor Corry seconded the proposal. It was noted that delegated authority would be required for the Chief Executive to approve the response.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Corry and

Resolved That Delegated Authority be granted to the Chief Executive to approve Council's response to Education Authority re Plan of Arrangements for Special Educational Provision (Targeted Consultation). Closing Date: 26 May 2023

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to NI Policing Board: Community Policing Survey and said that Council should respond and that the PCSP should send notification to Community Groups to encourage them to respond also. Closing Date: 30 June 2023

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Corry and

Resolved That Council respond to NI Policing Board: Community Policing Survey; and that the PCSP send notification to Community Groups to encourage them to respond also. Closing Date: 30 June 2023

C100/23 Correspondence

Members noted update on correspondence received for attention of Council.

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to correspondence received from Tiny Life and proposed that Council invite them to make a presentation in relation to neonatal maternity provision.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That Tiny Life be invited to make a presentation to relevant committee in relation to neonatal leave.

The live broadcast concluded at 7.35 pm.

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.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That items C101/23 to C107/23 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Audit Committee minutes of meeting held on 21 March 2023
- (ii) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 23 March 2023
- (iii) Environment Confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 April 2023
- (iv) Planning Confidential minutes of meeting held on 4 April 2023
- (v) Development Confidential minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2023
- (vi) Policy & Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 April 2023
- (vii) Mid Ulster Business Awards 2023

C108/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.43 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 5 June 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair	Councillor Corry (Outgoing) Councillor Molloy (Incoming)
Members Present	Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, J Buchanan, W Buchanan, F Burton, J Burton, Cahoon, Carney, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Forde, Gildernew, Groogan, Johnston, Kelly, Kerr, Martin, Mallaghan, McAleer, McConnell, McElvogue, McFlynn, McLean, McLernon, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, McQuade, Milne, Monteith, Quinn, Robinson, Totten*, Varsani, Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive Ms Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (AD: ODSP) Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CS&F) Ms Keys, Marketing and Communications Manager Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

AC1/23 Notice of Recording

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

AC2/23 Apologies

Councillors Graham and McGuigan

AC3/23 Declarations of Interest

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

AC4/23 Chair's Business

The outgoing Chair, Councillor Corry made the undernoted comments,

“Good evening and welcome to everyone attending in the Chamber or virtually to tonight’s AGM – it’s been an exceptionally busy year and it seems like no time at all since last year’s meeting.

Let me start by saying what an honour and privilege it has been to serve as Chair of the Council over the past twelve months. In taking up the position, I set out my ambition to be a Chair for everyone. In doing so, my aims were to showcase the wonderful people and beauty of our area, and most importantly, to reflect the open, welcoming, diverse and inclusive area that Mid Ulster is.

Certainly, the many Civic Receptions and Honours given to many this year showcased the best and brightest talent and achievements of the wonderful people within our district. Embracing diversity and inclusion have been the watchwords of my term as Chair. Our work with the Age Friendly Alliance, hosting its first meeting here in Dungannon, and with the Mid-Ulster Loneliness Network, supporting the launch of its first Mid Ulster Chatty Café, has illustrated our commitment to creating an age-friendly district where older people are valued, engaged, and supported to live healthy, active, fulfilling lives.

Events held for International Women’s Day in March helped to spread the very positive message of embracing equality in our homes, workplaces and communities.

The Council has also continued to move forward with accessibility initiatives, particularly through its partnership working with Mid Ulster Disability Forum, who held their own AGM at Ballyronan Marina. The new improvements completed there and at other sites such as Knockmany Forest Park in Clogher, Round Lake in Fivemiletown and Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open Ground in and around Bellaghy, have been designed with inclusion in mind and rightly so. There is always more to be done of course, and I will continue to advocate for diversity and inclusion as a Member of this Council.

One of my first tasks as Chair this time last year was to launch the Coalisland Summer Bash. Of course, when Covid 19 struck, it put a pause on all Council outdoor events and activities. To see them return to our towns this year has been incredibly pleasing and one of the many highlights of my year was attending and participating in many of these events – it was safe to say that I was as excited as any child in the district to help Santa switch on the Christmas lights in some of our towns and villages!

Reflecting further on the last year, one which has been challenging for many of us in collective and individual ways, we have continued to deliver for our residents and have made significant accomplishments in every area of council business. We have continued to invest in Mid Ulster with the upgrading of outdoor recreational facilities at Iniscarn completed, and with works in Drumcaine and Derrynoid underway.

We have contributed to town centre revitalisation with new one hundred and sixty k shared space works completed in Coalisland, and an extensive and far-reaching seven million pounds Peace Plus project, Connecting Pomeroy also underway. We have delivered active travel improvements in Coalisland, Clonoe, Maghera and Eglish, with projects in Clogher and Bellaghy underway to create infrastructure and footpaths that make walking and cycling safer and a more attractive option for our residents, with outcomes that benefit health and wellbeing and contribute to sustainable communities.

We have continued to support our businesses as they navigate through challenging market conditions – annually 282 individuals have been supported to achieve their entrepreneurial aspirations through the Go For It programme. Through our five main business support programmes we have helped 180 businesses and social enterprises across the district to grow and increase their sustainability. It has been a year of innovation within the Council as we continue to transform our structure and services. Initiatives such as our introduction of an entirely new digitally-led planning service and online registration of births and marriages are transforming how our residents use key services, bringing increased access and greater speed, while also ensuring that we as an organisation can work more efficiently and effectively, focusing on improving outcomes for our residents.

We face ongoing difficulties as global challenges continue to affect local services, and this will be the case for some time. But our successes in the last twelve months clearly point to strong leadership and a highly dedicated and resilient staff working within the council. This leads me perfectly to my closing remarks – Members who have taken positions of responsibility especially will know the great support that is given behind the scenes by Council officers, and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank some of those who have provided that support diligently during my term as Chair. I would thank in particular the Chief Executive Adrian McCreesh; the team in Democratic Services – managing the meetings throughout the year is quite a task and is hard work which we all notice and appreciate. Thanks also go to Jennifer and Louise for keeping my diary and making sure I was able to facilitate as many requests as possible, to Kate and the entire Communications team for their commitment, support and help throughout the year, and last but by no means least, the entire staff complement of the Council who strive day in day out to serve our citizens.

I would also like to pay tribute to all the community groups and organisations that I have met during my time as Chair. Their on-the-ground support is often provided at the coal face of our communities and the resilience and determination I have witnessed during my many visits all over the district during the year have been nothing short of inspirational.

I would also thank my fellow Members who have given their input during many hours in and outside of Chamber, with a special thanks to Councillor Francis Burton for her help to me in the role of Deputy Chair.

I wish the new Chair and Deputy Chair all the best - you are taking on a role that not only will demand your best, but in the course of carrying out your duties, will give the best experiences back to you.

You'll find over the next twelve months that the Mid Ulster council area is a great place to represent. As outgoing Chair, I am incredibly proud of this council's achievements, and I am confident that our collective hard work and dedication will continue to be at the heart of our success in the next twelve months. Thank you."

Councillor Mallaghan thanked the Chair, Councillor Corry for her contribution to the role of Chair stating that at the beginning of the year she had outlined her themes to be people, place and planet and her summary of the year explains that she had represented Mid Ulster with great respect and dignity at all times even when it had not been returned. He commended Councillor Corry on her commitment to valuable projects such as Women's Aid and the LGBTQ+ community. He concluded by saying her electorate were very proud of her achievements throughout the year and on behalf of Sinn Féin applauded her for all her hard work.

Councillor Kerr thanked Councillor Corry for her conduct in her role as Chair stating that she had treated him fairly, had been a fair Chair and wished her all the best.

Councillor Quinn concurred with others in saying that Councillor Corry had a fantastic year as Chair and his best memory was of her participation in the Pride Parade when she had embraced all. He concluded commending her dedication to animal rights.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Burton said she had a fantastic year and highlighted that the role provides a wonderful chance to engage with people across the district especially those who volunteer and always go that extra mile for others. She spoke of Volunteer Week and said that many volunteers neither seek nor want recognition but deserve to be highlighted as they provide a valuable contribution to society especially in rural areas. Councillor Burton thanked the officers for their support especially Louise, Jennifer and Eileen who has always been at hand to lend support. She thanked the Chief Executive and officers who deliver on the ground. Councillor Burton said one of her first engagements had been to attend the Clogher Valley show and said that again the event was taking place in July and encouraged all to attend. She extended her thanks for the delivery of the project at Knockmany Forest and said that the focus should now be on Lumfords Glen which was a wonderful opportunity to compliment this area of Clogher Valley. Councillor Burton highlighted that one of the greatest deliveries in the past year had been the upgrade at Roundlake and the footpath leading to it. In conclusion she thanked her family and friends who had supported her, her colleagues in the DUP for the opportunity to carry out the role. She said that throughout the new term she hoped all could work together to deliver for the people of the district highlighting in particular lobbying for upgrades to footpaths in housing estates.

Councillor McLean said as someone who had served as Chair he appreciated the dedication and work involved. He said although the aspirations and politics of himself and Councillor Corry differed she had done a great job and commended both her and Councillor Burton for their dedication to the respective roles in the past year.

Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor McLean's comments and said the Chair is not an easy role and takes a lot of time and effort. On behalf of the UUP he expressed thanks to the outgoing Members and looked forward to the new term.

Councillor Monteith paid tribute to the Chair and Deputy for their hard work, he said it was some 25 years ago when he had first got to know her and over the years she had been an ordinary, decent hard working person and had brought these qualities to the Council. He said Councillor Burton put much hard work into her own district electoral area and across the Council and said well done to both.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for their kind words and said it had been an absolute pleasure to have worked with both who had been wonderful ambassadors for the district. He said both had been inclusive both professionally and personally and now deserved time to focus on their respective constituencies and give the officers a hard time.

AC5/23 Confirmation of Positions of Responsibility for 2023-2027

The outgoing Chair Councillor Corry referred members to the meeting pack containing the agreed grid for Positions of Responsibility for the period 2023-2027, to be filled using the d'hondt method.

The Chief Executive drew Members attention to the appointment of positions of responsibility for 2023-2027 and nominations were made as noted.

Positions of Responsibility: 2023 - 2027 D'hondt Running Order			
No	Party	Position of Responsibility Selected	Year
1	SF	Chair – Council	1
2	DUP	Chair – Council	3
3	SF	Chair – Council	2
4	SF	Chair - Council	4
5	DUP	Deputy Chair - Council	4
6	SDLP	Deputy Chair – Council	3
7	SF	Chair – Development	1
8	SF	Chair – Development	4
9	DUP	Deputy Chair – Council	2
10	SF	Chair – Environment	2
11	DUP	Chair – Development	2
12	SF	Chair - Development	3
13	SDLP	Chair – Environment	3

14	SF	Chair – Environment	4
15	DUP	Chair – Environment	1
16	SF	Chair – Planning	3
17	UUP	Deputy Chair – Council	2
18	SF	Chair – Planning	4
19	DUP	Chair – Planning	2
20	SF	Chair – Planning	1
21	SDLP	Chair – P&R	2
22	SF	Chair – P&R	4
23	DUP	Chair – P&R	3
24	SF	Chair – P&R	1
25	DUP	Deputy Chair – Planning	1
26	SF	Chair – Audit	2
27	SF	Chair – Audit	3
28	SDLP	Chair – Audit	4
29	DUP	Chair – Audit	1
30	SF	Deputy Chair – Development	2
31	SF	Deputy Chair – Environment	1
32	DUP	Deputy Chair – Environment	2
33	SF	Deputy Chair – Development	1
34	UUP	Deputy Chair – Development	3
35	SF	Deputy Chair – Environment	3
36	IND Kerr	Deputy Chair – Planning	2
37	IND McElvogue	Deputy Chair – Environment	4
38	DUP	Deputy Chair – Policy &	1
39	IND Monteith	Deputy Chair – Development	4
40	SDLP	Deputy Chair - Planning	4
41	SF	Housing Council for NI	1
42	DUP	Deputy Chair – Policy &	2
43	SF	Housing Council for NI	2
44	SF	Housing Council for NI	3
45	DUP	Deputy Chair – Planning	3
46	SDLP	Partnership Panel for NI	4 Year Term
47	SF	Housing Council for NI	4
48	SF	Deputy Chair – Policy &	3
49	DUP	Deputy Chair – Policy &	4
50	SF	Deputy Chair – Audit	1
51	DUP	Deputy Chair – Audit	2
52	SF	Deputy Chair - Audit	4
53	SDLP	Deputy Chair – Audit	3
54	SF	PCSP	4 Year Term
55	DUP	Reserves & Cadets	1
56	SF	PCSP	4 Year Term
57	UUP	Reserves & Cadets	4
58	SF	PCSP	4 Year Term
59	DUP	Reserves & Cadets	2
60	SF	PCSP	4 Year Term
61	SDLP	PCSP	4 Year Term

62	SF	PCSP	4 Year Term
63	DUP	PCSP	4 Year Term
64	SF	PCSP	4 Year Term
65	DUP	PCSP	4 Year Term
66	SF	Pass	-
67	SF	Pass	-
68	SDLP	Pass	-
69	DUP	Reserves & Cadets	3
70	SF	Pass	-
71	SF	Pass	-
72	DUP	PCSP	4 Year Term
73	SF		
74	UUP		

On completion of the grid the positions for the forthcoming four years were as undernoted:

	Year 1 2023/202	Year 2 2024/202	Year 3 2025/202	Year 4 2026/202
Council				
Chair	SF	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	UUP	DUP	SDLP	DUP
Audit Committee				
Chair	DUP	SF	SF	SDLP
Deputy-Chair	SF	DUP	SDLP	SF
Development Committee				
Chair	SF	DUP	SF	SF
Deputy-Chair	SF	SF	UUP	Ind - Monteith
Environment Committee				
Chair	DUP	SF	SDLP	SF
Deputy-Chair	SF	DUP	SF	Ind - Elvogue
Planning Committee				
Chair	SF	DUP	SF	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	Ind - Kerr	DUP	SDLP
Policy & Resources Committee				
Chair	SF	SDLP	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	DUP	SF	DUP
Housing Council for NI (Note 2)				
1 Representative	SF	SF	SF	SF
Partnership Panel for NI				

1 Representative 4 year term	SDLP			
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for NI				
1 Representative	DUP	DUP	DUP	UUP
Policing & Community Safety Partnership - Mid Ulster (Note 3)				
10 Representatives 4 year term	SF	SF		
	SF	DUP		
	SF	DUP		
	SF	DUP		
	SF	SDLP		

Mid Ulster PCSP Chair (Note: not a position of responsibility)			
2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
SF	SDLP	DUP	SF
S McPeake	TBC	TBC	TBC

The Chief Executive sought a proposer and seconder for the positions of responsibility 2023-2027.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That the positions of responsibility 2023- 2027 be approved.

The outgoing Chair, Councillor Corry called on Councillor Mallaghan nominating officer for Sinn Féin nominated Councillor to take the Chair.

Councillor Mallaghan nominated Councillor Molloy.

Councillor Corry stood down from position.

Councillor Molloy took the Chair at 7.25pm

The Chair, Councillor Molloy delivered the undernoted speech,

“Go raibh mile maith agaibh agus tá fáilte romhaibh ar fad anseo tráthnóna inniu.

I firstly wish to sincerely thank my party colleagues for entrusting me with nomination to this position for the incoming year, it is a huge privilege and honour for me personally to step into the role but I feel this is equally shared by the good people of the Dungannon DEA who put their faith in myself and Cllr Varsani to represent them.

I wish to acknowledge the sterling work of our outgoing Chair Councillor Corry and Deputy Chair Councillor Burton. It was clear throughout the year that they had a

great working relationship and as previous Chairs have done, the bar has again been raised. I think you deserve a round of applause.

The AGM immediately following an election is always one with an added air of expectancy and anticipation for the incoming term. To that end I extend my sincere congratulations to you all on your recent electoral success to all those who have returned re-elected and a very warm welcome to the 13 new members to the Council. My thanks to Adrian and his entire team for the very professional manner in which all aspects of the election process were handled.

Elections as we all know bring a broad mix of emotions and whilst all in this room were successful, and almost half the candidates who put themselves before the public were unsuccessful, some by the narrowest of margins. I would like to acknowledge those outgoing councillors who were not returned - Councillors Colvin, Glasgow, Kearney, McAleer, McKinney, Mullen some of whom had many years of service to the public, and whilst Sinn Féin had a good day across the north it was bittersweet due to the loss of one of our esteemed and long serving councillors in Sean McGuigan.

My father entered this very chamber in 1985 as one of 4 Sinn Féin councillors elected to Dungannon & South Tyrone Council. Those were ground breaking days when our councillors were excluded, marginalised, abused and shamefully treated, some paid the ultimate price for stepping up to be counted. In 2001 he was returned as the first ever Sinn Féin Chair of Dungannon & South Tyrone and whilst I always define myself as my own person I am nonetheless immensely proud of his achievements and the path he and others laid out to grow Sinn Féin to be the largest political movement on this island attaining almost 32000 votes in Mid Ulster. Change is undeniably happening before our very eyes on a daily basis, a new Ireland is emerging. A new Ireland which must be inclusive, non-discriminatory, a new Ireland which reimagines how it serves its people and manages its resources. Mid Ulster must play its part in shaping that ongoing discussion around how and what that new Ireland looks like.

In the last number of months we have seen that appointed British Tory ministers still have the same contempt for the people here as they ever had with sweeping budgetary cuts which has the greatest effect on those most in need but of course a billionaire cabinet in London couldn't care less about the people of Mid Ulster.

Of course, as a Council we know we have limitations. However we must continue to strive to do the best we can for our residents particularly our community and voluntary sector and those greatly affected by Tory austerity, by continued funding constraints as a direct result of Brexit and by the lack of a functioning executive due to the continued refusal to respect the outcome of last May's election.

In the coming year it is my intention to engage with as many of our people and various sectors as possible. Our local employers and employees, our businesses and entrepreneurs, our community & voluntary sector and in particular our sporting groups, clubs and individuals who do so much across such a wide range of levels, ability and age and in so many different codes. And I look forward to working with you all to achieve better for them.

In closing I would like to thank my employer Linden Foods for allowing me the flexibility to take on this role and finally the biggest thanks of all to my very supportive and understanding wife Frances and my family for their continued love and support without whom none of this would be possible.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go leir.”

The Chair, Councillor Molloy sought a nomination from the UUP for Deputy Chair.

Councillor Wilson nominated Councillor Graham
Councillor Wilson also paid tribute to his three hardworking colleagues who had not returned Councillor Glasgow, McKinney and Cuddy.

A6/23 Appointment of Positions of Responsibility 2023-2024

The Chair Councillor Molloy invited Party Nominating Officers from parties to nominate Members to hold the remaining positions of responsibility for 2023-2024.

Positions of Responsibility	Party	Councillor
Council, Chair	SF	Councillor Molloy
Council, Deputy Chair	UUP	Councillor Graham
Audit Committee, Chair	DUP	Councillor W Buchanan
Audit Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor McGuigan
Development, Chair	SF	Councillor McNamee
Development, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor Clarke
Environment Committee, Chair	DUP	Councillor Cuthbertson
Environment Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor McAleer
Planning Committee, Chair	SF	Councillor S McPeake
Planning Committee, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Black
Policy & Resources, Chair	SF	Councillor Corry
Policy & Resources, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor F Burton
Housing Council for NI	SF	Councillor Mallaghan
Partnership Panel for NI (term of	SDLP	Councillor Quinn
Reserve & Cadets Association for NI	DUP	Councillor Cahoon
Policing & Community Safety Partnership (term of council)	SF	Councillor Mallaghan
	SF	Councillor Varsani
	SF	Councillor McGuigan
	SF	Councillor Carney

	SF	Councillor S McPeake
	SF	Councillor McNamee
	DUP	Councillor Cuthbertson
	DUP	Councillor Forde
	DUP	Councillor Cahoon
	SDLP	Councillor Johnston

A7/23 Nomination of Councillors to Committees

The Chair, Councillor invited Nominating Officers from parties to nominate Members to serve on committees. Nominations were made

PLANNING		
Position	Party	Member
1. Chair	SF	Cllr S McPeake
2. Deputy Chair	DUP	Cllr Black
3. Member	SF	Cllr McConnell
4. Member	SF	Cllr Varsani
5. Member	SF	Cllr Carney
6. Member	SF	Cllr Mallaghan
7. Member	SF	Cllr Clarke
8. Member	SF	Cllr D McPeake
9. Member	DUP	Cllr J Buchanan
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Cuthbertson
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Robinson
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr McFlynn
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Graham
15. Member	Ind -Kerr	Cllr Kerr
16. Member	Ind - McElvogue	Cllr McElvogue

POLICY & RESOURCES		
Position	Party	Member
1. Chair	SF	Cllr Corry
2. Deputy Chair	DUP	Cllr F Burton
3. Member	SF	Cllr S McPeake
4. Member	SF	Cllr McAleer
5. Member	SF	Cllr Molloy
6. Member	SF	Cllr Totten
7. Member	SF	Cllr Bell
8. Member	SF	Cllr Gildernew
9. Member	SF	Cllr McLernon
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Brown
11. Member	DUP	Cllr J Burton
12. Member	DUP	Cllr Cahoon
13. Member	DUP	Cllr McLean
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Johnston
15. Member	SDLP	Cllr McFlynn
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Wilson

ENVIRONMENT		
Position	Party	Member
1. Chair	DUP	Cllr Cuthbertson
2. Deputy Chair	SF	Cllr McAleer
3. Member	SF	Cllr Mallaghan
4. Member	SF	Cllr Kelly
5. Member	SF	Cllr Milne
6. Member	SF	Cllr Varsani
7. Member	SF	Cllr Groogan
8. Member	SF	Cllr McGuigan
9. Member	SF	Cllr McNamee
10. Member	DUP	Cllr J Buchanan
11. Member	DUP	Cllr J Burton
12. Member	DUP	Cllr Cahoon
13. Member	DUP	Cllr Robinson
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Quinn
15. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin
16. Member	Ind - McElvogue	Cllr McElvogue

DEVELOPMENT		
Position	Party	Member
1. Chair	SF	Cllr McNamee
2. Deputy Chair	SF	Cllr Clarke
3. Member	SF	Cllr Milne
4. Member	SF	Cllr Gildernew
5. Member	SF	Cllr Corry
6. Member	SF	Cllr Molloy
7. Member	SF	Cllr McLernon
8. Member	SF	Cllr Bell
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Black
10. Member	DUP	Cllr W Buchanan
11. Member	DUP	Cllr F Burton
12. Member	DUP	Cllr A Forde
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Quinn
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr McQuade
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Wilson
16. Member	Ind - Monteith	Cllr Monteith

AUDIT		
Position	Party	Member
1. Chair	DUP	Cllr Buchanan
2. Deputy Chair	SF	Cllr McGuigan
3. Member	SF	Cllr McConnell
4. Member	SF	Cllr Groogan
5. Member	DUP	Cllr Brown
6. Member	SDLP	Cllr McQuade
7. Member	Ind - Kerr	Cllr Kerr
8. Member	Ind - Monteith	Cllr Monteith

A8/23 Confirmation of Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive drawing attention to the previously circulated report advised that the a meeting had been scheduled for 6 June 2023 for Party Leads to complete the grid by agreement and rolling d'hondt as outlined in the report.

Resolved That the confirmation of Outside Bodies report be adopted and names completed as outlined by Chief Executive.

Confirmation of Outside Bodies –Filled by Party Agreement (2023-2027)

Name of Outside Body	Mid Ulster DC Positions Agreed
Dungannon Enterprise Centre	2
Mid, South & West Region Growth Deal	4
Mid Ulster Community Resus Group	2
Sliabh Beagh Partnership	2

Name of Outside Body	Mid Ulster DC Positions Agreed
Somme Association (Somme Advisory Council)	2
Southern Child Care Partnership	2
The Honourable Irish Society	2

Confirmation of Outside Bodies -Filled by D'Hondt (Rolling) (2023-2027)

Name of Outside Body	Mid Ulster DC Positions Agreed
A5-N2 Cross Border Group	4
Agewell Partnership	5
Caledon Regeneration Partnership	4
CDM Community Transport and Out and About	3
COSTA – Community Organisations of South Tyrone	5
ICBAN	4
Labour Market Partnership	5
Lough Neagh Partnership	5
Mid Ulster Housing Forum	10
National Association of Councillors (NI)	8
NI Amenity Council	3
NILGA	8
NILGA Policy & Learning Network: <i>Elected Member Development</i>	1
Northern Ireland Local Govt. Traveller Partnership	1
PEACE Partnership	10
Shopmobility Mid Ulster	5
Sperrins Partnership	2
Tullyvar Joint Committee	5

Name of Outside Body	Mid Ulster DC Positions Agreed
Workspace, Draperstown	1

Confirmation of Outside Bodies filled by District Electoral Area

Name of Outside Body	Mid Ulster District Council Positions Agreed
Coalisland & Dungannon Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (Dungannon and Torrent DEA)	12
Coalisland Town Centre Forum (Torrent DEA)	6
Cookstown Town Centre Forum (Cookstown DEA)	7
Magherafelt Town Centre Forum (Magherafelt DEA)	5
Maghera Town Centre Forum (Carntogher DEA)	5

A9/23 Schedule of Meetings: 2023-2024

The Chair, Councillor Molloy drew attention to the previously circulated 2023/24 Schedule of Meetings for Council and Committee meetings and sought approval for same.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That Council approved the Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023/24 as detailed in the report.

Matters for Information

AC10/23 Standing Orders

Members noted the previously circulated Standing Orders of Mid Ulster District Council.

AC11/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.40 pm

The Chair Councillor Molloy wished all Members the best for incoming term.

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 12 June 2023 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McPeake, Chair

Councillors Black, J Buchanan, Carney, Clarke, Graham, Kerr, Mallaghan, Martin*, McConnell*, McElvogue, McFlynn, D McPeake, Robinson, Varsani,

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Service Director of Planning (SD: PI)
Mr Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning (HSP)
Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Doyle, Head of Local Planning (HLP)
Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor
Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
Mr McClean, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)**
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)**
Ms McKinless, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
Ms S McNamee, ICT Support
Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

LA09/2020/0472/F – Chris Tinsley***
LA09/2020/0780/O – Eamon Loughrey***
Richard Agus***
Kyle Somerville***
LA09/2021/0205/F - Johann Muldoon***
LA09/2022/0424/F - Hayley Wilson***
Ryan Dougan***
LA09/2022/0465/F - Sarah McCorry***
LA09/2022/0465/F - Mary B McKenna
LA09/2023/0626/F - Malachy McCrystal
LA09/2022/1420/F - Gemma Jobling***
LA09/2022/1509/F - Chris Cassidy***
LA09/2022/1572/O - Christopher Quinn***
LA09/2022/1730/O - Eamonn Cushnahan
LA09/2023/0034/F - Neil Irvine
LA09/2023/0164/F - Sarah McDowell
LA09/2023/0328/F - David Suitor

Councillor Bell
Councillor Monteith*

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

P047/23 Notice of Recording

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

P048/23 Apologies

Councillor Cuthbertson.

P049/23 Declarations of Interest

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

P050/23 Chair's Business

The Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) said that there were a few things he wished to bring to members attention. Firstly, there was an appeal decision which was dismissed and was a fine example where a person would be far better off working with planning department to get things all above board rather than leaving it to enforcement action. The second matter which he wished to bring to members attention and would suspect that will attract some media attention is the issue of ammonia in agricultural development supply. The SD: PI read out a letter which he had received from NIEA which was basically saying that the Office of Environmental Protection which was similar to an Ombudsman which covers England and Northern Ireland and charged with looking into European legislation and the protection of the environment being properly adhered to. This body was having an examination done of the work essentially to see whether they are actively protecting the environment and have the right policies in place. Members will be aware that there has been a lot of long running issues in relations to spoils from large chicken and pig houses and the fact that this was resulting in ammonia omissions and once spread on the fields and in turn effects boglands, particularly sites of nature conservation and lands where there was a quite a deterioration and a loss of species and a real issue at hand. What also has occurred is that there is guidance from one side which was DAERA which says that the trigger which was needed for Council to carry out assessments was at one level and that European case should be at a lower level. The SD: PI said that clearly there were efforts made to bring that in through the back door and DAERA did not change the policy but Mid Ulster District Council raised its own concerns, not just because we protect, not just the fact that there are a lot of large farms with large incomes, but the fact that it may be difficult to stand up under scrutiny which has proven to be the case and attempt to do that would mostly likely be unsuccessful. The SD: PI advised that other Council had attempted to put a higher level and had lost and our position has now been vindicated. The SD: PI said that DAERA has realised the fact that they had to look at change and relook at policy and consultation and bring everyone on board as one side they are telling us here that they were going to start the process but had in turn sent the planning department a list of planning applications which advised that they were going to pause and then providing us with consultation responses which was very concerning for a lot of farmers as they had invested massively in a lot of costs as building a chicken house is a serious investment, now just building the house is expensive there is also a lot of work and expense is getting expertise whilst building it

and making an application resulting in some people being left in a limbo situation. NIEA which is a body within DAERA haven't indicated that they were going to oppose the planning applications but were just on pause and was unsure what that really meant. One of the applications which was on pause was allowed to proceed to a decision because they had verified and given the go ahead and he was unsure whether this was a case of stopping everything.

The SD: PI said that the reason he raised this matter with members was that he was highly conscious that members could be asked by local farmers on what the position was. The position in terms of the Planning Department is that the SD: PI was trying to have staff work with the various bodies to keep things moving which can sometimes be seen as an uneasy atmosphere which staff were working in and this should be the message that should be getting across and not Planning Officers which were pausing things and more a case of Central Government not deciding which way it was going to go.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake agreed that this was very confusing situation, not least for the applicant themselves whether to begin investment as landscapes can be confusing and the targeting of omissions at the moment and would be important that clarity was got from Central Government.

The Chair advised that Councillor Mallaghan wished to raise an issue under Chair's Business.

Councillor Mallaghan said that during the process of getting the Council up and going again after the elections, there was some discussion around committee start times and it was the view across most parties that because this committee seems to be the one that lasts the longest that perhaps a trial could be put in place with an earlier starting time i.e. 5pm. The member advised that given the fact that the life of a public representative can have in terms of late evenings that can occur and also staff may have be working from 8 am or 9 am in the morning to could be working potentially up to 11pm or 12 midnight and was not providing a healthy work-life balance and perhaps a 5 pm start for this committee would be of a huge benefit. If this was carried out for a trial period to see how it would work out, it could be potentially something the other committees could take into consideration also.

Councillor Mallaghan proposed a 5 pm start time for the Planning Committee for a trial period.

The Chair said that he wasn't aware that this was discussed recently but was aware of this being talked about through the years particularly when members and staff were facing late nights and bad weather. The Chair concurred with Councillor Mallaghan and said that it was conjunctive not leaving the meeting sometimes at 11.30pm to travel some distance home. He said that this proposal would benefit everyone from architects, applicants and most importantly staff who were stuck here from early morning and could be finished up at 4.30pm and sitting about to 7pm for the meeting and felt it was a sensible approach.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake seconded the proposal.

Councillor McFlynn said that she would be supportive of Councillor Mallaghan's proposal to bring the meeting forward, but felt at 6pm would be more appropriate as there were people sitting at the Planning Committee who also work and may not be able to commit to a 5pm start time and asked that 6pm start time be taken as a consideration.

Councillor Black said that he had no issue with moving forward with the time but would echo what Councillor McFlynn had alluded to and asked if there could be a happy medium be struck where an appropriate time be agreed upon to allow people the time to finish up their day job to get here on time and enquired if there could be a slight bit of flexibility on a proposed time.

Councillor Kerr also concurred with Councillor McFlynn's suggestion of a 6pm start time as consideration also needed to be given to the public coming in to speak in support or against an application as they may not be able to commit to a 5pm start time also.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that this proposal would have to be brought to the P&R committee in order for it to be changed and suggested that in the interim that an email could be issued to members enquiring what their preferred start time would be to see if we can get agreement. He felt that members and the public have the ability to access the Planning Committee remotely using Zoom and this definitely increases the ability to be a bit more flexible.

The Chair agreed that this would be a good suggestion and when feedback was received that Officers could feed back to Council accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake

Resolved That an email be issued to members on their preferred option of a start time for the Planning Committee.

The Chair advised that members may see quite a number of refusals and requests from architects seeking deferrals and quite a number being successful in being granted.

The Strategic Director of Planning (SD: PL) referred to agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications withdrawn and deferred from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting –

Agenda Item 5.5 – LA09/2020/0780/O – Furniture storage/warehouse facility at site 80m W of 37 Charlemont Road, Moy, Dungannon for Moy Furniture Centre Ltd

Agenda Item 5.7 – LA09/2020/1423/F – 1 two-bedroom apartment and 2 one bedroom apartments at 28m NE of 30 Augher Road, Clogher BT76 for RMS Civils

Agenda Item 5.9 – LA09/2021/1396/O – Site for housing development at 34 Main Street, Tullyhogue, Cookstown for Calvert Developments Ltd

Agenda Item 5.11 – LA09/2021/1653/F – Extension of facilities, provision of new workshop, provision of new access to public road to replace existing substandard

access, provision of adequate parking, associated site works and landscaping at site immediately E of 19 Annagh Road, Lungs, Clogher for Malcolm Keys

Agenda Item 5.17 – LA09/2022/0454/F – Dwelling and garage on a farm at land approx. 60m SW of 6 Beaghbeg Road, Dunamore, Kildress for Louise Devlin

Agenda Item 5.21 – LA09/2022/0624/F – Section 54 application requesting to remove the requirement of road widening & provision of an additional footpath along the frontage of the development (LA09/2017/0487/F) at O’Rahilly GFC, 93 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Clonoe O’Rahilly GFC

Agenda Item 5.23 – LA09/2022/0630/O – 5 No. 2 storey dwellings (1 detached and 4 semi-detached) at 73 Main Street, Tobermore for Mr C Beatty

Agenda Item 5.24 – LA09/2022/0657/O – Dwelling & domestic garage at 40m W of 62 Ballynargan Road, Stewartstown for Nuala McReynolds

Agenda Item 5.31 – LA09/2022/1686/O – Dwelling and garage at 61 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland for Terry McCann

Agenda Item 5.34 – 2022/1736/O – Dwelling and garage at approx. 210m SE of 59 Glengorma Road, Draperstown for Sean Donnelly

Agenda Item 5.36 – LA09/2022/1734/O – Dwelling and garage at approx. 30m W of 5 Carrydarragh Road, Moneymore for Mr Randall Crooks

Agenda Item 5.42 – LA09/2023/0076/O – Infill dwelling and garage at land between 6 and 15 Dungororan Road, Dungannon for Jessica Brown

Agenda Item 5.43 – LA09/2023/0141/O – Farm building for sheep handling and sheep feed store at 15m E of 101 Bancran Road, Draperstown for Dermot Brown

Agenda Item 5.49 – LA09/2023/0219/F – Proposed off-site replacement dwelling and garage in substitution of M/2007/0028/RM for Tiarnan McKenna

Agenda Item 5.53 – LA09/2023/0284/F – Single storey dwelling and access lane at lands approx. 20m NW of 10 Colliers Lane, Coalisland for Mr Brian Carron

Agenda Item 5.54 – LA09/2023/0317/F – Infill dwelling and garage 15m North West of 259 Hillhead Road, Knockloughrim for Albert Speer

The Chair referred to Agenda Item No. 5.50 – LA09/2034/0232/O – Infill site for dwelling between 139 and 143 Drumagarner Road, Kilrea for Mr Brian McCloskey – deferral sought as agent was on holidays – agreed

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above be deferred for office meetings.

The Strategic Director of Planning (SD: PI) referred to request from the objector for a deferral relating to Agenda Item 5.18 - LA09/2022/0465/F - 25m high lattice telecommunications tower on elevated ground with antenna & dishes located within a new compound area to be enclosed with a 1.2m high timber stock proof fence & access track to installation at area of field approx. 750m NE of Ballnagilly Road, Lissan, Cookstown for Cornerstone Telecommunications.

The SD: PI advised that when an objector requests a deferral, it would not be automatically granted as this could hold up applications indefinitely. He said that he was conscious that this was a 25m high lattice tower in an AONB and whilst it was to be debated tonight, felt it may be more appropriate for it to be deferred for a Members' site visit.

Councillor Clarke concurred with the SD: PI and felt that this would be a good idea.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0465/F be deferred for a Members site visit.

Matters for Decision

P051/23 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2019/0335/F Six semi-detached 2 storey dwellings with private drive and associated site works at Lands opposite 9 Cabragh Road, Cabragh, Dungannon for Laurence McGuigan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0335/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0335/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0937/F Amendment to road junction (approved LA09/2015/0881/F) to include new footpath along Anneeter Road and Ardean Close at Junction of Anneeter Road & Battery Road, Cookstown for St Malachy's GAC Moortown

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0937/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0937/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0368/F Change of use from a barber shop to a gym at 11-13 Rainey Street, Magherafelt for Shane Maguire

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0368/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0368/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0472/F Winning and working of minerals (sand and gravel) across an area of c.12 ha; construction of a new site access and haul route; erection of processing plant and machinery (washing plant), weighbridge and office with restoration to agriculture (further info - Noise/Dust Report) at lands to the W of Iniscarn Road and N of Crocknamohil Road, Draperstown for Hollow Park Sand and Gravel Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0472/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Carney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0472/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0780/O Furniture storage/warehouse facility at site 80m W of 37 Charlemont Street, Moy, Dungannon for Moy Furniture Centre Ltd

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2020/0966/F Housing development of 26 two storey dwellings (20 semi-detached dwellings, 5 Townhouses and 1 detached dwelling), site road and associated site works at lands 20m W of 180 Battery Road, Moortown for Loughview Developments

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0966/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0966/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1423/F 1 two-bedroom apartment and 2 one bedroom apartments at 28m NE of 30 Augher Road, Clogher, BT76 for RMS Civils

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2021/0205/F Mixed use redevelopment of former convent building & school to include: public, community & interpretive spaces; event space including a restaurant/function room; Parish office, archive store & library facility; General office space; Existing chapel to be retained for occasional mass services; Nursery & Creche facility; Ancillary spaces & redevelopment of surrounding curtilage to provide gardens, interpretive space & car parking plus waste water treatment plant (revised description) at Sisters of Mercy Convent, 9 Northland Row, Dungannon, for Drumglass Parish Trust Fund

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0205/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0205/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1396/O Site for housing development at 34 Main, Tullyhogue, Cookstown for Calvert Development Ltd

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2021/1559/LBC Mixed use redevelopment of former convent building & school to include: public, community & interpretive spaces; event space including a restaurant/function room; Parish office, archive store & library facility; General office space; Existing chapel to be retained for occasional mass services; Nursery & Creche facility; Ancillary spaces & redevelopment of surrounding curtilage to provide gardens, interpretive space & car parking plus waste water treatment plant (revised description) at Sisters of Mercy Convent, 9 Northland Row, Dungannon, for Drumglass Parish Trust Fund

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1559/LBC which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1559/LBC be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1653/F Extension of facilities, provision of new workshop, new access to public road to replace existing substandard access, adequate parking, associated site works and landscaping at site Immediately E of 19 Annagh Road, Lungs, Clogher for Malcolm Keys

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2021/1708/F Access at 276 Mountjoy Road, Stewartstown, Dungannon. for Mr Stephen Hughes

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1708/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Carney
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1708/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0047/F Store & associated parking at 80m N of 74 Kilmascully Road, Ardboe for Gary Campbell

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0047/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0047/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0264/F Renewal of LA09/2016/0361/F -free range poultry house at approx. 690m NE of 16 Greenhill Road, Ballygawley for Mr Eugene McBride

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2022/0264/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor Mallaghan requested that this application be held for 60 days as it was his understanding that there was a breakdown of communication between the agent and the applicant who was unaware that this application was coming forward tonight. The

member advised that there was a matter of an air dispersal model that has to be purchased from a private consultancy and the applicant needs to make a decision on whether this was something he needs to do and if permission was granted to hold this application for 60 days then he would have an opportunity to either get it done or let it go.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0264/F be held for 60 days for submission of information and bring back to Committee.

LA09/2022/0281/F Housing development of 13 units (12 two storey semi detached and 1 two storey detached) opposite Cluntoe Park, Ardboe Rd, Cookstown, for Hagan Builders

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0281/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Ms McKinless (SPO) advised that this application was on for an approval and no speaking rights have been requested but there was a gentleman in the viewing gallery who was raising his hand to speak.

The Chair advised that no speaking rights had been made on this application.

The gentleman remained in the viewing gallery and advised that he had contacted Planning Department to raise his objection to the application.

The SD: PI said that Mr Quinn needed to go through the correct protocol which was clearly displayed on the Council website for everyone to see and was not a matter just turning up to a meeting and expect to speak when no request was submitted. When a later speaker wishes to raise an objection, then the Chair can do so at his discretion and may help the committee to let members of the committee know who he was.

The gentleman stated that he was Mr P Quinn and he was objecting to the approval of the application.

The Chair advised that Planning Committee have a precedent in place and didn't allow this in the past. If Mr Quinn had of contacted a Councillor they could have spoken on his behalf, but due to the fact that committee had refused ad hoc interventions at this stage, was sorry to say that the proper protocol had to be followed.

The SD: PI advised committee that it may be beneficial for the case officer to provide a summary of the points raised.

Ms McKinless (SPO) took members through the application highlighting reasons for the approval.

The Chair advised that after hearing the case officers report that he was satisfied that everything had been fully considered and dealt with.

Councillor McFlynn said that whilst she did not know the site specifically enquired if this was on the same road as the primary school.

Ms McKinless (SPO) said that as far as she was aware it was on the same road and side as the primary school.

Councillor McFlynn stated that she was content that all issues were considered and would be happy to propose the recommendation to approve the application.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0281/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0424/F **Mixed use scheme comprising the erection of a three-storey building, retention and alterations to existing building on Rainey Street and existing rear return to provide 13 apartments (total), retention of 2 retail units, amenity space, car parking and ancillary site works at lands at 39-41 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, for Genmark Developments**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0424/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0424/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0454/F **Dwelling and garage on a farm at land approx. 60m SW of 6 Beaghbeg Road, Dunamore, Kildress for Louise Devlin**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/0465/F **25m high lattice telecommunications tower on elevated ground with antenna & dishes located within a new compound area to be enclosed with a 1.2m high timber stock proof fence & access track to installation at area of field approx. 750m NE of Ballnagilly Road, Lissan, Cookstown for Cornerstone Telecommunications**

Agreed that application be deferred for site visit with Members.

LA09/2022/0576/O **Dwelling and garage at 35m W of 77 Carraloan Road, The Woods, Magherafelt for Mr John Gribbin**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0576/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0576/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0600/F **Battery energy storage system facility 100MW (BESS) and associated 33KV transformers, including 2 switch houses with control rooms lighting and closed-circuit television (CCTV) columns, new site boundary fencing and landscaping proposals, use of existing access and ancillary development works, including underground cabling route linking the site to Tamnamore main substation to the W at lands immediately E of Tamnamore Substation and 260m SW of 167 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland, Dungannon for Heron Storage Ltd**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0600/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Carney
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0600/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0624/F **Section 54 application requesting to remove the requirement of road widening & provision of an additional footpath along the frontage of the development (LA09/2017/0487/F) at O'Rahilly GFC, 93 Washingbay Road, Coalisland, for Clonoe O'Rahilly GFC**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/0626/F **Two agricultural sheds for housing sheep/feed/machinery and the retention of two existing sheds. at 100m WSW of 43 Tullynagee Road, Moneymore for Paul McCrystal**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0626/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0626/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0630/O 5 no. 2 storey dwellings (1 detached and 4 semi-detached) at 73 Main Street, Tobermore, for Mr C Beatty

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/0630/O Dwelling and domestic garage at 40m W of 62 Ballynargan Road, Stewartstown for Nuala McReynolds

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1183/O Site for dwelling on a farm at 250m NE of 19 Derrylatinee Road, Dungannon for Caolan Gildernew

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1183/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Carney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1183/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1193/O Dwelling and domestic garage at 20m NE of 168 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Mrs Anne Nugent

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1193/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Carney
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1193/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1209/F Dwelling and integrated garage and associated site amenities at 180m NE of 40 Foygh Road, Castlecaulfield, Dungannon for Mr and Mrs McCausland

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1209/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1209/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1420/F Extension of existing factory to include new assembly/workshop, paint-line, offices to increase production of existing product. Extension of car parking & associated works at Emerson, Ballyreagh Industrial Estate, Cookstown for Emerson

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1420/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1420/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1509/F Farm Storage Shed at 170m W of 4 Dunmurry Road, Draperstown for Joe McWilliams

Ms McKinless (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2022/1509/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request to speak in favour of the application had been received and invited Mr Cassidy to address the committee.

Mr Cassidy advised that the applicant lives in a housing estate in the middle of Draperstown and it has been confirmed by DAERA that the farm business is active and has been established since 2009. The applicant owns 38 acres and currently owns 29 beef animals in his herd and these details has been supplied to the Council. There are currently no buildings in his holding and Council accept that there is a need for this building. Council also accept that the character and scale of the shed is appropriate as the shed is set back 270m back from the road and not near any third-party dwellings. Mr Cassidy stated that the Council also accept that this would visually integrate at this location and also accept that it would not be a prominent feature on the landscape and using an existing laneway so this would have no impact on the surrounding area. This proposal is for the first agricultural building on the holding is before members tonight and asked that exception be made to the policy as there was a clear and accepted need for this building and would ask members to reconsider the decision.

Councillor Clarke said that given what was heard and the description felt that it met any conditions and the only reason for refusal was because there were no other buildings. The member referred to *Policy CTY 12 states that planning permission will be granted for development on an active and established agricultural and forestry holding where it is demonstrated that: (a) it is necessary for the efficient use of the agricultural holding or forestry enterprise.* The member felt that on grounds of that and no other buildings and the necessity for the building he would propose to overturn the recommendation and approved the application.

Ms McKinless (SPO) provided members with an update on exceptions to the policy.

The SD: PI advised that the case officer was quite right but looking at what the policy maker had written and if you had buildings on your farm there are instances where you could move away and that's where there are no available sites by the buildings due to health & safety or it's essential for the purposes on the farm. The SD: PI felt that Councillor Clarke made a very valid point where he stated that this was a holding that had 38 acres and quite reasonable to expect on a holding of that size it may be felt that it be appropriate to have some hardware or machinery at the site as this could be classed as essential. Essential could be classed as something which could be very useful in the operation of the farm in this instance. The SD: PI felt that when all these factors were put into the equation with no objections to the site chosen and not a building for any other use, it would be reasonable for members to determine whilst the policy does not explicitly allow, he felt that it would be reasonable to give this application a sympathetic consideration.

The SD: PI enquired if Roads Service required any visibly splays or any other matters.

Ms McKinless (SPO) advised that DfI Roads had been consulted on the proposal and offered no objection, subject to conditions.

Mr Cassidy in response to SD: PI confirmed that his applicant would adhere to any conditions made.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1509/F recommendation for refusal be overturned to an approval subject to conditions made.

LA09/2022/1572/O Site for 2 storey dwelling between 8 and 14 Drumvale Avenue, Cookstown for Mr Fergal Eastwood

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1572/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Carney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1572/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1686/O Dwelling and garage at 61 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland for Mr Terry McCann

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1687/F Retention of commercial access and extension to storage yard approved (LA09/2021/0899/F) at 30 Tullyodonnell Road, Rock, Dungannon, for Mr Paul McGoldrick

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1687/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1687/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1730/O Dwelling & detached garage (Replacement) at approx. 45m SW of 239 Coalisland Road, Dungannon for Mr JP Canavan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1730/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Carney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1730/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1736/O Dwelling and garage at approx. 210m SE of 59 Glengorma Road, Draperstown for Sean Donnelly

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1740/O Site for farm dwelling and garage at 50m East of 18 Drummond Road, Dungannon for Mr Norman Watt

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1740/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor J Buchanan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1740/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1743/O Dwelling and garage at approx. 30m W of 5 Carrydarragh Road, Moneymore for Randall Crooks

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1762/F Development of the existing playing field to incorporate pedestrian trim trail, formalised car parking area, access link to the existing children's playpark to the north of the site. Provision of a 70 sqm service building, new polytunnel and rainwater collection system at existing playing field and

allotment area within Park View, Castledawson for Mr Johnny McNeill

All members present declared an interest in the above application as related to Mid Ulster District Council.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1762/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1762/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1777/O 2 Storey dwelling and detached garage adjacent to and S of 14 Tullylinton Road, Dungannon for Mr R Hopper

The Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2022/1777/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor McFlynn in response to Mr Marrion (SPO) regarding submission of further information not being received, felt that it was a pity that a final opportunity not be given to the applicant, even for a month to see if the relevant can be submitted.

The Chair said that it possibly could on what Mr Marrion (SPO) had suggested by writing to them advising of deadline of one month for submission and if not forthcoming then issue the refusal.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1777/O be held for one month to allow applicant to submit additional information and bring back to committee.

LA09/2023/0034/F Amended rear pedestrian access to shop & first floor apartment at 108 and 108B Main Street, Fivemiletown for Mr Gary Coote

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0034/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor J Buchanan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0034/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0045/O Dwelling and domestic garage at lands immediately E and adjacent to 103 Old Caulfield Road, Castlecaulfield for Eugene McKenna

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0045/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0045/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0073/O Dwelling and domestic store on farm at lands 70m N of 158A Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Martin Hughes

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0073/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Carney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0073/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0076/O Infill dwelling and garage at land between 6 and 15 Dungororan Road, Dungannon for Miss Jessica Brown

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0141/O Farm building for sheep handling and sheep feed store at 15m E of 101 Bancran Road, Draperstown for Mr Dermot Brown

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0148/O Site for dwelling and garage at adjacent and S of Killygullib Orange Hall, Tamlaght Road, Kilrea for Mr Terence Birt

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0148/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0148/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/0162/F Change of use of existing commercial property into 2
residential apartments at 27 Union Place, Dungannon for Mr
John Rafferty**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0162/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Kerr advised that he wished to raise a few points before this application was recommended for approval.

Councillor Kerr said that whilst reading the report he felt it unusual for DfI Roads not to be asked for an opinion and this could start a precedent where a number of smaller proposals for true likeness without asking Roads Service for an opinion. There could be the potential of lots of residential apartments having 3 or 4 bedrooms having the potential of having up to 20 people living at that address. Water Service are indicating that there are continuous infrastructure issues which we should be taking heed of. The member felt that it was concerning that these two consultantees have not been consulted. The member advised that this area was continuously congested as staff working in the town used this area to park and now the new residents will do likewise and may be problematic as they wish to park close to their home. The residents of these flats will most likely have cars and will park adjacent to their property when there is already a shortage of parking.

Councillor Kerr proposed a site meeting before this application goes ahead and also consultation with Roads Service.

The SD: PI said he wished to ask the member a question primarily to protect himself and enquired if the representation in which he put forward was done so by himself or was he approached by someone and if this was the case then the member should have declared an interest in the application. The SD: PI advised that it was quite reasonable to take on someone's case but maybe this was the member's own feelings.

Councillor Kerr advised that over his 4-year term as Councillor he had consistently taken notes in which he could always refer back to and felt if an issue was worth raising then he had no issue doing so. The member said that he could wholeheartedly say that he had not been approached by anyone and does believe that it is necessary to speak to Water Service and Roads Service before making such important decisions.

D McPeake left the meeting at 8.04 pm and returned at 8.07 pm.

The SD: PI said that these were former offices in the town centre are quite substantial in size. During the days office are used primarily during the day which it would be on the street and in the public carparks at their busiest. He stated that the key demand is usually in the evening and whilst listening intently to the argument for 3 and 4 bedroom flats, it would be hard to see this being a problem useless it was being used by a huge family or HMO's which would be unlikely. In relation to point in regards to Water Service, members may know there are lots of objections being received from them on sewers and it would be hard to see two flats getting more use than a fully occupied office. It is difficult as Water Service is correct in its view that there is difficult in Dungannon in regards to infrastructure and there is a requirement to take each case on

its own merits otherwise there would be no housing in Dungannon. He said that it would be hard to see any more overloading or carparking in this instance. The SD: PI said that he was fully aware of concerns in regards to turning shop units on ground floor in Dungannon town centre to apartments but there is a need for people to live in town centres to give it a sense of security and vibrancy. When he referred to issue of how long it had sat vacant in the past and if it had of been viably profitable for office space, then obviously this was not the case as there was no market for it only for apartments.

Councillor Kerr said that he still believed that the points he had raised were valid and would still recommend a site meeting with Roads Service present to discuss this application further. The member also felt that this would be beneficial for members sitting on this committee to see for themselves but would ultimately accept the decision taken of the Planning Committee regardless.

The SD: PI stated that he wouldn't have any objections to facilitate this meeting as it was always healthy for members to look at things that they were not content with.

The Chair referred to comment made by Ms McKinless (SPO) regarding Roads Service advising that they felt that there were no additional pressures being put on and asked if this could be elaborated on.

The SD: PI stated that it needed to be clarified which Roads Service doesn't get also. Planning is the planning authority and we decide on an application and Roads Service determine roads safety. We have lots of applications which could have implications for road safety i.e. someone may be building an extension in a carparking space which could be close to a junction or corner, then Road Service gets involved by telling planning that there would be an impact on visibility etc and officers would be of the same opinion.

The Chair advised that in the past Roads Service were reluctant to come out to adjudicate on various planning issues as they felt that they had already contributed by way of reporting.

Councillor Kerr reiterated his previous question on whether DfI Roads Service were consulted on their opinion in regards to this application or was there a previous precedent set by Roads Service.

Mr Marrion (SPO) advised that DfI Roads Service were not consulted as they were only a statutory consultantee and only consulted when there is a proposal for either a new access or intensification using an access to a public road which is outlined in our Development Management regulations. Roads Service is not a statutory consultantee in this application as they are now proposing a new access as there was only a requirement to convert a two-storey building without any extension to it, converting it from a commercial use to apartments.

Councillor Mallaghan said that it was his understanding that in terms of policy consideration is that because this is town centre no parking was required and given the fact that there was already an existing use there was no further requirement of sewage connection because there was no intensification and only policy that needs to be given consideration to is whether or not we feel that these offices can be changed to

residential accommodation. Given those considerations and circumstances in Dungannon town centre and wanting to see more people living in our town centres. The member had attended a conference today at the Burnavon where all this was thrown into the mix where we can get more people living in town centres and proposed to accept the Officer's recommendation to approve the application.

Councillor Varsani seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal to accept the recommendation.

Councillor McElvogue seconded Councillor Kerr's recommendation to request a site visit with Roads Service in attendance.

Councillor Kerr's proposal to proceed with a site visit was put to the vote:

For	2
Against	12

Councillor Mallaghan's proposal to accept the recommendation was put to the vote:

For	12
Abstained	2

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0162/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Council solicitor left meeting at 8.20 pm and returned at 8.24 pm.

LA09/2023/0164/F Redevelopment of existing Integrated College Dungannon to provide a new integrated post primary school to accommodate circa. 700 pupils (as existing). Works to include demolition of existing buildings, phased construction of new two-storey school accommodation and extension to existing sports block. Other works include 2 new grass pitches, 5 new tennis courts, hard play areas, a sensory garden, cycle parking area, fencing, retaining walls, car parking, landscaping and all associated site works. Vehicular and pedestrian access to the main school site will be maintained off Gortmerron Link Road and an additional access point is proposed through to Stevenson Park Rugby grounds, to facilitate the southern pitches. at Integrated College Dungannon, , 21 Gortmerron Link Road, Former Pitches to The South East and Portion of Dungannon Rugby, Club (Stevenson Pk) at 36 Moy Road, Dungannon for Board of Governors of Integrated College, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0164/F which had a recommendation for approval. Councillor Robinson sought clarification on the new access through Stevenson Park to Ranfurly Heights and enquired if local residents have been consulted.

The SD: PI advised that residents were consulted as it was backing up onto the playing fields.

In response to member's query, the SD: PI advised that the new access doesn't go onto the A29 and only Ranfurly Heights.

Ms Ms Doyle, Head of Local Planning (HLP) advised in respect of Ranfurly Heights, properties which were notified were No's 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26. A number of properties in Gortmerron Heights were also notified.

The SD: PI stated that no objections had been made by residents but obviously there had been concerns that by providing this additional rugby pitch there could be the potential intensification which could obviously disrupt traffic around Ranfurly Heights. The SD: PI said that following this, Officers had contacted the agent and a series of questions were asked.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) provided members with an update on what questions and answers were provided as follow:

- Q. Southern Pitches currently in the College's ownership or have they purchased them?
- A. The land and new pitches were owned by Donnelly Bros with an agreement in principle that they will sell the land to the college once planning permission was secured, solicitors involved and everything written up
- Q. Was there any carparking spaces being lost at Dungannon Rugby Club?
- A. No carparking spaces has been lost and referred to (overhead drawing) where vision of of pavement will be shown along the lane of the southeastern boundary, some retention of the bank along the boundary to facilitate this and removal of an LPG tank
- Q. Access for people getting to the Southern Playing Fields?
- A. No direct physical link at the moment between the school and the Southern Playing fields so a minibus is going to be used which takes approx. 3 minutes from Gortmerron Link Road to the location and staff will travel with the children.
- Q. What would happen on match day if also the Rugby pitch was operating?
- A. The College will only use the pitch during school hours 9am – 4.15pm Monday to Friday – any matches on school days or larger matches will be played on neutral grounds elsewhere and will never operate simultaneously

Councillor Robinson enquired if Dfl made any comment regarding the intensification of traffic on that road.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) advised that a condition was put in place for that:

Condition 2 -During the construction works hereby permitted, hard surfaced areas shall be provided to provide adequate facilities for parking, servicing and circulating within the site.

Reason: To ensure that adequate provision has been made for parking, servicing and traffic circulation within the site.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani

Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0164/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0175/F Change of house type to M/2009/0967/RM, extension of dwelling curtilage and erection of domestic garage at 103D Ballagh Road, Fivemiletown for Mr Cormac McGale

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0175/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0175/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor Black left the meeting at 8.26 and returned at 8.27 pm.

LA09/2023/0211/F 2 infill dwellings adjacent to and immediately SE of 26 Whitetown Road, Newmills, Dungannon for Sydney Brown

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0211/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor J Buchanan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0211/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0219/F Off-site replacement dwelling and garage (substitution of M/2007/0028/RM) at lands approx. 75m NE of 83 Clonavaddy Road, Galbally, Dungannon for Mr Tiarnan McKenna

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0232/O Infill site for dwelling between 139 and 143 Drumagarner Road, Kilrea for Mr Brian McCloskey

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0280/F Single storey extension to the rear of 21 Loran Vale, Cookstown for Ryan McKenna

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0280/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn

Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0280/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0281/F Single storey extension and alterations at 58 Station Road, Maghera for Mr & Mrs Leslie & Sharon Smith & Lynd-Smith

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0281/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The Chair said that by going through the report he had noticed that there had been a lot of detailed objections received and wanted to be reassured that all the objections had been taken into consideration.

Ms McKinless (SPO) advised that one letter of objection had been received and concerns raised with the objection were fully considered by the case officer. Objection related to:

- Concerns over reduction of natural light
- Raised patio area overlooks 60 Station Road
- Glazing facing 60 Station Road so concerns over privacy

Ms McKinless (SPO) stated that the case officer had noted that the objector had raised the above issues relating to:

- Loss of light issues at 60 Station Road Maghera, the 45 degree assessment was conducted and from the assessment the case officer was content that there will be no issues pertaining to overshadowing.
- Privacy of neighbouring residents, concerns over the raised patio area overlooking the property, additionally, regarding the topography of the area overlooking will not be greater than the existing.
- Onlooking glazing, the separation distance (approx. 15m) and the boundary wall separating the two dwellings, case officer concluded that the proposed will not have a greater impact on privacy than the existing.
- Unacceptable loss or damage to trees or other landscape features which contribute significantly to local environmental quality. Case officer's opinion was that this proposal will not cause loss of trees or landscape features.
- Proposed single storey extension and alterations to the existing dwelling – it was noted that part of the rear patio will be lost as part of this proposal. Overall the case officer was content that there would be sufficient space with the curtilage for recreational and domestic purposes and parking will remain unaffected.

The (SPO) advised that the case officer having evaluated the proposed single storey extension and alterations to existing dwelling was content that the proposal complies with Policy EXT1 of Addendum to PPS7: Residential Extension and Alterations. Additionally, it was felt that he could not attach any determining weight to the objectors concerns over the loss of light and privacy of neighbouring residents.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0281/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0284/F Single storey dwelling and access lane at lands approx. 20 NW of 10 Colliers Lane, Coalisland for Mr Brian Carron

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0317/F Infill dwelling and garage at 15m NW of 259 Hillhead Road, Knockloughrim for Albert Speer

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0318/O Dwelling in an existing cluster at 50m SE and adjacent to 166 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Michelle O'Hagan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0318/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Carney
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0318/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0328/F Renewal of LA09/2017/1700/F extension to rear and side of dwelling to accommodate at 5 Coolmount Drive, Cookstown for Emma McAleer

Ms McKinless (SPO) previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0328/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The Chair advised that a letter of objection had been received from Councillor Wilson which was circulated with the addendum tonight.

The Chair said that it was his understanding from the SPO that all objections had been considered.

Ms McKinless (SPO) advised that this was the case as only one objection had been received to the additional objections in time of renewal and no new issues raised which have been fully considered and didn't merit a recommendation for refusal.

The SPO stated that Councillor Wilson had made a comment about the case officer not being in the back yard of an adjacent property and could confirm entirely if the case officer went into that property but were in the back garden of No. 5 which is the application site which was highlighted on the powerpoint tonight.

The Chair advised that a request to speak against the application had been received and invited Mr Suitor to address the committee.

Mr Suitor advised that he was the resident and owner of 4 Coolmount Park and stated that he wasn't notified of the initial planning application in 2017 therefore didn't have an opportunity to object at that time or make any comment to this negative impact on his property. Previous 2017 application expired on 18 April 2023 therefore no planning is technically in place and the new application was submitted on 24 March 2023. Assisted as a new application he asked how he could possibly comment on what the drawings or plans are when none are attached to this application on the portal. He assumed that he had located the correct one from the previous application but was unsure which causes doubt in his mind and possibly also the committee. The plot at 5 Coolmount Drive comes into direct contact with five other properties: No's 2, 4, 6, 10 Coolmount Park and 7 Coolmount Drive and out of those five properties, two had objected to the planning application, being 4 and 6 Coolmount Park. The committee report also indicates that there was also an objection from No. 7 Coolmount Drive which means 60% properties in direct contact have objected. He does not believe that his concern regarding the lack of sunlight has been addressed within the committee report and only those concerns at No. 7 Coolmount Drive have been addressed even though his property will suffer the most due to the two-storey extension running along the majority of his back fence. He said that he was aware that the Councillors had not viewed the property themselves and referred to the plans for ground floor and advised if you stood looking at the applicant's back kitchen door the sun would be to the left at the early part day and gradually move right and his back garden would be at the immediate right to the master bedroom on the proposed first floor plan. The further point to the front of the proposed site would be built within ½ metre from the partition between the two properties and believes will tower approx. a further 4½ metre over the the 1.8 metre fence so would result in a loss of amenity to his property. The committee report outlines its initial plans from 2017 were amended to reduce height and asked what plans were being worked to. The amendments would only benefit those affected by the proposed three-storey extension to the rear, the houses in Coolmount Park, particularly his property will be negatively affected by the oversized two-storey extension at this site. He enquired if the planning officer had assessed the impact the proposed extension would have from his property or indeed the rest of Coolmount Park and would be grateful to get a response to this query.

Mr Suitor said that he would like to invite any Councillor and members in attendance present this evening to his house to see the effect that this proposal would have on his property. In his opinion this would be an overdevelopment of the site with the property practically taking up the full footprint of the plot and all other properties in the immediate areas are similar being semi-detached 3-bedroom houses and this would be the first of its size and believes that it would be considered out of character for the area.

In summary Mr Suitor wished to object to the proposed plans on the following grounds:

1. The actual drawings of the proposals are not clear
2. Loss of amenity at his property being his outdoor space
3. No assessment made on the plans from respective of his row in Coolmount Park
4. Overdevelopment of the site and proposals being out of character in the area
5. Loss of sunlight which has been enjoyed to the rear of his property since construction over 20 years ago

Mr Suitor requested that a site visit be carried out by the committee to see for themselves the impact this proposal will have on his property and stated that the assessment not fully understood from the report he was reading.

In response a query, Ms McKinless (SPO) confirmed that Mr Suitor was not notified about the first application but was formally notified under this current application.

Mr Suitor advised that this was when he had the issue with the planning application and submitted his objection.

The SD: PI stated that he understood what the objector was saying but in this instance it was very peculiar to be in this position as normally this would go through as a straight forward approval but could equally see why the objector was concerned but could not expect not to have no development here which would be totally unreasonable, but could understand the objector's concerns.

The SD: PI said that it was up to members to decide whether to proceed to a site visit or not but felt that it may be worthwhile having further consideration of this.

Councillor Black said that by taking the comments on board and obviously during normal circumstances this would be a straight forward approval, but given the concerns which have been raised by the objector and if indeed if he was not notified of the first application and the fact that the extension does seem to be in close proximity of his property and his concerns are genuine to the loss of amenity and potential loss of light, would propose a site visit to the location by the committee to get further detail of the application on site.

Councillor Graham left the meeting at 8.43 pm and returned at 8.45 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0328/F be deferred for a site visit.

LA09/2023/0407/O Infill site for dwelling with garage, driveways and septic tanks lands between 112 and 116 Lismoyle Road, Swatragh for Mr Paul Tohill

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0407/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0407/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/0408/O Infill dwelling and garage at lands between 112 and 116
Lismoyle Road, Swatragh for Mr Bosco Tohill**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0408/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0408/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/0423/F Infill dwelling and outbuildings at lands between 7 and 11
Roughan Road, Stewartstown for Mr Martin Armour**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0423/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0423/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2020/0093/O Dwelling and garage on a farm at 60m E of 43 Carnaman
Road, Gulladuff for Mr James McErlean**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0093/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0093/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/0352/F Stable and store at lands approx. 55m W of 303 Battleford
Road, Dungannon for Mr Patrick McKenna**

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2021/0352/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor McElvogue left the meeting at 8.47 pm and returned at 8.50 pm.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0352/F be refused.

LA09/2021/0739/F Dwelling and garage/store at 150m NE of 230 Coalisland Road, Gortin, Dungannon for Mr Cathal Keogh

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0739/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0739/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1286/O Dwelling and garage under CTY10 at 30m SW of 30 Cloane Road, Draperstown for Sean Gallagher

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1286/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1286/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1366/F 5 Glamping Pods and associated external works at 170m SE of 52 Derrycourtney Road, Caledon for Mr Jim Moore

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1366/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1366/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0490/O Dwelling and garage on a farm at 194m SW of 8 Killybearn Lane, Cookstown for Martyn Devlin

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0490/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0490/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2022/0654/O Dwelling and Garage at lands 40m SW of 50 Battery Road,
Coagh for Joanne Devlin**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0654/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0654/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2022/0732/O Dwelling and garage at 110m NE of 26 Broagh Road,
Knockcloghrim, Magherafelt for Martin McErlean**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0732/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0732/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

P052/23 Receive Report on Revised Fees for Property Certificates

The Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) presented previously circulated report to seek approval for revisions to the charges for Regional Property Certificates (RPC) processed by the Planning Department.

- **OPTION 1**
The basic fee could be increased to £80.50 in line with the that implemented by Fermanagh & Omagh Council who are administering RPC's for all the other Councils'. This would keep MUDC in line with the charge for the RPC in all the other Council areas.
- **OPTION 2**
The fee could be increased to £80.50 in line with the that implemented by Fermanagh & Omagh Council who are administering RPC's for all the other Councils'. However, a £10 administration fee could be introduced for those applications not received online when this facility becomes available. This would keep the parity with the other Council areas but would also meet the audit requirement that Council policy on claims not made online have an additional administrative charge.
- **OPTION 3**
The fee could be increased to £90 in line with what is charged by Building Control for processing the LPC, with the £10 additional fee for those applications not received on-line when this facility becomes available. Whilst this would provide uniformity within MUDC, we could be criticized for charging more for the same service than that received for other council areas.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That Option 2 be approved as the preferred option and that the increases be introduced alongside the improved system implementation.

P053/23 Receive Report on DfI's Consultation on Revised Regional Strategic Planning Policy

The Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) presented previously circulated report and advised that the purpose of this report was to invite members views on how the Council should respond to a current public consultation exercise on a draft Regional Strategic Policy on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. The consultation period ends at 5pm on the 30th June 2023.

Councillor Kerr referred to 3.2 and would like the relevant department to provide detail on what they mean by “emerging technologies” in regard to fracking as this is causing a devastating effect internationally around the globe. The member said that any emerging technologies should be benefitting the communities first.

The SD: PI advised that there is actually a policy relating to “emerging technologies” not just for fracking but also for gold mining where chemicals like arsenic and bio-mining which is sticking a large amount of bacteria down to eat the carbon in the atmosphere, there's also methane, a lot of emerging processes which are evolving. This Council agrees in precautional principle not to explore experimental ground as we try to ensure that things are safe and properly signed off.

Councillor Clarke said that he wished to raise a few comments regarding the Sperrins which could be the main problem. The member referred to a major application in the Sperrins and a lot of information came out of that application. Those high Sperrins is all blanket bog which is the best storage possible for carbon and although quite a bit of it has been degraded, but what should be done here is to improve the quality of the blanket bog and that would make a major improvement in the carbon sequestration. The other issue is that this area is far away from where the electricity is and infrastructure need to be moved, a new line from Magherafelt to wherever and also the need for an interconnector. The member advised that a lot of things needs to be done and people should be looking elsewhere rather than attacking the landscape and heritage that lays in that area.

The SD: PI concurred with Councillor Clarke and said that he had spoken very wise words. He said that there was something not explicit within this policy to steer us to put wind turbines exactly where we don't want to and if members remember during the Development Plan we looked to see where there were areas which were ideal and one of the criteria's was to keep a single turbine at least 500m from the nearest residential property. An exercise was carried out where officers plotted on map the distance from each property in the district of what would be 500m and low and behold we only come across two areas which had those distances, one was in the Sperrins and the other was in Fivemiletown area, Clogher Valley. Fivemiletown was being protected because the ridgeline along the Clogher Valley is marvellous and Fivemiletown was purposely kept out because of the windfarm to allow for further expansion. The SD: PI advised that

further areas could be identified but that would be causing a blanket for the residents in those areas. Pomeroy is a prime example as it has the height but quite highly populated which means that you could be put into a situation and could be quite feasible that you could put into an area where properties which could be blighted and no-one signed up for that. The SD: PI said that he really felt that this policy hasn't been thought through properly in any form as every single paragraph was about windfarms and there was a need for more thought on the policy.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that there needs to be a more considered approach to the micro-generation of power because an opportunity should be there to allow people to be more self-sustainable rather than all the time focusing on the micro, the big stuff. The member said that there was a warning on the news today that the single operator for the electricity network issued an amber warning that there wasn't going to be enough electricity produced for the needs of today due to not enough wind and wind turbines not blowing to generate that extra need for electricity. The member agreed that there was too much focus on wind energy and should be more focus on providing people with that micro-opportunity and all government approach to do that. The member felt that there was going to be a serious drive in technology over the next 10 – 15 years and should keep an open mind until we see what these new technologies look like. He felt that the report had covered well the concerns that Councillors on this Council have particularly where it comes to areas where they really need our protection.

Councillor Clarke said that he would be very concerned about removing dwelling from the scene, previously you could install 24 solar panels and now this is reduced to 16 panels. The price that is given from the electricity supplier is ridiculous 4 pence per unit and they are selling it around 36 pence and feels that the householder should be paid more.

The Chair asked that members comments be incorporated into the report.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved Agreed that this report is forwarded to the Department as its formal response to the consultation exercise.

Matters for Information

P054/23 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4th April 2023

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 4th April 2023.

P055/23 Receive Planning Department Service Plan 2023-24

Members noted Planning Department Service Plan for the period 2023-2024.

Live broadcast ended at 9.22 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake 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 P056/23 to P063/23.

Matters for Decision

P056/23 Receive Report on Staffing Structure
P057/23 Receive Report on Advanced Notice of Listing – Fivemiletown
P058/23 Receive Report on Advanced Notice of Listing - Maghera
P059/23 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

P060/23 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 April 2023
P061/23 Enforcement Cases Opened
P062/23 Enforcement Cases Closed
P063/23 Enforcement Live Cases List

P064/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 9.50 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the meeting of Mid Ulster District Council's Planning Committee in the Chamber, Magherafelt and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast feed. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will 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 you are for or against the proposal or abstaining from voting.
- For members attending remotely, note that by voting on any application, you are confirming that you were in attendance for the duration of, and that you heard and saw all relevant information in connection with the application you vote on
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting. When finished please put your audio to mute.
- 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.
- An Addendum was emailed to all Committee Members at 5pm today. There is also a hard copy on each desk in the Chamber. Can all members attending remotely please confirm that they received the Addendum and that have had sufficient time to review it?
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to so everyone has a clear understanding
- For members of the public that are exercising a right to speak by remote means, please ensure that you are able to hear and be heard by councillors, officers and any others requesting speaking rights on the particular application. If this isn't the case you must advise the Chair immediately. Please note that once your application has been decided, you will be removed from the meeting. If you wish to view the rest of the meeting, please join the live link.

- Can I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or the use of any other means to enable persons not present to see or hear any proceedings (whether now or later), or making a contemporaneous oral report of any of the proceedings are all prohibited acts.

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.

ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 12 June 2023

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

Chairs Business –

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
5.4	System pulled through 12 objections, rather than 9 mentioned on the report (3 were from one person and 2 from another). All objections were uploaded, available and fully considered in report.	Members to note
5.5	Additional information to address DFI Rivers comments and DFI Roads comments.	Members to note
5.11	Report only notes 1 letter in support, 10 letters received and an additional letter of support since the report was produced, no new issues raised. Letter received requesting meeting	Members to note
5.28	Following discussion with Env Health, Conditions 4 and 5 are no longer required.	Members to note
5.43	Letter of objection	Members to note
5.46	Report indicates 1 objection; this was recorded in error and was a non-committal query which has	Members to note

	been answered. No objection has been received.	
5.56	Letter from Cllr T Wilson	Members to note
6.5	Revised plans showing finishes and levels submitted	Members to note drawing 02B received 7 JUN 2023 to be substituted in conditions 2, 3, 4 and 6

Enforcement Appeal Decision

4th Floor
92 Ann Street
BELFAST
BT1 3HH
T: 028 9024 4710
F: 028 9031 2536
E: info@pacni.gov.uk

Appeal Reference:	2021/E0066
Appeal by:	Mr Christopher Cunningham
Appeal against:	An enforcement notice dated 22 nd Decemeber 2021
Alleged Breach of Planning Control: Location:	The siting of an Unauthorised Modular Dwelling Lands/Premises located at approximately 100 metres south of 28 Aghaloo Road, Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone
Planning Authority:	Mid Ulster District Council
Authority's Reference:	EN/2021/0316
Procedure:	Written Representations with site visit on 2 nd March 2023
Decision by:	Commissioner C McDonagh dated 30th May 2023

Grounds of Appeal

1. The appeal was brought on Grounds A, C, F and G as set out in Section 143 (3) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the Act). There is a deemed planning application by virtue of Section 145 (5) thereof.

The Notice

2. The Enforcement Notice (the EN) states the alleged breach of planning control is *"the siting of an unauthorised modular dwelling without the grant of planning permission so required. The approximate position of the unauthorised modular dwelling is shown highlighted in blue on the attached site location map."* The appellant considers that the EN is defective to the extent that it is a nullity as the use of the word 'siting' is misleading and confusing. It is argued that the actions for remedial works in the EN which require the removal or demolition of the building do not marry with the alleged breach and are therefore unreasonable. They consider the Council has failed to adequately identify the alleged breach and they should have identified that a change of use of the land has occurred. They conclude there is an inherent conflict between the alleged breach and remedy rendering the EN hopelessly ambiguous and unclear.
3. Case law confirms that the recipient of an EN is entitled to know *"fairly what he has done wrong and what he must do to remedy it."* The terms of an EN must not go beyond what is necessary to remedy the alleged breach of planning control nor should it seek to enforce against the right to use the land as per the parameters of the General Permitted Development Order (NI) (GPDO). Part 4 of the EN comprises of three remedies, namely, to remove from the site or demolish the

unauthorised modular dwelling; to remove all resulting debris and rubble from the site; and to restore the site to its previous condition.

4. The EN refers specifically to Section 131 (1) (a) of the Act which relates to the carrying out of development (my emphasis) without the planning permission required. The EN clearly identifies the alleged breach of planning control (the unauthorised modular dwelling) and that is the development which requires planning permission irrespective of whether it is operational development or a change of use. The accompanying aerial photograph identifies the location of the subject modular dwelling within the appeal site and the EN clearly sets out the steps required to remove it from the site. The remedies do not exceed the matter covered within the description of the alleged breach.
5. I accept the appellant's interpretation that the appeals for the siting of modular dwellings referred to by the Council were not challenged on the basis of the description of the alleged breach or in respect of ambiguity or nullity. PAC decision 2019/E0055 (for the unauthorised stationing of a caravan for use as a dwelling) is also referred to in support of the appellant's claim that the reference to 'siting' makes the EN a nullity. However, in that appeal the remedy included the removal of oil tanks, boiler housing, access steps and hardstanding which were not included in the description of the alleged breach. Accordingly, none of the appeals referred to are directly comparable to this current appeal.
6. For the reasons given above, I find that the EN is neither hopelessly ambiguous nor unclear.

Ground (c) That those matters (if they occurred) do not constitute a breach of planning control.

7. The appellant considers the development subject to the EN is lawful in accordance with the schedule of development permitted under Article 3 Part 5 (Class A) Temporary Buildings and Uses of The Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (GPDO). It is argued that the modular dwelling is a temporary building and connected with approval LA06/2020/1408/F for a dwelling on land to the west of the appeal site. The appeal site overlaps with that permission as it relies on the same access from Aghaloo Road.
8. Part 5 of the schedule to the GPDO, Class A states "*The provision on land of buildings, moveable structures, works, plant or machinery required temporarily in connection with and for the duration of operations being or to be carried out on, in, under or over that land or on land adjoining that land*". It further states that "*Development is not permitted by Class A if: (a) the operations referred to are mining operations; (b) planning permission is required for those operations but is not granted; or (c) it is within a site of archaeological interest.*" While the appeal site is within 620m of an archaeological 'enclosure' the Council did not raise any concerns about the land being in an area of archaeological interest.
9. The Council considers the modular dwelling is not 'required temporarily' and has now achieved some form of permanency through the modifications carried out since it was erected in 2020 including the addition of wood cladding to the exterior and the use of the address (No. 26 Aghaloo Road). The appellant considers that no weight should be attached to *Wilson V FSS & Tewkesbury BC* which supports

the proposition that the larger and more permanent the building the less likely it is to be genuinely required temporarily. He states that the appeal building is not of a permanent design and is not built using methods or materials that could be considered in keeping with permanent construction practice.

10. I accept the appellant's intention is to remove the modular dwelling once the approved dwelling is constructed and I attach little weight to the use of the address as the receipt of mail would be required even for a temporary period. However, there is force in the Council's argument about its permanency given the modifications carried out. Also, operations referred to in the GDPO must be in connection with the building works ongoing, so they allow for a temporary workman's hut for example. They make no reference to residential uses or to residential accommodation as this use would exceed the duration of the operations. There is a relevant policy to consider such an occurrence in regional rural planning policy. The modular dwelling requires planning permission and this has not been granted.
11. As the previous agents response to a warning letter (in which they accepted the mobile would be subject to a planning application under CTY9) does not represent their final position, it has not been relied on in this consideration. The additional arguments presented by the appellant do not change the conclusion that planning permission is required.
12. I find that the modular dwelling is not permitted development in accordance with Class A of Part 5 of the schedule to the GPDO. The appeal on ground (c) fails.

Ground (a) and the Deemed Planning Application

13. The main issue is whether the development is acceptable in principle in the countryside. Matters related to integration, rural character and other environmental considerations including road safety are also relevant.
14. Section 45 (1) of the Act states that regard must be had to the local development plan (LDP), so far as material to the application, and to any other material considerations. Section 6 (4) of the Act requires the Commission, in dealing with the appeal, to have regard to the LDP, and the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010 operates as the LDP for the area within which the appeal site is located. The site is in open countryside on un-zoned land. The plan provides no policies in relation to the appeal development.
15. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland 'Planning for Sustainable Development' (SPPS) is material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals. The SPPS retains policies within existing planning policy documents until such times as a Plan Strategy for the whole of the Council area has been adopted. It sets out the transitional arrangements to be followed in the event of a conflict between the SPPS and retained policy. Any conflict between the SPPS and any policy retained under the transitional arrangements must be resolved in the favour of the provisions of the SPPS. In respect of the development on the appeal site, policy contained in the SPPS is broadly consistent with the policies set out in Planning Policy Statement 21

Sustainable Development in the Countryside (PPS21). Thus, in accordance with the transitional arrangements, retained policies apply.

16. Policy CTY 1 'Development in the Countryside' of PPS 21 sets out a range of types of development which, in principle, are considered to be acceptable in the countryside. Such examples include a residential caravan or mobile home in accordance with Policy CTY 9 'Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes'. Policy CTY 1 continues that other types of development will only be permitted where there are overriding reasons why that development is essential and could not be located in a settlement. The Council and third parties consider the development does not meet policies CTY 1 and CTY 9.
17. Policy CTY 9 states that planning permission may be granted for a residential caravan or mobile home, for a temporary period only, in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances include the provision of temporary residential accommodation pending the development of a permanent dwelling; or where there are compelling, and site specific reasons related to personal and domestic circumstances. The use of the word 'or' between them indicates that if the stated circumstances are consistent with either of the examples cited, they will meet the policy test.
18. The appellant relies on the first exceptional circumstance cited in Policy CTY 9 as outlined above. Planning permission LA09/2020/0479/F was granted for a dwelling on 4th September 2020 (change in house type to that previously approved under M/2008/1007/F in November 2008). A further planning permission LA09/2020/1408/F for another change in house type was subsequently granted on 3rd February 2021. The modular dwelling was delivered to the site in October 2020, and it has been in use as residential accommodation by the appellant's family since March 2021. They advise this is a temporary measure whilst the dwelling house is built on the adjacent site. The accompanying amplification text at paragraph 5.36 of Policy CTY9 states that a mobile home can be a sensible temporary solution to meeting the need for residential accommodation in the countryside.
19. The Council refer to little progress being made on the construction of the approved dwelling since the initial works were undertaken. I observed foundations and ground floor slabs with some block corners on the adjacent site where the permanent dwelling is to be erected. A retaining wall has also been constructed along the lower section of the laneway leading to the vehicular access with the road. These works are not recent. However, the appellant anticipates that more progress will be made on building the dwelling during 2023. Also, there are extant planning permissions for a change of house type on the adjacent site. Policy CTY 9 provides for accommodation for a temporary period only and states that all permissions will normally be subject to a three-year time limit. The modular dwelling has been on site for less than three years. On this limited basis, I accept that the first exceptional circumstance is met.
20. Policy CTY 9 goes on to state that permission will depend on the ability to integrate the unit within an existing building group and screen it from public view. As the planning permissions on the adjacent site relate to a single dwelling which has not progressed beyond foundation stage, it could not be considered 'an existing building group' for the purposes of the policy. There is an existing building group

to the north of the appeal site. However, there are fields in between and they are at a distance of over 70m away. I do not therefore agree that the modular dwelling is integrated with them at all or even 'to a marginal extent' as claimed by the appellant.

21. The appeal site is a relatively flat roadside field with a central area of hardstanding aggregate on which the modular dwelling is located. The northern, eastern and western boundaries of the site comprise of post and wire fencing. To the west and rear of the modular dwelling adjacent to the car park area is a wooden garden shed with pitched roof used as a washer/dryer alongside a dog kennel. A children's treehouse/slide set and oil tank are also located to the rear of the modular dwelling. A soil mound sits within the appeal site to the south of the modular dwelling separating it from the lane leading to the commenced dwelling under construction.
22. The appellant accepts that the modular dwelling can be seen from Aghaloo Road however, he argues this is tempered by the small scale of the development, its temporary nature and its elevational treatment with wood cladding. I agree with the appellant that the road alignment, mounding inside the access area and the wide upward sloping grass verge across the site frontage assists with screening the unit from public view when viewed from the south. However, the downward sloping nature of the topography and absence of vegetation along the fenced northern and western boundaries on approach from the north means that the modular dwelling does not benefit from sufficient screening when viewed from these public vantage points. The limited scale and use of material finish does not assist with blending the building into the landscape given its road frontage location. The modular dwelling therefore does not satisfactorily visually integrate with an existing building group nor is it adequately screened from public view.
23. Policy CTY 9 also says that the siting of a mobile home will be subject to the same planning and environmental considerations as a permanent dwelling. The Council and third parties also consider the modular dwelling to be contrary to Policy CTY 13 'Integration and Design of Buildings in the Countryside' of PPS 21 and supplementary guidance within 'Building on Tradition – A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside'. They argue that the design of the appeal building is not suitable for this countryside location.
24. The justification and amplification text at paragraph 5.35 of Policy CTY13 states that the design and finishes of a residential caravan or mobile home limits its potential for integration into the landscape. It continues, for this reason, planning permission will not be granted for a permanently sited residential caravan or mobile home in the countryside.
25. The scale and design of the modular dwelling is typical of that of a temporary mobile home with windows of different scale and proportion with a shallow pitched roof. Since it was delivered to the site additions have included the external fixing of wood panelling, a wooden deck area around the western and southern elevation, additional sheds and children's play equipment. It also has underground drainage services/manhole, an oil tank and electrical connection. To my mind, the modular dwelling no longer exhibits temporary characteristics and given the lack of screening, its road frontage location means that it appears visually incongruous in the local landscape. For this reason and those outlined above, I consider that the appeal development fails to visually integrate into the surrounding landscape

and is not in keeping with the form and design of permanent dwellings in the area. Accordingly, the third party objections and Council's refusal reason relating to Policy CTY 13 are sustained.

26. The Council also consider the appeal development to be contrary to Policy CTY 14 'Rural Character' of PPS 21. They argue it adds to an existing build-up of development resulting in 'suburban style build up' and its retention would have a detrimental impact on rural character. The appellant refers to a scattered development pattern in the area, with single houses and associated farm/out buildings being common. To the north of the appeal site there is a group of buildings. No. 28 Aghaloo Road (approximately 85m to the north of the appeal site) is a one and a half storey road frontage dwelling with associated out-buildings and garage. A bungalow at No. 30 Aghaloo Road (approximately 70m to the northwest of the appeal site) shares its access with No 28 Aghaloo Road. It can be viewed set back from the Aghaloo Road behind an agricultural field. A further dwelling (No. 27 Aghaloo Road) and its associated farm buildings are located across from No 28 Aghaloo Road. These buildings are visually linked with one another. While there is a gap between this group and the modular dwelling, I consider that given its road frontage location, the topography and the lack of sufficient intervening vegetation, the modular dwelling reads with the aforementioned dwellings when travelling along Aghaloo Road, particularly from the north. There is an appreciable awareness of the modular dwelling behind this grouping which results in suburban style build-up of development. This is detrimental to the rural character of the area. Accordingly, the Council's concerns in respect of Policy CTY 14 are sustained.
27. Policy CTY 9 also implicitly allows for exceptional circumstances other than those listed. The appellant did not argue that they had compelling, and site-specific reasons related to their particular personal circumstances. While they referred to the current economic climate impacting on building costs for the adjacent dwelling and causing delays in its construction, this argument is not persuasive and insufficient to meet the policy hurdle. Accordingly, while the modular dwelling provides for temporary residential accommodation pending the development of a permanent dwelling, the remaining requirements of Policy CTY 9 are not satisfied. The Council's and the third party objections based on Policy CTY 9 are sustained.
28. In addition to matters related to the principle of development which are discussed above and the loss of quality agricultural land, third parties also raise concerns in respect of the removal of a hawthorn hedge and associated displacement of nesting birds. The vegetation remains in place alongside the access laneway to the south of the modular dwelling. Based on the aerial photograph attached to the EN, a hedge fronting Aghaloo Road appears to have been removed since that image was taken. Notwithstanding, I was not provided with any persuasive evidence that birds, which are a protected species under the Wildlife and Natural Environmental (NI) Act 2011 will be affected by the appeal development. This aspect of the third-party objection is not therefore sustained. Furthermore, there is nothing in the policy that prohibits the loss of quality agricultural land.
29. Third Parties refer to the soil that was excavated which remains on site in a large mound alongside the access laneway, describing it as an eyesore and a road safety risk as it obstructs sight lines when exiting the site. The appellant states that the site access was formed a number of years ago. I have not been provided with any consultation from Transport NI in respect of road safety. I must therefore rely

on my own observations whilst on site. The mound sits behind the visibility splay to the left of the exit and it did not obstruct my view onto Aghaloo Road. I also observed low volumes of traffic which was moving at an average speed of approximately 30 miles per hour and no evidence of any accidents because of the access was provided. Furthermore, the use of the access is (and would be) limited to a single property. For these reasons, I do not consider the soil mound raises any adverse road safety impact. This objection is not sustained.

30. The previous advice provided by the Council, the intentions of the third parties, the motives of the appellant, the alternative siting options and the other issues raised are noted, but they would not, either individually or cumulatively, warrant the refusal of the deemed planning application. Notwithstanding this, as the appeal development fails to meet the requirements of policies CTY 9, CTY 13 and CTY 14 of PPS 21, it does not constitute an acceptable form of development in the countryside. As no overriding reasons as to why the development is essential have been provided, it also fails to comply with Policy CTY1. Accordingly planning permission is refused and the appeal on ground (a) fails.

Ground (f) - that the steps required by the notice to be taken, or the activities required to cease, exceed what is necessary to remedy the breach of planning control.

31. The EN requires that the modular dwelling is to be removed from the site or demolished, that all resulting debris or rubble is removed, and the site is restored to its previous condition. Matters in respect of alleged ambiguity of the EN have already been considered. The steps to be taken are proportionate to remedy the breach of planning control. Accordingly, the appeal on ground (f) fails.

Ground (g) – that the period for compliance falls short of what should reasonably be allowed.

32. The appellant seeks to extend the 120-day period to twelve months to allow him adequate time to seek alternative accommodation locally and allow for site restorative works. The evidence presented including the rising cost of construction materials, the cost-of-living crisis, or economic uncertainty does not justify the time extension sought which would be tantamount to granting temporary permission for a year. Accordingly, the appeal on ground (g) fails.

Decision

The decision is as follows: -

- The appeal on Ground (c) fails.
- The appeal on Ground (a) fails.
- The appeal on Ground (f) fails.
- The appeal on Ground (g) fails.
- The Enforcement Notice is upheld.

COMMISSIONER CARRIE McDONAGH

List of Documents

Planning Authority: -
Mid Ulster Council

"A1" Statement of Case and Appendices
"A2" Rebuttal Comments

Appellant: -
Chris Cunningham

"B1" Statement of Case, CD Consulting
"B2" Further Comments and Rebuttal, CD Consulting

Third Parties: -

"C1" Statement of Case by O Mallon
"C2" Statement of Case by J Coote
"C3" Statement of Case by A Coote



Chris Boomer
Mid Ulster District Council

By Email:
chris.boomer@midulstercouncil.org

Date: 31 May 2023

Natural Environment Division
3rd Floor
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park
Malone Lower
Belfast
BT7 2JA

Telephone: 028 90 569579

Email: Mark.hammond@daera-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: N/A

Our reference: AE2-20-15721~2

Dear Head Planner

Planning Consultations for Agricultural Developments

Over the last number of months NIEA have been continuing to consider our standing advice on air pollution and agricultural developments, and as a result a decision has been taken to pause the issuing of ammonia planning advice pending the outcome of these considerations.

You will have also noted the recent announcement by the Office of Environmental Protection (OEP) that it intends to carry out an investigation into the advice given by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland. DAERA will be engaging positively with the OEP during the course of the investigation and looks forward to considering any recommendations which may result.

The Department intends to publish a call for evidence to support the development of new guidance in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

MARK HAMMOND
Director – Natural Environment Division - NIEA

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can
contact the Department via the Next Generation Text
Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



ITEM 5-5

7th June, 2023

Mr Peter Hughes
Mid-Ulster District Council
Planning Department
50 Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Ref: LA09/2020/0780/O – Proposed Furniture Storage/Warehouse Facility at Site 80m West of 37 Charlemont Street, Moy, Dungannon

Dear Sir,

We are writing to respond to the latest DfI Rivers planning consultation response dated 7th April 2023, and in order to try and simplify/clarify the current status of this application with regard to flooding.

At the outset of this outline planning application, our client hoped to construct a larger storage/warehouse facility and to locate it further southwest within the site than shown on the latest drawings issued to planning.

The original proposed location of the warehouse was within the 1 in 100 year flood plain as depicted on Strategic Flood Maps (NI). This floodplain was derived from a detailed hydraulic model prepared for DfI Rivers by JBA Consulting in 2014.

We were advised by our technical consultants at RPS Consulting that any challenge to that floodplain was unlikely to be successful – given that the river had already been modelled in detail. However, in any case, our client was willing to engage RPS Consulting to undertake a detailed assessment and prepare a Flood Risk Assessment.

Unfortunately, as has already been covered in numerous correspondences to date, that exercise by RPS Consulting was undermined by the disturbance of ground levels within the applicant site prior to the completion of the topographical survey that was used in the RPS model build. This survey and the resultant model was used to inform the first Flood Risk Assessment issued by RPS Consulting in August 2020.

However, during a visit to site in October 2020, DfI Rivers discovered the disturbance of ground levels on site. Therefore, they were unable to validate the ground levels used in the RPS model. To all intents and purposes, this invalidated the RPS model in terms of its use for determining the predicted floodplain for this site.

Following subsequent correspondence, we significantly altered the proposed site layout to relocate the proposed warehouse outside of the 1 in 100 year flood plain as depicted on Strategic Flood Maps (NI). RPS Consulting issued a revised Flood Risk Assessment in December 2020 – showing the new site layout. Figure 5.1 of that report clearly shows the proposed building outside of the floodplain. However, for clarity, we enclose a further A1-size site layout plan showing the building outside the floodplain.

Effectively in December 2020, and in our correspondence ever since, we have withdrawn our challenge to the DfI Rivers' floodplain as depicted on Strategic Flood Maps (NI). Instead, we have amended our proposal to take the proposed building out of the flood plain and, as outlined in detail in section 5 of the December 2020 RPS report, we have identified a range of mitigation measures for the other portions of the site.

However, in the latest DfI Rivers' consultation response dated 7th April 2023 – and in their correspondence with RPS since then – they have confirmed that their investigation of the floodplain is due to the original "challenge" to their floodplain in the original RPS FRA report. Figure 5 – included in the DfI Rivers consultation response has been produced by using the RPS model that was submitted as part of the original FRA report.

In our opinion, this further investigation of the floodplain is unwarranted and unnecessary. As soon as the issues with the topographical survey and ground levels used in this model became evident, we abandoned our "challenge" to the DfI Rivers floodplain and, instead, revised the site layout as described above.

In our opinion, to partially use the RPS model, which, through no fault of theirs, has been undermined by the inability to validate the survey data used, is unreasonable. It is also entirely unnecessary, given that we have revised our proposals substantially and accepted the DfI Rivers floodplain as depicted on the Strategic Flood Maps (NI).

In other words, if we were submitting our current proposals today, the suggested alternative flood plain, as described by DfI Rivers in their latest response, would never have been introduced or considered.

Principle of Development in the Floodplain

DfI Rivers have correctly advised that this is a matter for the planning authority to address and, therefore, they have not commented on this in their consultation response.

From our perspective, we would reiterate the position below:

Policy FLD1 of Revised PPS15 does not permit development within the 1% AEP fluvial floodplain unless the applicant can demonstrate that the proposal constitutes an exception to the policy.

The site layout has been designed so that the warehouse building is outside of the DfI River floodplain.

As a general standard in Northern Ireland for sites where there is potential for river flooding DfI Rivers recommend that a Finished Floor Level in all new developments be above the 1% AEP flood level, plus a freeboard of 600 mm. The proposed FFL of the building will be above this level.

The only part of the proposed development that will be in the floodplain are the car and lorry parks. The car and lorry parks will be constructed at existing levels (i.e. levels as recorded by LIDAR in March 2010) and therefore will still be available as floodplain. You will be aware of other planning proposals in the Mid-Ulster area in recent years where parking and turning areas have been deemed an exception to the policy under the criteria of agricultural use, transport and utilities infrastructure – specifically where vehicles are easily moved and land levels are not raised.

Flooding of the car/ lorry parks will not be an issue as it can easily be cleaned up following a flood event. There is no infrastructure that will be adversely affected by flooding. Mitigation measures have therefore been proposed, in the FRA report provided, to ensure there are no vehicles or people in the car park if a river flood event is predicted. This includes flood warning and flood evacuation.

As stated in the Flood Risk Assessment report issued by RPS Consulting Engineers in December 2020, the development is therefore compliant with Policy FLD1.

Finally, we would reiterate the very important point below:

DfI Rivers have confirmed that the fluvial flood plain indicated on Flood Maps (NI) is the only publicly available version of flood plain mapping produced by DfI. Paragraph 6.106 of the SPPS directs the reader to Footnote 31 which identifies the flood plains *as those depicted “on the Strategic Flood map on the DARD Rivers Agency website”*.

It has been stated in previous correspondence that the flood plain extents could be more accurately defined. However, that is true of any development site – but is not applied. Furthermore, the re-defining of the flood plain based on a model that has been undermined is not a reasonable or fair approach.

Conclusion

We have accepted the points raised by DfI Rivers in their previous consultation responses – and revised our proposals accordingly. As outlined previously, works will be undertaken on site to ensure ground levels on site are consistent with LIDAR levels from March 2010. This should remove any anxiety or caution in relation to the perceived reduction of the available floodplain. We accept the predicted floodplain as depicted on the Strategic Flood Maps. We are clear that

the proposed building is not within that floodplain, it is to be provided with a freeboard of 600mm and mitigation measures have been identified for the car park area.

I trust this is acceptable and allows you to proceed with approval of this planning application.

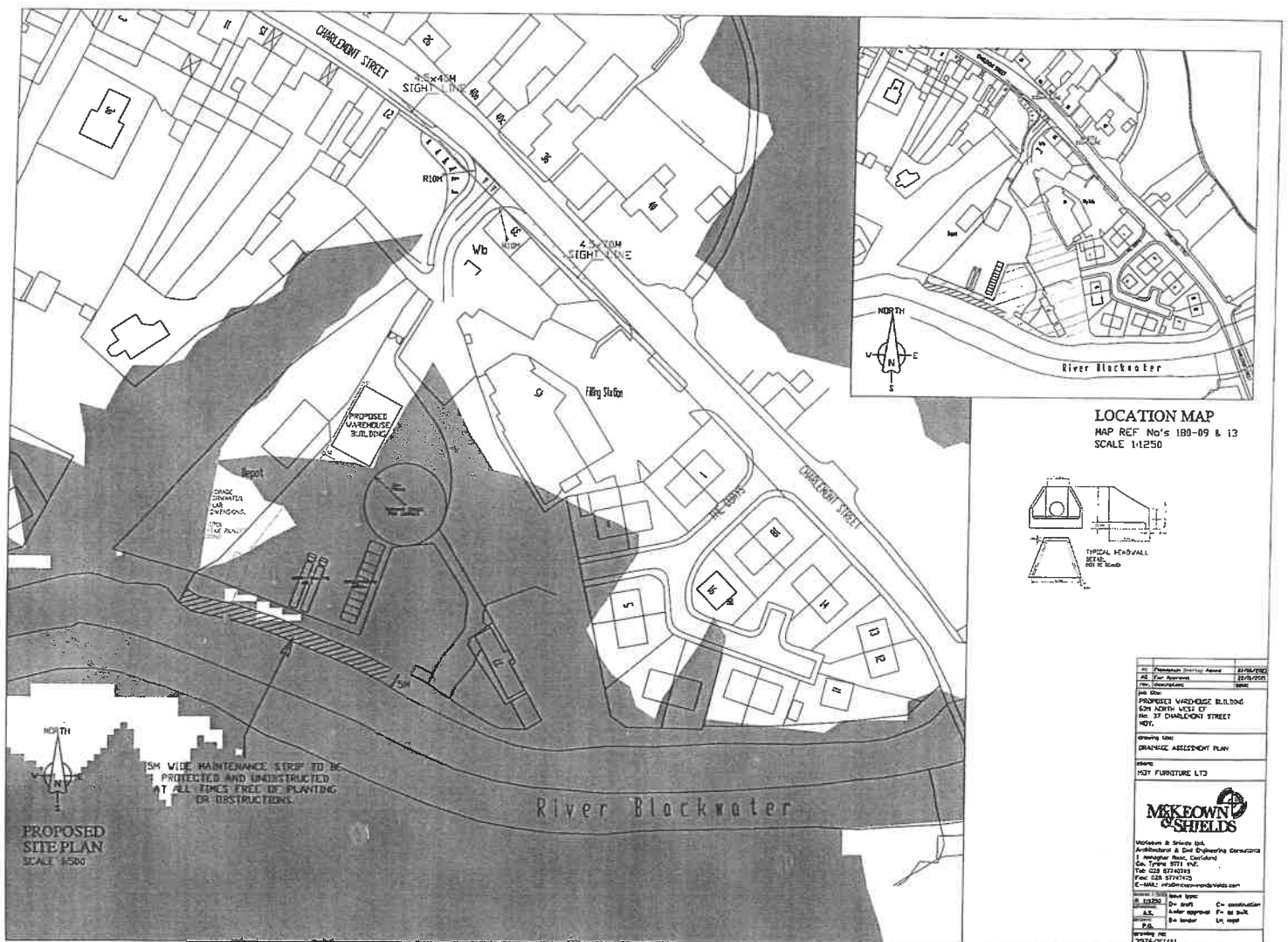
Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Aidan Shields', is written over a horizontal line.

Aidan Shields

ITEM 5.5



ITEM 5-5

Phelim Marrion

From: Declan Diamond <ddiamond@kevinmcshane.co.uk>
Sent: 06 June 2023 16:24
To: Peter Hughes
Cc: 'McKeown & Shields'; 'Adrian'; mcshane@btinternet.com; Phelim Marrion
Subject: RE: LA09/2020/0780/O - Proposed furniture storage/warehouse facility. Site 80m West of 37 Charlemont Street, Moy, Dungannon

Good Afternoon Peter,

We note with dismay the planning recommendation to refuse application LA09/2020/0780/O. However, we do understand that a deferral is currently being considered.

With reference to the reasons for refusal, we wish to note the following on record on the applicant's behalf.

Specially, we note refusal Reason 2:

"The proposal is contrary to AMP2 of Planning Policy statement 3, access movement and parking, in that it would, if permitted, result in the intensification of use of a substandard access onto a Main traffic Route (protected route), thereby prejudicing the free flow of traffic and conditions of general safety."

We respectfully request that this reason for refusal be reconsidered in light of the following:

Planning Policy AMP 2 of PPS3

Policy AMP 2 of PPS3 notes:

"Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal involving direct access, or the intensification of the use of an existing access, onto a public road where:

- o Such access will not prejudice road safety or significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic; and*
- o The proposal does not conflict with policy AMP 3 Access to protected routes."*

Prejudice road safety or significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic.

The application has been considered by statutory consultees including DfI Roads.

On 12th April 2023 DfI Roads noted:

"If Council Planning are happy with the validity of the information contained within the "Service Management Plan" dated January 2022 and the P1 Form, i.e. 8.2m Rigid HGV two collections per day and a 16.5m Artic HGV one delivery per month, then DfI Roads offer no objections subject to the following conditions.

Conditions:

RS-C-01

A scale plan and accurate site survey at 1:500 (minimum) shall be submitted as part of the reserved matters application showing the access to be constructed and other requirements in general accordance with drawing number 1 G bearing date stamp 7th November 2022.

REASON: To ensure there is a satisfactory means of access in the interests of road safety and the convenience of road users.

At Reserved Matters Stage parking and servicing shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Department's current published Parking Standards.

REASON: To ensure the provision of adequate parking facilities to meet the needs of the development and in the interests of road safety and the convenience of road users."

The key consideration here is that DfI Roads have offered no objection to the proposal.

Moreover, the Department have offered planning conditions to mitigate against any potential impact on the convenience of road users and road safety.

We respectfully request that Council Planning consider DfI Roads consultation and planning conditions as materially significant in the determination of the application.

The applicant fully accepts the offer of planning conditions in the interests of road safety and minimising the inconvenience of road users.

Intensification of an Existing Access

Application Site

The application site proposes to utilise an existing access onto A29 Charlemont Street.

With reference to the P1 application form, the Transport Assessment Form and the Service Management Plan associated with this application, the development, if permitted is anticipated to generate an **additional 2no. vehicle movements per day**.

Planning History of Adjacent Lands

The existing access onto A29 Charlemont Street facilitates vehicle movements associated with the adjacent Petrol filling Station and associated retail unit (Eurospar).

The PFS site gained planning approval in May 2017 for the extension to existing retail premises, reconfiguration of parking layout and access arrangements (Planning Ref: LA09/2016/0654/F).

This planning approval has since been implemented and is currently operational.

Within the application documents of the PFS site it is noted that the associated Transport Assessment Form highlights that the site will generate 116 car driver movements daily.

The TAF further notes that access to the PFS is facilitated through three separate locations.

Therefore, c.39 movements per access ($116/3=39$)

Extract from TAF – LA09/2016/0654/F – date stamped 9th May 2016

"...The north most access will be improved to provide two exit lanes and the visibility splay to the left when exiting will be improved..."

The 'north most access' refers to the access onto A29 Charlemont Street which our application site will utilise.

Additionally, lands located to the northwest of the PFS site and our application site gained planning approval in April 2022 for the provision of 17no residential apartments (Planning ref: LA09/2020/0486/RM).

This development will utilise and amend the same access onto A29 Charlemont Street as our application site.

Taking a low estimate assumption of two vehicle movements per residential unit per day means the site has the potential to generate c.34 vehicle movements.

At the time of submission, this planning permission is still live (valid until April 2024) but has not yet been implemented.

In planning and traffic generation terms this application is extant.

DCAN15

DCAN15 sets out the considerations for vehicle access standards.

Para 1.2 of DCAN15 defines the term of Intensification:

"Intensification is considered to occur when a proposed development would increase the traffic flow using an access by 5% or more."

The table below sets out the potential vehicle generations at the access to A29 Charlemont Street.

Development	Daily Vehicle Movements
Operational PFS And Retail Unit	39
Approved Residential Units	34
Extant Total	73
Proposed Storage/ Warehouse	+2

% Increase of Storage/ Warehouse	3%
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The table highlights that the proposed Storage/ warehouse development has the potential to increase traffic flow at the access by c.3%.

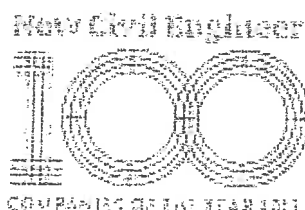
Therefore, our application site will not intensify the proposed access.

Accordingly, we respectfully suggest that as the proposed access arrangement is not a new access, nor has intensification of an existing access been demonstrated, then the planning test for PPS3 AMP 2 has not been met. Subsequently, we believe a refusal notice on the basis of non-compliance with AMP2 cannot be implemented.

We would be most appreciative if you would consider the information provided and would welcome any opportunity to discuss this matter with you and your colleagues directly, at your convenience.

Kind Regards,

Declan Diamond BSc (Hons) MTPS



1st Floor, Albany House, 73-75 Great Victoria St, Belfast BT2 7AF

T:028 9560 9798 | E:ddiamond@kevinmcshane.co.uk

From: Declan Diamond
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2:33 PM
To: peter.hughes@midulstercouncil.org
Cc: McKeown & Shields <info@mckeownandshields.com>; Adrian <adrian@mckeownandshields.com>; Sean McGeown <sean@kevinmcshane.co.uk>; mcshane@btinternet.com
Subject: LA09/2020/0780/O - Proposed furniture storage/warehouse facility. Site 80m West of 37 Charlemont Street, Moy, Dungannon

Good Afternoon Peter,

We are working on behalf of the applicant of the above.

We submitted supporting information in response to a November 2021 DfI Roads consultation in January 2022.

We note the latest correspondence from the Department uploaded to planning portal today (13/04/2022).

The Department note:

"DfI Roads acknowledge receipt of the Service Management Plan and the letter from Kevin McShane bearing the date stamp 10 January 2022.

Both the above documents have Auto Track drawings attached but the background of the drawings is not visible, therefore DfI Roads cannot make any comments on them until clear drawings are presented."

There seems to have been issues with the hard copies of the documents when scanned onto the planning portal.

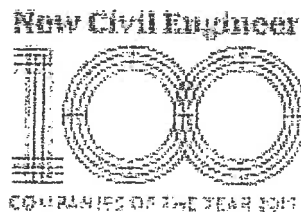
E-copies of both documents are attached.

If possible, would you mind circulating these to the Roads Case officer or alternatively we are happy to issue ourselves if you can advise who the case officer is on this one.

Many thanks.

Kind Regards,

Declan Diamond BSc (Hons) MTPS



The Studio, 555 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT97GQ

T:028 9560 9798 | E:ddiamond@kevinmcshane.co.uk

ITEM 5.11

Phelim Marrion

From: OBrien Design <obriendesign@btinternet.com>
Sent: 01 June 2023 14:30
To: Cathy Hughes
Cc: Phelim Marrion
Subject: FW: M Keys Transport Ltd planning application (LA09/2021/1653/F)

Good afternoon, Cathy,

Please see below letter of support for the above application from Karro Food Group. I would ask that you please place on file.

Regards

John

From: William de Klein <william.de.klein@sofinafoods.co.uk>
Date: 31 May 2023 at 20:41:03 BST
To:
Cc: William de Klein <william.de.klein@sofinafoods.co.uk>, Malcolm Keys <malcolm@mkeystransport.com>
Subject: M Keys Transport Ltd planning application (LA09/2021/1653/F)

To whom it may concern,

Karro Food Group would like to express their support for the planning application under consideration by Mid Ulster District Planning Department from M Keys transport Ltd on lands east to 19 Annagh Road, Clogher, Co Tyrone.

M Keys transport Ltd is a vital supply chain partner in the Northern Irish pork processing industry; as livestock Haulier, M Keys Transport Ltd is responsible for the 'just in time' delivery of more than a third of all pigs into our Cookstown processing facility.

Over the years, M Keys has grown with our business and now is considered our 'go-to' supplier for livestock haulage services.

In our view, the expansion as outlined in the application is vital to safeguard future growth and cost control in our supply chain.

M Keys Transport Ltd is one of several businesses in the M Keys group of companies in which it plays an important role. Investment into this part of the business will contribute to further growth of the other parts of the group of companies.

Karro Food group fully support this planning application and see the investment involved as key to the further development of the Northern Irish Pork processing industry.

For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours Sincerely,

William de Klein

Director Business Development and Agriculture
Karro Food Ltd.
Part of Sofina Food Group
Mobile: 07792653803

This email is sent to you from Karro Food Ltd, a company registered in Scotland under company number SC220000 with registered office at 13 Queens Road, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB15 4YL, and whose head office is at Karro Food Group, Hugden Way, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 9HG. Confidentiality: The contents and any attachments of this electronic mail message are confidential and may be privileged and intended only for the named addressees. Dissemination, forwarding, publication, copying or other use of the message or attachments by any unauthorised person is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, please delete this message and any attachments and notify the sender immediately. WARNING: Although the company has taken reasonable precautions to ensure no viruses are present in this email, the company cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments. Internet e-mails are not necessarily secure. We do not accept responsibility for changes made to this message after it was sent. Any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company. Privacy: We may monitor e-mails for compliance and other purposes. A copy of our privacy policy is available on our website or a copy may be requested from us. Trading terms and conditions: If we are doing business with you, our standard terms and conditions for the relevant transaction which are available at the following webpage <https://www.sofinafoods.com/europe/trading-terms-conditions/> shall be incorporated into the contract between us, to the entire exclusion of any other terms and conditions that you may seek to impose or otherwise incorporate into the contract, or which are implied by trade, custom, practice or course of dealing, unless there is a negotiated, agreed and signed written contract in place between us ("bespoke agreement"). If we have signed a bespoke agreement, it will prevail over our standard terms and conditions except to the extent that our standard terms and conditions expand upon or supplement that bespoke agreement, for example, and including but not limited to, in relation to the impact of Brexit or Pandemic. Unless you are advised otherwise, the legal entity with which you are trading is Karro Food Ltd, a part of Sofina Foods Inc.

ITEM 5.11

"Ardvarna", 7 Derreens Road,
Bellanaleck, Co. Fermanagh,
N. Ireland, BT92 2BY.

John O'Brien
ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANTS LTD

Telephone: 028 6634 8455

Email: obriendesign@btinternet.com

Website: www.johnobriendesign.co.uk

VAT Reg. No. 836 1047 42

Dr Chris Boomer
Director of Planning
Mid Ulster Council
Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt
BT45 6AN

08 June 2023

Dear Dr. Boomer,

Extension of facilities, provision of new workshop, new access to public road to replace existing substandard access, adequate parking, associated site works and landscaping at site immediately E of 19 Annagh Road, Lungs, Clogher, for Malcolm Keys

Application Number: LA09/2021/1653/F

We are contacting you to request an office meeting with The Planning Management team to discuss the above application and in particular the case officers report.

On reading this report we feel there was no consideration given the wider economic impact ie. 143 jobs, £5.3m in annual salaries and £40m spent on payments to local suppliers and retailers— all that is mentioned by the planning officer who wrote the report is 'I am not convinced an increase in 8 staff members would be considered to be a significant contribution to the local economy.....'.

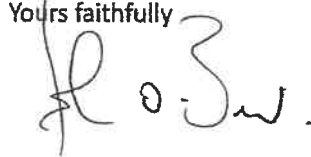
This application was not based on the increase in staff numbers but of the sustainability of the existing 143 jobs.

The report deals with the size of the building and makes no mention of the Computer-Generated Images (CGIs) submitted which are important in demonstrating how landscaping will soften the visual impact of the proposal.

We would also intend to raise the issues of Health and Safety which is a major consideration for the Client due to ever increasing regulation, and this has driven the design of the new building with the inclusion of a Crane to remove decks of lorries safely. This is presently carried out with the use of chains controlled by a Tele-handler and digger and this is not compliant or sustainable.

We would be grateful if you could accommodate such a meeting to discuss in detail these and other issues.

Yours faithfully



John O'Brien



MEMBER OF
THE CHARTERED
INSTITUTE OF
BUILDING

FILEM 543

Local Planning Office
Mid Ulster District Council
50 Ballyronan road
Magherafelt
BT456EN

Oliver Bradley
Bosanci House
101 Bancran road
Draperstown
BT457da

05/06/23

Planning Ref LA09/2023/0141/0
New farm building for sheep handling and sheep feed store
15M East of 101 Bancran Road Draperstown

Dear Sir/Madam

Regards the above application I submit the following objections and bring your attention to errors.

- [1] The photos the applicant supplied 17/04/23 are misleading. This proposed site is a very exposed site to the East. See photos attached.
- [2] In Dareas comments they say this is a yard. This is not a yard, this is a 1.25 acre green field. I have spoken to Darea and they are happy to rectify. See photos.
- [3] I strongly object to this application on the grounds of noise, my partner is a nurse who **works** nights and sleeps during the day and this proposed building is 15 Meters from her bedroom, **actually** closer than the kitchen is to her bedroom!!
- [4] This proposed building is for a feed store, I object on the grounds of pest, odour, effluent etc.

This field in question is 1.25 acres in total. I question the reason/logic in reducing this isolated field with a shed, yard and access lane way to less than 1 acre.

ESPECIALLY when Mr brown has recently renovated sheep pens 300 meters away on the Bancran road [3 field lengths to the West] situated on a parcel of land approximately 6 acres. see photos.

He also has a slated sheep house along with sheds and a yard 250 meters away to the South of this proposed site.

He also a large purpose block built holding area 2 mile away on the Glenelly road set on a large parcel of land. See photos.

4 mile in the opposite direction on the Drumderg road Mr Brown has a large yard with lots of outbuildings and again another sheep holding area.

I want to point out parking has never been an issue regards this field.

I acknowledge Mr Brown has a right of way over my land into his field and I have never **hindered** or obstructed him or his father in any way over this past 30 years, in fact the contrary, I have accommodated him I and will continue to do so.

Please acknowledge confirmation of my objection.

Yours faithfully

Oliver Bradley

ITEM S.56

From: Councillor T Wilson <Trevor.Wilson@midulstercouncil.org>

Date: 9 June 2023 at 21:16:39 BST

To: Zoe Douglas <Zoe.Douglas@midulstercouncil.org>

Subject: LA09/2023/0328

Hi Zoe

I wish to support the objections to the above planning application on the following grounds

1. This extension is out of character with the rest of the area
2. It will have an adverse effect on the amount of natural light especially to Nos 4,5 and 6 Coolmount Park
3. I believe that this application has not been viewed by a planning officer from the back of No 4 which will be the house most affected.

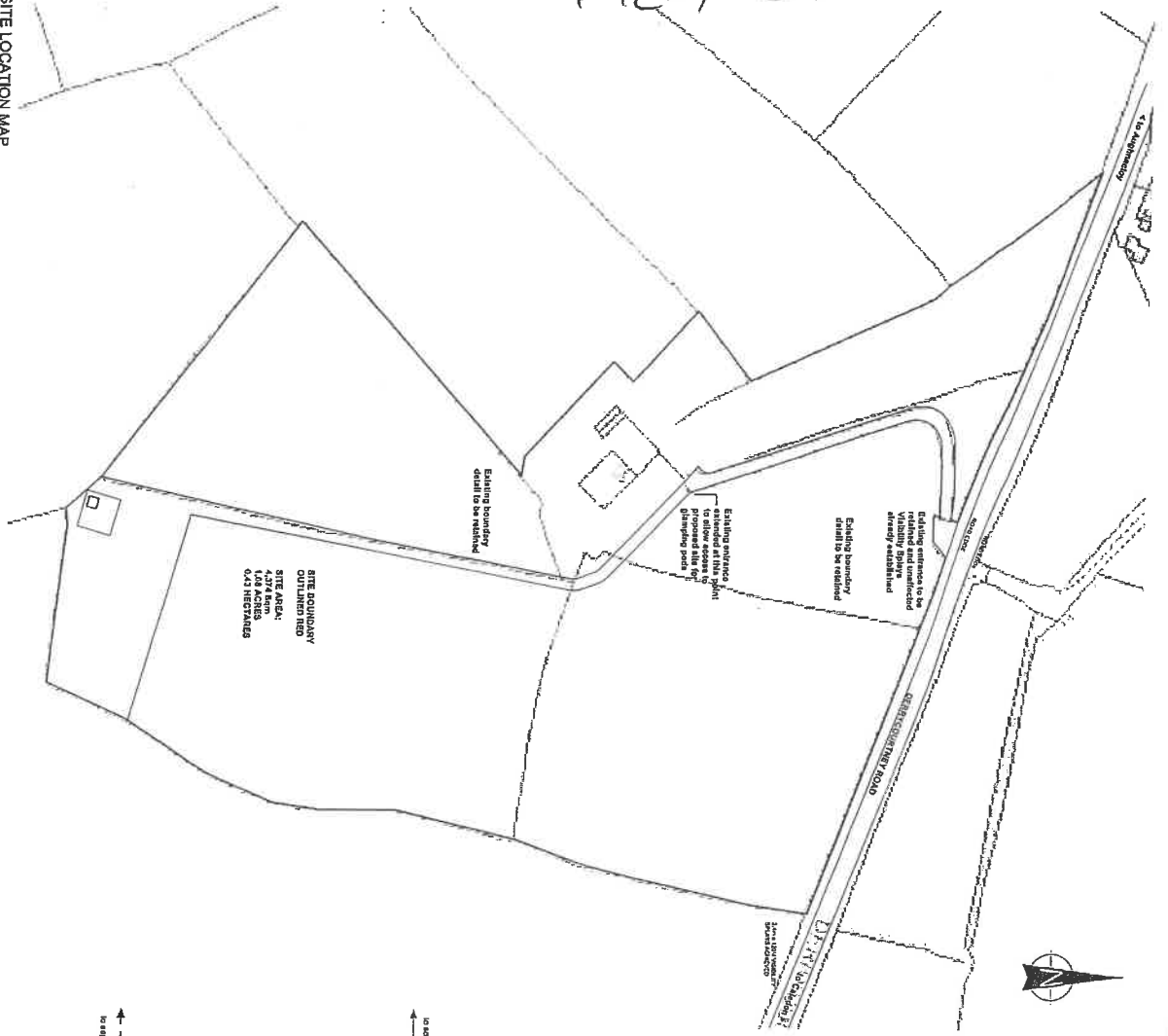
I would ask that these points are taken into consideration when you are making your decision.

Thanks

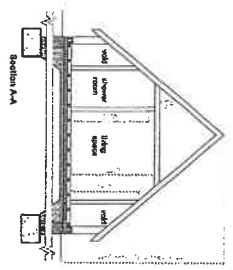
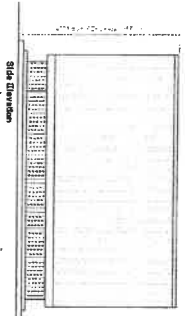
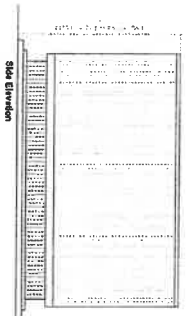
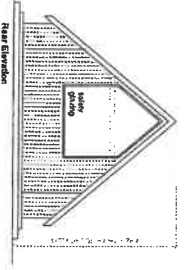
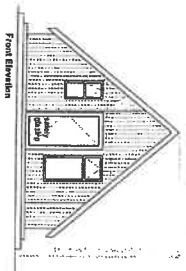
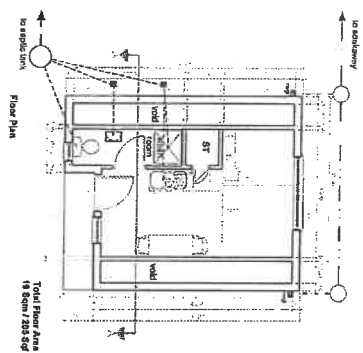
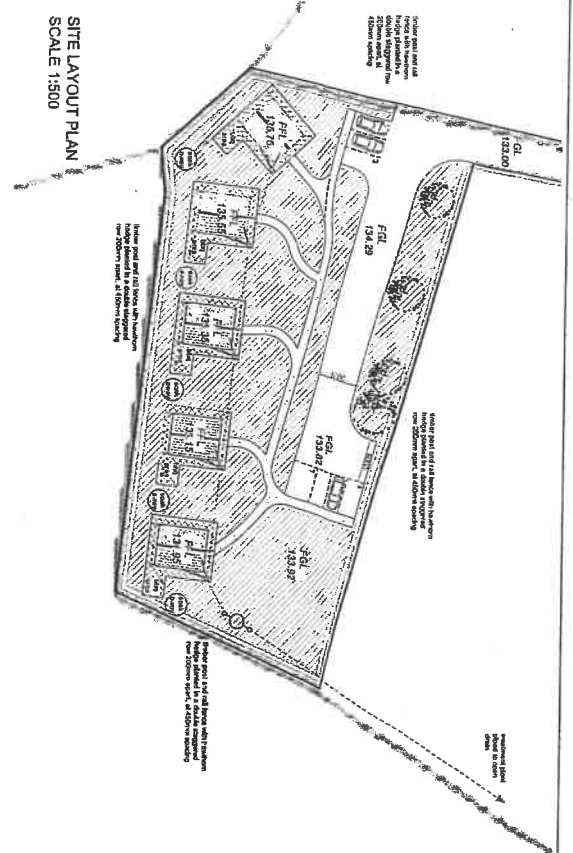
Trevor

ITEM 65

SITE LOCATION MAP
SCALE 1:2500



SITE LAYOUT PLAN
SCALE 1:500



Schedule of Finishes
100mm insulated Kingspan roof panels - Anthracite
Timber framed pod with unfinished western red cedar
Timber external joinery and doors with double glazing
Cast in situ concrete base

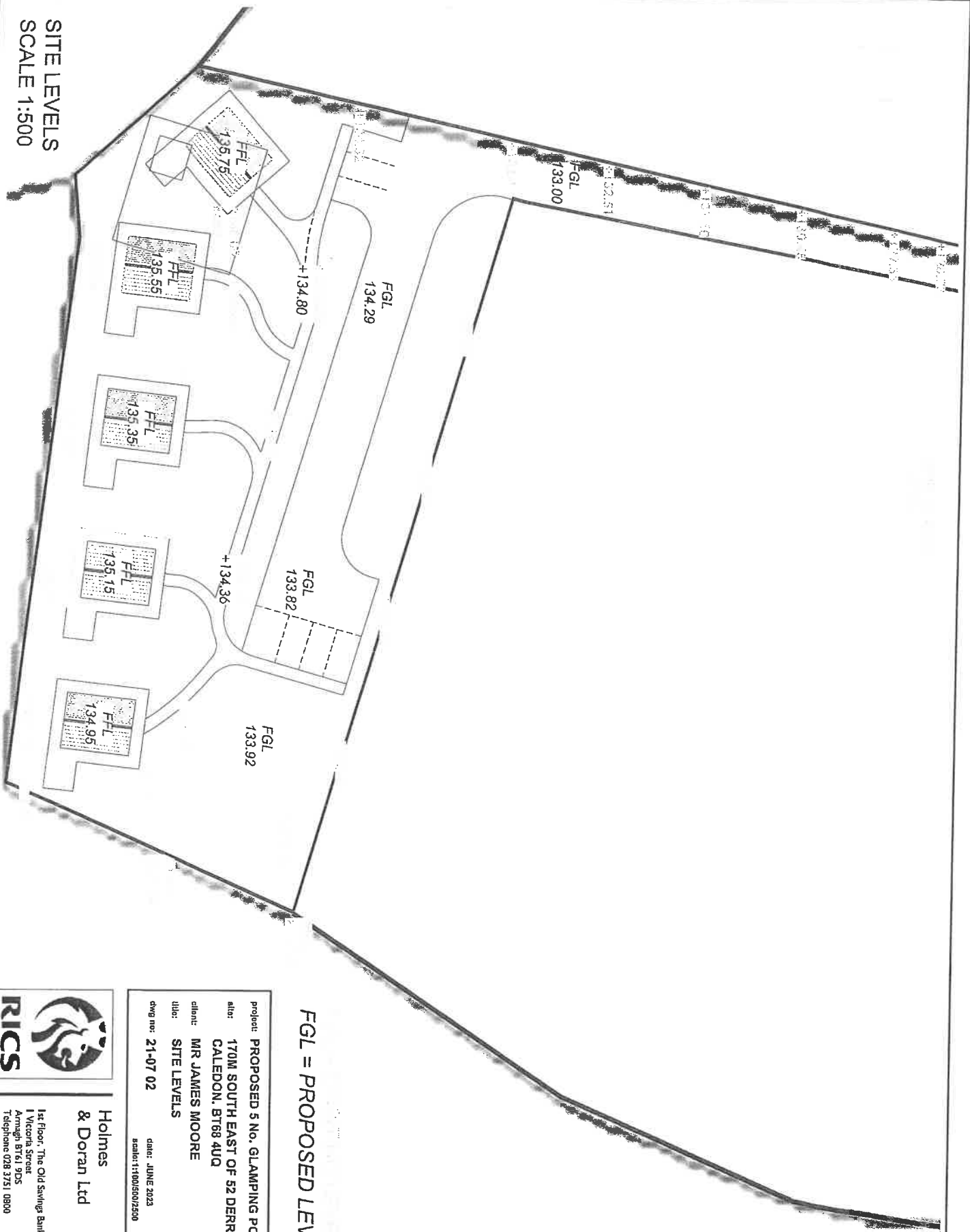
project PROPOSED 5 No. GLAMPING PODS
170m SOUTH EAST OF B2 DERRYCOURTNEY ROAD,
CALEDON, BT88 4DU
client MR JAMES MOORE
title PLANS, ELEVATIONS, SEC A-A
SITE LAYOUT & SITE LOCATION MAP
drawing no. 21-07 01
date: MARCH 2021
scale: 1:1000/1:2500

Holmes & Doran Ltd
14 River, The Old Savings Bank
1 Victoria Street
Newry BT64 5AF
Telephone: 028 3751 0000
Email: info@holmesanddoran.co.uk

Chartered Surveyors
Regulated by RICS

RICS

7764 6.5



SITE LEVELS
SCALE 1:500

FGL = PROPOSED LEVELS

project: PROPOSED 5 No. GLAMPING PODS
 site: 170M SOUTH EAST OF 52 DERRYCOURTNEY ROAD,
 CALEDON. BT68 4UQ
 client: MR JAMES MOORE
 title: SITE LEVELS
 dwg no: 21-07 02
 date: JUNE 2023
 scale: 1:100/50/2500
 drawn by: JMCQ
 checked by: KE



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 1 Victoria Street
 Armagh BT61 9DS
 Telephone 028 3751 0800
 Email info@holmesanddoran.co.uk
 Chartered Surveyors
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Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Corry, Chair

Councillors Bell, Brown, J Burton, Cahoon, Gildernew, Johnston, McAleer, McFlynn, McLean, McLernon, S McPeake, Molloy, Totten, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive**
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)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CS&F)
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 Corry welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Corry 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.

PR089/23 Notice of Recording

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

PR090/23 Apologies

Councillor Burton.

PR091/23 Declarations of Interest

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

PR092/23 Chairs Business

The Chair, Councillor Corry requested that agenda item 21 – 2023-24 Rate Support Grant Update be moved into open business.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That agenda item 21 – 2023-24 Rate Support Grant Update be moved into open business.

Matters for Decision

PR093/23 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:

- Global Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day
- CDH UK: Awareness Day
- DoH: National Health 75th Anniversary
- ASCERT NI: 25th Anniversary

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

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

- Global Motor Neurone 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

PR094/23 Member Services

None.

Matters for Information

PR095/23 Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 6 April 2023

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 6 April 2023.

PR096/23 Somme Association: 2023-2024 Membership Subscription

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined correspondence received from the Somme Association on annual membership contributions payable for period 2023-2024.

PR097/23 Updated Policy on Consultation

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the updated policy on Consultation.

PR098/23 Working Groups of Committees: Update

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Working Groups established by committees of Council.

PR099/23 Performance Improvement Plan and Consultation Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update 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.

PR100/23 2023-24 Rate Support Grant Update

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Finance (SD: CS&F) presented previously circulated report which provided update in relation to the amount of Rate Support Grant that may be received for the financial year 2023/24.

Councillor McLernon stated she had some concerns which she felt Council should reflect in the consultation response regarding the serious implications of the proposed budget. The Councillor raised the following issues –

- The cuts to Discretionary Support Fund, will impact on people with the lowest incomes and those most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.
- The missed opportunity to lift many individuals and families out of poverty and to address a number of inequalities within society.
- The ending of the European Social Funding as a result of Brexit, and without a replacement.
- That the cuts to arm's length bodies budgets, given the breadth of work under the remit of DfC. Many have already streamlined their services due to austerity measures - this proposal could therefore result in cuts to services, loss of employment, and potentially a loss of expertise and knowledge that could take many years to regain.
- The impact that the cuts to the Rates Support Grant, which was established to support more financially constrained councils, protecting rate payers from unfair rates hikes;

- The reduction in funding to the Supporting People Fund which provides essential supports and services to some of the most vulnerable in the community.
- Concerns at the reduction in social housing units from 2000 to 1400 at a time when more, not less, social housing is needed;
- The potential pausing of the Affordable Warmth Scheme, which is the Executive's main intervention to support people on a low income who rent their home from a private landlord and who are most at risk of fuel poverty;
- The reduction in the number of Disabled Facilities Grants available which could see many families having to wait years before they can get the physical adaptations needed to care for their loved ones at home.

Councillor McLernon stated she believed that, if implemented, this budget would adversely impact individuals and families across all the Section 75 groups. The Councillor stated that the people who are in need of the most support are to be the collateral damage as a result of an unadulterated Tory budget facilitated by the absence of an Executive. In addition, Councillor McLernon stated that the Rural Needs Act 2016 places a responsibility on all public authorities to give due regard to the social and economic needs of rural people and that it is essential that all budgetary proposals are developed within the statutory obligations placed upon public authorities through this Rural Needs Act. Councillor McLernon felt it is imperative that Council reflects the issues raised above in their consultation response.

The SD: CS&F stated he was more than happy to submit a supplementary response. The SD: CS&F stated that some of the points raised were included in the response already submitted but had not been made in as much depth and that he was comfortable with adding a supplementary response.

Councillor Bell proposed that a supplementary response be submitted.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Bell's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to submit a supplementary response to the Department for Communities consultation on 2023-24 budget allocation addressing the points outlined.

Councillor Wilson asked if the proposed cuts go ahead as outlined how much would be added to the rates before taking into consideration any other budget pressures. The Councillor stated that the majority of Council voted through the highest rates rise of any Council so there was a need to be careful.

The SD: CS&F stated that officers are still hopeful that prior to the end of this financial year additional funding will be made available so that Council won't feel the impact as extremely as it might based on where we are now. The SD: CS&F stated that if the Grant is cut, every £400k (approx.) of a cut is approximately 1% on the rate. The SD: CS&F stated that Council has budgeted to receive £2.5 million Rate Support Grant and if this is reduced to the proposed £800k then there is the potential for a 4% pressure on the rates. The SD: CS&F advised that if this should be the case then officers would bring forward proposals for consideration which may include

looking at reserves to allow time to address the situation. The SD: CS&F stated that having had informal discussions with DfC officials there is still some hope that additional funding may become available and whilst not the way to run an organisation was the best he could offer at the moment.

Councillor Molloy stated he welcomed the item being taken out of confidential business tonight as the conversations around rates setting and the potential impacts needs to be in the open.

Councillor McLean stated that the potential cuts needed to be kept in context and that there were some issues raised tonight that he had difficulty with. The Councillor referred to comments regarding Tory austerity and cuts and stated that whilst Sinn Féin does not support Britishness they are happy to take the money and then criticise the cuts. Councillor McLean stated that it was also wrong to say that the cuts were due to the Assembly not running. The Councillor stated that he felt the consultation response is accurate and that cuts will affect rate payers however he did not feel that some of the comments made tonight were beneficial. Councillor McLean stated that he would like the response to the consultation to be made as forcibly as possible in order to retain funding.

Councillor McFlynn stated that Members were aware that cuts were coming but did not know the extent which if made, will have an obvious effect on ratepayers and the most vulnerable. The Councillor stated that any cuts will affect the rates going forward but she knew that officers will work hard in trying to reduce cuts as much as possible.

The Chair, Councillor Corry stated that it will be the most vulnerable who will be impacted by cuts and reiterated that the comments raised tonight should be submitted as a supplementary response.

Live broadcast ended at 7.20 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake 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 PR101/23 to PR109/23

Matters for Decision

PR101/23	Staffing Matters for Decision
PR102/23	Scheme of Allowances Update
PR103/23	Closure of dormant bank accounts with AIB
PR104/23	Financial Update – Year Ended 31 March 2023

Matters for Information

PR105/23	Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 April 2023
PR106/23	Staff Matters for Information
PR107/23	Equality
PR108/23	Contracts and DAC Registers – Update
PR109/23	Treasury Management - Update

PR110/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.42 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.

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by virtual means**

Members Present

Councillor Cuthbertson, Chair

Councillors J Burton, J Buchanan, Cahoon, Kelly,
Groogan, Mallaghan*, Martin, McAleer, McElvogue,
McGuigan, McNamee, Milne*, Quinn, Robinson, Varsani

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD:
Env)
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)**
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services
(AD: ES)**
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD:
PS)**
Mr Brown, ICT Support
Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

* Denotes members and members of the public 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 Cuthbertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Cuthbertson 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.

E115/23 Notice of Recording

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

E116/23 Apologies

None.

E117/23 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Quinn declared an interest agenda item 12 – Entertainment Licensing Applications – Derrytresk GAC.

E118/23 Chair's Business

The Chair stated that in the past previous Chairs insisted that they were allocated 3 days' notice if a member wished to raise an issue at this Committee, he wished to advise members that this would not be a rule that he would be endorsing. The Chair felt if a member had a genuine and common-sense issue which arose in recent days that they could contact himself or the Director of Environmental Services (SD: Env) and that they would be happy to consider the matter as he intended to be flexible and not stand in anyone's way.

Matters for Decision

E119/23 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential housing development within Mid Ulster. Requests for the naming of streets within proposed residential development as follows:

- **Street 1 - Site off Mullaghmore, Maghera**

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

The options submitted are as noted below:

1. Mullaghbeg
2. Mullagh Crescent
3. Mullagh Way

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name new street within the housing development as Mullaghbeg.

- **Street 2 - Unnamed Existing Street off Garden Street, Magherafelt**

The options submitted are as noted below:

1. Post Office Lane
2. Postmans Drive
3. Postmans Alley

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council to name existing street of Garden Street, Magherafelt as Postmans Alley.

E120/23 Review of Local Authority Property Certificate Fees 2023

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to seek approval of the proposed fees changes for Local Authority property certificates.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the content of the report and approve the increase in fees for Local Authority property certificates as detailed in section 3.4 of the report.

E121/23 Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report to update members on a successful application to the Chewing Gum Grant Scheme.

The Chair advised that this was a very worthwhile project as all our towns are polluted with chewing gum. He felt that this was a win-win situation and would be foolish not to proceed with it.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council d to note the content of this report and approve the acceptance of the £25,000 funding offered from the Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme (phase two).

E122/23 Consultation on Climate Change Reporting

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report to seek approval for a proposed response to a consultation on Climate Change Reporting by Public Bodies.

Councillor Varsani said she wished to raise a small point within a very comprehensive report. She referred to page 46, section 8, final box ticked 'other' and goes on to say "*if your chose 'other' please describe what you think the criteria should be*". The member advised that the box was actually empty and just a small technical issue.

The AD: ES thanked the member and advised that this issue would be addressed.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Martin and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed consultation response as detailed within the report.

Councillor Varsani left the meeting at 7.17 pm.

E123/23 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services (HoTS) presented previously circulated report which provided update on current bus shelter status.

Councillor McAleer left the meeting at 7.18 pm and returned at 7.20 pm.

Councillor Robinson referred to table 3, item 7 - Fardross-Slatmore Road, Clogher and item 10 - Primrose Hill, Clogher and enquired if there was any update.

The HoTS advised that he would investigate and revert back to the member in the morning to provide an update.

Councillor McNamee referred to table 4, item 3 – Church Street, Cookstown and enquired where the location was exactly at in Church Street.

The HoTS advised that he would investigate and come back to the member with an update.

Councillor Quinn referred to table 7, Coole Road and asked if more details could be provided on this application.

The HoTS advised that he would investigate and provide an update to the member in the morning.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report on progress made on bus shelters within the district. Those listed under 3.5 be recommended to proceed with a view to getting approval.

Matters for Information

E124/23 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 3 April 2023

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 3 April 2023.

Councillor Groogan left the meeting at 7.21 pm.

E125/23 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E126/23 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E127/23 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report to advise on the result of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

Councillor Groogan returned to the meeting at 7.24 pm.

Councillor McNamee referred to report which was brought to 5 December 2022 Environment Committee on Dual Language Signage Requests. The member advised that within that report Rathmore, Cookstown was referred to and enquired if there was any update as it seemed to be lost in the system somewhere.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised the member that this would be followed up.

E128/23 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

The Chair referred to pages 126-127 (appendix 8 and 9) Rossmore Road, Dungannon and Mullaghmarget Road, Dungannon and said that in his opinion these two letters had the same identical handwriting. He enquired what the situation here would be and would the Officer responsible be confident in confirming the identity of these residents.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) said that officers were content in so far as the details be checked off against the electoral register. The AD: PS advised that this process is checked the same as every other application against the electoral register.

The Chair said that this seemed to be further evidence of the same campaign going around and getting people to sign for it.

E129/23 Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean 2023

Members noted previously circulated report to update members on the Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean Campaign 2023.

Councillor McGuigan said that this was a good news story in terms of various groupings getting involved in the Spring Clean, including a lot of GAA clubs, schools and community groups. The member advised that there were always issues with litter and continues to be a battle for people out lifting rubbish other people has left

behind. The member advised that this was something the Council has supported over the years and hoped that this would continue.

The Chair agreed that this was a very worthwhile project as the vast majority of people living in rural areas, possibly a mile outside the town were seeing their areas polluted with fast food wrappers and chip papers being dumped out continuously. The Chair commended Council staff on all their good work in their efforts of cleaning up the areas.

Councillor Robinson concurred with Councillor McGuigan's comments and said that it was good to see these organisations taking this on board. The member advised that he was involved in a litter pick with Ballysaggart Church of Ireland which covered an area of 4–5 mile radius and would like to congratulate the members from the Church who organised the litter pick and Council for their help in providing the litter pickers and the bags. The member stated that there was no doubt that litter was a blight on our society and was unsure that we can change the mindset of these offenders who just seem to open their windows and throw it out which was completely horrifying. The member said that worst he had witnessed was the A4 from Ballygawley roundabout to Dungannon which was horrendous with litter and felt that it give a very bad impression of the area.

The Chair advised that the matter of litter at the A4 was previously raised and enquired if this could be action upon.

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services (AD: ES) advised that unfortunately this could be not be carried out due to health and safety concerns on that stretch of dangerous road.

Councillor Cahoon wished to echo the words in which have been previously said, she especially commended the Cookstown 100 clean up and the clean up by Orritor Primary School in that rural area as it was a few miles out of the town but was clear to see the build up of litter and good to see all these ages getting involved in the community effort.

E130/23 Tullyvar Joint Committee Update

Members noted previously circulated report to provide members with an update on the business of the Tullyvar Joint Committee.

E131/23 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for October to December 2022

Members noted previously circulated to update members on the Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Quarter 3 of 2022/23 from October to December.

Live broadcast ended at 7.27 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor
Seconded by Councillor

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 E132/23 to E138/23.

Matters for Decision

E132/23 Flower bed and Roundabout Sponsorship
E133/23 ICT Award – MUSA Capital Project

Matters for Information

E134/23 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 3 April 2023
E135/23 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update
E136/23 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
E137/23 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
E138/23 IST Award – Burnavon Theatre Improvements

E139/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.41 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

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 15 June 2023 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Bell, Black*, W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke, Corry, Forde, Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade, Monteith*, Milne*, Quinn, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P)
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)
Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)**
Mr McCreedy, Strategic Programmes Service Manager (SPSM)
Mr McKenna, Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM)
Ms McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 4 – Tbus Funding Streams
Mr Gardner – Head of Good Relations***

Councillor McFlynn**

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

D076/23 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site.

D077/23 Apologies

None.

D078/23 Declaration of Interests

The Chair, Councillor reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

D079/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked that if Members want to raise something under Chair's Business that two days notice is given so that other Members and officers can be given prior notice. The Chair stated that if something comes up as an emergency then it can be dealt with.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee passed the condolences of the Development Committee to Councillor Varsani whose brother had passed away.

Councillor Bell spoke in relation to the blue-green algae bloom that is developing on Lough Neagh at present. The Councillor stated that due to the recent hot weather and lack of rainfall Lough Neagh waterflow has stagnated resulting in the build up of dangerous levels of algae. Councillor Bell advised that exposure to high levels of this algae and its toxins can cause illness in humans and illness and death in animals if they consume large amounts of water containing blooms. The Councillor stated that pollution is also killing large numbers of fish in the Lough and it has been reported that over 200k tonnes of raw sewerage is dumped in the Lough every year. Councillor Bell stated that Lough Neagh is the source of 40% of drinking water for 750k people and if nothing is done he felt that we are sitting on a public health crisis and a biodiversity threat. The Councillor stated it is for these reasons that he asked officers to liaise with NIEA and have water from the Lough tested and that warning signs are placed along the lough shore. Officers were commended for their efforts to date but Councillor Bell felt that Council should do more to highlight this ever increasing hazard. Councillor Bell proposed that NIEA be invited to a future meeting to present on the water quality in Lough Neagh and what they are actively doing to protect the waterways that flow into the Lough.

Councillor McLernon seconded Councillor Bell's proposal.

That it be recommended to Council to invite NIEA to a future meeting to present on water quality in Lough Neagh.

Councillor Quinn stated that Mid Ulster is only one of six Councils which are around the Lough but that there is more lough shore in the Mid Ulster area. The Councillor felt this is not an easy issue to tackle and that the weather is not helping but that the water quality around the Washingbay / Brocagh area has been a cause for concern for him for a number of years with this year being particularly bad. Councillor Quinn stated that Councillor Bell had already highlighted the danger to animals from blue-green algae but also advised that a number of dead birds that have been found at lough shore areas which is being put down to Avian Flu which is another issue. The Councillor felt that the absence of a Minister in Stormont is not helping and that this is an issue which needs tackled at a Stormont level. Councillor Quinn stated that rain may or may not help to alleviate some of the issues but that the problems need to be sorted. The Councillor stated that the Lough was strange in that in some areas you couldn't go into the water

whilst in other areas there are blue beach flags where it is safe for people to swim. Councillor Quinn stated that a uniform approach is needed across the Lough as it is a national treasure and that it needed to start being looked after. The Councillor thanked officers who have been proactive during the last couple of weeks and that he would be happy for the NIEA to be invited to Committee.

Due to technical difficulties it was decided that the meeting be adjourned. Members to be advised of date / time to reconvene the meeting.

D080/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.33 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
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- 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

Minutes of Reconvened Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 19 June 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Bell*, Black*, W Buchanan*, F Burton (7.02 pm), Clarke, Corry, Forde*, Gildernew*, McLernon, McQuade, Molloy, Monteith (7.02 pm), Milne*, Quinn (7.02 pm)

Officers in Attendance

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

Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)

Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)**

Mr McCreedy, Strategic Programmes Service Manager (SPSM)

Mr McKenna, Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM)

Ms McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM)

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 McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McNamee 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.

D081/23 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

D082/23 Apologies

Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes.

D083/23 Declaration of Interests

The Chair, Councillor reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

D084/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of discussion at meeting on 15 June in relation to blue-green algae and water quality in Lough Neagh and proposal from Councillor Bell to invite NIEA to future Development Committee to discuss these issues. This proposal was seconded by Councillor McLernon.

Councillor Monteith stated he agreed with the comments previously made but that there was a further issue for commercial fishermen on the Lough who have been unable to make a living since the algae bloom has come up. The Councillor suggested that Council make contact with DAERA in relation to seeking compensation for the commercial fishermen in the area.

Councillor Bell stated he was content to include this within his proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- To invite NIEA to a future meeting to present on water quality in Lough Neagh.
- That Council make contact with DAERA in relation to any potential compensation for commercial fishermen on Lough Neagh who cannot make a living due to current issue of blue-green algae on the Lough.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) provided update in relation to blue-green algae and Avian Flu. In relation to Avian Flu, he advised that there have been confirmed cases in Maghera, Ballyronan and Dungannon and that DAERA are taking lead in relation to advice for the protection of kept poultry and captive birds and PHA are leading on the advice on public health messaging. The SD: C&P advised that Council have been asked that where positive cases have been confirmed that signage is erected and he stated that this has been done and that reporting of dead birds is encouraged both by Council staff and the public and that external messaging from DAERA and PHA is shared on Council social media channels. The SD: C&P advised that DAERA will collect dead birds for testing but that there is criteria to be met, this criteria relates to whether there have already been positive cases in the area, if the birds are accessible and the length of time since the bird has died. Where DAERA won't collect birds they are advising landowners that they are responsible for disposing of the bird. The SD: C&P advised that the key messages that Council has been asked to promote is that no one should touch any dead birds, that pets should be kept away from dead birds, that suspected cases should be reported to DAERA and that risk of Avian Flu to humans is low.

With regard to blue-green algae the SD: C&P advised that there have been confirmed cases in Battery Harbour, Ballyronan Marina, Toome, Newferry and Portglenone and that there are suspected cases at Castlebay, Washingbay and Curran Quay. The SD: C&P advised that officers continue to engage with NIEA in relation to blue-green algae and will provide messaging at the sites where positive cases have been identified. It was advised that Environmental Health Officers have also visited other water bodies across the District and that no further blue-green algae has been identified. The SD: C&P advised that signs are available at Meadowbank for community groups who wish to erect signage to promote the key public messaging in relation to blue-green algae which is to stay away from it and to keep pets and animals away from it. The SD: C&P

advised that officers will continue to respond to public enquiries, to direct the public to the relevant agencies and engage with those agencies as the message changes to ensure Council sites remain compliant.

Councillor Burton stated that blue-green algae has been a problem at Brantry Lough in the past and asked if officers are checking all sites.

The SD: C&P advised that officers are checking other sites across the District and that Brantry Lough was one the sites visited as well as Round Lake, Black Lough, Eskragh Lough and that no evidence of blooms were detected.

Councillor Quinn asked if the recent rainfall has made any difference to the algae.

The SD: C&P advised he did not have up to date information in relation to the impact of recent rainfall but that he would hope that it has had a positive impact in terms of the dispersal of the algae and that officers will be seeking an update from NIEA.

D085/23 Deputation – Tbuc Funding Streams

The SD: C&P advised that the rescheduled meeting did not suit Mr Gardner from Tbuc to attend tonight but it is hoped he will be able to attend the July Development Committee.

Matters for Decision

D086/23 Development Report

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report to update members and to seek approval for the following:

- Community Grants – Rolling Programme
- DfC Hardship Funding – Allocation
- Government Funding TEO – Phased Good Relations Plan
- One World – Youth Conference
- Development Update

Councillor Molloy referred to a previously held, Council led, uniform exchange which was held in the Leisure Centre and allowed people to bring uniforms for exchange. The Councillor stated that uniforms are expensive and can be a big drain and asked if officers could look at holding a similar event again.

The AD: Dev advised that officers are carrying out an analysis at the moment to identify gaps and will look to take this forward.

Councillor Monteith agreed with Councillor Molloy's comments and stated that as we move out of the emergency situation of the pandemic, hardship and the cost of living is becoming a more permanent situation. The Councillor stated that whilst his comments are no reflection on the work of the groups involved he asked for some work to be done in achieving a consistent approach across the groups receiving funding. Councillor

Monteith stated that the various groups have different criteria for people they are helping but that depending on what the need is, a group may advise that they are not in a position to help that person. The Councillor stated that this is the third year Council has allocated funding and that there needs to be a level of consistency across the groups and that it is important for the groups, when contacted, to say they are in a position to offer help. Councillor Monteith stated that whenever someone is in hardship it takes a lot of courage to ask for help and if a person receives a negative on their first contact it is extremely difficult to build up the courage again. The Councillor stated that the situation needs to be regularised and that there needs to be consistency across the groups availing of funding.

The AD: Dev stated that whilst some organisations are not like for like they are all networked and that when a person makes contact if that particular organisation cannot help with what the person is asking for they should be able to provide link to organisation who can help. The AD: Dev stated that officers will bring the groups together to stress the importance of the network and having contact points in all organisations.

Councillor Monteith asked that a report be brought back to committee which sets out what is expected of the groups and what the groups can provide.

The AD: Dev agreed to this.

Councillor Corry asked if the hardship funding targets people in Mid Ulster.

The AD: Dev stated that the funding is targeted to people in Mid Ulster and would not be promoted outside of Mid Ulster. The AD: Dev stated there may be instances of people from outside of Mid Ulster receiving help but that most of the help goes to people within the District.

Councillor Burton referred to the community festival grants listed and that one group requested £4,250 whilst another group requested £1,500 and it is proposed that they both be awarded £600. The Councillor asked how this came about and what needs to be improved.

The AD: Dev advised that the maximum allocation to a group is £1,500 and the award is based on four set criteria and the level of detail on the application.

Councillor Monteith referred to report and events and activities being planned and delivered at Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House and asked for a report on what the events and activities to ensure users and the wider community are aware of whats going on at this site. The Councillor stated that the issue of disabled access to the Hill of The O'Neill had also been raised with him and that he felt more could be done at the entrance such as the provision of signage on how to access the facility.

The AD: Dev noted the Councillor's comments.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- Agree the rolling community grant allocations as set out in report.
 - Agree the Hardship Funding Allocations as set out in report.
 - Agree the phased Good Relations Plan as set out in report.
 - Agree to sponsor a delegate to attend the One World Youth Conference as set out in report.

D087/23 Choose to Live Better Funding

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented the previously circulated report which provided update on successful applications to the Choose to Live Better Fund and sought approval of the acceptance of the letters of offer from The Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership (NHLP).

Councillor Burton asked if the projects will be project wide and not just in the Northern Health Trust area.

The AD: HL&W stated that whilst the expressions of interest predominantly originated from the Northern Trust area it is the understanding that the projects will benefit district wide.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to accept the letters of offer from the Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership (NHLP).

D088/23 Economic Development – June 2023 - OBFD

The Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM) and Tourism Service Manager (TSM) presented previously circulated report to update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023
- Lough Neagh Rescue (2023-2024) – Service Level Agreement
- Project Gigabit – Public Review
- Branded Jute Shopping Bags

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023

Councillor Corry referred to the appointment of a delivery partner to manage the delivery of Enterprise Week and asked if it is possible that this could be done in house in the future.

The ERSM advised that the delivery partner is paid £6,000 of the £28k budget and that they have the contacts to bring people to the table and help Council work up proposals. The ERSM advised that the delivery partner will also carry out the marketing and promotion along with Council. The ERSM stated that whilst he was not saying it could not be done in house it would be difficult given resources but that it may be something that could be looked at in future.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve a budget of circ. £28,000 for the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023 from within the existing Economic Development budget 2023/24.
 - To approve that Council proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management / Delivery Partner to manage and co-ordinate the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023. The costs for such to be apportioned from within the budget detailed.
 - To approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful Management/Delivery Partner following the procurement exercise to allow work to commence over the summer 2023 period.

Service Level Agreement: Lough Neagh Rescue 2023/24

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council -
- To note Lough Neagh Rescue 2022/23 Progress Report outlining actions completed against their 2022/23 SLA Targets.
 - To approve Mid Ulster District Council's Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Rescue for the year 2023-24.
 - To approve the release of £12,000 to Lough Neagh Rescue from Council's Tourism budget (2023-24) subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation – Progress Reports (12 months) updating Council on the work undertaken against that outlined in the SLA.

Project Gigabit – Public Review

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he thought it would be to the Department's benefit to let Council know where the not spots are.

Councillor Clarke stated he totally agreed and that it would be incumbent on DfE to allow more time. Councillor Clarke proposed the recommendations.

Councillor Burton seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal. The Councillor stated that she could remember the Chief Executive saying that if it was not done right this time it would be years before some people in rural areas can get broadband. Councillor Burton stated that there have been numerous rural businesses set up during the pandemic and that Council needs to ensure no stone is left unturned in trying to support people to get broadband.

Councillor Quinn stated that officers would be sick of him pointing out the failures of Project Stratum and that this was now a chance to set the issues right.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council -
- To write to DfE to seek a two month extension to the consultation period, until 6 September 2023, to allow time for greater awareness raising to take place about the Project Gigabit consultation, especially throughout rural areas, thus ensuring our citizens are adequately informed and granted sufficient time to respond.
 - To request DfE to supply Council with the recent information they've collected from broadband infrastructure providers to help identify and map addresses / postcodes where remaining gaps in broadband provision still exist.

Branded Jute Shopping Bags

Councillor Burton asked if £55k is money well spent or is there anything else could be done with the money to provide support.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that the money is spread across the towns listed therefore he did not feel it was an overly large amount directed towards each town. Councillor McNamee stated that the provision of bags benefits traders who can give them to shoppers and that it also encourages people to shop in those towns and helps to stop people buying plastic bags.

Councillor Burton asked if the bags are given to traders.

The ERSM advised that the bags are given to traders and the public at events etc. The ERSM advised that the bags are probably the best branding tool for the towns and that the bags are constantly in demand.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council -
- Approve a budget circ. £55,000 from existing town centre budget to purchase a supply of new jute branded shopping bags for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt; and obtain prices for Coalisland branded jute shopping bags, should these be required within the next twelve months.
 - Approve officers progress to seek competitive tenders from suitably qualified companies and provide approval for authority to be delegated to the Chief Executive to appoint the successful tenderer during the period when Council is in summer recess.

Matters for Information

D089/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 April 2023

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 April 2023.

Councillor Burton referred to item D069/23 – Granville Industrial Estate (Dungannon) Report and that she had welcomed the money spent in that area. The Councillor asked that it be put on record at the start of the electoral term that many of villages in the District have no decent footpath to walk on and that Council take this on board as the issue is raised regularly by Members. Councillor Burton asked that going forward in this term that Council supports villages in whatever way it can on these type of projects.

D090/23 Regional Public Analyst Contract for Environmental Health

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of an extension of the current regional Public Analyst contract with Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd and Councils for the provision of public analyst services to Council.

D091/23 Affordable Warmth Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined correspondence received from Department for Communities on the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Councillor Corry expressed disappointment that Council will no longer be targeting towards the Affordable Warmth Scheme. Councillor Corry stated that the Council and Councillors had one to one knowledge of those who needed support and could benefit from this Scheme. The Councillor asked if there were going to be contacts for Councillors to put people forward to the Scheme in the future.

Councillor Monteith stated that he felt the end of targeting is a retrograde step as Council staff provided an excellent service in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme and that he was not hopeful that where the Scheme is going the service will be the same. The Councillor felt that if this Scheme does not have a number of dedicated officers then it will grind to halt and proposed that Council should seek an urgent meeting with the management of Housing Executive locally on how they propose to deliver the Scheme in the future. Councillor Monteith stated that the Affordable Warmth Scheme has been excellent and that many residents across the District have availed of it. The Councillor also highlighted that the way Council staff have conducted themselves has been excellent and that feedback from those referred to the Scheme has been very positive and that this attitude and ethos needs to transfer across.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he could not see the Housing Executive having the same energy towards the Scheme.

Councillor Burton concurred with the previous comments and the proposal to seek a meeting with Housing Executive. The Councillor stated that the Scheme has worked well to date and expressed disappointment in the decision to end targeting. Councillor Burton asked if what remains in the system has been delivered or if there was anyone still waiting.

The SD: C&P stated that the Scheme is one of the casualties of the central government budget process and that officers have raised concerns with DfC in response to the EQIA as there is potential risk whenever targeting is removed. The SD: C&P stated

that officers will seek meeting with Housing Executive so that they can provide overview on how the Scheme will be delivered going forward.

The AD: HL&W stated he would echo Councillor's comments and concerns and that officers have relayed these concerns with the Department and Housing Executive in recent weeks particularly when an SLA was agreed at Committee in March between Council and DfC for the delivery of the Scheme April 2023 to March 2024. The AD: HL&W stated that there was now a transition period for June, July and August and that the arrangements are that there is the capability to put through 20 referrals a month plus or minus five. It was advised that this Council and its officers have continually successfully demonstrated over the years the ability to maximise referrals on a monthly basis. The AD: HL&W advised that officers will continue to push hard and ask for an urgent meeting and also ask for local contacts which will be provided to Councillors. The AD: HL&W stated that there is still the Energy Efficiency Scheme which is funded through the Public Health Agency and also the Council Fuel Stamp Scheme and that these advisory services are still very important. The AD: HL&W advised that officers will take forward the actions and report back.

Councillor Monteith asked if detail could be provided for the meeting on the number of hours Council officers put into the Scheme on a weekly basis as the same equivalency is needed from the Housing Executive. The Councillor also put on record thanks to the officers who have worked on the Affordable Warmth Scheme to date.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To seek meeting with Housing Executive on how they propose to deliver the Affordable Warmth Scheme in the future
 - That detail be provided on the number of hours Council officers put into the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

D092/23 Food Service Plan for 2023/2024

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2023/2024.

D093/23 Communities and Place Departmental Service Plan 2023-2024

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Communities and Place Departmental Service Plan 2023-2024.

D094/23 Economic Development Report – June 2023 – OBF

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on key activities as listed below:

- Events to Celebrate International Womens Day 2023
- Tourism Development Group Minutes – 25.01.23
- UK Tentative List Process of World Heritage Sites Update
- Mid Ulster Town Centre Summer Saturdays

Councillor Clarke referred to the UK Tentative List Process of World Heritage Sites Update and expressed his disappointment that Council's application was not successful. The Councillor stated he was also disappointed in the report that came back and felt that the point had been totally missed. Councillor Clarke stated that the Sperrins area is unique and has a unique timescale of over a billion years and that he felt this had been pushed to the side. The Councillor stated that he felt more research should be done as whilst a lot is known about what is there, there is also a lot which is not known about and that the report that came back said this was a disadvantage. The Councillor stated it was essential to review what has been done to date, the report that came back and explore how the matter can be taken forward. Councillor Clarke stated that Council is also involved with Sperrins Partnership and that this needs to be progressed as he had some concern that there has been no meeting of the Partnership for nine months and there needs to be a handle on where this is going as well.

The TSM referred to comments in relation to Sperrins Partnership and advised that an update report will be brought to the Development Committee in September and that an update will also be brought in relation to the AONB. The TSM advised that Sperrins Partnership are awaiting a letter of offer from Department of Communities and when received an AONB officer can then be appointed to undertake the completion of the action and management plans. The TSM advised that she will liaise with Sperrins Partnership to seek a board meeting of the Partnership as soon as possible. In relation to the UK Tentative List Process of World Heritage Sites the TSM stated that the report that came back was disappointing and highlighted that there was only one property in Northern Ireland who got on the list which was Gracehill Church Settlements and she was aware that they have been working on this for twenty years. The TSM stated that she took on board Councillor Clarke's comments and that a meeting will be set up to discuss a way forward and to look at Heart of Ancient Ulster again and how that can be taken forward

D095/23 Departmental Service Improvement Plan for Chief Executive's Office 2023-2024

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Departmental Service Improvement Plan for the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Service for 2023-2024.

Councillor Corry thanked officers for their work on the plan and asked if more could be included on heritage in order to progress in the future.

The TSM noted the Councillor's comments.

The live broadcast ended at 7.44 pm

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public 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 D096/23 to D099/23.

Matters for Decision

D096/23 Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan
D097/23 Economic Development Report – June 2023 - CBFD

Matters for Information

D098/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 April 2023
D099/23 Economic Development Report – June 2023 - CBFi

D100/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.00 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

Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	22 June 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

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	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
2.0	Background
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2023-2024 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members</p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Members are asked to consider engaging in NILGA Regional Training as outlined in Appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p>Officer Approvals</p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2023/2024 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member</p>

	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	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix B Member Conferences, Seminars & Training Appendix A Staff Conferences, Seminars & Training

NILGA Regional Induction Programme 2023

	Facilitators	Workshop Content	Guildhall Derry City	Greater Belfast	Digital Online Facilitation
Workshop 1: The Role of the Councillor	Tony Bovaird & Elke Loeffler Governance International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Role: Representation, Community Leadership and Developing Council Policy / Corporate Management Political skills framework, key knowledge and skills to support you in your role NILGA Councillor Development Charter and Charter Plus Regional Programme for Councillor Development Code of Conduct and Standards (including Officer / Member Protocol) 	9th June 2023 11-1pm	16th August 2023 6-8pm	5th July 2023 6-8pm
Workshop 2: The Local Government Sector	Sonya McAnulla LG Finance Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council functions, what councils do and don't do Local Government Finance Decisions and the Law Local Government Organisations 	3rd July 2023 4-6pm	3rd August 2023 6-8pm	6th July 2023 6-8pm
Workshop 3: Placeshaping (LG Activities and Systems)	Dr Gavan Rafferty Ulster University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding your role in place shaping Place Shaping Systems, what are they, why are they important, how to do them and what support is available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Planning System NI Community Planning Performance Improvement Place Shaping Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration Enterprise and local economic development City and Growth Deals 	24th July 2023 4-6pm	10th August 2023 6-8pm	22nd August 2023 6-8pm
Workshop 4: Local Government Related Challenges	Stratagem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the Draft Programme for Government Climate Action & Green Growth Emergency Planning and Community Resilience Cybersecurity and Online scams 'Cost of Living' crisis 	17th July 2023 4-6pm	17th August 2023 6-8pm	23rd August 2023 6-8pm
Workshop 5: Strategic Relationships	Stratagem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City and Growth Deal Partnerships Political Partnership Panel Community Planning Partnerships Policing and Community Safety Partnerships 	21st July 2023 11-1pm	24th August 2023 6-8pm	25th August 2023 6-8pm

Hosted by NILGA these Induction Workshops are open to all Elected Members. To register please email events@nilga.org

Disclaimer

The Northern Ireland local government association (NILGA) endeavours to ensure that the information contained within our website, policies and other communications is up to date and correct. We do not, however, make any representation that the information will be accurate, current, complete, uninterrupted or error free or that any information or other material accessible from or related to NILGA is free of viruses or other harmful components. NILGA accepts no responsibility for any erroneous information placed by or on behalf of any user or any loss by any person or user resulting from such information.



Approval – Conferences – June 2023

Retrospective Approval – Conferences

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
NI Procurement Conference	Corporate Services & Finance	1	£245+vat	7 th June 2023	Belfast

Approval – Conferences

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
Transport Manager Conference	Environment	4	£315 per person	5 th October 23	Culloden, Belfast

Report on	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
Date of Meeting	Thursday 22 June 2023
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	E Forde, Member Support Officer

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 consider approval of request(s) for civic recognition from members, in line with council's current <i>Civic Honour and Receptions Policy</i> .					
2.0	Background					
2.1	All requests for recognition are to be submitted with Democratic Services using the pro-forma, <i>Request for Civic Recognition: Civic Honour & Civic Reception</i> . Requests for recognition are reviewed against the categories and associated criteria contained within the policy as detailed at 2.2.					
2.2	<p><u>Recognition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Civic Honour: recognition will be permissible when the following has been achieved at an All-Ireland, European, International, or National level:<table><tr><td>Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table>Civic Reception: will be permissible for individual, groups or organisations when:<table><tr><td>Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level</td></tr><tr><td>Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table>	Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition	Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition	Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level	Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition	Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition
Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition						
Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition						
Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level						
Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition						
Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition						
Appendix A details those requests received for recommendation to and approval by council. The request have been categorised in line with the current policy.						

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Implementation of the policy allows the Council in acknowledging the achievements of organisations and persons from the district, as put forward by members. Recognition requests received from Members have been categorised, details of which are set out within appendix A to this report.
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: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members give consideration to approving civic recognition requests as presented and be dealt with as appropriate.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Civic Recognitions Recommended for Approval

Appendix A: June 2023 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Category: Civic Honour

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
None				

Category: Civic Reception

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
John Bosco O'Hagan	Inducted to the N.I. Manufacturing Hall of Fame	Cllr S McPeake Cllr B McGuigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Award recognises leaders across N.I. with exceptional contribution to Manufacturing and Engineering 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Derry Minor Football Team	Ulster Minor Championship 2023	Cllr D Totten Cllr S Clarke Cllr J Grogan Cllr S McPeake Cllr C Corry Cllr P Kelly Cllr B McGuigan Cllr G Bell Cllr I Milne Cllr D McPeake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Ulster Minor Championship 2023 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Deirdre Hughes	Pharmacy In Focus Awards	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	For: Not Applicable

Appendix A: June 2023 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

	Service to Community 2023			Date:
Brocagh GAA	Celebrating 100 years in existence	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Clonoe O'Rahilly's Under 15s	Intermediate League	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Regional Competition 	For: Not Applicable Date:
St Joseph's Grammar, Donaghmore Junior Team	NI Netball Bowl Championship	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Competition at Regional level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Rainey Endowed School 2 nd XI Hockey Team	Ulster Hockey McDowell Cup	Cllr McFlynn Former Cllr Kearney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Competition at Regional level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Evie Duncan	Ulster Hockey U16 Player Team won Interpro Championship	Cllr McFlynn Former Cllr Kearney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at All Ireland Level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Lola Henderson	Ulster Hockey & Ireland Hockey Team U16s & U18s	Cllr McFlynn Former Cllr Kearney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at International Level 	For: Not Applicable Date:

Appendix A: June 2023 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Gabi Scott,	Ulster Hockey & Ireland Hockey Team U16s & U18s	Cllr McFlynn Former Cllr Kearney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at International Level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Georgina McGuckin	Ulster Hockey Team U16s	Cllr McFlynn Former Cllr Kearney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at International Level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Kate Spillan	Ulster Hockey U16	Cllr McFlynn Former Cllr Kearney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at All Ireland Level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Claire McCabe	Petplan Veterinary Awards 2023 Vet of the Year 2023	Cllr Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Competition at Regional level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Theo Lowe	Ulster Schools GAA Football All Stars	Cllr McAleer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Sean McNamee, St John's Boxing Club, Swatragh	All Ireland Boxing Chapion	Cllr B McGuigan Cllr McPeake Cllr Corry Cllr Bell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won competition at All Ireland level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Ruairi O Mianain	Danske Bank Ulster Schools Hurling All Star	Cllr B McGuigan Cllr McPeake Cllr Corry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Fionn McEldowney	Danske Bank Ulster Schools Hurling All Star	Cllr B McGuigan Cllr McPeake Cllr Corry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:

Appendix A: June 2023 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Derry U20's Hurling Team	All-Ireland U20 B Hurling Championship	Cllr S McPeake Cllr B McGuigan Cllr C Corry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won competition at All Ireland level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Orla Donnelly	Apprentice of the Year Made in Northern Ireland Awards hosted by Inside Media	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Catherine Moohan	Northern Ireland Basketball All Star Team 2023 Under 16	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Senan McCann	Northern Ireland Basketball All Star Team 2023 Under 14	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Daragh Lyons	Northern Ireland Basketball All Star Team 2023 Under 18	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Aodhan Quinn	Northern Ireland Basketball All Star Team 2023 Under 16	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:

Appendix A: June 2023 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Alana Rose Farley	NI Athletics Team NI & Ulster Athletics Team in Spanish Competitiion	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented Country at International level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Eamon Quinn	Representing Ireland in Special Olympics World Games in Berlin	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented Country at International level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Sammy Jo Sweeney	Representing Ireland in Special Olympics World Games in Berlin	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented Country at International level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Raymond Singleton	Representing Ireland in Special Olympics World Games in Berlin	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented Country at International level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
St Patrick's Academy Under 15.5	Gaelic Football Danske Bank Oisin McGrath Cup	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Cllr McElvogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won competition at Regional Level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Daniel Monaghan	Clay Shooting Championship Gold: South African Grand Silver: Colts Gold: Mackintosh DTL Gold: Class in World Championship	Cllr McFlynn Cllr Johnston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Competition at National Level 	For: Not Applicable Date:

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	22nd June 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Policy Engagement and Equality Officer

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 members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.
1.2	To provide members with copies of submitted consultation responded to by Mid Ulster District Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
3.2	<p>In recent weeks 4 government departments have issued Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultations in relation to their 23/24 budgets. The Council has responded to these consultations and copies are attached as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix B- Department for Communities Draft EQIA on the SOS's 2023-24 Budget Allocation (this response is subject to changes requested by June P&R Committee) • Appendix C-Department for Infrastructure Resource Budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation • Appendix D-The Executive Office_2023/2024 Budget Consultation Response <p>As detailed in Appendix A, a consultation response is currently being developed for the Department for the Economy's 2023/2024 Budget Consultation. This response will be considered by P&R Committee in July.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members review and note consultations notified to and responded to by Mid Ulster District Council as well as noting the attached submitted response.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A- Details of Current Consultations
	Appendix B- Department for Communities Draft EQIA on the SOS's 2023-24 Budget Allocation (this response is subject to changes requested by June P&R Committee)
	Appendix C-Department for Infrastructure Resource Budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation
	Appendix D-The Executive Office_2023/2024 Budget Consultation Response

Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Executive Office	Draft Equality Scheme 2023-2028	The Executive Office is consulting on its draft Equality Scheme 2023-2028.	11 August 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-executive-office-draft-equality-scheme		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for Infrastructure/ Department for Communities/ The Executive Office	Equality Impact Assessment for the 2023-24 Resource Budget	The Departments each separately called for comments on the equality implication of their Resource Budget 2023-24.	7 June and 12 June 2023	Responses Submitted via Delegated Authority. Copies are attached as additional appendices to this report.
	Link to Consultation	DFI: https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/dfi-resource-budget-2023-24-equality-impact-assessment-consultation TEO: https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-executive-office-budget-allocation-2023-2024-equality-impact-assessment DFC: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-department-communities-budget-2023-24-allocations		

	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		DA granted to the CE at April Full Council meeting.	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
DVA	Consultation on Driving and Vehicle Test Fees	The Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) is running a public consultation on the proposed increase in fees for driving tests, vehicle tests and other services provided by the DVA.	3 August 2023 (at 5pm)	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/consultation-launched-driving-and-vehicle-test-fees		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
DFI	Consultation on changes to the NI Concessionary Fares Scheme Key point briefing	Dfi is consulting on a number of changes to the existing Concessionary Fares Scheme to ensure it is financially sustainable in the longer term and available for those who are most vulnerable, or liable, to social exclusion.	24 August 2023 (at 5pm)	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/driver-and-vehicle-agency-dva-consultation-changing-cost-driving-tests-and-vehicle-tests		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
DfE	EQIA Budget Consultation	The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is to present the proposed decisions required by DfE to live within its 2023/24	6 July	Yes

		Budget allocation and the potential impact to people in Section 75 categories.		
	Link to Consultation	https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/economy/Budget-EQIA-DfE-2023-24.pdf		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes, DA sought for July P&R Committee.	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
H&SCTs	Consultation on Draft Equality and Disability Action Plans 2023-28	The Trust are currently consulting on their draft Equality and Disability Action Plans 2023-2028.	25 September 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/consultation-events-hsc-equality-and-disability-action-plans-2023-2028		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	

01 June 2023



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Financial Management Directorate
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Ref: DFC Draft EQIA on the SOS's 2023-24 Budget Allocation

To whom it may concern

Mid Ulster District Council would like to take this opportunity to provide comments on the Department's EQIA 2023-24 Budget Allocation.

While the Council appreciates that the Department for Communities (DFC) is facing a challenging financial year and that it will likely continue to face into a difficult economic context, it should be noted that the financial and other contributions provided by DFC are of great value to society generally, and particularly to district councils as they deliver essential statutory services within their district council areas.

DFC financial contributions to district councils, although supplemented by income from district Rates, are critical. The various amounts make a massive difference to the public and it is undoubtedly the case that material reductions in these amounts will produce significant negative impacts on the groups protected by Section 75. The DFC must have due cognisance for the consequences of the proposed funding reductions

and it would be unacceptable for the DFC to simply let the problem ‘flow downstream’; to do so would be unacceptable and morally unconscionable.

The Council will, in the following paragraphs, outline its reservations in so far as is practicable given the very short time allocated by the DFC for responses to the consultation. In this regard, notwithstanding the fact that the Council recognises the challenges that the DFC is facing, the Council is extremely disappointed that the time allocated for responses to be submitted and thereafter inform the DFC’s allocation of funds in 2023/24.

Quite simply, the reductions proposed are of such significance that the refusal of the DFC to consider responses received post 7th June 2023 is totally unacceptable. In addition, the Council asks if the DFC sought the views of the Equality Commission in relation to its approach in advance of prescribing the deadlines included within the Equality Impact Assessment that is being consulted upon? On the assumption that the DFC did consult the Equality Commission in relation to its proposal to apply differential treatment to responses received, the Council asks that the DFC, on publishing the outcome of this consultation exercise, expressly publishes what advice it received in relation to this matter prior to commencing the consultation exercise.

Rates Support Grant

The DFC is consulting upon this EQIA in the context of a very significant proposed reduction in Rate Support Grant, which follows on the back of a reduction in the previous year (2022/23) which of itself was of an unprecedented (in at least 25 years) scale when the amount distributed in 2021/22 (£21.924m) was reduced to £8.965m in 2022/23. For the avoidance of doubt, the DFC will be aware that the average amount of RSG distributed between eligible councils in each since 2011/12 prior to 2022/23 (2011/12 to 2021/22 inclusive) was £18,721,828.

The proposed further reduction to £4.9m in 2023/24 is simply unworkable. While the Council is aware of the (probably remote) *possibility* of additional monies being released prior to 31 March 2024, it is clear that the current proposal will see the Council seeing a massive reduction on a major source of income upon which the Council relies

to fund its statutory services. In short, as notified to the DFC (in the normal fashion) in February 2023, the Council struck its 2023/24 district Rate on the assumption that the DFC would distribute RSG in the amount of £15.865m. The DFC will be aware that this meant that the Council budgeted to receive £2,538,400 RSG in 2023/24; a senior DFC officer acknowledged this fact in correspondence to the Council shortly after receipt of the 'General Estimate of Rates Return for 2023/24'. Consequently, in proposing to reduce RSG to £4.9m, the DFC must acknowledge that it is consciously proposing an amount that will see the Council experience a reduction in RSG received in the amount of £1,754,400 (£2,538,400 less £784,000 (being the Council's share of the proposed £4.9m)). It must also acknowledge that this decision that it is aware that this shortfall immediately follows the reduction in RSG in the amount of £1,577,539 that the Council experienced in 2022/23 when the DFC reduced the RSG to £8.965m (see above).

The Council therefore challenges the DFC to explain how it is reasonable for it to knowingly reduce the Council's income by £3,331,939 (£1,577,537 plus £1,754,400) within 24 months without meaningful consultation and, at the very least, effective transitional relief.

In short, the DFC proposal to further reduce RSG to £4.9m is forcing the Council to either cut statutory services or fund those services from reserves or both. This is wholly unacceptable, undemocratic and will result in services to protected groups (both under Section 75 and those living in rural areas) being unreasonably reduced or withdrawn.

Quite clearly, the DFC is failing to have due regard to its statutory responsibilities and the DFC must not underestimate the overall detrimental impact on the protected groups. The Council urges the DFC to review information previously supplied by the Council in relation to groups protected by Section 75 and those envisaged by the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Community Support Grant

The community support grant again is important to Council. The advice grant does require protecting particularly in the current climate of financial hardship. This is a

procured contract, via Council, and the contribution is matched more than 50% by the rate and allows for general advice support to those most vulnerable.

The further contribution to community support of £54,000 allows for an investment return on community activity and engagement of over £700,000 which is funded by Council. Whilst it may seem a small amount of funding it is important to allow Council to deliver its wider grants programme. This is a similar position with regard to the community festival grant, the contribution of £29,000 allows for an investment return and match contribution of over £150,000. A large percentage of this grant support is for Section 75 groups and activity, including women, race, religion, political opinion, disability, age, LGBTQ, and carers. Any reduction to this support will have a direct impact on these groups.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Neighbourhood Renewal is working to alleviate poverty in the most disadvantaged communities. Any reduction in support to the neighbourhood renewal programme would target the most vulnerable at a time of hardship and would have a direct impact on section 75 religious and political background.

Council has worked in partnership with the DFC Urban Regeneration team over the last number of years in driving regeneration in all our main towns. The investment impact to our towns due to the funding contribution has been significant. All of the public realms and urban regeneration grants have had a major impact on economic growth. The continuation of the urban regeneration grants and support remain critical as spending power has fallen and continues to fall, while businesses are forced to close, leaving towns having to reinvent themselves as leisure and event spaces.

Affordable Warmth Scheme

Mid Ulster District Council has been delivering the Affordable Warmth Scheme within the Mid Ulster District Council area on behalf of the Department since 2014. The nature

of the Affordable Warmth scheme, targeting low income households who experience the effects of fuel poverty and energy inefficiency, means the impact upon vulnerable Section 75 groups will be profound. The targeted nature of the scheme is aimed at those areas where levels of fuel poverty are highest. This Scheme has been an extremely successful programme for Council and due to this Council has continued to lobby DFC for additional funding to meet the demand in the area. This is an increasingly important area of work as more people fall into hardship due to escalating energy costs. Any reduction to this programme would be targeting the most vulnerable people in society who avail of this means tested support, during a time when they are trying to cope with rising energy costs and a cost of living crisis.

Labour Market Partnership

Labour Market Partnership are correctly described within the EQIA as a ‘critical intervention to help people with a disability or health condition to remain in work’. Pausing the funding for this vital service represents a huge negative impact on a number of Section 75 groups and will disproportionately impact negatively upon people with a disability, women and people with dependents who are all statistically more likely to be economically inactive.

The aims of the LMP rightly includes targeted action to address the gender and disability employments gaps. These gaps are at significant levels in the Mid Ulster DC area. At 24%, Mid-Ulster District Council has the lowest employment rate for disabled people in Northern Ireland. There is a large and significant difference between Mid-Ulster and other Council areas – the highest ranked Council (Lisburn & Castlereagh) has double (48%) the disability employment rate of Mid Ulster. Therefore the ‘pausing’ of this project has a direct negative impact on people with a disability who require support to enter the labour market. This seems like a particularly punishing removal of a service which has been long requested by organisations who support people with a disability and knowing the release the negative impact of long term isolation from the labour market can have for people with a disability.

In 2021 Mid-Ulster had the lowest employment rate for women in Northern Ireland. At 61% it is considerably below the Northern Ireland average of 68%. Therefore, it is hard to justify the 'pausing' of the project that directly aims to have a positive impact upon economically vulnerable groupings.

Consideration of Mitigations

Any level of mitigation would need to be swift and substantial in order to be able to even mildly address the potential impact on the Section 75 groups negatively impacted upon by the groups identified.

Conclusion

The primary function of this EQIA is to assess whether these budgetary proposals will have a differential impact and in particular, an adverse differential impact on the categories of persons listed in Section 75, and any subgroups within those categories. From examination of the information presented in this EQIA it is clear that there are numerous adverse impacts in relation to the majority of the Section 75 groups. In particular a potential negative impact upon:

- People of different ages
- Men and women generally
- People with or without a disability
- People with or without dependents
- People with different religious beliefs

The proposals set out within the EQIA also fail to reflect upon the DFC duty under the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and goes against the DFC previously stated commitments in relation to the four cross-cutting themes of Anti-Poverty, Wellbeing & Inclusion, Sustainability & Inclusive Growth and Agility & Innovation. The DFC Audit of Inequalities also set out the required actions needed to meet the needs of the various Section 75 groupings.

As previously stated, Mid Ulster District Council appreciate the difficult choices faced by the DFC. However, as the Council objects to the unnecessary hardship that the proposed budget reductions will have on the most vulnerable, and in particular all Section 75 groups and rural dwellers.

As referenced above, the Council also requests detailed clarification in relation to the way this EQIA consultation is being conducted. The consultation arrangements stated are that the Department's Scheme allows for a two-tier consultation of an initial 4 weeks to provide feedback on the overall budget allocation for 2023/24, while responses received in weeks 5-12 will impact on the mitigation aspect only. The Council considers that this is both inconsistent with the statutory requirements contained within the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, and more generally with the DFC stated responsibility to take all steps necessary to ensure and support a strong local government sector – an aspiration that was (and continues to be) often voiced prior to, and after local government reform in April 2015. The proposed budget reductions undermine local government services, district councils as democratically elected bodies, and vulnerable groups within society.

From examination of the proposals set out in the Department's EQIA of the proposed Budget (2023/24) it is evident that a number of Section 75 Groups will be directly and negatively impacted as a result of these decision's no matter how robust the DFC opine that the proposed mitigation measures are.

The Council also contends that the NI Executive should also consider the cumulative impact of simultaneous cuts effected across numerous central government departments, many of whom either directly support, or contribute to the support of some of the most vulnerable (and often statutorily protected) people within society.

The Council strongly opposes the budget consulted upon and sees it as neither, equitable, practicable, or defensible. Initiatives that have taken years to develop,

implement and bring to fruition must not be cast aside in this crude manner, particularly when they are exactly what are needed to help and support vulnerable individuals during the current cost of living and climate crises.

These are unprecedented times, and it is essential that the Department finds a way to continue to support local government to both deliver its statutory services and continue to make essential and effective interventions within their local communities.

In the case of Mid Ulster District Council, the Council urges the Department to recognise in particular the extent to which statutorily protected groups will be disadvantaged and negatively impacted if the proposed RSG reduction is implemented. In doing so, the Department should immediately announce that the proposed reduction in RSG will not be delivered upon.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian McCreesh', written in a cursive style.

Adrian McCreesh

Chief Executive

4 June 2023



Financial Planning & Management Team
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Reference: DfI Resource Budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation

To whom it may concern

Mid Ulster District Council would like to take this opportunity to provide comments on DfI Resource Budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Assessment. It's Mid Ulster Council's understanding that the outcome of the implementation of this proposed budgets cut would lead to:

- Turning off street lights
- No winter gritting of road network
- Cuts to funding of Community and Voluntary sector organisations
- Reduction of funding to arms length bodies
- A reduction in Public transport provision;
- Impacts on water and wastewater services;
- Road maintenance and flood risk management operational activities reduced to emergency-only services;

Transport

Mid Ulster District Council is a vastly rural area, consequently residents rely heavily on transport. As such Community Transport plays a key role for several Section 75 groups located in the District. This service not only plays a vital role in keeping people socially and economically connected to their community but it also supports health service and wellbeing appointments via providing transport to medical appointments and collection of medicines. Therefore it is clear that a reduction in this service will increase isolation and loneliness for rural older people. Mid Ulster District Council fear that this could significantly impact upon both the mental and physical health in this group of residents, at a time when waiting lists and access to primary health care is at an unprecedentedly time low.

Shopmobility Mid Ulster is another key service that this budget will impact on negatively. Shopmobility Mid Ulster has long provided opportunities for local residents and visitors to the District, especially to the towns of Cookstown and Dungannon, where they provide equipment to allow people to have an enjoyable shopping and visitor experience which may be curtailed if not available. In recent times the need for the service within Mid Ulster has grown significantly and this has been demonstrated by additional equipment being purchased to meet demand for the service. Consequently larger premises for the service has recently been secured in Cookstown. The growth of the services is testament to the local service available and need for equipment to improve the life of people from all ages and exclude social isolation.

Shopmobility Mid Ulster is also an integral consultee and advisor in the design of the Public Realm Schemes across Mid Ulster; particularly in relation to the Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland schemes as well as the current roll out of Pomeroy and the initial designs currently prepared for Maghera. Expertise in relation to public realm scheme colours, finishes, dropped kerb locations and disabled parking bays have proved invaluable to the design of access spaces across the District. Shopmobility Mid Ulster have also been involved in tourism attraction development; including Castledawson pathways and Seamus Heaney Trails. The completion of access and inclusion reports for Mid Ulster District Council sites including Leisure Centres, Tourist Information Centres and sites including Ballyronan Marina and Knockmany Forest park have also proved immensely beneficial for improvement of accessibility across the District.

In addition, Shopmobility Mid Ulster have also demonstrated the added value of Go Mobility by providing on the go access to equipment at Mid Ulster Council corporate events. Therefore it is evident that the removal of this service as well as the removal of Community Transport provision will impact negatively upon elderly people, people with a disability, men and women generally and people with dependents.

Mitigations

While the Council appreciate that it is difficult to make funding cuts across any area removal of which will have a significantly negative impact across Section 75 groupings. Any level of mitigation required will be, but the EQIA outcomes would need to be swift and substantial in order to be able to even mildly address the potential impact on the Section 75 groups negatively impacted upon.

Consultation Timeline

The Council would like to seek clarity in relation to the consultation period which states that any views received after the initial four week period will only be used to consider mitigations. This timeline is at odds with what is stated in DfI's Equality Scheme. If 'exceptional circumstances' are the Department's rationale for this approach it would be useful if that was stated within the consultation documentation.

The consultation timeline does not seem to offer the option of face-to-face consultations or any public meetings. It is the opinion of the Council that the extremely short time frame during which this consultation is being carried out would have benefited immensely from opportunities to fully discuss the budget proposals and their implications. These additional consultation opportunities would have also allowed impacted groupings to ask questions and seek clarifications.

Cumulative Negative Impact

It cannot be ignored that this consultation is not being held in isolation. A plethora of NI Assembly Departments are currently consulting across short timeframes on drastically reduced budgets. It is clear that each of these budget focused EQIAs identify negative impacts across Section 75 groups. The overall result is a devastating cumulative impact on some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Overall there is a lack of joined up thinking in relation to the proposals made across four Departments. Each Department seems to be viewing only their budgets in isolation without documenting the issues created by multi-sectoral cuts that will directly negatively impact upon some of the most vulnerable and most marginalised in society.

Therefore, as a Council we would object in the strongest terms to the removal of support services that are currently provided to some of most vulnerable and to the vast majority of Section 75 groups.

General Comments

While this EQIA fulfils the necessary requirements of Department's Equality Scheme it could be more detailed and thorough and robust to reflect the catastrophic nature of the spending recommendations that it is linked to be implementing. If further budget becomes available or not, DfI are advised that the Section 75 duties are continuing duties, and the Department is required to equality assess any changes to circumstances. It is important that the Department demonstrates that it has paid the

appropriate level of regard to its promotion of equality and good relations in its budget decisions, as required by the duties.

Rural Needs

In relation to this consultation Mid Ulster District Council believe that the Department has failed to demonstrate that due regard has not been provided to the Rural Needs Act 2016. The cuts can be clearly demonstrated to have a more significant impact on those in rural areas.

Conclusion

Mid Ulster District Council strongly oppose the outlined budget and see it is as neither workable nor practicable. Initiatives that have taken years to develop, implement and bring to fruition should not be cast aside in this crude manner, particularly when they are exactly what are needed to help to support vulnerable individuals during the current cost of living and climate crises.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian McCreesh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

4 June 2023



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Reference: 2023/2024 TEO Budget Consultation Responses

To whom it may concern

Mid Ulster District Council would like to take this opportunity to provide comments on The Executive Office's (TEO) 2023/2024 Budget. Appendix A of this letter focuses specifically on the six main consultation questions listed in the consultation document, however Mid Ulster District Council would also like to make the following additional points in relation to the EQIA:

- Cross Cutting Negative Impacts
- Mitigation
- Consultation Timeline
- Cumulative Negative Impacts

Each of these areas are to be examined in turn overleaf:

Cross Cutting Negative Impacts

The primary function of this EQIA is to assess whether these budgetary proposals will have an adverse differential impact on the categories of persons listed in Section 75, and any subgroups within those categories. From examination of the information presented it is clear that there are numerous adverse cross cutting impacts in relation to the majority of the Section 75 groups. In particular a potential negative impact can be identified upon the following groupings:

- People of different Religious Beliefs
- People of different Political Opinions
- People of different Racial groupings
- People of different Ages
- People of different Sexual Orientation
- Men and women generally
- People with or without a disability
- People with or without dependents

The cross-cutting nature of these negative impacts clearly demonstrates the scale of these budgetary proposals. These proposals have the potential to undermine and greatly diminish Good Relations Departments within Councils with a lasting detriment to the division, weakening the priority of Good Relations.

Mitigations

While the Council appreciate that it is difficult to make funding cuts across any area, and the removal of this funding will have a significantly negative impact across Section 75 groupings. Any level of mitigation required should be considered but the EQIA outcomes would need to be swift and substantial in order to be able to even mildly address the potential impact on the Section 75 groups who are negatively impacted upon.

Consultation Timeline

Mid Ulster District Council would also request clarification upon the timeline during which this EQIA consultation is being conducted. Do the consultation arrangements stated in the TEO's Scheme allow for a two-tier consultation of an initial 4 weeks to provide feedback on the overall budget allocation for 2023-24, while response received in weeks 5-12 will impact on the mitigation aspect only? If not, this would seem to be a breach of TEO's Equality Scheme and therefore could be subject to challenge via Paragraphs 10 and 11 of Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Cumulative Negative Impact

It cannot be ignored that this consultation is not being held in isolation. A plethora of NI Assembly Departments are currently consulting across short timeframes on drastically reduced budgets. It is clear that each of these budget focused EQIAs identify negative impacts across Section 75 groups. The overall result is a devastating cumulative impact on some of the most vulnerable people in society. As a Council we would object in the strongest terms to the removal of support services that are currently provided to some of most vulnerable and to the vast majority of Section 75 groups.

Conclusion

While Section 75 legislation does not require TEO to consider treating everyone in the same way, it does require the promotion of equality of opportunity for people who may have particular needs that would go unmet if everyone was treated the same. These cross-cutting budget cuts do not seem to conder the promotion of equality of opportunity.

Therefore, as previously stated, Mid Ulster District Council appreciate the difficult choices to be made in any reduction in funding. However, as a Council we would object to these budgets proposals on the basis of the deep and long-lasting negative impact that would be unleashed upon some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Yours sincerely



Adrian McCreesh

Chief Executive

Enc: Appendix A: Completed Consultation Questionnaire



Consultation on the Executive Office Budget Allocation 2023-2024 EQIA Responses

The Executive Office has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment on the Department's budget allocation for 2023-2024.

The process aims to avoid any adverse impacts and, where possible, take action to mitigate against specific adverse impacts. The Equality Impact Assessment examines potential options for funding reductions and the potential equality impacts of these options. Please use this form to share any views you have.

Confidentiality of Information

The Executive Office processes personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and in most circumstances, this means that personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

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Position:	Manager
Organisation:	Mid Ulster District Council
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Question 1

Do you agree that TEO has gathered the necessary data to inform its decisions around the allocation of its budget?

Mid Ulster District Council understands the decision taken to cut budgets but would disagree with the level of cuts anticipated within District Council Good Relations Action Plans.

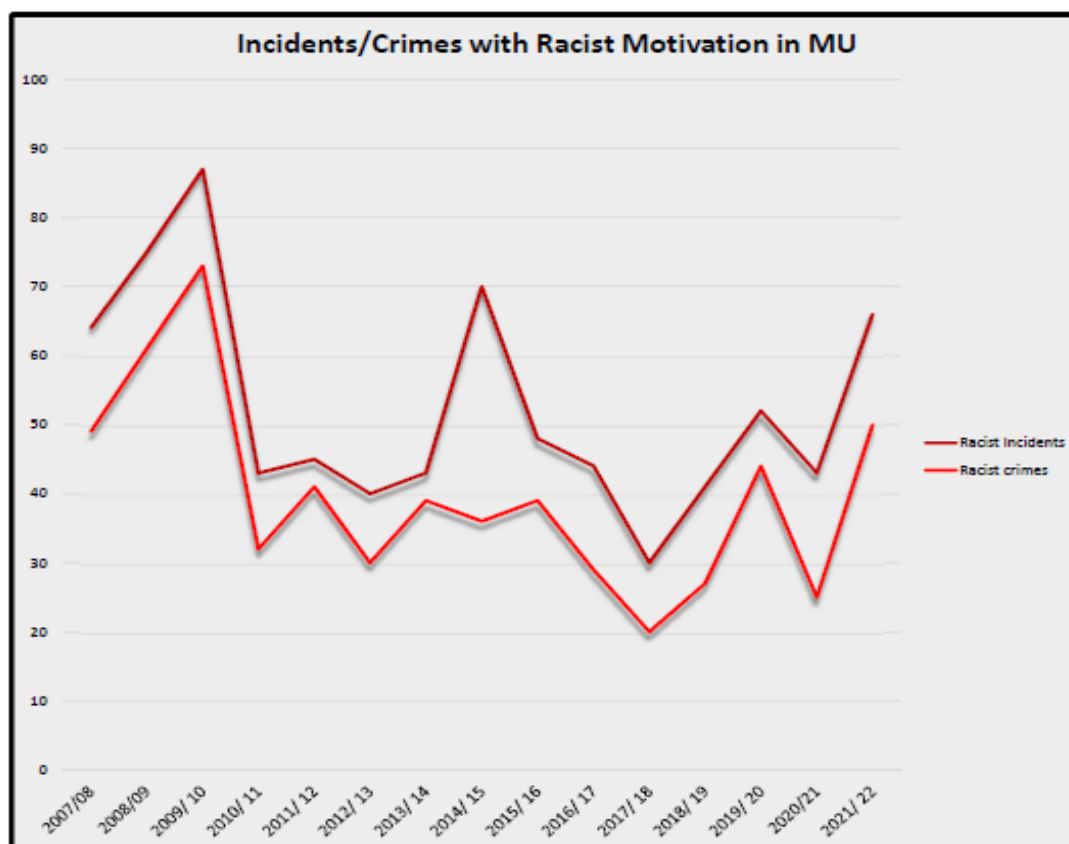
This is also at a time when Hate Crime statistics are showing an increase across the region as noted below.

Table 2.13 Incidents with a racist motivation by policing district, 2004/05 to 2021/22^{1,2}

Policing district	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Numbers change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Mid Ulster	64	75	87	43	45	40	43	70	48	44	30	41	52	43	68	23
N. Ireland	978	990	1,034	842	694	748	976	1,336	1,215	1,044	1,025	1,124	937	993	1,334	341

Table 2.14 Recorded crime with a racist motivation by policing district, 2004/05 to 2021/22^{1,2}

Policing district	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Numbers change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Mid Ulster	49	61	73	32	41	30	39	38	39	29	20	27	44	25	50	25
N. Ireland	757	771	711	531	458	470	688	916	851	654	609	699	629	718	931	213



Statistics taken from <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics>

Table 5.6 Incidents with a faith/religion motivation by policing district, 2009/10 to 2021/22^{1,2}

Policing district ^{1,2}	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Numbers change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Mid Ulster	3	0	0	2	1	1	3	2	3	2	1	1	4	3
Northern Ireland	32	24	15	28	33	84	59	65	90	56	41	39	68	29

Table 4.10 Incidents with a sectarian motivation by policing district, 2005/06 to 2021/22^{1,2}

Policing district ^{1,2}	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Numbers change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Mid Ulster	-	-	100	79	85	79	92	87	53	72	61	56	53	57	61	60	96	36
Northern Ireland	1,701	1,695	1,584	1,595	1,840	1,437	1,344	1,372	1,284	1,517	1,352	965	879	865	868	934	1,067	133

Table 4.11 Recorded crime with a sectarian motivation by policing district, 2005/06 to 2021/22^{1,2}

Policing district ^{1,2}	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Numbers change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Mid Ulster	54	78	94	63	69	65	69	50	47	47	49	46	38	39	51	43	85	42
N Ireland	1,469	1,217	1,056	1,017	1,254	1,000	885	859	961	1,044	1,002	695	576	622	639	674	780	106

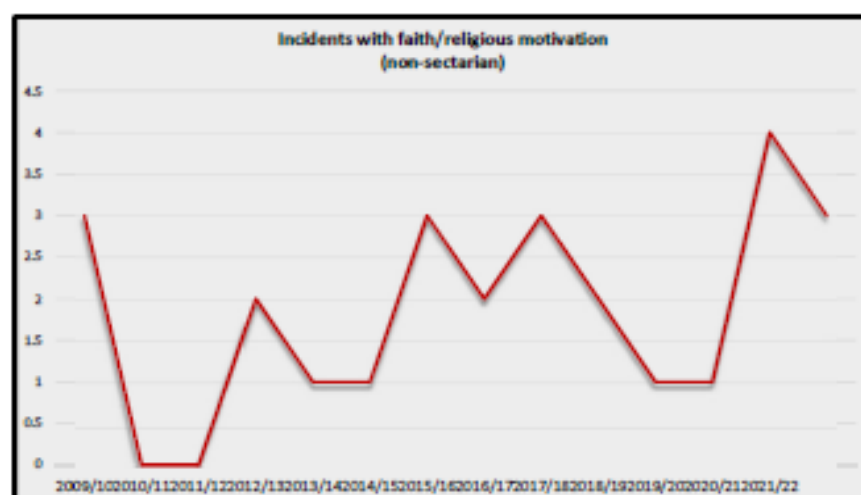
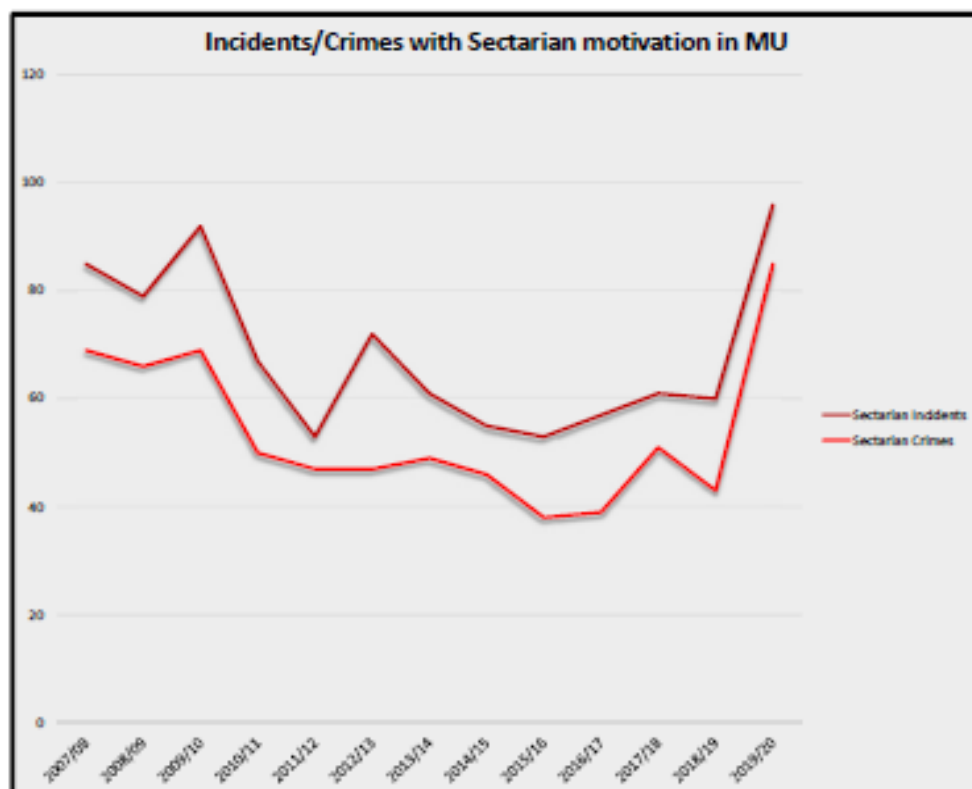
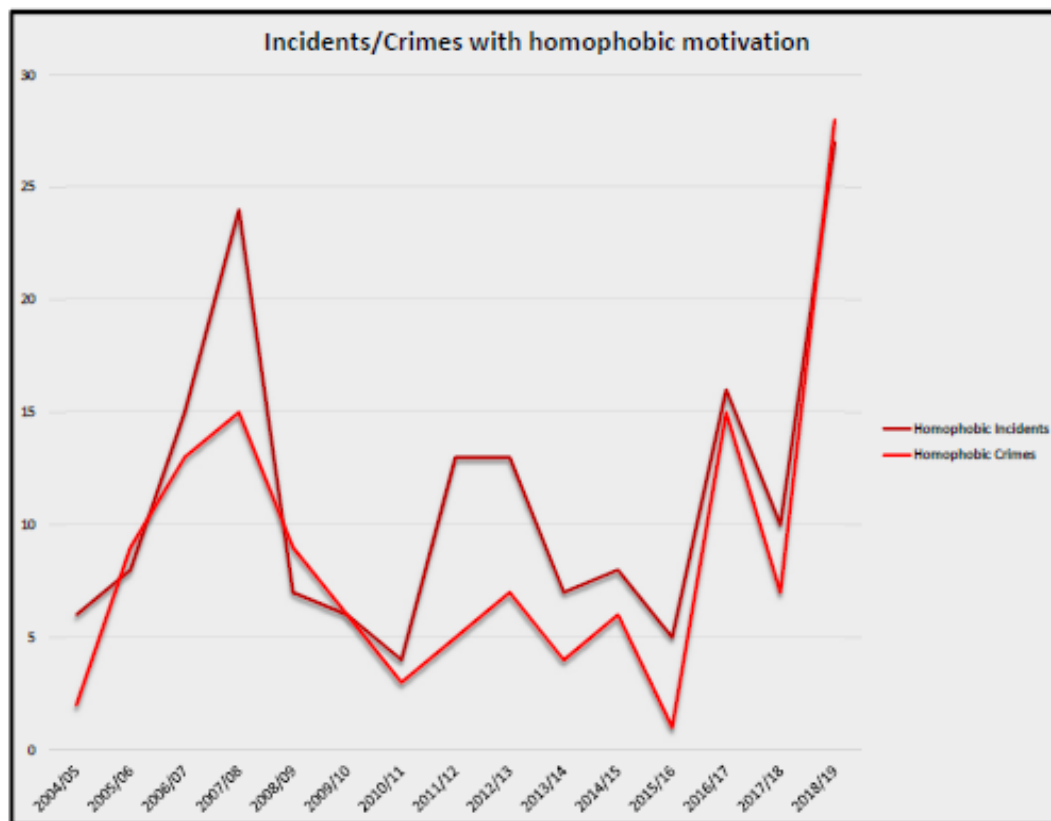


Table 3.10 Incidents with a homophobic motivation by policing district, 2004/05 to 2021/22^{1,2}

Policing district ^{1,2}	2004/05 ²	2005/06 ²	2006/07 ²	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Numbers change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Mid Ulster	-	-	-	6	8	15	24	7	6	4	13	13	7	8	5	16	10	27	17
N Ireland	196	220	155	160	179	175	211	201	246	280	334	343	279	267	281	272	366	462	96

Table 3.11 Recorded crime with a homophobic motivation by policing district, 2004/05 to 2021/22^{1,2}

Policing district ^{1,2}	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Numbers change 2020/21 to 2021/22
Mid Ulster	1	6	9	2	9	13	15	9	6	3	5	7	4	6	1	15	7	28	21
N Ireland	151	148	117	114	134	112	137	121	149	179	209	210	162	163	201	195	246	336	90



Statistics taken from <https://www.pni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics>

1. The budget allocation will have a detrimental & disproportionate effect on our 'Children & Young People' projects across Mid Ulster – Our current 'Youth Voice' (partner project with EA) will be impacted to such an extent that it will probably cease, impacted further by EA budget cuts. Youth Voice engages 28 young people keen to become involved in civic society & make a difference in our community. This will detract from their development, education and reduce sustained & meaningful cross community activity.
2. The cultural programmes will be severely affected & curtailed. They bring over 500 children together during term time to explore our shared culture, marching band heritage & develop a lifelong understanding of our cultural values, history

& conflict. If this programme is curtailed or cancelled over 20 primary schools will be directly disadvantaged.

3. Section 75 Groups – Mid Ulster has a large migrant & Traveller community. These groups, together with LGBTQ+ ME are already impacted by rising racism & discrimination, which will be affected further by these budget cuts.
4. Mid Ulster is experiencing rising reported racism/sectarian crimes, as per above graphs.
5. No information was provided on the review of DCGRP, or DCGRP statistics.

DCGRP is based on a needs analysis through the development of the 3 year audit and strategy, and annual action plans that are approved by local Government Elected Members with a mandate to represent local residents.

A current review of the importance of promoting respect and challenging Hate through our Good Relations program revealed the following findings:

- Respondents agreed that the advertising has the potential to get people thinking about other cultures, traditions and communities and how their behaviour affects such groups.
- Messaging in the style of the Hate Hurts campaign was felt to be particularly impactful.
- There was a strong sense that there is a cohort of people within Mid Ulster whose opinion regarding diversity will not be changed by any advertising campaign.
- All respondents agreed that embracing diversity is a good thing and that Mid Ulster has made some improvements in this regard; however, respondents were unanimous in feeling that more needs to be done.
- Further advertising, the provision of opportunities for **mixing outside school and work, the hosting of events celebrating other cultures, and promotion from the Council** were all suggested as things that could be done to help embrace diversity and increase awareness of other cultures, traditions and communities in Mid Ulster.

Ref: (COGNISENSE, May 2023)

Question 2

Do you agree with TEO's assessment of the options for budget reductions?

Mid Ulster District Council does not agree with assessment of the options for budget reductions noting that other programs such as Social Housing Good Relations under TBUC have been ring-fenced for 5 years. The District Council Good Relations Program is the only evidence based program across a suite of TBUC programs and as such can identify the areas of concern through Audits of the ongoing challenges within integration and inclusion across our geographical spread.

- Match funding and in kind contributions not included in considerations.
- Valid rational in regards to protected groups however disproportionate cut across ALB's and DCGRP/Central GR.
 - Is there an opportunity to review ALB and or consolidate delivery / methods?
 - Is there a balanced spread of delivery by ALB across NI Council Areas?
- Other department cuts range from 5-15%, why is 47% cut to DCGRP?
- Already working within strained budgets alongside the 'cost of living crisis'

Question 3

Do you agree with TEO's assessment of equality impacts of the options considered for budget reductions?

Mid Ulster District Council would highlight a disproportionate cut across our section 75 groupings, having adverse impact on programs targeting areas of work within Ethnic Minorities and LGBTQ+ causing barriers to delivery. Mid Ulster Pride was supported to establish a support mechanism to allow people in a rural area to afford themselves the opportunity of integration and feeling together and inclusive. This program will be deeply affected and again potentially destroy the build-up of confidence that has been allowed to develop.

- Equality impacts not fully included with the report
- Limited response on Section 75 groups targeted through DCGRP
 - Young people
 - LGBTQI+
 - Older people
 - Interface areas
 - Refugees
 - Asylum seekers
 - Most vulnerable in communities

- Rural communities
- Are other TEO programmes reaching individuals equally across NI Council areas? With the reduction in DCGRP are individuals within Council areas with a low uptake of other TEO funding programmes at a greater disadvantage due to this reduction?

Question 4

Do you agree that TEO has correctly identified all relevant mitigations that could help reduce the adverse equality impacts of the budget reductions?

Mid Ulster District Council would disagree that the adverse equality impacts of the budget reductions in any way are mitigated. Housing groups for example and arms lengths bodies have been ring fenced for funding. There has been a variation of budget reductions across other departments in the region of 5-15%, yet the DCGRP budget has been reduced by 47%. It is noticeable this programme is no longer deemed a priority, as noted within the EQIA report. This budget cut also goes wider, with other areas such as culture, leisure and arts being disaffected with a lack of directly targeted programmes, specifically to those who historically have had little or no access to these areas of society.

Question 5

Do you agree with TEO's overall assessment of the business areas where budget reductions will need to be made?

Mid Ulster District Council does not agree with the overall assessment of the business areas where budget reductions will be need to be made. There is a real danger in whereby Councils may well take a decision to reduce GR staffing and therefore minimise the importance of Good Relations across Council areas. This at a time when we highlight Hate Crimes and incidents on the up and on the bedrock of no political agreement, we could see the widening of fractious tensions across communities when continuing dialogue and programs through Good Relations funding would be at their most critical.

- Other department cuts range from 5-15%, why is 47% cut to DCGRP?
- Potential for split in Good Relations staff time if delivery funded through a cocktail of funding streams to mitigate against the reduction.
- Wider impact across other Council Areas; Arts & Culture, Leisure
- Differential impact
- Impact of loss of opportunities
- Underinvestment in GR to date
- Demonstrate the positive impact of GR to date
- Reference to our action plans; target groups impacted

Question 6

Do you have any other comments you would like to add about this consultation?

Mid Ulster District Council would hope that any budget cut is short term in nature and is alleviated in real terms by the Autumn. This is necessary to allow the priority of Good Relations to remain as a permanent fixture within Council and continue the development of community cohesion across the region. Failure to do so could shrink Good Relations Departments within Councils with a lasting detriment to the division, weakening the priority of such work.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

This consultation has been issued by the Executive Office and is also available online here

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/teo/teo-budget-2023-2024-eqia-responses>

The Department looks forward to receiving your comments.

Completed copies of survey questionnaires and general written responses can be sent to us by:

Reference: 2023/2024 TEO Budget Consultation Responses

Finance Branch
The Executive Office
Block B5
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SR

Telephone: 028 9052 2568

Email: rff@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

You can also use the above details to contact us if you have any enquiries or require the consultation document in an alternative format.

We ask you to exercise care and refrain from the inclusion of any potentially defamatory material as we may publish responses on the Departments website. Should we do so, we will not publish the names or contact details of respondents but will include the names of organisations responding.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond. Responses should be returned by 7 June 2023; however any responses received before the consultation closure date on 2 August 2023 will still be considered. These may be used to consider further mitigation measures, to inform in-year budget reallocation processes or to direct any additional funding (or further reductions) that emerge over the course of the financial year. Submissions made after this date cannot be considered.

Report on	Correspondence to Council
Date of Meeting	Thursday 22 June 2023
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	E Forde, Members Support Officer

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	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from Permanent Secretaries of Departments of Finance, Economy, Communities and Health</p> <p>The Chair has received a response to letter from Council requesting a meeting to discuss the cessation of ESF funding. Refer to Appendix A</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from the Utility Regulator</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from the Utility Regulator in relation to letter from Council regarding provision of gas supply at Moneymore. Refer to Appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from the Northern Ireland Office in relation to letter sent from Council regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council motion: reduction in voting age. Refer to Appendix C</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from HM Treasury</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from HM Treasury in relation to letter sent from Council regarding energy company profits. Refer to Appendix D</p>
3.5	Correspondence from Department of Health

	The Chair has received a response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Health in relation to Women's Health Strategy. Refer to Appendix E.
3.6	Correspondence from Department for the Economy The Chair has received a response from Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy in relation to Tourism White on Brown Signs. Refer to Appendix F.
3.7	Correspondence from Northern Ireland Local Government Association The Chief Executive has received a letter from Chief Executive of NILGA setting out details of Council's annual subscription. Refer to Appendix G
3.8	Correspondence from the Northern Health & Social Services Trust The Chief Executive has received a letter from Chief Executive from Northern Health & Social Services Trust regarding maternity services. Refer to Appendix H
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: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Permanent Secretaries of Departments of Finance, Economy, Communities and Health Appendix B: Utility Regulator Appendix C: Northern Ireland Office Appendix D: HM Treasury Appendix E: Department of Health Appendix F: Department for Economy

	Appendix G: NILGA Appendix H: Northern Health & Social Services Trust
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NEIL GIBSON
PERMANENT SECRETARY, DoF

MIKE BRENNAN
PERMANENT SECRETARY, DfE

COLUM BOYLE
PERMANENT SECRETARY, DfC

PETER MAY
PERMANENT SECRETARY, DoH

E-mail: Neil.Gibson@finance-ni.gov.uk
Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gov.uk
Colum.Boyle@communities-ni.gov.uk
Peter.May@Health-ni.gov.uk

Councillor Cora Corry
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office, Circular Road,
Dungannon
BT716BD
Via email eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org

Your Ref: C079/23

Our Ref: SINV-0176-2023

17 April 2023

Dear Cora

Thank you for the letter on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council on 28th March 2023, requesting an emergency meeting to discuss the loss of ESF funding.

We fully recognise the valuable work carried out by the many groups and organisations that benefitted from the ESF and while we welcome the results of the UKSPF Economic Inactivity competition and the increased funding allocation for this intervention, we also recognise the implications the outworking of this will have for the voluntary and community sector, particularly for those who did not receive a funding offer.

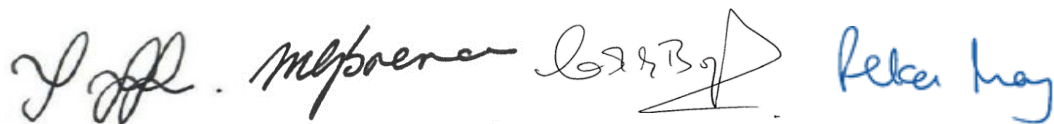
The need for a full replacement programme for ESF is an issue that we, as Permanent Secretaries of our respective departments, NI Ministers (while in post), and departmental officials have been collaboratively engaging extensively with UK Government on since the announcement of this new fund in 2017 – seeking to achieve the Executive's agreed position of full replacement of ESF via existing NI structures.

However, the replacement for ESF, the UKSPF Economic Inactivity Competition, has been designed and will be delivered solely by Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and therefore any query in relation to this competition should be directed to the DLUHC.

In the absence of Ministers we are content for a discussion to be included on this subject at the next SOLACE meeting which is currently scheduled for June 2023.

Departments will continue to work collaboratively to seek to secure the best possible outcomes for Northern Ireland from the UKSPF or any future funding opportunity.

Yours sincerely



NEIL GIBSON

MIKE BRENNAN

COLUM BOYLE

PETER MAY

Councillor Cara Cory
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8TD

Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

By email

28 April 2023

Dear Councillor Cory

Thank you for your email (4 April 2023).

The natural gas network started in Northern Ireland in 1996, and since then there has been around 319,000 connections.

The Northern Ireland gas networks have been developed on an economic basis. Therefore, SGN need to prove that the extension to Moneymore is economically viable for it to go ahead.

This economic test for a network extension compares the cost of building its gas network with the projected gas network lifetime monetary return from gas usage in that town.

I would encourage you and your constituents to continue your discussions with SGN to see how this development can become economically viable. As having more residents, and businesses in the area willing to connect, may make development more viable.

As a regulator, we will always consider all new/revised business cases as submitted by the network operator.

All the very best.



John French
Chief Executive



Northern
Ireland
Office

Steve Baker MP
Minister of State for Northern
Ireland

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Erskine House
20-32 Chichester St
Belfast
BT1 4GF

E: correspondence@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

Councillor Córa Corry

By email: chair@midulstercouncil.org

21 April 2023

Our reference: MC/23/172

Dear Cllr Corry,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 March 2023 bringing to the attention of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the Council's support for a motion passed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council seeking a reduction in the minimum voting age to sixteen. As the Minister with responsibility for elections I have been asked to respond.

The Government recognises and hugely values the contribution young people make to society, however, the Government has no plans to lower the voting age, having been elected on a manifesto commitment to maintain the current franchise at 18.

The age of 18 is recognised in the vast majority of democratic countries as the age at which an individual becomes an adult. Accordingly, the vast majority of liberal democracies worldwide consider 18 the right age to enfranchise young people. This includes the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and almost all European Union countries.

I hope this helps explain the position of the Government.

Yours sincerely,

STEVE BAKER MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



HM Treasury

Correspondence & Enquiry Unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

Councillor Cora Corry
By email

4 May 2023

Our reference: TO2023/06779

Dear Councillor Cora Corry,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 28 March to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, regarding energy company profits. As it is not practical for ministers to respond personally to all the correspondence they receive, I have been asked to reply.

The UK was one of the first countries to implement a fiscal response to high oil and gas prices by introducing the Energy Profits Levy (EPL) in May last year. This recognised that profit levels in the sector had increased significantly due to very high oil and gas prices caused by global circumstances, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The EPL is a temporary 35 per cent surcharge on the exceptional profits being made by the sector and comes on top of the default 40 per cent headline tax rate applied to profits from UK oil and gas production, bringing the overall combined tax rate to 75 per cent, one of the highest rates globally. The levy will remain in place until March 2028.

At the same time, the Government has issued a clear signal that it wants the oil and gas sector to reinvest its profits to support the economy, jobs, and the UK's energy security. That is why the EPL includes a new investment allowance which provides companies with an immediate and additional incentive to invest. Under this allowance companies can claim around 91p in tax relief for every £1 they invest. This relief increases to £1.09 for every £1 invested towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the production of oil and gas, helping to support the sector to transition to lower carbon oil and gas production as part of our commitment to Net Zero. While the UK still needs oil and gas, it makes sense to encourage investment in our domestic resources and retain the economic benefits and support UK jobs. Using gas from the UK Continental Shelf also generates lower emissions than importing seaborne Liquefied Natural Gas.

The Office for Budget Responsibility expect the EPL to raise just under £26 billion between 2022-23 and 2027-28. This significant source of tax revenue has helped fund vital cost of living support, including the Energy Price Guarantee on household energy bills and additional support for those most in need. Revenues from the levy are on top of around £25 billion in tax receipts from the sector over the same period through the permanent tax regime, ensuring oil and gas companies pay their fair share of tax and contribute towards the support being provided for the most vulnerable households and businesses.

It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on individual taxpayers. The EPL only applies to profits companies make from the exploration and production of oil and gas in the UK or on the UK Continental Shelf. Any profits made by companies from such operations in other oil and gas basins are not subject to the EPL but may be subject to the tax system of that other oil and gas basin jurisdiction. This is in line with other profit-based taxes on companies which operate in both the UK and overseas.

Thank you for taking the time to make us aware of your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Correspondence & Information Rights Team
HM Treasury

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Councillor Cora Corry

Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559

Fax: 02890520573

Email: peter.may@health-ni.gov.uk

Your ref: C076/22

Our ref: SINV-0058-2023

Date: 3 May 2023

Dear Councillor Corry

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 March 2023 inviting me to reconsider my decision to meet with elected members from Mid Ulster District Council to discuss a Women's Health Strategy for NI.

Further to my letter of 15 March 2023 outlining the desire to progress some coordinated action on improving women's health within our current capacity, I understand that officials are preparing to meet with the All-Party Group on Women's Health in the near future to discuss this further. Subject to capacity and other pressures, it is intended that relevant policy and professional leads from across the Department will then engage with health providers, clinicians and other stakeholders, including Councils, to discuss the priority actions that could feasibly be taken forward on women's health within our current resources.

I hope this gives you reassurance that the Department will be engaging with you in due course. You will appreciate that in the absence of increased recurrent investment in our health and social care system, the scope of any action plan is likely to focus on maximising delivery and improving health outcomes within our current financial and staff resources.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter May".

Peter May

FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
Mike Brennan



Councillor Córa Corry
Chair, Mid Ulster Council

info@midulstercouncil.org

Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8FD
Tel: 028 90529441
Email:
permanent.secretarysupport@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: SCOR-0191-2023

24 April 2023

Dear Ms Corry,

SIGNING OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND FACILITIES

Thank you for your letter dated 12 April 2023.

I am aware that you also wrote to my colleague in the Department for Infrastructure, Julie Harrison, Permanent Secretary, and she provided a written response to similar issues raised back in November 2022.

Since then, officials from Tourism NI met with officials from the Department for Infrastructure in December 2022 to discuss eligibility, process and potential improvements in relation to the White-on-Brown Tourist Signage Scheme. Discussions are ongoing and we are reviewing related feedback from applicants, local authorities and other stakeholders.

As I hope you can appreciate, it is not possible for every tourist amenity to be signed as there is such a number and variety of these. Whilst it is Tourism NI's role to promote tourism, it is recognised that providing a large number of signs with a lot of information in an uncontrolled manner has the potential to confuse visitors and detract from the main purpose of the sign which is to direct traffic in a safe and efficient way.

Even where a destination is eligible for tourist signage, signage cannot be guaranteed. The final decision will be taken by the Department for Infrastructure, taking into consideration road safety and traffic management issues.

As Julie Harrison included in her response to you in November in relation to the cost of providing signs, this is the direct responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure and in which they take a full-cost recovery approach.

As mentioned, Tourism NI has already met with officials from the Department for Infrastructure on the subject of White-on-Brown Signage and they will continue to engage with them and seek potential improvements and amendments to the process. Tourism NI officials will keep you posted of progress in this area.

Finally, I note that you have also written to John McGrillen, CEO, Tourism NI inviting him to a Mid Ulster Council Development Committee meeting on 15 June to discuss the topic of White-on-Brown signage. Tourism NI will respond to you directly on this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mbrennan', written in a cursive style.

MIKE BRENNAN
Permanent Secretary
Department for the Economy

Mr Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
DUNGANNON
BT71 6DT

the voice of local government

17th April 2023

Dear Adrian,

There is no doubt that the last year has been challenging for councils, particularly in relation to local industrial disputes and the soaring costs of delivering services, with those challenges continuing into the new financial year.

Having just completed my first year as NILGA Chief Executive and as we approach the start of a new mandate, I have been struck by the strong sense of solidarity between councils on key issues. I wanted to highlight some of the work undertaken by NILGA to support you on those key issues over the last four years.

- **Elected Member Development** – The Regional Elected Member Development programme has just completed its first full mandate with Elected Members participating 373 times in accredited and non-accredited opportunities to assist them in fulfilling their roles. Examples include Chairing Skills, Performance Improvement, Public Affairs/Lobbying, Challenge/Scrutiny, Planning, Emergency Planning, Climate Emergency/Carbon Literacy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The regional programme is currently under review and I would encourage your council to participate in that review.

Additionally, NILGA co-ordinates the kite mark standard in Elected Member learning and development, namely Charter and Charter Plus with all 11 councils now holding one of these standards for their investment in Elected Member learning and development.

- **Policy** – A highlight during the last mandate was our role in ensuring councils and the value of local leadership were recognised in the COP26 Glasgow Agreement and during the development of the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 and associated policy and strategy. More recently NILGA has worked to ensure that the associated public body reporting requirements are meaningful but not burdensome for councils.

Additionally, NILGA has been working for some time on behalf of councils to address the challenges in the existing planning system. This has included delivering sustained Elected Member pressure at NI Executive level to recognise the challenges, as well as providing solutions as to how those could be addressed. This work culminated in NILGA providing evidence on behalf of councils both to the Northern Ireland Audit Office report on the planning system and the subsequent Public Accounts Committee report.

- **Communications** – One of NILGA's key functions is to positively promote councils regionally, nationally and internationally. In fulfilling this, NILGA has delivered two key campaigns promoting both the important role of council staff and Elected Members, with each campaign having good regional representation. Those two campaigns were "Councils Make It Happen" and "Be a Councillor, Make a Difference". NILGA has also just delivered the first fully in-person local government conference since the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with Solace NI, with excellent feedback on this full capacity event.

NILGA has also worked with councils to ensure your best practice is showcased regionally, nationally and internationally, with particular focus on innovative economic development in recent years.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

- **Workforce** – NILGA represents the Northern Ireland councils at National Joint Council (NJC) level on pay and terms and conditions for council staff, in keeping with our collective commitment to our workforce. Negotiations were challenging in recent years but nevertheless agreement was reached as per the constitution of the NJC throughout. Local disputes arose across the 11 Northern Ireland councils during 2022 and NILGA provided regional information sharing and co-ordination for councils during that time.

NILGA has also co-ordinated the Northern Ireland Local Government Employee of the Year Award, with 10 nominations from councils, making it a very competitive field of nominees.

- **Representation** – Ensuring the strongest voice for councils regionally, nationally and internationally is key to NILGA's work. Of critical importance was lobbying and giving evidence during COVID-19 to the Finance Committee on lost income, additional waste costs and why councils needed to be eligible for the furlough scheme as well as lobbying DfC on the role Councils should play in supporting communities during that time. Regionally, the financial support secured during that time exceeded £100m.

Additionally, after effective lobbying by both NILGA and councils, agreement was secured from the previous DfC Minister that discussions could open again between councils and departmental officials on the possible transfer of regeneration and early discussion is underway on the scope of that work.

Most recently, NILGA has worked with councils to develop an agreed sectoral position on the UK Levelling Up policy and funding and lobbied on this position at both NI Executive and UK Government level. NILGA also worked with councils to develop a regional position on the practical solutions needed to be undertaken to support people through the cost of living crisis. Effective lobbying on this position resulted in DfC now using some of those solutions in their delivery.

NILGA has undertaken much reflection in the last year, with all of its work under independent review. This is critical to how we as an organisation move forward in an open and transparent way and thank you for your participation in those reviews. That work is currently being collated to inform our Corporate Plan for the 2023-2027 mandate and we will consult formally with you early in the new mandate on the draft plan.

What remains clear is how important it is now, more than ever, that local government in Northern Ireland has a strong and unified voice and NILGA is committed to playing its leadership role in delivering that.

To enable the continued delivery of NILGA work, the annual core subscription for your council for 2023/2024 is £56,008. Please be assured any increases are due entirely to the same unavoidable inflationary and staffing costs facing councils and we have made every effort to keep your subscription as low as possible. If your council could provide a purchase order number for the subscription amount, we will provide an invoice by return.

On behalf of NILGA, I want to thank the NILGA Members from your council from the last year, Cllr Kearney, Cllr Burton, Cllr McPeake, Cllr Glasgow, Cllr Doris, Cllr McGuigan, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Totten, and your Officers that so willingly give of their time in supporting the work of NILGA.

I look forward to continuing the close relationship with both the political and corporate leadership in your council to shape NILGA's regional political leadership role in a way that adds value for the sector and please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist you, your Members or your wider corporate team.

Yours sincerely



Alison Allen

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

Chief Executive

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

Chief Executive

8th June 2023

Chief Executive
 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
 Mid Ulster District Borough Council

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware, in March we concluded our public consultation seeking views on the transformation of our acute maternity services.

Following the consultation, at its public meeting in March 2023, the Board of the Northern Trust approved a recommendation that all hospital births should take place at Antrim Area Hospital.

Today that recommendation was approved by Peter May, the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health.

Operationally, this will come into effect from 17 July 2023, and preparations are now underway to introduce the new model.

We strongly believe this is the best outcome for women and babies in our care. Many of you will be aware of the ongoing workforce challenges facing our maternity staff at Causeway, with our experienced team of clinicians advising that the provision of consultant-led births at the site is unsustainable.

Today's decision will allow us to continue delivering the highest standard of inpatient maternity care and births at one, dedicated site, with a safer, more sustainable staffing model.

We know that this has also been an uncertain time for our very committed team of maternity staff at Causeway Hospital and we are supporting them through this period of transition.

Causeway Hospital is a key part of the Trust's acute hospital network. We recognise that the hospital and its staff play a vital role in serving the local community, and we remain committed to maintaining acute services and an Emergency Department at the site.

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Causeway Hospital will retain its high quality antenatal and postnatal care which we recognise are critical local services for women.

We also plan to enhance these services so that pregnant women will have access to complex antenatal care and clinics at Causeway Hospital.

We have issued a press release in response to the Permanent Secretary's announcement <https://www.northerntrust.hscni.net/2023/06/08/acutematernityservices/>

The statement from the Department of Health is available here <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/maternity-plan-will-protect-safe-and-sustainable-care>

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Welsh
Chief Executive

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