

**A**

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 18 December 2014 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Members Present:** Councillor Mallaghan, Chair (Presiding Councillor)

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Dillon, Elattar, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, T Quinn, M Quinn, Reid, Totten and Wilson (8.15 pm)

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mr McCanny, (CDC)  
Mrs Canavan, Lead HR Officer  
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Services (CDC)  
Mrs Mezza, Marketing Communications Manager  
Mr Moffett, Change Management Officer  
Mr O'Hagan, ICT Manager  
Mr JJ Tohill, Lead Finance Officer  
Mrs Smith, Council Business Manager (D&STBC)

**In Attendance:**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

**C110/14 Chair's Remarks**

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, congratulated Tyrone's Roisin Jordan on becoming the first ever female county board chairperson and welcomed this long overdue change within the GAA.

**C111/14 Apologies**

Councillors Forde, Robinson, G Shiels and J Shiels

**C112/14 Declarations of Interest**

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

**Deputation**

**C113/14 National Association of Councillors (NAC)**

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, welcomed Alderman Ronnie Ferguson and Councillor Joe Boyle who were in attendance to update members on the work of the National Association of Councillors (NAC)

With the use of a power point presentation Alderman Ferguson stated that the NAC is the only organisation directly run by Councillors. The NAC fight for Councillors interests and Alderman Ferguson gave examples of what the Association had achieved for Councillors, the services provided and the current aims and objectives. The NAC Northern Ireland is run by a 13-strong Executive Committee, is currently supported by all 26 local councils and represents all councillors. He added the Association fights for the interests of all councillors regardless of party or creed with the aim to help councillors give the best possible service to their constituents.

Alderman Ferguson asked for Mid Ulster District Council to stay within the family of the NAC Northern Ireland and stated that there would be 8 places for councillors representing Mid Ulster, similar to others.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, asked if the 13 strong Executive Committee would change after 1 April.

Alderman Ferguson stated that the Executive Committee of 13 would increase to 19 with positions being shared amongst parties on a two year cycle.

Councillor McPeake commended the NAC on its work, spoke of the good working relationship between the Association and NILGA in challenging central government to get Councils fit for purpose and would encourage the working relationship.

Councillor Mulligan asked if there was an overlap between NAC and NILGA and asked if there was a need for both organisations.

Alderman Ferguson stated that there was a need as the NAC represented councillors with NILGA representing Councils.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, thanked Alderman Ferguson and Councillor Boyle for their attendance following which they left the meeting at 7.18 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **C114/14      Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at Council meeting held on Thursday 27 November 2014**

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 27 November 2014 (C91/14 – C101/14 and C109/14), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

### **C115/14      Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 1 December 2014**

## Item P29/14 - Transferring of Planning Accommodation and Related Costs

Councillor Reid stated that at the meeting the three UUP members on the Committee they had raised concern with regard to the £100,000 expenditure to set up the planning function as the Council had been misled by the DOE, being told that transferring functions would be cost neutral. He said staff were coming without as much as a chair to sit on. This additional expenditure comes on top of the £760,000 for ICT convergence. The Member further stated that the UUP members collectively and totally reject this expenditure.

Councillor Glasgow supported the comments made by Councillor Reid and stated that it was totally unacceptable that it was going to cost the Council £100,000 to get the planning function up and running when assurances were given that transferring functions would be cost neutral to ratepayers. The DOE need to step up to the mark and come good on assurances given.

Councillor McLean stated that every-one was of the opinion that transferring functions would be cost neutral and as the Council will be responsible for planning from April it was important that the Council makes sure that the necessary equipment is in place to enable the service to be provided. At the same time the Council has to continue to lobby the Minister and the Department on this issue.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, stated that the Council has been given an opportunity to meet the Minister on 12 January and one of the topics for discussion would be transferring functions and funding for same.

Councillor McPeake agreed with Councillor McLean's comments and stressed the importance of having a planning service fully functional by April.

Councillor Clarke stated that there was a need for a strong lobby at the meeting with the Minister on the 12 January as the understanding was that as well as staff transferring they would come with the necessary equipment.

Councillor Kearney stated that with 40 staff transferring they will need the tools to be able to do the job.

Councillor Reid stated that the general public were not aware of these issues but he was aware of the meeting on 12 January though doubted whether or not the Council would get anything out of it.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 1 December 2014 (P26/14 – P33/14) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C116/14      Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes and recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 December 2014, (PR64/14 – PR76/14 and PR79/14), transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C117/14      Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor O'Neill  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2014, (E41/14 – E49/14 and E51/14) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C118/14      Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014**

Item D58/14 - Consultation response to strategy for the delivery of Generalist Advice Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020

Councillor Monteith stated that what he was saying was that a mechanism was required to ensure charities providing the advice were involved in forming the policy. Amend minutes, Page 4 third paragraph, remove the words “were not then” and insert “should be”.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes and recommendation of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014, (D52/14 – D60/14 and D68/14) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, and subject to the foregoing amendment, were considered and adopted.

**C119/14      Conferences and Seminars**

The Change Management Officer presented details of the undernoted conferences and sought approval for the attendance of members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

## **Guidance on the Code of Conduct: Elected Member Development Event**

Tuesday 16 December, Oxford Island Craigavon, 9.30am - 12.45pm  
Tuesday 13 January, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, 9.30am - 12.45pm  
Wednesday 28 January, Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh, 9.30am - 12.45pm  
Limited to 6 members per session from Mid Ulster District Council  
Travel and subsistence expenses.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that he had attended session on 16 December and while the start of the seminar was similar to the presentation made to the last meeting by Mr Frawley it also dealt with examples of live cases and was a useful seminar.

## **Performance Improvement – are you ready?**

Friday 30 January, Lagan Valley Island Complex, Lisburn, full day  
£99 registration fee plus travel and subsistence expenses.

## **Creative Service Delivery: Elected Member Development Event**

Wednesday 14 January, La Mon Hotel & Country Club Castlereagh 10am–1pm  
Thursday 15 January, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre Craigavon 10am–1pm  
Limited to 6 members per session from Mid Ulster District Council  
Travel and subsistence expenses.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

**Resolved** That the attendance of members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved and that anyone wishing to attend to contact officers.

## **C120/14 Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan**

Mr McCanny presented a report updating Members on the outcome of the consultation on Mid Ulster District Council's draft Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan. The appendix listed the commentary received on aspects of the Scheme and Plan complete with a recommended response.

The Officer asked Members to reflect on commentary received from consultees and consider for adoption the Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan.

Councillor McPeake stated that when this first came to the Council in August prior to commencement of consultation he had commented that the equality scheme would be an important foundation stone going forward, as so was good relations however the primacy of equality is important and stressed that he would like to see a decoupling of good relations from the document. He further stated that assurances had been given at that meeting that the situation would be looked at and brought back as part of the final review. The Member formally asked for decoupling of good relations from the proposed scheme.

Mr McCanny stated that equality is the primary piece of legislation and Council must have due regard for good relations without prejudice to the obligations under section 75.1. He added there was a clear interdependence between Equality and Good Relations.

It was added that the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Equality Coalition and the Equality Commission were considering a good relations definition. Mr McCanny highlighted that there were no major expressions on the matter of decoupling and indicated that the point was well made but there was a counter argument. He concluded by remarking that there may be a need to go out to consultation again.

Councillor McPeake stated that presently there was no indication of new definitions and documents being signed off and there was doubt that it would be signed off in its original form. At the council meeting in August members were assured that the issue of decoupling could be revisited.

Councillor Wilson stated that to go down the decoupling route, when following consultation there was little enthusiasm to do so would be create a dangerous precedent for Council.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that when the matter first came to Council assurance had been given decoupling would be looked at when the document came back to Council following consultation.

Mr McCanny stated that Council could defer approving the document to provide officers time to discuss with the Equality Commission on how to move forward with a further report coming to Council.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan

That Equality and Good Relation is decoupled now and sent on for response from the Equality Commission.

### **Amendment**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

To adopt the Equality Scheme and recommended responses to consultation.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, ruled that the amendment could not be taken as, direct negative.

The proposal was put to the meeting with 25 (twenty five) Members voted in favour and 11 (eleven) Members voted against.

Councillor Ashton asked in relation to item 6.2 in the appendix, people with conflict related convictions and officers views regarding employment and asked who decides if the conviction acceptable or otherwise. The Member also referred to Part 3 item

12.8 indicating that if the current website was not AAA compliant it should be dealt with immediately.

Mr McCanny stated that the website is currently in temporary form. He indicated that there would be a cost in making it AAA compliant and the RNIB and Disability Forum understood this situation but the new site being developed, to be operative from 1 April 2015 would be compliant.

In relation to item 6.2 Mr McCanny stated that human resources will have to bear in mind a wide range of issues and there will have to be an individual call on each conviction.

Mr McCanny referred to Disability Duties and Action Plan and asked if Council was satisfied to proceed on the basis outlined.

**Resolved** That Disability Action Plan be approved.

Mr McCanny left the meeting at 7.53 pm.

#### **C121/14 Committee Management System**

The Change Management Officer presented a report seeking the approval for the procurement through a competitive process for the delivery, installation and configuration of a committee management system for Mid Ulster District Council.

The Officer stated that Members at the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting had identified a need for a system for receiving, capturing and retrieval of Minutes and papers and asked that this be brought forward as soon as possible. The approximate cost of such a system would be £15k to £20k in year 1, year 2 costs approximately £7k - 10k recurring dependent on the number of users requiring access. Costs are part of the overall ICT convergence budget.

Councillor McPeake stated that this issue was raised at the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting and that given the amount of paperwork being received it was important that Members had access to a system for receiving, storing and retrieving documents. Councillor McPeake stressed that the procurement process needed to consider quality issues as well as cost.

Councillor McLean stated that he did speak about this at the Policy and Resources Committee and that any system should meet the needs of the organisation, be easy to access and during the procurement process should be price conscious.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That the Council grant approval for the procurement, through a competitive process, for the delivery, installation and configuration of a committee management system for Mid Ulster District Council.

#### **C122/14 Moneymore Recreation Centre and Broughderg Community Centre Capital Projects**



Mr Glavin presented a report seeking approval for match funding of £52,067 to draw down £328,933 Social Investment Fund funding for projects at Moneymore Recreation Centre and Broughderg Community Centre. He advised that in October 2013 Cookstown District Council applied to OFMDFM's Social Investment Fund for match funding to carry out works at Moneymore Recreation Centre and Broughderg Community Centre totalling £381,000.

The extensive works at Moneymore Recreation Centre include the installation of a mezzanine floor level to allow extra rooms to be built upstairs, larger reception area, lift and stairs to mezzanine level. It also includes draft proofing and air extraction for the main hall.

The minor works at Broughderg Community Centre consist of an energy efficient, environmentally friendly heating system.

This project was included in recent Mid Ulster District Council discussions on future capital projects possibly running from 2014/15 into 2015/16 due to the length of time it has taken to progress applications. In October 2014 OFMDFM indicated that there is a possibility that the funding will be offered. However they will not progress the application unless MUDC commit to the match funding as it is unlikely that the projects will be completed before the end of this financial year.

The match funding of £52,067 is in Moneymore Recreation Centre's existing budget and it will be necessary to therefore include £52,067 match funding in Moneymore Recreation Centre's budget for 2015/16.

#### **Declaration of Interest**

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

Councillor McFlynn spoke of the work carried out by Moneymore Regeneration Group and staff at the Centre, how the work has reduced anti-social behaviour in the area and the need for the facility to be upgraded was important for the area.

Councillor Bell concurred with the remarks and spoke of the high usage of the centre.

Councillor Buchanan welcomed the project.

Councillor Cuddy welcomed the fact that funding has been set aside for the project by the legacy Council and that other grant funding should be sourced and secured.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved** That the Council grant approval for match funding of £52,067 for both projects to be completed in 2015/16 to allow the drawing down of £328,933 from the Social Investment Fund.

Mr Glavin left the meeting at 8.04 pm.

## **C123/14      DoE Assessment of 2015-16 Draft Budget**

The Lead Finance Officer presented a report on the issue of the NI Executive's 'Draft Budget 2015/16', the Department of the Environment (DoE) has published and consulted upon further information on the implications of the Executive's Budget proposals on the DoE. The Officer sought Council approval to consider the information issued by the DoE and to prepare and submit an appropriate consultation response to the DoE and or the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) by the closing date of Monday, 29 December 2014.

To deliver the required savings individual Departments will be forced to make significant savings with the DoE suggesting, inter alia, that it would make immediate and substantial reductions in key statutory grant payments to all councils and particularly to those less well-off councils, such as Mid Ulster District Council, dependent on Rates Support Grant (RSG). It has been suggested that councils in receipt of RSG could see their grants being cut by 15%. A 15% cut could equate to a reduction for Mid Ulster District Council in the region of £380,000

**Resolved**      That the Council authorise the officers to consider the Draft Budget Proposal and prepare and submit an appropriate response to both the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department of the Environment by the closing date of Monday, 29 December 2014.

## **Matters for Information**

### **C124/14      Motion – Welfare Reform**

The Change Management Officer submitted for information letter dated 25 November 2014 from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister advising that the letter dated 8 October conveying the terms of a motion on welfare reform adopted by the Council at its meeting on 25 September 2014 has been noted by the Ministers.

### **C125/14      Capital Contracts**

The Chief Executive presented a report updating members on capital contracts agreed by the Council on Thursday 27 November in line with the requirement of the DoE expenditure controls which included:

- Seamus Heaney Interpretive Centre, Bellaghy: £3.8m
- Tullyvar Landfill Site: £550,031
- Railway Linear Park, Dungannon: £380,000

The report was brought into open business on the basis of a decision taken at the November Council meeting and Members were asked to note the approval of the above mentioned capital programmes to be taken forward by Magherafelt District Council and Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council

Councillor Cuddy clarified that Dungannon Council has the money set aside for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> projects listed, asked if the £3.8m for the Seamus Heaney Interpretive Centre included fitting out and that it was very disappointing that Magherafelt District Council had not sourced any funding. The Member stated that the project should be held until all funding avenues have been exhausted.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, stated that the £3.8m was the total cost of the project. The Member also stated that he had been invited by Magherafelt Council to attend a meeting with the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure to discuss funding opportunities.

Councillor Dillon stated that since the decision was taken to approve the project Magherafelt District Council has been trying to source funding.

Councillor McEldowney stated that the project was approved by Magherafelt District Council in 2009, a business plan was prepared and is with the Minister's office awaiting a response to a funding request. Magherafelt District Council is continuing to explore other funding opportunities.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, stated that the report was for information as the matter had been dealt with at the last meeting.

## **Notices of Motion**

### **C126/14      Councillor Cuthbertson to move**

In proposing the undernoted notice of motion Councillor Cuthbertson stated that recently the Northern Ireland Assembly voted unanimously to pass Lord Morrow's Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill. This is a truly significant moment in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation in Northern Ireland and also puts pressure on the rest of the regions in the UK where Bills are being considered at present which fall short of the strong provisions in Lord Morrow's Bill.

Northern Ireland is the first legislature in the United Kingdom to pass into law a comprehensive piece of legislation to tackle human trafficking and modern day slavery. It is widely recognised that the Bill goes much further than the Modern Slavery Bill currently going through Westminster, particularly in terms of support for victims of trafficking.

Important provisions in the bill include - Child guardian for separated children and an exit strategy for those who want to leave prostitution. At the heart of this bill is support for those who are being exploited. We do know that the 3 main drivers for trafficking are sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude. This bill seeks to tackle all three including forced marriage.

Councillor Cuthbertson particularly commended Lord Morrow for his work in bringing forward the Bill. He added that Lord Morrow has spent over two and a half years working on the piece of legislation and he was rightly congratulated by members in the Northern Ireland Assembly for the work.

He acknowledged that Lord Morrow's Bill is one of the most significant Private Members Bills ever to be passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and it is to Lord Morrow's credit that he persevered through the long process.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act will make a real difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people who ever come to Northern Ireland. Passing a law is a significant achievement, but the implementation of the Act is of central importance. If it is not implemented properly, then it will not prove effective in improving the lives of those it was designed to help.

*'Mid-Ulster Council congratulates Lord Morrow MLA for Fermanagh -South Tyrone, on successfully steering his Private Members Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill through the Legislative Assembly. Recognises the cross party support his Bill received and following Royal Assent expects the PSNI to enforce the new offences and the Departments of Health and Justice to roll out the provisions in the Bill to tackle the scourge of Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Northern Ireland.'*

Councillor Buchanan seconded the motion and congratulated Lord Morrow on achieving approval of this important piece of legislation.

Councillor S McGuigan, on behalf of Sinn Féin acknowledged the motion and stated that when the issue first came to Dungannon Council his party had a number of concerns and had requested that all parties, members, individuals and bodies with wide ranging expertise, skills and knowledge be given an opportunity to input with the outcome being that almost 70 amendment had been agreed. He added that in its out working his party has one or two concerns particularly in relation to clause 4 but has accepted the Bill.

Councillor McFlynn stated that we all know the horribleness of human trafficking, acknowledged that Lord Morrow fought long and hard and that the SDLP supported the motion.

Councillor Wilson stated that the UUP supported the Bill and congratulated all those involved in bringing the motion.

Councillor Monteith spoke in support of the Bill and Maurice Morrow's efforts in bringing it forward.

The Motion was put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Lord Morrow and that letters are sent to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and Department of Justice to roll out the legislation and to the Chief Constable asking that following royal assent to enforce the new offences.

#### **C127/14      Councillor Mulligan to move**

In proposing the undernoted notice of motion Councillor Mulligan stated that he takes no pleasure in bringing this matter forward. As the oldest member of this council I

have experienced more of the problems besetting this province and in my judgement many of those problems were initiated and orchestrated by the provisional IRA. I have had a number of my peers murdered and maimed over the period by that organisation and in spite of that I have endeavoured to live and work for the mutual benefit of the whole community. I recognise that many of those from the Roman Catholic community hold vastly different views to mine as to the governance of Northern Ireland however there is a well-recognised path to bring about change if that is the will of the people and it is not by the bomb and the bullet but by the ballot box.

Much has been achieved collectively and all that depended on the good faith of all the principal players. Sadly what has now proven to be a façade has been blown apart by Gerry Adams with his statement in Enniskillen. Given that Gerry Adams is no novice in the cut and thrust of political debate I have to conclude that the view he expressed was a true reflection of his innermost being. As to his reference to the Trojan horse, he has confirmed his absolute lack of trustworthiness. The other issue of concern was the speed with which party members showed their solidarity with their leader, a man who holds and espouses a view that I find despicable.

*'That this council notes with concern the comments of Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams on 24th Nov.in Enniskillen, where he cast aspersions on the parentage of unionists, and further blatantly declared the issue of Equality would be used as a tool 'trojan horse like' to break the 'B\*\*\*\*\*s'.*

*It further notes that this council endorses the principle of a mutually respectful, shared future.'*

Councillor Wilson seconded the motion and stated that he would wind up debate on the motion.

Councillor McGinley expressed his disappointment at this motion. He stated that it is inaccurate and taken out of context. It was acknowledged that the language used was inappropriate immediately through a number of different platforms and clearly clarified that it was not directed at unionists. I would encourage Councillor Mulligan to look these statements up and read them in full.

I would like to know why Councillor Mulligan has not noted with concern statements which in my understanding have yet to be retracted, such as the one made in 2011 by Tom Elliott, while he was UUP leader, referring to Sinn Féin as "scum". I would also like to hear opinions on the shameful comments of Gregory Campbell in relation to the Irish Language, comments that are treated with disgust by the majority of people, yet he still remains unashamedly proud of. In relation to comments on equality, again, Councillor Mulligan has taken something out of context and presented it to this chamber as something else.

I support the thrust of what Gerry Adams articulated that night which was not directed at unionists. Speaking as an Irish Republican, Councillor Mulligan can be assured that I endorse the principle of a mutually respectful, shared future. Sinn Féin endorses this principle as does Gerry Adams.

There are some people that should fear equality. These people are bigots, misogynists, homophobes and racist should be afraid, as equality makes their way of life cease. Society is waking up to injustices being inflicted by a minority of people and it is right that equality brings it to an end. If Councillor Mulligan is serious about endorsing the principle of a mutually respectful, shared future, then I assume he endorses this principle of equality also. Before bringing a motion to council again, I would encourage the Member to ensure that it is in context, and accurate.

Councillor McLean stated that the motion was well articulated by Councillor Mulligan and set out a very clear line of definition which was well within context and added that if something is in the well will come up in the bucket, the guard has been dropped and what was stated was clearly in the well.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the mask has truly slipped again and talking about my community and I like this was nothing short of a hate crime. The Member also stated that the MP for the area should think on what her part was in this and offer the unionist population in Fermanagh & South Tyrone an apology. The Member further stated that Mr Adams, if he wants to talk about issues in Northern Ireland, would be better suited coming forward to the PSNI and telling us and them what he knows about the past and what he, friends and colleagues were involved in.

Councillor Wilson read the quote from Gerry Adams;

*"What's the point. The point is actually to break the bxxxxxxs, that's the point and what is going to break them is equality. That is what's going to break them equality, who can be afraid of equality who can be afraid of treating someone the way you want to be treated. That's what we need to keep the focus on. That's the Trojan horse of the entire republican strategy."*

Councillor Wilson stated that that is what was said and the motion has not been taken out of context.

Councillor Wilson stated that Gerry Adam's comments about breaking the bxxxxxxs declares the bitterness that he has against the greater number of people in Northern Ireland and more important is the comment about using equality as a Trojan horse. For years Sinn Féin has spoken about equality and we heard about it tonight again. Equality is a universal concept and a human right. I want to make it clear that the Ulster Unionist Party has no fear what so ever of equality, believes in equal citizenship, respecting different identities and a shared future. The equality of all our citizens is in the context of the constitutional reality reflecting the consent principle. Northern Ireland is an integral part of the United Kingdom and it is said under the Belfast Agreement under section 1 the present wish of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland freely exercised and legitimate is to maintain the union and accordingly the Northern Ireland status as part of the United Kingdom reflects and relies on that wish. This is what Sinn Féin signed up to. I reject Sinn Féin's interpretation of equality and their offensive Trojan horse strategy and I appeal to all parties to support the motion and to work towards building a shared society in Mid Ulster, Northern Ireland and in the United Kingdom.

Councillor Mulligan stated that he was somewhat disappointed that there has not been a different attitude displayed by members around the room, not of unionist persuasion. He further stated that he felt severely aggrieved and particularly at the

aspect in relation to the challenge to his birth right and fact that there was no retraction of that by the Sinn Féin Leader or by members around the room.

The proposal was put to the meeting 11 (eleven) Members voted in favour and 19 (nineteen) Members voted against.

The Chair declared the Motion defeated.

#### **C128/14      Councillor McPeake to move**

In proposing the undernoted notice of motion Councillor McPeake explained that motor neurone disease (MND) is a rare condition where parts of the nervous system become progressively damaged. The disease begins when motor neurons stop functioning, meaning signals fail to reach their intended muscles. This causes the muscles to waste and die leading to complete immobility, senses such as sight, hearing and touch remains unaffected. This terminal disease can affect any adult at any age. There is no known cure. The average prognosis is two to five years from diagnosis. There are only about 400 people on the island of Ireland who live with the condition at any one time.

Living with motor neurone disease can be frustrating, challenging and sometimes a terrifying possibility, but it's not necessarily as bleak as many people imagine. With strong community and specialist support, many people lead a relatively independent lifestyle and enjoy a quality of life they may not have imagined was possible at the time of their diagnosis.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association is the only charity in the north of Ireland, England and Wales dedicated to improving care and support for those affected by MND, to funding and promoting research, and to raising awareness so that the needs of people with MND are addressed. More resources are needed in order to have earlier diagnosis and treatment. The phenomenal success of the recent Ice Bucket challenge throughout the world has certainly just done that and throughout Britain and the south of Ireland raised a staggering £8.5m and highlighted the disease.

The Member referred to other fund raising events and in particular spoke of event in Kellys Inn on 28 December and branch chairman Steven Thompson asked that all Councillors are invited to this event.

The Motor Neurone Support groups are calling on everyone to step up and sign the MND on-line Charter to ensure everyone is working towards their vision of highlighting the impacts of this illness. The charter recognises the rights and priorities of people living with MND and their carers.

So please support the work of the MNDA in whatever way you can in its aims and objectives so that the lives of those contacting the disease are improved and that earlier diagnosis can take place leading to a better chance of managing the illness.

*'That this Council supports the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association dedicated at improving the care and support of those affected by MND to funding and promoting research and to raising awareness so that the needs of those*

*suffering from the disease are addressed and further calls on Mid Ulster Councillors to sign the on-line charter of the MNDA.*  
<http://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/campaigning-influencing/the-motor-neurone-disease-mnd-charter/MNDCharter>

Councillor Bell in seconding the motion stated that Councillor McPeake has provided good information on this extremely life changing disease and requested all members to sign the petition to increase awareness.

Councillor McAleer spoke in support of the motion and stated that as one working in the health field was involved in providing care to people with all types of illnesses including MND. The Member commended the good work of the Association in providing equipment, financial and emotional support to those suffering with the disease and to their carers. She gave details of her involvement with a particular patient who due to the generosity of the Association was able to get out and about.

Councillor Ashton spoke in support of the motion and as previous speakers already said MND has not been well highlighted in the past and credit has to be given to the Association who through its ICE bucket challenge over the summer months has highlighted MND and has raised a large amount of money for the charity. It is important that we continue to raise awareness of MND in Northern Ireland.

Councillor Monteith spoke in support of the motion and give details of his involvement with a family who lost their mother to this disease and stated that anything that we can do to raise awareness and support for those with the disease should be encouraged.

Councillor McPeake thanked the Members for their support and stated that he has copies of the charter which he would leave at the back of the room if members wished to sign.

The motion was put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan thanked the Councillor for raising the motion as he had personal experience of this debilitating disease.

## **IN COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Gillespie and

**Resolved** That items C102/14 to C108/14 be taken in committee.

*The public and press left the meeting at 8.40 pm.*  
*Councillor Reid left the meeting at 8.40 pm*  
*Councillor McPeake left the meeting at 8.40 pm*

## **C137/14 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.25 pm.



CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

## **Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 12 January 2015 in Magherafelt District Council Offices**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Members Present:</b>        | In the Chair, Councillor Kearney (Chair)<br><br>Councillors Bateson, Bell (7.02 pm), Clarke, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, McEldowney, McKinney, McPeake (7.25 pm) Mallaghan, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson and J Shiels  |
| <b>Officers in Attendance:</b> | Mr Tohill, Chief Executive<br>Mr Boomer, Area Planning Manager<br>Mr Melvin Bowman, Senior Planning Officer<br>Mr Phelim Marrion, Senior Planning Officer<br>Ms Sinead McEvoy, Principal Planning Officer<br>Ms Karen Doyle, Planning Officer<br>Mrs Grogan, Committee Services/Senior Admin Officer (D&STBC) |
| <b>Others in Attendance:</b>   | Mr Liam Ward, Ward Design   |

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

### **P1/15          Apologies**

Councillors Glasgow and Mullen.

### **P2/15          Declarations of Interest**

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

### **P3/15          Briefing from Mr Liam Ward, Ward Design providing an architectural perspective on planning**

The Chair, Councillor Kearney, welcomed Mr Liam Ward, Ward Design who was in attendance to give an architectural perspective on planning.

Councillor Bateson left the meeting at 7.05 pm.

Mr Ward made a presentation on planning in Mid Ulster, an alternative perspective from the private sector. He outlined the aims of the Regional Development Strategy and the likely outcomes for the Mid Ulster area. He stated that it shows that by 2030 Mid-Ulster is projected to have 8.4% of NI population, but only 3.5% of new housing. If housing matched need, Mid Ulster would have 25,000 new homes by 2030. Planners intend to zone land for 17,000 with the yield likely to be half that, 8500.

The Area Planning Manager advised that points raised in the presentation were all very valid but would need to work in partnership with developers to find a balance.

Councillor Clarke stated the presentation was very useful but there is still a need to address zoned land. If land and property values were to increase people would hold out for the best price. He added that banks were a major problem because if they become involved in granting large mortgages or loans then there will be no control over property values and people will not part with land until they gain a maximum price.

Councillor Bell stated that with the rising population there is going to be a shortage of housing, this will result in house prices being driven up and people being priced out of the market. He added there needs to be flexibility.

Councillor Reid stated that there is a need to find a balance between urban and rural areas as they both need to be catered for. He agreed that house prices if forced to increase are depriving people of owning a home. A major problem for some is zero hours contracts, which is holding people off the property ladder, and this needs to be dealt with in order to move forward.

Councillor Gildernew enquired about land zoning as this is a major problem in the Dungannon area. He asked if there was a time limit on zoned land and if it can it be utilised again.

Mr Ward stated that donut towns should not be encouraged and that landowners should be given the option of use it or lose it. If there were regular reviews then it could see land de-zoned which would control land and house prices. If a landowner is aware that the price will increase then he will hold out and not sell until they gain the maximum price. The same should be applied to the rural community as a balance needs to be made between the rural and urban areas.

*Councillor Bateson returned to the meeting at 7.25 pm.  
Councillor McPeake entered the meeting at 7.25 pm.*

Councillor Mallaghan enquired how a balance can be reached between urban and rural communities.

Mr Ward felt that it would be unlikely that major regeneration could be achieved in rural villages for such as sports facilities, but it would be just as important for villages to be able to sustain and regenerate themselves.

The Chair thanked Mr Ward for his informative presentation and stated that he and his colleagues looked forward to working with him in the future.

*Mr Ward left the meeting at 7.42 pm.*

## **Matters for Decision**

**P4/15            Receive and Confirm Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 1 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson

Seconded by Councillor Reid and

**Resolved** That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1 December 2014, (P26/14 – P33/14) were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

**P5/15            Scheme of Delegation for Officers on Planning**

The Area Planning Manager presented a paper providing members with information relating to the principles and options for delegating authority on specified elements of the planning function and powers to planning officers within Mid Ulster Council from 1 April 2015.

The Officer stated that Section 31(1) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires Council to produce and adopt a Scheme of Delegation for its district which must in turn be submitted to the Department for its consideration and consent.

A Scheme of Delegation, specific to planning, sets out decision making processes for an agreed list of application types which are delegated to an appointed Council Planning Officer, in this case the Chief Planner, and also those nominated by the said officer, rather than the Council. This form of delegation facilitates speedier decisions and approved efficiency of business.

The Area Planning Manager advised that best practice from other jurisdictions suggests that 90-95% of all planning applications should be dealt with under delegation arrangements to the respective Planning Manager. An integral driver for bringing a scheme forward is found within the draft Planning (Development Management) Regulations (NI) 2015 where it states that, “council must prepare a scheme of delegation at intervals of no greater than three years”.

A scheme brought forward will have the benefit of allowing the Committee the time and resources to determine applications therefore using its time more efficiently.

The paper set out three Options to inform the development of a Scheme of Delegation for Planning within Mid Ulster to authorised officers.

- Option 1:        Remove refusals and permissions subject to objections from the scheme of delegation requiring determination by Committee
- Option 2:        Allow members to refer any application to the Planning Committee for decision
- Option 3:        Defer decision on refusals and approvals subject to an approval for a meeting between elected members and the Planning Manager or his nominee

The Area Planning Manager recommended:

- Members consider for agreement the Scheme of Delegation for Planning Applications as detailed in the paper.

- Members agree that on receipt of approval for the scheme from the Department council formally adopt the scheme and make it available for the public to view.
- Members agree that any planning applications received after 1 April 2015 coupled with any enforcement or other planning decisions be processed under the scheme.
- Members consider whether the Committee system should run on a monthly, bi-monthly or 3 week cycle and whether the scheme has implications for the size and quorum of the Committee.
- Members consider that as well as the planning functions covered by Section 31 of the 2011 Act, that Council also administer the enforcement of planning, Tree Preservation Orders, and the processing of other planning consents, advertising and conservation. Part 4 Section 7 (4) (b) Local Government Act (NI) 2014 allows a council committee to delegate these to an officer of the council. It is recommended that February Committee is presented with an explanation and proposals on delegation of these responsibilities.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the above recommendations and to go with Option 1.

**P6/15 Verbal update on Planning Seminar hosted by Leitrim County Council**

The Area Planning Manager updated the Committee on visit to Leitrim County Council stating that he found the visit very useful, Leitrim has a low number of applications compared to Mid Ulster, where there would be five times the amount. They have a development plan in place and provide delegation to officers.

He continued by saying that Leitrim controlled housing in rural areas by setting a criteria for dwellings, such as; what people can bring to the area; teachers; and Scout Leaders. The Area Planning Manager said this could be an option for Mid Ulster Council to consider.

Councillor Clarke agreed that this could be a way forward as people from the urban areas building houses in countryside do not contribute to the rural way of living as they send their children to urban schools and shop in nearby towns.

Councillor McPeake agreed with the initiative and advised that this is commonly known as a social test which could prove really positive.

The Area Planning Manager felt it was a very easy notion as a person would have to demonstrate what their contribution would be to the rural way of living. He felt it would be worthwhile investigating the idea further.

**P7/15            Workshop on Examples of Issues Associated with Planning Applications**

Mr Melvin Bowman, Ms Karen Doyle, Mr Phelim Marrion and Ms Sinead McEvoy were in attendance. The officers discussed and reviewed examples of issues associated with planning applications with committee members.

**P8/15            Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

C



**Minutes of Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 13 January 2015 in Magherafelt District Council Offices**

**Members Present:** In the Chair, Councillor McPeake (Chair)  
  
Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Elattar, Forde, Glasgow, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McGinley, S McGuigan, Molloy, M Quinn, Reid and Totten

**Members in Attendance:** Councillor G Shiels

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mrs Campbell, Director of Policy and Development (MDC)  
Mrs Canavan, Lead HR Officer  
Mrs Mezza, Marketing Communications Manager  
Mr Moffett, Change Management Officer  
Mr O'Hagan, ICT Manager  
Mr JJ Tohill, Lead Finance Officer  
Mrs Smith, Council Business Manager (D&STBC)

**In Attendance:** **Land & Property Services**  
Mr William Goss  
Mr Gary Sloan

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

**PR1/15 Apologies**

Councillors Buchanan and McLean

**PR2/15 Declarations of Interest**

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

**PR3/15 Deputation – Land & Property Services on Revaluation of Non-Domestic Properties**

The Chair welcomed William Goss and Gary Sloan from Land & Property Services (LPS) who were in attendance to brief members on the revaluation of non-domestic properties.

The officers with the use of a powerpoint presentation advised that this was a non-domestic revaluation of shops, offices, factories, warehouses, pubs, playing fields, power stations, and involved some 73,000 properties. They said that the business rate is a tax paid on business premises and other non-domestic properties. In relation to re-valuation LPS valuers follow the market by analysing all relevant

transactions and then assessing a rental value for every property as at 1 April 2013. They added that a common date ensures fairness and as new buildings come on board they are valued as at 2013. The officer outlined the key stages in the revaluation process and the need for revaluation.

Councillor McGuigan stated that statistics can be presented in many ways and the flip side of positive figures presented is that the remainder will be worse off. The Member asked for an explanation on the differential.

Mr Goss stated that any average is going to have some above and some below. He said it was however important to get information out without swamping the public with too much. In relation to differential he provided an example of a retail park being developed and initially offering low rents to attract businesses and when demand for space within the park grows rents can go up. All is driven by demand and the point of regular revaluation is to take into account differentials which happen.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, referred to previously circulated example figures and asked why some revaluations had doubled.

Mr Goss stated that some have seen large increases such as petrol filling stations, public houses and certain utilities such as wind farms.

Councillor McFlynn asked what the logic was in rating businesses such as hotels, pubs and restaurants based on their existing profits.

Mr Goss stated that this is a property tax and as hotels, pubs and restaurants are not normally rented and are purchased based on their profitability revaluations are assessed by taking into account trading receipts.

Councillor Reid stated that in relation to domestic properties he continually received complaints from residents that their valuation is higher than neighbouring properties and when he contacted relevant officers for revaluations to be undertaken he was experiencing no movement and would have concerns if the same happens in the business sector.

*Councillor G Shiels arrived at 7.30 pm*

Mr Goss stated that applications can be placed but if there is no physical change then property valuation is still based on 2005 valuations.

The Chief Executive stated that in doing some quick sums 850 properties will face increased rates bills of 50 per cent or greater. The likely outcome could be a significant number of appeals and asked the representatives if they had any idea of the likely impact of those appeals and the expected timeframes.

Mr Goss stated that this was unknown but would depend on how many applications there would be to review, subsequent appeals to the Commission for Valuations and if necessary appeals to Land Tribunal. He added that until rates are known it is quite difficult to predict the number of reviews and a lot of properties still fall within the small business relief scheme.

The Chief Executive stated that this would present the Council with difficulties in striking a rate as somewhere down the line this may have the impact of reducing the Council's rate base and it may have to take decisions on whether or not it begins to make financial provision to take account of this.

Mr Goss stated that the difference between the 2003 revaluation and this revaluation is that in 2003 there was growth and any rates base reduction, due to appeals, would have been hidden in natural growth. With very little growth expected in 2015 this will not happen. There will be some reductions but how much is not known, appeals process could take up to two years with appeal aggregates backdated to April 2015.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, stated that this could have serious ramifications for the Council, he thanked the officers for their attendance following which they left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

**PR4/15      Receive and confirm minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Tuesday 2 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Tuesday 2 December 2014 (PR64/14 – PR76/14 & PR79/14) were considered and were signed as accurate and correct.

**Matters for Decision**

**PR5/15      Draft Counter Fraud, Whistleblowing, Anti-Bribery, Data Protection and Bereavement policies**

The Chief Executive stated that Members would be fully aware of the importance of effective corporate governance and one of the integral parts of this was to have robust policies in place. The report presented provided members with a number of draft policies for review and consideration before being brought as recommendation for approval at a future meeting.

The paper sought commentary on (i) draft Whistleblowing Policy; (ii) draft Counter Fraud Policy; (iii) draft Anti-Bribery Policy; (iv) draft Data Protection Policy; and (v) draft Managing Notification of Bereavements to Council. The Chief Executive made reference to each draft policy.

**Draft Whistleblowing Policy**

A whistleblowing policy is intended to provide employees with the process to raise any concerns they may have within the Council over concerns of administrative malpractice and wrong doing which contravenes council policies, procedures and statutory codes of conduct

**Draft Counter Fraud Policy**

This policy sets out the council's position on and how it will deal with fraud and corruption. It includes a fraud response plan. The fraud response plan extends to suspected financial act of impropriety against council's resources and assets.

**Draft Anti-Bribery Policy**

An Anti-Bribery Policy sets out how the Council will deal with alleged and actual circumstances of where officers and members of council are offered bribes. This stems from the Bribery Act 2011 requirements placed upon authorities.

**Draft Data Protection Policy**

This policy details how Council will meet its obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 on processing personal data, by striking the needs of the organisation to run effectively whilst respecting the rights of individuals. The processing of personal data requires a consistent approach to ensure the Council maintains compliance with its legislative responsibilities. This policy has been developed to assist in meeting these requirements.

**Managing Notification of Bereavements to Council**

This short policy confirms and clarifies how bereavements may be raised and acknowledged at meetings of council and its committees. This policy will aid the efficient and smooth transaction of business. The Chief Executive stated that how Council would acknowledge bereavements was discussed by the Party Representatives group and the draft policy reflects the direction given by the group.

The Chief Executive asked that members approve the draft policies.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, asked if the policies were basically the same across the public sector.

The Chief Executive stated that policies were developed taking into consideration what currently exists within the three Council, best practice and good practice from the audit office.

In relation to the Draft Whistle Blowing Policy Councillor Ashton stated that the wording in section 7.2 needs review.

Councillor Mallaghan arrived at 7.40 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Reid  
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the draft policies.

**PR6/15 Winding up and Internal Audit Arrangements**

The Lead Finance Officer stated that as previously notified to Committee the Council is required to maintain an adequate system of internal audit and designate an officer to have responsibility for the winding up of the predecessor councils. The officer has

also to ensure the preparation of the predecessor councils' accounts in the requisite format. The Officer presented a report which provided Members with the information necessary to discharge both duties.

### **Internal Audit function**

Regulation 3(A)(1) of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 as amended by the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2006 requires all local government bodies whose accounts are to be subject to audit by a local government auditor (i.e. including new councils) to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit.

Paragraph 3.2 of the Guidance issued to councils on the financial operation of new councils during the shadow period states "new councils may utilise the financial expertise, systems and controls of the administrative council." Paragraph 3.3 states, in relation to the requirement to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit, "a new council may adopt the systems, financial policies and procedures of the administrative council to meet its legislative obligations."

The administrative council is Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and its internal audit function is delivered by outsourcing to Deloitte.

Although it is possible that Deloitte's existing operational internal audit plan for Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council already includes provision for sufficient audit resource to confirm that Mid Ulster District Council's has an adequate and effective system of internal control, it is appropriate that the officers be authorised to engage with Deloitte to ensure that this is the case.

### **Winding up arrangements**

Regulation 11(1) of the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 requires a new council to designate an officer as having responsibility for the winding up of its predecessor councils.

Regulation 11(2) requires the designated officer to ensure that the final statement of accounts of the predecessor councils are prepared in the form required by Regulation 4 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 as amended by the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2006.

Section 1(2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 states:

"A council shall designate an officer of the council as its chief financial officer"

As Mid Ulster District Council has already designated the Chief Executive as the Chief Financial Officer of Mid Ulster District Council, it makes sense for the Chief Executive to also be designated as having responsibility for winding up the predecessor councils.

The Lead Finance Officer recommended that:

- (1) The officers engage with Deloitte to ensure that adequate internal resource is reserved to deliver upon the Council's duty to have an adequate and effective internal audit function
- (2) The Chief Executive be designated as having responsibility for the winding up of the predecessor councils

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to adopt the officer's recommendation.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, asked if the DOE had set aside any monies for this process.

The Lead Finance Officer stated that DOE providing an amount of approximately £50,000.

In response to a query from Councillor Reid regarding the date for winding up, the Lead Finance Officer stated that come 1 April 2015 Mid Ulster District Council would take responsibility for legacy Council's work. There will be a few exceptions such as outstanding insurance claims that will continue to be dealt with by legacy councils' insurers and these could be protracted over a period of time.

## **PR7/15      Regional Minority Languages and Draft Policies**

The Chief Executive presented a report which advised Members of the preparation of draft policy documents in respect of Regional and Minority Languages and sought authority to assess the equality impacts of the draft policies.

Council's obligations in respect of Irish and Ulster Scots arise from commitments the UK Government made when the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (The Charter) was signed and ratified. The Charter is an international convention designed to protect and promote regional and minority languages. It is designed to protect and promote regional and minority language as a threatened aspect of Europe's cultural heritage. The Charter does not cover sign language or the languages of minority ethnic communities.

The Mid Ulster Council area is made up of a multi-cultural and multi lingual society with linguistic diversity forming part of the cultural and historical heritage of the area. The 2011 census indicates that out of a Mid Ulster District population of 132,025:

- 22,984 or 17.4% of the population have some ability in Irish;
- 8,063 or 6.1% of the population could speak, read, write and understand Irish;
- 8,131 or 6.2% of the population have some ability in Ulster Scots; and
- 1,056 or 0.8% of the population could speak, read, write and understand Ulster Scots.

The European Charter places an onus on Council to proactively promote Irish and Ulster Scots. The district has a growing Irish speaking population and Ulster Scots culture that can enhance the rich linguistic nature and culture of the area and so add to the appeal of the district as a tourist destination.

The draft policies will need to be equality screened and may be subject to an EQIA. Professional support of £9,000 may be required to undertake the EQIA

The Chief Executive asked that Members consider and comment on the draft Mid Ulster District Council Irish Language Policy and draft Mid Ulster District Council Ulster Scots Language Policy. Approval was also sought to assess the equality impacts of the draft policies.

Councillor Glasgow asked for further consultation to be carried out on the two policies as there have been a few queries and it was important to have the process right rather than rushed. He proposed that further consultation take place.

The Chief Executive stated that two workshops had been held to advance the formulation of policies being presented as draft policies on Irish and Ulster Scots. He indicated that consultation was ongoing with the Irish language fraternity and the Ulster Scots Agency, and commentary had been received. The Chief Executive indicated that members were not being asked to ratify the policies but rather make comments on the policies to allow officers to continue discussions with outside groups and to begin to assess the equality impacts of the draft policies.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, asked in relation to the time frame and when a decision would be required to inform branding activity.

The Chief Executive stated that this is not something that is going to be completed by April 2015 and interim arrangements could be put in place.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake asked Councillor Glasgow if the concerns he referred to were major or minor.

Councillor Glasgow stated that feels the process is being rushed and Council should take a bit of time out to make sure everyone is happy with process and to deal with any queries appropriately.

Councillor S McGuigan spoke in relation to the time frame, the equality impact assessment process and the draft policies going out to consultation.

The Chief Executive stated that the draft Irish Language Policy is more advanced as it is largely based on 2.5 years of work undertaken in Magherafelt District Council. The draft Ulster Scots Policy is a new area of work. In terms of the timeframe, it would be best to look at the two policies together and be assess them for any impact before going to public consultation.

Councillor Bateson stated that existing policy within Magherafelt went through an Equality Impact Assessment and that the Irish Language policy could be expedited on the basis of the volume of work completed at that time.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that it is seven months from this item was first raised at this committee which is ample time for any concerns to be dealt with.

Councillor McFlynn stated that she has read both policies, both allow for the written and spoken word and proposed that the Committee proceed as recommended by the Chief Executive.

Councillor Ashton advised that she attended all the workshops where there had been very open and frank discussions. She added that she was opposed to the differences within Guiding Principle 7 on the Visibility within the two policies and it should be no surprise that she would not be supporting the officer recommendation or the policies.

Councillor McPeake stated that the basis for moving forward was the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

Councillor Reid stated that if the two policies proceed together it will come across as a positive message and on the back of the information received from the Ulster Scots Agency time should be taken to review it.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan

That it be recommended to the Council that the draft policies are adopted, that approval is given to officers to assess the equality impacts, if any, and that approval is given for professional support up to a value of £9,000 to assist with this process.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, stated that there were two proposals.

Councillor McFlynn withdrew her proposal and seconded Councillor S McGuigan's proposal.

The proposal was put to the meeting, 10 (ten) members voting in favour and 2 (two) against.

The Chair declared the proposal carried.

*Mrs Campbell left at 8.05 pm*  
*Councillor McGinley left at 8.05 pm.*

## **Matters for Information**

### **PR8/15      EU Services Directive**

The Lead Finance Officer presented a report updating Members in relation to Council's responsibilities with respect to the EU Services Directive



The EU Services Directive came into effect on 28 December 2009 with the aim of opening up the EU internal market for service provision in the EU. Services covered by the Directive are “economic activities” normally provided in exchange for a remuneration and which is not provided under a contract of employment. There are a number of exclusions from the Directive, e.g. financial services and electronic communications services and networks.

Mid Ulster Council, like the legacy councils, is a competent authority (defined as a body which has supervisory or regulatory functions in the UK in relation to service activities).

Competent authorities must ensure that all requirements imposed on service providers are compliant with the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 (the Regulations). They must also be reported on via the Department for Business Innovation & Skills (BIS) to the European Commission. Authorisations and associated information also need to be accessible remotely and electronically through [businesslink.gov.uk](http://businesslink.gov.uk) (the UK Point of Single Contact (PSC)).

As a competent authority the Council must put a relevant authorisation online through business link. This can either be done via:

- An electronic form on its website enabling a service provider to apply for and pay for an authorisation (the PSC on [businesslink.gov.uk](http://businesslink.gov.uk) will link directly to that form). In such circumstances the website must satisfy the information requirements of the Regulations and provide the necessary deep links to the PSC; or
- A form incorporated into [businesslink.gov.uk](http://businesslink.gov.uk)

The Council will have to register on the Internal Market Information System (IMI) in order to reply to and make requests for assistance from other EEA states.

The Council, as a competent authority, must comply with the European Commission recommendation issued in March 2009 on the exchange of data via IMI.

The Lead Finance Officer stated that it is the intention to transfer Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council's deep links and registration on IMI to the Mid Ulster District Council therefore any costs should be minimal.

Councillor McGinley returned at 8.08 pm.

## **PR9/15      Council Bye-Laws**

The Change Management Officer presented a report updating Members on the process for reviewing and making of bye-laws for the use and application by Mid Ulster District Council from 1 April 2015.

The Officer stated that a bye-law is a local law, particularly affecting a given geographical area, made by a statutory body under an enabling power established by an Act of Parliament, an Order of Council or an Act of the NI Assembly. Bye-laws are required to address an existing problem and should be; (i) consistent and not in conflict with general law; (ii) clear and certain in its terms; (iii) reasonable and not

unduly restrictive; (iv) intra vires; (v) enforceable; (vi) general in nature; and (v) obligatory upon all persons equally and indiscriminately.

An audit has identified that bye-laws currently exist for 9 subject areas across the three legacy Councils with 27 separate bye-laws in place. The subject areas are:

- Cosmetic Piercing
- Semi-permanent Skin Colouring
- Tattooing
- Hairdressers
- Ear Piercing and Electrolysis
- Acupuncture
- Use of Designated Pleasure Grounds
- Rules and Regulations of Public Cemeteries
- Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places

Some bye-laws relate to specific geographical areas within districts whilst the remaining relate to specific strands of business. Mid Ulster District Council is enabled to make bye-laws under the Local Government (Transitional) Regulations (NI) 2014 but they will not become operational until 1 April 2015.

A working group of relevant officers of the predecessor councils has been tasked to review the existing bye-laws and bring forward recommendations to confirm, revoke, amend or revoke and replace each of the 27 bye-laws in line with DOE guidance and these will be taken through the relevant committee with responsibility for the subject matter.

The Officer further stated that given consultative requirements stipulated in guidance when making amendments to existing bye-laws activity will focus on confirming existing bye-laws ensuring they are in place for 1 April 2015. He added thereafter activity would focus on making amendments as required.

*Councillor Reid left 8.10 pm*

## **PR10/15      Retention and Disposal Policy and Schedule**

The Change Management Officer presented a report updating members on requirements set by the Public Records Office for NI (PRONI) for the development of a Retention and Disposal Policy and Schedule for Mid Ulster District Council.

PRONI has communicated with the Council requesting that a Retention and Disposal Policy and Schedule be compiled and provided under the Disposal of Documents Order 1925, stemming from the Public Records (NI) Act 1923. A draft schedule must be provided to PRONI by September 2015 for quality assurance purposes and final versions submitted by December 2015. This will then be submitted for approval to the DCAL Minister as Keeper of the Records and laid before the NI Assembly.

A Retention & Disposal Policy and Schedule allows the Council to apply standardised controls over how records are created, stored and disposed of by the organisation. Its aim is to ensure standardised access to records therefore avoiding

unnecessary time spent by employees on the retrieval of both physical and electronic records. It will also aid Council's statutory requirements on data protection (Data Protection Act 1998), freedom of information (Freedom of Information Act 2000) and environmental information (Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

Work to prepare the document is part of the transition process but not a day one critical issue and will be undertaken within resource across the cluster.

#### **PR11/15      Website for Mid Ulster District Council**

The Marketing Communications Manager presented a report providing an update on the development of the new Mid Ulster District Council web site.

The officer stated that a priority for 1 April 2015 is the development of a new web site which will be the Council's main digital platform and central communications' tool, reflecting the full range of services for which the Council will assume responsibility, as well as new functions and transferring functions.

In developing the site, the key aims are to create a responsive site which functions across all devices from PCs and laptops to tablets and mobile phones; a site which meets accessibility standards; and one which is intuitive with users' needs at its core, where content structure is designed around customers' requirements, rather than any internal organisation of the Council's services.

The officer indicated that development work began in October and the first research and evidence gathering phase was completed in November, allowing a wireframe to be created. A wireframe, a two-dimensional illustration of a page, was presented which focuses on how space is to be allocated and how content is to be prioritised, along with page functionality.

The Officer further stated that what is of most importance is the structure's flexibility, ensuring that content can remain fresh and dynamic at all times, changing to reflect seasonality, popularity and emerging priorities, from both an internal and external perspective.

#### **PR12/15      Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees**

The Lead HR Officer presented a report informing members that a Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees (the Code) has been agreed by the Local Government Reform Joint Forum (LGRJF). This Code is issued by the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) under Article 35(1) (b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1992 and represents the minimum standards of behaviour expected from district council employees. The document is issued by the LGSC as a statutory recommendation for adoption by all councils and the Staff Commission from 1 April 2015.

The aim of the Code is to set guidelines for council employees which will help maintain and improve standards and protect employees from criticism or misunderstanding. It also provides guidance to assist councils and their employees in their day-to-day work and sets out the minimum standards of behaviour expected.

The code builds on, and is in keeping with, the seven principles of public life articulated by the Nolan Committee and the further five principles adopted by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

### **PR13/15      Corporate Risk Register**

The Chief Executive presented the Corporate Risk Register. The register is a business tool and as such is a fluid document which will be updated as the transition programme progresses. Members were asked to review and note the Corporate Risk Register to December 2014.

### **PR14/15      Consultation List**

Northern Ireland Policing Board Reconstitution

Closes: 16 January 2015

The Chair, Councillor McPeake, stated that there are some issues within this consultation which the Council should consider making a response on, particularly around the reconstitution and rolling process for appointing independent members. As the member understood it the consultation period had been extended to the end of January 2015

The Chief Executive stated the document had been issued to members prior to Christmas for parties to consider a response should they wished to do so. He further stated that he would bring it back to the January Council Meeting on consultation list.

### **IN COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Totten

Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

**Resolved**      That items PR15/15 and PR16/15 be taken in committee.

### **PR17/15      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.20 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**D**

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Wednesday 14 January 2015 in Magherafelt District Council Offices**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Members Present:</b>        | In the Chair, Councillor Cuddy (Chair)<br><br>Councillors Cuthbertson, Gillespie, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, Mulligan, J O'Neill, Reid   |
| <b>Officers in Attendance:</b> | Mr Tohill, Chief Executive<br>Mr Cassells, Director of Technical Services and Leisure Services (MDC)<br>Mr Kelso, Director of Environmental Health and Building Control (CDC)<br>Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control (CDC)<br>Mrs Caldwell, Head of Environmental Health (CDC)<br>Mr McAdoo, Head of Waste and Contracts Management (CDC)<br>Mrs O'Kane, Principal Environmental Health Officer (CDC)<br>Miss Thompson, Committee Services/ Senior Admin Officer (DSTBC) |

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

**E1/15          Apologies**

Councillors Buchanan, Burton, McAleer, McNamee and Mullen

**E2/15          Declarations of Interest**

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

**E3/15          Receive and confirm minutes of the Environment Committee  
meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Wednesday 3 December 2014 (E41/14 – E49/14 and E51/14) were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **E4/15          Transfer of Waste Authorisations to Mid Ulster District Council**

Mr McAdoo presented a report which informed Members of the process regarding transfer of waste authorisations to Mid Ulster District Council and to seek approval to make the necessary applications and payments prior to 1 April 2015.

At present the three current Councils all hold a range of waste related authorisations that have been issued by the Department of the Environment and which must now be reviewed and transferred to Mid Ulster District Council for 1 April 2015 to ensure the new Council is documented as the legal authorisation holder. The types of waste authorisations currently held by the existing three councils include the following:

- Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) Permits
- Waste Management Licences
- Water Discharge Consents
- Registered Waste Carrier Registrations

In addition each Council currently holds a Goods Vehicle Operator Licence for their respective vehicle fleets.

Mr McAdoo advised that NI Environment Agency (NIEA) has confirmed the cost of transferring each waste management licence will be £260, which, based on a total of 15 licences, equates to a total of £3900. The cost of transferring a PPC permit is still to be confirmed but based on existing rates would be £322 per site (with a potential supplement of £1239). The cost of obtaining a new Operator Licence will be £703 (£254 application fee plus £449 application fee). The cost of the entire exercise is therefore estimated to be less than £7000 with staff time also required to prepare and review the applications.

Mr McAdoo recommended that approval be granted to proceed with the necessary applications and related payments to ensure all waste authorisations are transferred/in place for Mid Ulster District Council on 1 April 2015.

Councillors Mallaghan and Mulligan voiced their concern as to the substantial charges being set out by NIEA for what largely seems to be an administrative task. Councillor S McGuigan enquired if the cost of transfer of licences to Mid Ulster District Council can be paid for under funding from Department of the Environment.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to proceed with necessary applications subject to writing to the Environment Minister requesting that fees for transfer of waste licences to Mid Ulster District Council be waived or reduced to reflect the nature of the task.

## **E5/15            Completion Notice Ready Process, Land and Property Services**

Mr Wilkinson updated Members on the notification by Building Control of dwellings which are Completion Notice Ready to Land and Property Services.

On the 1 October 2011 Land and Property Services were given powers under the Rating of Empty Homes (REH) Legislation to collect the same level of rates on all domestic properties whether they were occupied or vacant.

Under the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 as amended, Councils are obliged to provide all relevant information to Land and Property Services to enable them to administer rate collection across the area. This includes the provision of information on the status and readiness of new dwellings under construction within the Council area so as to enable rates to be levied once the properties are deemed 'occupiable'.

Land and Property Services issued guidelines to Councils with revised procedures for activation of a Completion Notice Ready notification being introduced in November 2011 this included the following structural elements which are designed to ensure that the property was both structurally secure and weatherproof:

- External walls
- Roof
- Windows
- External doors
- Floors (at least to sub-floor level)
- Services laid to site

On receipt of this information Land and Property Services indicate that in normal conditions they expect the dwelling to have moved to completion and be ready for occupation within three months of the Completion Notice Ready notification being received. From their guidance, LPS would then issue a 'Completion Notice' to the householder concerned highlighting the date when rates will become payable. If the householder disagrees with the proposed date, they must lodge an Appeal within 28 days.

Mr Wilkinson advised that, following the circulation of the revised guidance to Councils in 2011, the three Councils sought and obtained member approval to process applications in this manner. All three Councils are now using the same Tascomi Software platform and are processing the Completion Notice Ready notifications in a similar way.

Mr Wilkinson added that Land and Property Services are currently revising the Memorandum of Understanding and will be issuing it for consultation and consideration by the new Councils in the near future.

Councillors Gillespie, Mallaghan and Reid felt the current criteria set for issuing Completion Notice Ready notifications is totally unfair, Members were opposed to this process in its current format and felt that Mid Ulster District Council needs to look at setting its own criteria for issuing Completion Notice Ready notifications in the future.



The Chief Executive reminded Members that at the moment Mid Ulster District Council has no authority with regards the current issue of Completion Notice Ready notifications but that this Council can create the criteria going forward from 1 April 2015. The Chief Executive advised that the draft Memorandum of Understanding from Land and Property Services has just been received and can be brought to a future meeting.

Councillor S McGuigan felt that going forward the term 'occupiable' needs a clear definition.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to bring draft Memorandum of Understanding from Land and Property Services to future meeting for discussion. Chief Executive to contact other Councils to consider a joint approach in setting future criteria as to when a Completion Notice Ready notification should be issued.

## **Matters for Information**

### **E6/15 Health and Wellbeing Activities within Mid Ulster**

Mrs Caldwell provided Members with an update on some of the key health and wellbeing initiatives being delivered in the Mid Ulster area along with options for future delivery of programmes.

Despite improvements in health and improved life expectancy, significant and persistent inequalities remain within Mid Ulster. NISRA statistics state that the existing three Councils are above the NI average for death from Circulatory Disease and for Standardised Death Rates for males under 75.

Due to its geographical location, Mid Ulster District Council bridges two Health Trust Areas (Northern and Southern). This crossover is replicated with two Public Health Regional Areas and two Local Health Commissioning Groups commissioning services across the new Council area. This historically has resulted in a different focus and method of commissioning of local Health Improvement programmes in the Dungannon (Southern) and Cookstown and Magherafelt Council (Northern) areas, which will require further consideration going forward.

Mrs Caldwell advised that the 'Hearty Lives' Programme being delivered in Cookstown Council area has received national recognition as an 'Award Winning' Partnership between Council, Health Trusts (GP Primary Care), Public Health Agency and the British Heart Foundation. The establishment of these strong connections between local GP Surgeries and the Council Services, a first in NI, provides a framework and model of good practice for further development across Mid Ulster.

Mrs Caldwell expressed the need for structured discussions with all the relevant partner agencies, to ensure a 'joined up' and targeted approach in addressing Health and Well Being Improvement across the Mid Ulster area as part of the wider Community Planning Framework currently being taken forward.

*Councillor S McGuigan left the meeting at 7.30 pm during presentation of the above report.*

Councillor McFlynn referred to the success of the 'Hearty Lives' programme and the need for Mid Ulster District Council to be taking a lead in promoting such initiatives to residents through for example council newsletter.

The Chief Executive advised that this would be taken into consideration in the future.

Councillor Reid expressed the importance of the two health boards working together across the whole of the Mid Ulster area and the need for a discussion relating to having one health board for all of Mid Ulster in the future.

### **IN COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor McGinley  
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

**Resolved** That item E7/15 be taken 'in committee'.

### **E8/15 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.40 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**E**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 15 January 2015 in Magherafelt District Council Offices**

**Members Present:** In the Chair, Councillor McEldowney (Vice Chair)  
Councillors Dillon, Elattar, Forde, Mallaghan, McNamee, Monteith, O'Neill, T Quinn, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson,

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive (CDC)  
Ms Campbell, Director of Policy & Development (MDC)  
Mr Browne, Head of Development Services (MDC)  
Ms Girvan, Corporate Health & Safety Manager (DSTBC)  
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Services (CDC)  
Mrs Forde, Mayor's PA/Member Support Officer (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7pm

**D1/15 Apologies**

Apologies received for Councillor Burton, Molloy and Reid. Apology was also received for Councillor McAleer due to adverse weather conditions.

**D2/15 Declarations of Interest**

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

**D3/15 Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 4 December 2014 (items D52/14-D60/14 and D68/14), were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

**D4/15 Deputation on Proposals for a Skateboard Park, Cookstown**

The Chair welcomed Stuart McMullan, Cameron Anderson and Mr I McCrea MLA to the meeting. Mr McCrea MLA thanked the Council for the opportunity to make a presentation, introduced Stuart and Cameron.

The presentation outlined the viability of a public skate board park in Mid Ulster listing the advantages in relation to health, community relations, activity for young people and keeping money in the local area. Potential sites suggested included those adjacent to Cookstown Leisure Centre, the former skip site at Railway Yard, Cookstown, the Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Meadowbank Arena, Magherafelt. The

representatives emphasised that a public skate board park would serve the up and coming sports trend of 'scootering', 'BMX biking' and roller blading and be a huge benefit to the Mid Ulster area advising that currently those involved in the sport travelled to Carrickfergus, Belfast, Letterkenny and Dublin. Acknowledging the safety and insurance issues connected to the unusual sport the representatives suggested volunteers could assist with warden duties, wearing of safety helmet and disclaimer notices that those entering the park do so at their own risk. The representatives highlighted the passion for the sport, the economic advantages it would bring to Mid Ulster as local people would not have to leave the area and visitors would be attracted. In conclusion, the representatives thanked the committee for the opportunity to present, again emphasising the numbers involved locally in the sport.

The Chair, Councillor McEldowney, thanked the boys for their presentation stating that a skate board park had been suggested for Maghera in the past, thus indicating the wide interest in the sport.

Councillor Wilson thanked the representatives for the informative presentation and asked how many people are involved in the sport in the Cookstown area.

In response the representatives advised that numbers at first were small but that they had built up, as nearly all primary six and seven school children participated.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked the representatives for the excellent presentation and advised that Council would task officers with exploring possibilities.

Councillor Forde stated that the presentation was excellent, that it was fantastic to have young people informing Council what they were interested in as they were the future and Council would look favourably at the request.

Councillor Elattar thanked the representatives for the presentation stating there was demand in Draperstown so somewhere in the middle of the two towns would be apt.

In response to a questions from Councillor Elattar the representatives advised that the indoor sites at Dublin and Belfast were approximately £10 entry fee for all day which was 8am to 10pm.

Councillor T Quinn thanked the representatives for the informative presentation and in response to his question as to whether the boys travelled to other sites alone or in groups the representatives advised they would go as groups, for example birthday celebrations.

In conclusion Mr I McCrea MLA stated that the Councils often heard requests for other sporting facilities and requested that serious consideration be given to this one.

*The delegation withdrew from the meeting at 7.20pm*

## **D5/15            Deputation from Dungannon First Steps**

The Chair welcomed Michael McGoldrick, Chief Executive of Dungannon First Steps to the meeting.

Mr McGoldrick introduced colleague Ms Claire Henry and advised that the First Steps Women Centre was formed out of the Dungannon Development Association in 1998 bringing women throughout the community together during the peace process. Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year the centre had a staff of 16 and a £400k budget, raised through funding application annually.

Mr McGoldrick outlined the work of the centre which included education, training, essential skills, health promotion, ICT course with childcare and transport provision.

Stating that 600 women per year used the centre with an average of 450 per week Mr McGoldrick in referring to the Maslow hierarchy of needs emphasised that the centre looks after the whole person, mentioning the new benefit checker which had resulted in £150,928 unclaimed benefits being accessed since September 2012. Emphasis was also drawn to the uptake in essential skills in literacy courses, ICT courses and the fact that at least seven different nationalities used the centre.

Referring to health promotion and life skills Ms Henry advised that often women attending had a lot of internal barriers and thus services offered included personal development, stress management, healthy eating, dressing on a budget, crafts and recycling.

Mr McGoldrick also made reference to counselling services advising that demand had rocketed since Christmas when the centre had assisted people in purchase of oil, money and counselling funded through Neighbourhood Renewal thus emphasising the dire austere times being experienced. Stating that the First Steps Women Centre was a community based highly professional organisation he advised it had an Investors in People Silver accreditation.

The Chair, Councillor McEldowney, thanked Mr McGoldrick for the presentation acknowledging that it is difficult to get people back into work again after rearing families, and suffering illnesses, and commended all who achieved it. She added that austerity was a major issue.

Councillor J Shiels thanked the representatives for the presentation, made reference to a video clip showcasing their work stating that it was great to see the migrant population integrating in the local area and asked if users had to pay for the courses.

In response Mr McGoldrick advised that the centre was funded through DEL and that 99.9% of courses were free but that users participating in for example flower arranging courses would have to buy their own flowers. Clarifying the budget Mr McGoldrick stated £409k, which includes running the centre together with childcare provision.

Councillor Dillon referring to the Neighbourhood Renewal element of funding asked if this was withdrawn would it have a major impact on the centre. Mr McGoldrick advised that Neighbourhood Renewal funding was minimal and although the centre

would still function without it, Dungannon Town and Coalisland would feel the loss keenly.

Councillor T Quinn thanked the representatives for the very informative presentation and sought clarification as to whether the travelling community used the centre.

In response Mr McGoldrick advised that some members of the travelling community had participated in literacy courses and had availed of counselling but there was not a big uptake. Councillor T Quinn stated that it was unfortunate that little had been done with the travelling community for a number of generations and commended the centre on being an unofficial St Vincent de Paul type organisation.

Mr McGoldrick commended the work of the local St Vincent de Paul emphasising that together with them and the Citizens Advice Bureau they all worked hand in hand.

*The representatives withdrew from the meeting at 7.40pm.*

#### **D6/15            Proposals for Skateboard Park, Cookstown (refer to D4/15)**

Councillor McNamee stated that he had no doubt regarding the recreation activity skateboarding parks provide but stated that Cookstown had investigated such provision in the past and issues regarding insurance and liability had been raised stating that few Councils had opted to provide skate board parks.

Mr McCreesh advised that Cookstown had investigated such provision in the past but had committed funding elsewhere to facilities such as Davagh Forest, stating that the Council had to work within limited resources. He added that liability and insurance were concerns but added they would not be used as barriers. He added that the facility would have to be serviced by staff but it could appeal to a certain amount of young people but with resources and an appropriate site it could be considered in more detail in the future.

#### **Matters for Decision**

#### **D7/15            Opportunity to Apply to the EU Erasmus+ Programme**

Mr Browne drew attention to the detail in the report stating that the purpose was to apply to the EU Erasmus+ Programme for funding to deliver a series of Junior International/European sporting events that would increase the profile of Mid Ulster Council, enhance local sporting clubs and attract and increase the tourism sector creating an economic benefit to the area.

Outlining the background to the project Mr Browne explained that the paper is a result of six months background work by officers who had attended ICBAN and explored how they could avail of the opportunities presented. Emphasising the excellent facilities the area boasted eg Davagh Forest, Glenone Fishing coupled with the excellence in sport naming Darren Clarke, Aaron Hughes and Wendy Houvenaghel all household names from the new district an application had been put together with the aim of showcasing the new district at its best, leaving a legacy for

existing sporting clubs and improving potential for future international events in the form of Mid Ulster European Junior Games similar to Milk Cup format. Mr Browne advised that the timescale would be Mid Summer 2015, with the introduction of new sporting events across four junior cross gender events involving four disciplines such as sailing, boxing, hockey and cycling. Criteria for the funding stated 12 countries should be involved and it was proposed to have four festival events. Highlighting examples and existing links Mr Browne stated already Cookstown was twinned with Plerin in France home of the junior dinghy team, the Olympic success of Katie Taylor in the boxing fraternity, Cookstown with its exceptional 3G pitch for hockey and the increased interest in cycling since the Giro.

In the short term Mr Browne advised that resources would be required to work up an application but limited to Mid Ulster District Council Staff in association with ICBAN. He sought approval for £10k contingency funding which may be required. He added that in the long term the application would be €500 with 20% match funding required.

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the project as his son played hockey for Cookstown. He indicated that an application should be progressed. He advised that some home internationals had been hosted and it had been a showcase for Cookstown.

Mr Browne declared an interest in the Sailing Club.

In response to Councillor Dillon's question on possibilities with sporting bodies Mr Browne said he had spoken to a sailing club and Mr Donnelly, Neighbourhood Renewal Manager in Dungannon had spoken with a boxing club. Councillor Dillon stated that Clonoe Boxing Club would soon be without premises and asked if there was an opportunity to assist in such circumstances.

Mr Browne advised that the programme would allow funding to bring boxing to a required standard but advised it was thought that the boxing would take place at Meadowbank, Magherafelt.

*Councillor Wilson left the room at 7.55pm*

Councillor Dillon advised that Clonoe had a great history and that there would be no boxing fraternity without them. Stating that thought should be given as to how Council could assist Clonoe boxing club she emphasised that the loss of the facility would be massive and boxing was the only sport in the area that the travelling community participated in and some of the young people were now coaching.

Councillor Monteith stated he was wary of bringing competition in from further afield as sometimes other countries did not participate, that it resulted in a few photographs in the paper and that his preference would be to encourage groups in the development of their own facilities and that he would prefer officers to concentrate on helping local clubs advising that Dungannon town boxing club had disappeared due to lack of facilities. Stating that he was not opposed to the project



Councillor Monteith emphasised that he wanted to see concentration on assisting local clubs.

*Councillor Wilson returned at 7.58pm*

Mr Browne sought approval to present a paper to Council and submit an application to Erasmus+ programme by May 2015 (a financial commitment will not be required in 2015-16 but delivery of a successful programme will be subject to approval of match funding via rates setting process for 2016-17, should external funding not be available to meet the required 20%).

*Councillor G Shiels left the room at 7.59pm*

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council

- (i) to grant approval to present paper to Council and submit an application to Erasmus+ programme by May 2015 (a financial commitment will not be required in 2015-16 but delivery of a successful programme will be subject to approval of match funding via rates setting process for 2016-17, should external funding not be available to meet the required 20%)
- (ii) To approve £10k contingency funding if required.

## **D8/15      Health & Safety Audit on Leisure and Sport Services**

Ms Girvan stated that the purpose of the report was to advise of the outcome of an analysis of the Occupational Health and Safety Management systems across Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt Leisure & Sport Services.

Ms Girvan advised that the aim of the report was to establish:

- Responding to the requirements of relevant legal requirements;
- Identifying and anticipating the significant hazards, assessing risks to health and safety arising from the work environment and work activities;
- Developing and implementing effective risk controls to eliminate hazards and minimize risk to health or safety;
- Consultation and reporting arrangements;
- Identifying the documentation and forms that each Council used; and
- Measuring performance including the reporting and investigation of accidents and incidents

*Councillor G Shiels returned at 8.03pm*

Ms Girvan outlined the recommendations as undernoted:

- 1 That the draft Mid Ulster Health and Safety Policy and Committee Terms of Reference included as Appendix 1 to the report be considered at the next available Policy & Resources Committee meeting of Mid Ulster Council. Subject to Policy & Resources Committee consideration consultation should take place with relevant stakeholders.
- 2 Recommend Safeguarding arrangements are aligned with identified officers responsible in facilities to ensure compliance with Section 12 Safeguarding Board (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.
- 3 That a documented Control of Legionella Bacteria procedure be prepared for Mid Ulster Council for introduction 1st April 2015. The alignment of the Mid Ulster Councils monitoring arrangements for Control of Legionella Bacteria is a priority and should be explored at an early stage. That when clubs have complete use or part use of Council's facilities and equipment, that a SLA is put in place.
- 4 That common processes and documentation are agreed and put in place for Mid Ulster relating to risk assessment and the management and control of maintenance and service works, done by both direct labour and by external contractors. Where various clubs have complete use or part use of Council's facilities and equipment, we recommend that a SLA is put in place.
- 5 That a Role Specific, Health and Safety related, Training Needs Analysis is put in place, as soon as structures are embedded in the Mid Ulster Council.
- 6 The expanding of the existing IT accident/incident management system to cover all 3 Councils and new Mid Ulster Council in the short to medium term. In the longer term a more comprehensive IT based Health and Safety system be introduced that would encompass all aspects of Leisure and Sport.

Councillor Wilson stated that when he had read the report without the recommendations he had been very concerned regarding the flaws in present policy referring in particular to one council having significant gaps in risk assessment emphasising that he did not know which existing Council it was but it was poor management. Councillor Wilson asked if the issue regarding contractors coming in without risk assessments was dealt with in the recommendations.

Ms Girvan stated that a consistent approach and management was required. Councillor Wilson stated that the report spoke of major inconsistencies and significant gaps in process stating that it was a poor indictment on the Council concerned.

Ms Campbell stated that there were issues in the report that needed addressed and thus she had met with Heads of Service to look at risk assessments and that they would be reporting back with a plan. Ms Campbell advised that she was endeavouring to ensure standards would be as they should be as soon as possible.

The Chair, Councillor McEldowney, stated that Council could not do much about the past and needed to focus on moving forward and the future. Councillor Wilson concurred and again stated that the findings in the report was a poor indictment on Council concerned.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that the recommendations aforementioned be progressed.

*Ms Girvan left the meeting at 8.07pm*

**D9/15            Progress Report on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan**

Ms Campbell advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on progress on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan previously presented. Ms Campbell drew attention to key issues in the report advising that the Local Economic Development Plan (2014-2015) was being progressed in tandem with the community planning process, that further input from social economy businesses would be available early January 2015 and that the additional inputs would augment the work already completed and that a draft interim economic development strategy for the district would be presented in February.

Ms Campbell further advised that officers were progressing the review of financial assistance policy and process for the community and voluntary sector. The Social Economic and Environmental Data Analysis work was on schedule and that it was hoped to receive commissioning letters from OFMDFM in January and officers were currently drafting the plan for Council consideration.

Members noted progress.

**D10/15            Update on the new Local Action Group Formation Process**

Mr McCreesh drew attention to the report regarding Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and the formation of the LAG stating that 12 Members would be directors of the new board. Mr McCreesh drew attention to the 30 January when social partner appointments to the LAG would be announced and issued to all LAG members.

Members noted progress.

*Councillor Monteith left the meeting at 8.16pm*

**D11/15            Progress Report re European Funding Opportunities for Mid Ulster**

Mr McCreesh advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on European funding opportunities for Mid Ulster.

Mr McCreesh reminded Members that the Council had decided not to submit a direct application to the European Social Fund (ESF) but to link with its new community planning partners in relation to maximisation of funding in the Mid Ulster area.

Advising that ESF lends itself to a co-ordinated approach he stated that the three women's groups were working in synergy and a proposal was going forward to ESF regarding Dungannon Women's group.

Mr McCreesh advised that discussion was still ongoing to bring other agencies together such as South West College, North Regional College and Health and Education Boards. Stating that a substantive bid had been prepared for a major programme in relation to preparing for employability and improving careers options Mr McCreesh advised that it was a significant initiative that would require joint support from Mid Ulster and Omagh and Fermanagh Councils.

He advised that the Council would be continually updated regarding plans to maximise EU funding such as ERASMUS targeted at youth engagement and development, INTERREG, LIFE+ , ERDF Economic Development Funding, Rural Development Funding and Peace IV.

Members noted progress.

*Councillor Monteith returned at 8.19pm*

## **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That item D12/15 – D15 /15 be taken as confidential business.

### **D16 /15 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.35pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**F**

|                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>           | Attendance at Seminars & Conferences |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Change Manager                       |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>   |
| 1.1      | To provide an update on seminars and conferences of relevance to members and officers of Mid Ulster Council.                         |
| 1.2      | To seek approval for attendance of members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated necessary costs, as incurred. |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Background</b>  |
| 2.1      | Five conference sessions are presented for consideration to agree member and/or officer representation from Mid Ulster District Council. Details are provided at 2.1.1 - 2.1.5   |
| 2.1.1    | <b>Annual ICLRD/CCBS Conference - Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: New Models Public Sector Collaboration and Partnership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29 - 30 January 2015, Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen</li> </ul> |
| 2.1.2    | <b>Co-operation Ireland Community Planning Seminar – “Regenerating Local Spaces through Effective Community Planning”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 February 2015, Dublin Castle</li> </ul>                                |
| 2.1.3    | <b>Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2015 – The future shape of housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 17 February 2015, Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast</li> </ul>   |
| 2.1.4    | <b>Tax Advisory Service Annual VAT Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday 4 March 2015, PwC Office, London</li> </ul>   |
| 2.1.5    | <b>Small Business Summit: What next for SME’s?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 12 February, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>3</b> | <b>Key Issues</b> |
| 3.1      | N/A               |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Resources</b>   |
| 4.1      | <b><u>Financial</u></b>  |
| 4.1.1    | <p><b>Annual ICLRD/ CCBS Conference - <i>Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: New Models Public Sector Collaboration and Partnership</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £55 Conference Only</li> <li>• £75 Conference Fee and dinner</li> <li>• £125 Conference Fee, meals and B&amp;B accommodation in Killyhevlin</li> </ul> |
| 4.1.2    | <p><b>Co-operation Ireland Community Planning Seminar – “Regenerating Local Spaces through Effective Community Planning”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No registration fee. Travel and subsistence expenses only.</li> </ul>  |
| 4.1.3    | <p><b>Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2015 – <i>The future shape of housing</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate fee £210 and associated travel and subsistence expenses</li> </ul>   |
| 4.1.4    | <p><b>Tax Advisory Service Annual VAT Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate fee £300 and associated accommodation and travel expenses</li> </ul>  |
| 4.1.5    | <p><b>Small Business Summit: What next for SME’s?</b></p> <p>No registration fee. Travel and subsistence expenses only.</p>  |
| 4.2      | <b><u>Human</u> – N/A</b>  |
| 4.3      | <b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> – N/A</b>  |
| 4.4      | <b><u>Other</u> – N/A</b>  |

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| <b>5</b> | <b>Other Considerations</b> |
| 5.1      | N/A                         |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>6</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 6.1      | Consideration for approval is given to member and/ or officer representation |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>7</b> | <b>List of Documents Attached</b>  |
| 7.1      | <p>Appendix 1: <b>Annual ICLRD/CCBS Conference - <i>Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: New Models Public Sector Collaboration and Partnership</i></b></p> <p>Appendix 2: <b>Co-operation Ireland Community Planning Seminar – “Regenerating Local Spaces through Effective Community Planning”</b></p> <p>Appendix 3: <b>Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2015 – The future shape of housing</b></p> <p>Appendix 4: <b>Annual VAT Conference 2015, London</b></p> <p>Appendix 5: <b>Small Business Summit</b></p> |



## **Annual ICLRD/CCBS Conference**

### **Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: New Models of Public Sector Collaboration and Partnership**

**Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen  
29-30 January 2015**

#### **Programme**

##### **29th January 2015 (Afternoon)**

##### **13.15 Registration & Tea/Coffee**

##### **14.00 Welcome**

Ms. Caroline Creamer, Acting Director, International Centre for Local and Regional Development

Ms. Ruth Taillon, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

##### **14.20 Shared Services: Innovation in Local Government**

Mr. Brendan Hegarty, Chief Executive, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

##### **Session 1: Shared Services, Shared Opportunities**

##### **14.40 Introduction to session & overview of the ICLRD's shared services pilots in Irish Border region**

Dr. Andrew McClelland, Research Associate, ICLRD

##### **15.00 Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: Austerity, Reformed Local Government and Reduced Budgets**

Prof. Greg Lloyd, Emeritus Professor at the University of Ulster

##### **15.30 Shared Services Across Borders: Some Lessons from Europe**

Mr Martín Guillermo-Ramírez, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions

##### **15.50 Questions & Answers**

##### **16.05 Launch of the CCBS Evaluation Toolkit for Cross-Border Projects and the Budget Toolkit for Cross-Border Projects**

Introduced by Mr Martín Guillermo-Ramírez, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions

##### **Session 2: Shared Services: A Local Government Perspective**

##### **16.15 Welcome by Chair**

Dr. Sean O'Riordain, Sean O'Riordain & Associates

##### **16.20 Facilitated Conversation**

A lively discussion and debate on shared services with panel members representing local government and the cross-border networks on the island of Ireland with invited guests from further afield.

## **17.20 Questions & Answers**

### **17.40 Summation of Day 1**

Ms. Caitriona Mullan, Chair, ICLRD

## **18.00 End Day 1**

### **19.15 Reception & Launch of *The Atlas of the Island of Ireland***

Welcome by Cllr. Thomas O'Reilly, Fermanagh and Omagh Statutory Transition Committee

Compere: Prof. Rob Kitchin, Professor of Geography, NIRSA, Maynooth University

Launch by Mr. Niall Cussen, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government & Mr. Tom Reid, Department for Regional Development

## **20.00 Conference Dinner**

With after-dinner address by Prof. Deborah Peel, Chair in Architecture and Planning, School of the Environment, University of Dundee

## **30th January 2015 (morning)**

### **Session 3: Shared Services in Practice: Emerging Agendas for Local Government**

#### **09.30 Welcome by Chair**

Dr. Helen Johnson, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies

#### **09.45 Climate Change Across Borders: Fairness, justice and the governance of adaptation**

Dr. Conor Murphy, Department of Geography & Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units, Maynooth University

#### **10.10 Red Cross research – The Impact of flooding on people's lives: Building more resilient communities and new multi-agency initiatives in Northern Ireland**

Ms. Joanne McKenna, Senior Service Manager, British Red Cross and Mr. Neil McKittrick, Service Manager, British Red Cross

## **10.30 Questions and Answers**

## **11.00 Tea & Coffee**

### **Session 4: Progressing Shared Services: Cooperation, Innovation and Civic Leadership**

#### **11.20 Welcome by Chair**

Prof. Mark Boyle, Director, NIRSA, Maynooth University

#### **11.30 Breakout Sessions**

Three sessions are:

**1. Low Carbon Agenda:** Facilitated by Mr. Pdraig O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer, Louth County Council with presentation by Mr. Denis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Donegal County Council on cross-border low carbon and renewables project.

**2. Emergency Management:** Facilitated by Mr. Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer, Leitrim County Council with presentation by Ms. Joan McCaffrey, Emergency Planning, Omagh District Council on the pilot Cross-border Emergency Management Working Group (CBEMWG) and shared services pilot with ICLRD and AIRO

**3. Sustainable Transport:** Facilitated by Mr. Padraig Maguire, Regional Planner, Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly with presentation by Mr. Gordon Clarke, National Director for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Sustrans on the potential development of a cross-border regional cycle route network.

**12.30 Return to Plenary: Feedback from Breakout Sessions**

**13.00 Closing Address: Place-Based Collaboration - Leadership for a changing world**  
Prof. Robin Hambleton, Professor of City Leadership, Department of Environment and Technology, University of West of England

**1.30 Closing Comments: Key Points**  
Dr. Anthony Soares, Research and Policy Manager, Centre for Cross Border Studies

**1.45 Close Conference / Lunch.**



## SAVE THE DATE

### Community Planning Seminar

To be held on  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015**  
**Dublin Castle**

#### **“Regenerating Local Spaces through Effective Community Planning”**

The seminar will start at 9.30 am and finish at 4.30 pm.

We invite Local Authority Chief Executives and Directors, Elected Representatives, Community Planning Officers NI, LCDC Chief Officers and Senior Officials within the Civil Service across both jurisdictions to save this date. A more detailed agenda will follow early in January.

If you wish to register now for this event please email your name, organisation and position to **[cdunbar@cooperationireland.org](mailto:cdunbar@cooperationireland.org)**

**There is no fee for this seminar.**

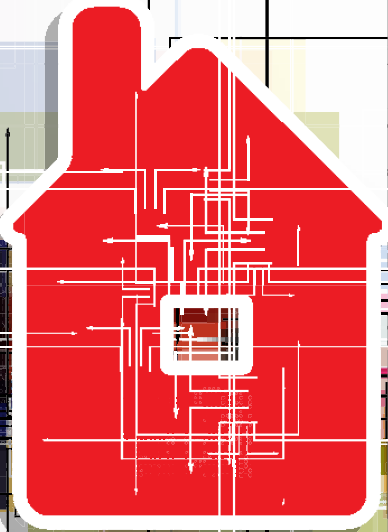


Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government



# Northern Ireland Housing Conference

*The future shape of housing*



Media partner

**agendaNi**  
magazine

Tuesday 17th February 2015  
Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast

# The future shape of housing

Now is a crucial juncture in the development of the housing sector in Northern Ireland. The next few years will see great change across the sector. It is likely that the Housing Executive will be dismantled in a major restructuring move and the way in which affordable housing is delivered in Northern Ireland will change.

No final plans have been announced yet but now is the time that important decisions must be made. This conference will focus on the challenges that will lie ahead and discuss the way forward to ensure we are able to meet future housing needs. Also examined will be the critical issue of financing and funding the sector which continues to represent a major challenge in light of reducing budgets. The issue of welfare reform, still to be implemented in Northern Ireland, will also have implications. The conference will also look to the future role of the housing association as organisations that not only provide a landlord function but also deliver other important services to improve the lives of people and communities.

This conference will bring together the key stakeholders to take a wide-ranging and strategic look at the local housing sector, with the aim of identifying innovative solutions to meet this growing list of challenges that will shape the future landscape of housing in Northern Ireland.

## Sponsorship opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for interested organisations to become involved with this conference as sponsors. Sponsorship of this event is an excellent way for organisations to raise their profile with a key audience of senior decision-makers from across the housing sector in Northern Ireland. For further information on how your organisation can benefit, contact **Lynda Millar** on **028 9261 9933**.



## Speaker panel



**Ian Elliott** is Chief Executive of OakleeTrinity. He has spent over 30 years working in social housing, and previously worked with the NIHE and BIH Housing Association (now Helm Housing). He was appointed as Chief Executive of Oaklee Housing Association in 2000, which merged with Trinity Housing in 2014. Ian has been closely involved with affordability initiatives, joint partnerships, meaningful tenant involvement, and the creation and growth of Oaklee Housing Trust in the Republic of Ireland.



**Paddy Gray** is Professor of Housing at the Built Environment Research Institute at the University of Ulster. He is a regular media commentator and international contributor to conferences, books and articles on housing related issues. He was previously President of the Chartered Institute of Housing and was the first housing professional from Ireland to take up this post, as well as the first academic.



**Andrew Hamilton** is Deputy Secretary of Resources and Social Policy Group at the Department for Social Development. He has over 10 years of experience in senior management posts in DHSSPS as Finance Director and Deputy Secretary (Health Care) and latterly as Deputy Secretary in DEL. Current priorities include a major review of housing structures, and the taking forward of a major legislative programme bringing change to the social security, child support and pension systems.



**Donald Hoodless** OBE is Chairman of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. He is a former CEO of Circle 33 Housing Trust and Notting Hill Housing Trust. He was also on the Board of the Housing Corporation and chaired the G15, an informal group of the 15 largest housing associations in London. He has also had roles at the Post Office, the Greater London Council and Islington LBC and as an economist.



**Tracey Lees** is the Chief Executive of The Barnet Group, which incorporates both Barnet Homes and Your Choice Barnet. She has been the Chief Executive of Barnet Homes since September 2008. Tracey has spent all of her career working in housing and has worked for a wide range of local authorities and housing associations. Tracey is a Group Board member of Paragon Community Housing and the Chair of the board of one of its subsidiaries, Richmond Churches Housing Trust.



**Eamon McGoldrick** is currently Managing Director of the National Federation of ALMOs which is the trade body for all ALMOs. He is also an independent consultant with over 37 years' experience in housing management having started at the Greater London Council in 1977. Eamon was appointed Chief Executive of Homes for Islington in 2004 and retained that position until March 2012. During that period, he was responsible for the management of 35,000 homes.



**John McLean** was appointed Chief Executive of Fold Housing Association in June 2005. Fold provides housing, care and support to over 30,000 homes in Northern Ireland. The association employs over 800 people across 96 work locations in Northern Ireland. John was previously employed as Commercial Director with NIE, the Tyco Group and the Rotary Group. He has worked in the manufacturing, contracting and services sectors, overseas and in the UK.



**Phil Miles** is Director of Regeneration and Communities for Affinity Sutton and has over 20 years' experience of working in the social housing sector, including housing management, development and estate regeneration. Affinity Sutton is one of England's largest social landlords with 57,000 properties in 120 Local Authorities. He is responsible for Affinity Sutton's wide ranging Social and Economic Regeneration programme delivered through its Community Foundation. The programme aims to help people into work, tackle financial and digital exclusion, support young people and build stronger communities.



**Cameron Watt** is the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA). Previously he led a policy team at the National Housing Federation, the voice of affordable housing in England. Cameron also worked in the Renewing One Nation team at the Conservative Central Office, helped Iain Duncan Smith establish the Centre for Social Justice, and as its Deputy Director contributed significantly to its award winning publication *Breakthrough Britain*.

# Programme

0830 Registration and morning coffee

0900 Chairman's welcome and introduction:  
Jamie Delargy, Business Editor, **UTV**

## ***Delivering the Social Housing Reform Programme***

Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Secretary  
Department for Social Development

## ***Reshaping housing services to meet future needs***

Donald Hoodless, Chairman  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive

## ***Realigning housing associations for better outcomes***

Ian Elliott, Chief Executive, OakleeTrinity

## ***A business for social purpose: Improving the lives of residents and communities***

Phil Miles, Director of Regeneration and Communities  
Affinity Sutton

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1045 Morning coffee / networking break

1115 ***The challenges for the private rented sector in meeting housing needs***

Paddy Gray, Professor of Housing, University of Ulster

## ***Providing effective support services for independent living***

John McLean, Chief Executive, Fold Housing Association

## ***The experience of the ALMO model***

Tracey Lees, Chief Executive, Barnet Homes  
Eamon McGoldrick, Managing Director  
National Federation of ALMOs

## ***Effective regulation and rent policy***

Cameron Watt, Chief Executive  
Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations

## ***Accessing European funding for social housing***

Piers Williamson, Chief Executive  
The Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1315 Chairman's summary and conference close followed by networking lunch

## Networking opportunity

The conference is structured in a way to provide a high level of interaction between speakers and delegates.

There will be plentiful opportunities for questions as well as discussion in each of the sessions. In the breaks and margins of the event there will also be ample scope for business development.



I wish to:

- ☐ **Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Housing Conference**  
Delegate fee £175 + VAT @ 20% = £210
- ☐ **CIH members discounted rate: £150 + VAT @ 20% = £180**
- ☐ **NIFHA members discounted rate: £150 + VAT @ 20% = £180**

### Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment options

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable to 'bmf Business Services'

☐ Please invoice me

☐ Please debit my Visa / Mastercard

Card number

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Name of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Security code \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)

### Cancellations / substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute delegate may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively a refund will be given for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, up to 14 days prior to the conference, less an administration charge of 25%. Regrettably no refunds can be made after that date.

## Who should attend?

The conference will be of interest to all stakeholders with an interest in aspects of housing, funding and management including senior managers in the public, private and third sectors in Northern Ireland. The conference will be of particular interest to:

- Professionals in housing policy and delivery;
- Government departments and agencies;
- Those providing benefits advice;
- Housing associations;
- Policy / public affairs advisors;
- The construction industry;
- Project funders;
- Legal advisors;
- Housing and planning consultants;
- The community / voluntary sector / NGOs;
- Local elected representatives.

## Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the conference will:

- ✓ Discuss the proposed changes to the structure of the sector
- ✓ Look at the future role of the housing association
- ✓ Hear about innovative solutions being applied elsewhere
- ✓ Look at the future of housing finance

## How to register



**Online**  
[www.agendaNi.com/events](http://www.agendaNi.com/events)



**By telephone**  
028 9261 9933



**By email**  
[registration@agendaNi.com](mailto:registration@agendaNi.com)



**By fax**  
028 9261 9951



**QR Code**

### Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates. Joining instructions will be sent out following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement seven days prior to the start of the conference, please contact Angela Dickson at [registration@agendaNi.com](mailto:registration@agendaNi.com) to confirm your booking.







# Annual VAT Conference 2015 - London

**Date:** Wednesday 4 March 2015

**Location:** PwC Office - 7 More London, Riverside, London SE1 2RT

**Timing:**

09:30 - Registration

10.00 - Conference starts

16:30 - Planned finish

**Cost:**

Tax Advisory Service subscribers - £250 plus VAT

Non Subscribers - £300 plus VAT

## VAT Technical Update Seminar

PricewaterhouseCoopers leads the way in consulting for Government and Public Sector clients including local government, bringing a distinguished reputation for exceptional client service and delivering more value than our clients expect. The PwC local authority VAT team are the market leaders in providing taxation advice to local authorities and provide helplines and ad hoc consultancy to over 100 local authorities around the country. Each year we run a one day conference for local authorities in London and Edinburgh looking at VAT and other relevant issues that affect local authorities.

This year's VAT conference will cover:

### Session 1: Review of the Year

- Press releases and Business Briefs from HM Revenue and Customs
- Changes in practice and policy from HM Revenue and Customs

### Session 2: Case Law

- Cases of interest from throughout the year

### Session 3: Guest Speaker

- Guest speaker talking on setting up local authority companies

### Session 4: Case Study

The speakers for the VAT seminar will be from PricewaterhouseCoopers National Local Government VAT Team, including David Phelps, Catherine Porter, Anisa Kanji, Adam Timmins and Janet Morritt with guest speakers.

Delegates will receive full course material (handouts, copy slides etc), and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Register



# **Small Business Summit:** **What next for SME support?**

***Thursday 12th February 2015***  
***Island Hall, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn***  
***9.15am – 1.30pm***

The Review of Public Administration has the potential to transform the enterprise support landscape, with key development functions being transferred from Invest NI to the 11 new Councils.

NILGA and Enterprise Northern Ireland introduce the 'Small Business Summit', an event to explore what is next for SME support in the region.

The Summit will be the first key event to mark Northern Ireland being awarded the European Entrepreneurial Region Award for 2015 / 2016.

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>9.15am</b>  | Registration and tea / coffee   |
| <b>9.40am</b>  | Welcome - Alderman Allan Ewart, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, Lisburn City Council  |
| <b>9.45am</b>  | Opening address – Senior Representative from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)  |
| <b>10.00am</b> | Economic overview – Angela McGowan, Danske Bank   |
| <b>10.20am</b> | Entrepreneurial Councils – Lisburn Castlereagh Chief Executive / NILGA  |
| <b>10.40am</b> | Future support for SMEs – Ken Nelson, LEDCOM  |
| <b>11.00am</b> | Refreshment Break   |
| <b>11.25am</b> | Enterprising Regions – Patrick Wiggins, Irvine Bay – An Enterprise Exemplar   |
| <b>12.00pm</b> | Power, Trust, Money: the tools to do the job?<br>Panel and Audience Discussion, Chaired by Alderman Allan Ewart, Chair of Lisburn City Council's Economic Development Committee |
| <b>12.30pm</b> | Close – Cllr Dermot Curran, NILGA President   |
| <b>12.35pm</b> | Lunch and Networking  |

**This is a FREE event but places are limited, in order to secure your place, please register at**

**[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/small-business-summit-what-next-for-sme-support-tickets-15269034092](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/small-business-summit-what-next-for-sme-support-tickets-15269034092)**

**by the 6th February 2015.**

**G**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Subject</b>           | Responses to Motion carried 18 December 2014 on Human Trafficking |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Change Manager  |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>   |
| 1.1      | Inform and provide council with correspondence received on motion carried by Council on Thursday 18 December on Human Trafficking. |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>2</b> | <b>Background</b>  |
| 2.1      | <p>Council considered and carried a motion relating to the Private Members Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill introduced and taken through the NI Assembly by Lord Morrow MLA on Thursday 18 December 2014. The motion was moved by Councillor Cuthbertson and was carried as:</p> <p><i>Mid-Ulster Council congratulates Lord Morrow MLA for Fermanagh -South Tyrone, on successfully steering his Private Members Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill through the Legislative Assembly. Recognises the cross party support his Bill received and following Royal Assent expects the PSNI to enforce the new offences and the Departments of Health and Justice to roll out the provisions in the Bill to tackle the scourge of Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Northern Ireland</i></p> |

|          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| <b>3</b> | <b>Key Issues</b> |
| 3.1      | N/A               |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>4</b> | <b>Resources</b>  |
| 4.       | <b><u>Financial</u></b> – N/A                                   |
| 4.2      | <b><u>Human</u></b> – N/A                                       |
| 4.3      | <b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b> – N/A |
| 4.4      | <b><u>Other</u></b> – N/A                                       |

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| <b>5</b> | <b>Other Considerations</b> |
| 5.1      | N/A                         |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>6</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                   |
| 6.1      | Council notes receipt of correspondence. |

|          |  |
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| <b>7</b> | <b>List of Documents Attached</b>  |
| 7.1      | <p>Appendix 1: Correspondence - Department of Justice</p> <p>Appendix 2: Correspondence - PSNI</p> <p>Appendix 3: Correspondence - Dept of Health, Social Services and Public Safety</p> |

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of

**Justice**

[www.dojni.gov.uk](http://www.dojni.gov.uk)

Minister's Office Block B,  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Ballymiscaw  
Belfast  
BT4 3SG

Tel: 028 9052 8121

[private.office@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk)

Our ref: COR/1001/2014

Mr Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

5 January 2015

*Dear Mr Tohill*

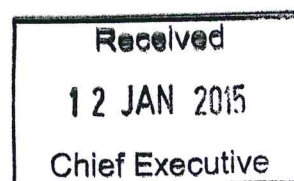
**Mid Ulster Council Resolution Notice of Motion on the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill**

Thank you for your letter of 23 December, which notes that the Mid Ulster District Council has passed a motion in respect of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill.

My Department worked closely with Lord Morrow as the Bill progressed through the Assembly, to help shape the content of the Bill and introduce additional measures to strengthen the response to human trafficking and slavery. I believe that this legislation places Northern Ireland at the forefront of the fight against these crimes and I am committed to rolling out the provisions within the Bill. This will be done in accordance with Clause 28 of the Bill, which deals with commencement.

*David Ford*

**DAVID FORD MLA**  
Minister of Justice





Keeping People Safe



**05 January 2015**

**Mr Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Burn Road  
COOKSTOWN  
Co Tyrone  
BT80 8DT**

Dear Mr Tohill

Thank you for your recent correspondence which has been noted by the Chief Constable. He has asked that I respond to you directly on this matter.

PSNI co-operate with other UK police services, An Garda Síochána and Law Enforcement colleagues in Europe and beyond to counter Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. PSNI officers engage in operations to disrupt and dismantle organised crime groups which exploit and abuse people for profit.

We will continue to work collaboratively with Councils and other public bodies for the protection of the public from such criminality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Drennan', is located below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

**ROBERT DRENNAN  
Detective Chief Superintendent  
Head of Branch**

Received

12 JAN 2015

Chief Executive

**Family and Children's Policy Directorate**



Mr A Tohill  
Chief Executive  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

Room A3.2  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
Northern Ireland

Tel: 028 90 522142

Email:  
[elaine.colgan@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.colgan@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Our Ref: TOF/1047/2014

Date: 14 January 2015

Dear Mr Tohill

Thank you for your letter to Minister Wells dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 concerning the notice of motion passed by the Mid Ulster District Council regarding Lord Morrow's Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill.

The Department welcomes the support of the Mid Ulster District Council as it works to implement the Bill. The Department has begun work to implement the provisions for which it has responsibility, pending Royal Assent, namely the provision of a child trafficking guardian service, and coordination of a cross-departmental strategy to provide assistance and support to those wishing to exit prostitution.

I trust this information is of assistance,

Yours sincerely

**Elaine Colgan**  
**Head of Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy and Legislation**