

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 3 February 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Kearney, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar, Gildernew*, S McAleer*, S McGuigan*, McKinney*, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Ms McNally**, Assistant Director of Finance, Legal, Governance and Transformation
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr Scullion**, Assistant Director of Property Services
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Brown

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

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

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor McKinney at tonight's meeting, the Vice Chair, Councillor Kearney took the Chair. The Chair advised that Councillor McKinney would be in attendance by remote means.

Councillor Forde, McLean and Quinn.

PR023/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

PR024/22 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR025/22 MUDC Response to the Department of Communities Consultation on the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022

The AD: ODSP presented previously circulated report to inform members on Council's response to the consultation that covers proposals by the Department for the Economy (DfE) to amend the current (DfE) performance indicator and standards included within the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 to include the Department for the Economy's (DfE) proposed revised performance indicator and standards in respect of economic development).

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to adopt the Council's draft response to the consultation to amend the current (DfE) performance indicator and standards included within the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (NI) 2015 to include the Department for the Economy's (DfE) proposed revised performance indicator and standards for economic development specific to Mid Ulster district.

PR026/22 Request to Illuminate Council Properties

The AD: ODSP presented previously circulated report which considered requests received to illuminated/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark:

- Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS)

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Totten and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to light up the three designated Council properties on Thursday 20 May 2022 to mark Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS) – the colour to be red.

PR027/22 Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 – Consultation

The Director of Public Health & Infrastructure presented previously circulated report to update Members on the recent consultation launched by Department for Infrastructure on 29th November 2021 in regards to the Implementation of the Reservoirs Act (NI) 2015 and the additional controls which will be applied.

He made reference to paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 and the wider impact of the legislation which was placing new responsibilities on Council. He indicated the consultation referenced possible financial support however no detail was provided. The two bodies of water identified for Council control were designated as high impacts. In the consultation response Council were suggesting that any support should be prioritised to those bodies of water which had been designated as high and medium impact. In regards to the risk assessment process that was referenced as part of that process ,it was advised that there was already good practice in place in the UK mainlands where the legislation had been derived from and it was proposed that that this rationale should also be applied in N Ireland . The Council response referenced that the Department should undertake a structured risk assessment process on all bodies of water to determine the appropriate classification.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the two reservoirs in Dungannon, one in Dungannon Park which was the old Moygashel Mills Park Lake and hadn't been used as a reservoir for nearly 100 years. The other one was another supply lake to Moygashel Textiles and basically another redundant reservoir. He said the question would be why there was more responsibility to maintain them than any other lake or lough in the District and could understand a current reservoir that was being used which needed to be kept up to a high standard but felt that all our lakes and loughs should be kept up to the same standards.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council and approve the draft Consultation response on Implementation of the Reservoirs Act (NI) 2015 as outlined in Appendix 2.

PR028/22 Member Services

None.

Matters for Information

PR029/22 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 12 January 2022

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 12 January 2022.

PR030/22 Performance Improvement Update Qtr. 1 - Qtr. 3 (2021- 2022)

Members noted previously circulated report which provided members with monitoring information on the review of Council's performance against our seven statutory and three corporate performance improvement indicators and standards, along with an overview of the Corporate Health Indicators for the first nine months of 2021/22. The report also provides a performance progress summary against the Council's four corporate improvement objectives and their associated project plans. The indicators and standards, the 4 improvement projects and corporate health indicators are contained within our Two Year Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for 2021/22 to 2022/23.

Councillor Ashton referred to page 168, item 5 – “Increase of Council’s technological hardware i.e. it is recycled and re-used” and apologised in advance in case she missed it previously and asked that any information relating to that be issued to her. She enquired what community groups availed of this and how was the programme advertised.

The AD: ODSP advised that he would certainly take this on board and issue the relevant information sought.

The Head of ICT advised the officers were currently in the process of wiping those computers with a secure wipe software. The determination of who the recipients of those devices has still yet to be determined but would be used in community services to reference some worthy recipients.

Councillor Cuddy stated that it was a very comprehensive document with a lot of good and excellence but enquired if there was anything regarding this that could be deemed worrying in the future.

The Chief Executive advised that it was an excellent report but it wasn’t perfect, in most parts it’s good and above average and wherever there is a deficiency or red area, this would be focused upon and brought to the attention of SMT. Those areas of concern would be then considered by SMT where it is felt the Council were underperforming and the reasons why i.e. issues, internal circumstances and in some cases external circumstances. He said that Covid cannot be blamed for everything but it was a very disruptive period which had impacted on performance. Overall in relation to performance, job creation, our actions to achieve our performance targets, officers were satisfied, although not perfect, would strive for perfection and those areas which may be falling short would not be ignored and would be addressed at SMT.

The Chair stated that the page he was always interested in was Corporate Health Indicators which was on page 206 and stated that there was a lot of good work put into that one page alone.

Councillor McKinney referred to attendance and enquired if officers were satisfied with the result for the year or was there room for improvement.

The SD: ODSP stated at the minute she was satisfied with the percentage giving the current climate and difficulties which was being worked through including post-covid issues. Given the year which we had she was satisfied with the percentage outlined and hoped that this could be maintained at this level and hopefully within the next few years there may be room for improvement, but was content with the current percentages.

Live broadcast ended at 7.16 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Member consider items PR031/22 to PR042/22.

Matters for Decision

- PR031/22 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR032/22 Staffing Matters for Information
- PR033/22 Land and Property Update
- PR034/22 Lands at Lisnahull, Dungannon – Lease
- PR035/22 Peace IV Shared Spaces
- PR036/22 Environmental Improvement Works
- PR037/22 Procurement and Supply Fleet Replacements

Matters for Information

- PR038/22 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 12 January 2022
- PR039/22 2022/23 Rate Estimates
- PR040/22 Full Fibre NI (FFNI) Project Update Report February 2022
- PR041/22 Financial Report for 9 months ended 31 December 2021
- PR042/22 Contracts and DAC

PR043/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.17 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

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