

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 6 July 2016 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor Molloy, Chair Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Elattar, McAleer, McEldowney, McNamee, T Quinn, J Shiels and Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms Grogan, Committee Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D174/16 Apologies

Councillors Doris, Forde, G Shiels and C O'Neill.

D175/16 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in LAG.

Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in Dungannon Enterprise Centre

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Rural Development and PCSP

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in grant allocations

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in grant allocations and Dungannon Enterprise Centre

Councillor McNamee declared an interest on Cookstown Community Allotments

D176/16 Chair's Business

No business was raised.

D177/16 Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 June 2016

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 June 2016 (D149/16 to D167/16 and D173/16), were considered and signed as correct and accurate.

Matters for Decision

D178/16 Recommended Sportsperson/Team Representative/Sports Club Competitive Grant Allocations (Rolling Programme)

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to present proposed Sportsperson/Team/Sports Club Competitive Grant allocations (Rolling Programme).

Councillor Cuddy stated that he was very impressed with the whole initiative as it was very well thought through plan.

The Head of Leisure left the meeting at 7.05 pm

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree the recommendations for successful grant applications as per report.

D179/16 Mid Ulster District Council Culture & Arts Strategy

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to engage specialist services to develop a five year Culture & Arts Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council's Culture & Arts Services.

Councillor Cuddy stated that there should be enough in-house expertise to deliver the programme rather than outsourcing.

Councillor Wilson said that expertise would be required and agreed that a specialist service should be sought.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Wilson

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to procure specialist services to develop a five year Culture & Arts Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council's Culture & Arts Services as identified within 2016/17 Service Improvement Plan and to approve allocation of up to £15,000 from 2016/17 budget.

D180/16 Coarse Angling Tariff

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Member's approval for the introduction of a new tariff structure to cover newly developed coarse angling activities on council water recreation properties.

Councillor J Shiels enquired about rod licences and asked if these are required at Dungannon Park.

The Head of Parks advised that it would be encouraged for owners to have their own rod licences.

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to accept the proposed tariff structure as per report.

D181/16 Economic Development Report

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- 1) Regional Start Initiative Update
- 2) Prince's Trust – Proposal
- 3) Network Personnel – Up for Work & Job Match Request
- 4) Irish Central Border Area Network – Request 2016/17
- 5) Women in Business Awards & Conference Request
- 6) Blackwater Regional Partnership Update
- 7) DfC Revitalise Scheme 2016/17 – Cookstown & Dungannon Town Centres
- 8) Town Centre Positioning Study
- 9) Draft response to Programme Government 2016/21
- 10) Wi-Fi in Maghera
- 11) Public Art for Magherafelt Town Centre

Councillor McNamee said it was very encouraging to see the shop front scheme progressing.

In response to Councillor J Shiels query why Maghera and Magherafelt were not being included in the shop front scheme, the Director of Business and Communities advised that Dungannon and Cookstown were the only two towns identified by the Department for Communities, to date, for inclusion, due to the imminent completion of Public Realm Schemes.

The Director of Business and Communities reminded Members that Public Art at the roundabout in Magherafelt is an integral part of the Public Realm Scheme. Members were advised that Magherafelt District Council had previously commissioned the design and manufacture of two significant art sculptures, reflecting the history of Magherafelt town and surrounding areas. These were then subjected to extensive

public consultation. It is felt that one of them may be appropriate as the signature art piece for Magherafelt roundabout.

It was agreed that this would be explored further and that arrangements would be made for Members to view both pieces in Magherafelt.

Members were also advised that reference to Christmas Lights includes further investment to enhance the Christmas lights for Dungannon town centre.

In response to a query about the public art pieces in Magherafelt, the Director of Business and Communities advised that the design for public art should reflect the heritage of Magherafelt. He said that the legacy Magherafelt Council had designed two major designs on art with different groups, communities and members of the Council but would like to explore it further to get it right.

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McAleer

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

1) Regional Start Initiative and New Business Start Programme

Members to note progress on the Regional Start Initiative.

2) Prince's Trust – Development Award Scheme Request

Contribution towards the Prince's Trust of up to £1,250 towards the provision of a minimum of 20 Development Awards to assist unemployed young people from Mid Ulster access employment, training and/or further education.

3) Network Personnel: Up for Work & Job Match Programmes

Request to redeploy this 2016/17 (year 2) Council allocation of £23,029 for both Programmes towards supporting 66 programme participants to achieve higher level qualifications, to enhance their skills base and employment prospects.

4) ICBAN Request 2016/17

- i) The provision of up to £10,000 funding for ICBAN from Council's Economic Development Budget 2016/17, to be paid in two equal instalments, subject to Council being provided with the requisite monitoring documentation (application form, confirmation of match funding, copies of accounts, insurances financial report and Progress Reports).
- ii) The release of the first 50% payment once Council is in receipt of all documentation requested (outlined above). Progress updates from ICBAN will be provided to future Development Committee meetings.

5) Women in Business Conference and Awards Request

The Council is already supporting the promotion of female entrepreneurship through sponsorship of a category in the Mid Ulster

Local Women Business Awards held in Glenavon on 18 June 2016, and will also be providing a contribution towards the Mid Ulster Business Awards (November 2016).

It is therefore recommended that the Council advises that it would be prepared to provide a financial contribution towards the Women in Business events, along the basis of an equal split with the other contributing Councils, up to £2,000.

6) DfC Revitalise Scheme 2016/17 – Cookstown & Dungannon Town Centres

Members approved projects as outlined and agreed that, subject to securing letters of offer from Department for Communities, suitably qualified companies are procured in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy.

7) Blackwater Regional Partnership

Note progress.

8) Town Centre Positioning Study

Note progress.

9) Maghera Wi-Fi

£15,000 being set aside from Economic Development budget this year to procure a suitable organisation to carry out required works.

10) Public Art for Magherafelt Town Centre

£30,000 being set aside from Economic Development budget this year to procure a suitable organisation to carry out required works. Site visit to see art pieces to be arranged for members.

D182/16 Tourism Strategy Update

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with the final draft of the Council's Tourism Development Strategy.

The Head of Tourism advised that in March 2015, a meeting was held with Tourism NI and it was agreed on three themes which at the time was felt to Mid Ulster's Strengths. These included:

- Seamus Heaney
- Archaeological Sites, History & Heritage
- Outdoor Activities

In 2014 Mid Ulster District Council displayed a low level of tourism visibility which was represented by spend of £27m equivalent to 4.6% of NI overnight trips and 3.6% of the NI spend in 2014.

In the summer 2015, the Tourism Department obtained permission from Council to seek consultants to carry out consultation and to test the three themes with the industry and develop a strategy for a five year period.

In late Autumn last year, BTS from Edinburgh were appointed to carry out the work on behalf of the Council. BTS carried out a series of workshops and consultations sessions with all the different sectors which has resulted in the final draft copy of the Mid Ulster Tourism Development Strategy including Action plan for the next five years.

The primary focus of the strategy is economics, which is about building a tourism industry in Mid Ulster that will increase the economics of Tourism within the region.

The vision of the strategy was to include:

- Developing the propositions for Mid Ulster; and
- Ensuring that the processes for developing and promoting products in the market place are efficient and effective

To enhance Mid Ulster's image and reputation for the visitors and grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021 as measured by overnight visitor expenditure.

The Head of Tourism concluded by saying that the seven months extensive consultation that was carried out ensured that all sectors had an opportunity to review and contribute, so much so the consultation period was extended from five months to seven months at the request of the private sectors to ensure inclusivity.

Councillor Clarke said that a lot of good work had been achieved as it has come a long way from where it first started. He said that it was very beneficial for all involved as it showed their commitment, but that the delivery of the marketing strategy would be the secret to the success. He congratulated the Tourism department on a job well done.

Councillor McAleer agreed with Councillor Clarke, but referred to Queen Aine's Tomb which she felt should have been included in the strategy as it was a very important heritage site. She advised that a lot of people walk to the top of the cairn and caters for a wide range of community groups, schools and sporting groups. Also included are groups linked to William Carleton. She asked that consideration be given to including this landmark due to its significance in the Clogher Valley area.

The Head of Tourism advised that he would take on board Councillor McAleer's comments and look at amending the strategy.

Councillor T Quinn referred to item 2.4 and 2.5 which shows that things are moving forward and felt that it would be important for Mid Ulster District Council to grasp the tourism destiny. He said that there was an onus on Council to encourage more jobs within the tourism industry, to include B&B's etc. Very fortunate that Mid Ulster has locations which have a natural beauty, like Lough Neagh and the Sperrins, but what's missing is US Links and this would be extremely important moving forwards.

The Head of Tourism advised that it's anticipated over the next few weeks to work on buildings links with the US.

Councillor Wilson enquired how it's proposed to measure performance for overnight stays and evaluations.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that this issue was raised with Tourism NI because there was need for a process where measurements could be verified.

Councillor Wilson stated that when the Heaney Centre is up and running that this would be a given as measurement would be vitally important.

Councillor Molloy said that Davagh Forest amongst others should be developed as there was a requirement for a measurement against the baseline. There was a lot to build on and targeting the right area, for instance mountain biking as it was a very popular pastime.

The Director of Business and Committees said that a future report can be undertaken focusing upon monitoring and evaluation using current performance levels as the baseline.

Councillor Molloy advised that Davagh Forest branding would need updated to Mid Ulster as still under Cookstown. This is vitally important to get the Mid Ulster branding recognised.

The Director of Businesses and Communities said that he anticipated a significant launch of this document as it demonstrates how serious Mid Ulster District Council is towards developing its tourism strategy.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to formally adopting the Tourism Development Strategy and that the officers prioritise and start to implement the actions within the strategy.

D183/16 Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- 1) Receive a request from the Lough Neagh Partnership to Mid Ulster District Council from core funding for 2016/17
- 2) Review the operational plan for delivery of marketing tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh and Lough Neagh shoreline

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- 1) Mid Ulster District Council funding Lough Neagh Partnership £25,000 as requested and subject to funding being secured from all five Lough Neagh Council's
- 2) Lough Neagh Partnership submitting a quarterly update to Mid Ulster District Council

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

D184/16 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- a) Seek approval for community grant award recommendations
- b) Seek approval for the regional Peace IV strategic shared space proposal and local share space concepts
- c) Seek approval for Good Relations Project as part of the GR Plan
- d) Update on progress relating to Community Development Section

In response to Councillor J Shiels query regarding proposed CCTV meeting, the Head of Community Development advised that it's proposed to hold the meeting before the end of July, with Mr Mike Baird being directly invited to attend.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to grant approval to the Good Relations and Community Festivals grant award recommendations.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to grant approval to the Amazing Space Project.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to grant approval to the Peace IV local shared space initiatives and proposed development of a Regional Peace IV Shared Space proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to noting the community development report.

Matters for Information

D185/16 Parks Service Progress Report

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members of the progress being made regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future.

Councillor Cuddy referred to Railway Park and felt that it was important to keep a close eye on the area as in the past it attracted anti-social behaviour. He said it was also important to keep the area tidy now that the new Junction building was on site.

He also referred to Dungannon Park and said that it was a very important landmark as people come from near and far to visit. He said that it was important that this park is kept as a major tourist attraction.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that she was proposing to bring a report to September meeting on resourcing implications.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that members notes the report on Park Service Progress.

D186/16 Pop in the Park

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform Council of the proposed Pop in the Park Event to take place on 13 August in Railway Park.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that members notes the report on Pop in the Park Event.

D187/16 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report to update members on progress with the interim rural development strategy for Mid Ulster.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that members notes the report on Northern Ireland Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels

Resolved: That items (D188/16 to D189/16) be taken as confidential business.

D190/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.15 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____