

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 7 February 2019 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor McKinney, Chair Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Kearney, S McGuigan, D McPeake, S McPeake, Molloy, Totten
Officers in Attendance	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mrs McNally, Council Solicitor Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Councillors McFlynn and Monteith

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

PR023/19 Apologies

Councillors Forde, McLean, Gildernew, M Quinn.

PR024/19 Declaration of Interest

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

PR025/19 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR025/19 Vehicle All Round Safety Camera System

The Head of Property Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval to retrofit and fund exterior all round camera safety systems to the fleet which are in excess of 3.5T that won't be replaced in the 2019/2020 replacement schedule.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query, the Head of Property Services advised that funding would be sourced through the revenue reserves.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the release at a cost of £25,000, plus a 10% contingency (£27,500) from revenue reserves to retrofit the 360 Birdseye view camera safety systems around the exterior of the vehicles detailed in the report.

PR026/19 Consultation on Improvement Objectives: February – March 2019

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek agreement for improvement objectives for 2019/20 and the initiation of public consultation on Improvement Objectives as set in compliance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (the Act).

Councillor Cuddy said that although he wasn't against the initiative, but felt that Planning had one clear objective which could be measured, whilst some of the others were harder to measure and could be very subjective.

The Chief Executive advised that each year objectives were brought forward which are overseen by a Senior Responsible Officer and an assigned Project team. He said that the Council had previously approved 4 improvement objectives which were set for the two year period 2017/18 to 2018/19. Following consideration by Senior Management, three of the current four improvement objectives were recommended to progress through into the new financial year to provide sufficient time to bring about increased tangible outcomes for citizens, with the addition of one new improvement objective. He stated that following the elections in May a new Corporate Plan for the next four years would be established and new performance improvements agreed.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the four improvement objectives for 2019 to 2020 (three existing improvement objectives for a further 12 month period (2019-20) and the addition of one new improvement objective for the incoming financial year), and the initiation of consultation on same together with associated timeline.

PR027/19 Earls Project – Lease of Council owned Lands situated at Railway Park, Dungannon to STEP

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on the terms of the transaction regarding lands situated at Railway Park, Dungannon ("the Lands") that forms part of the Earls Project and to seek Members approval to enter in to the Lease with South Tyrone Enterprise Programme ("STEP") on the terms contained herein.

Councillor Cuddy advised that the Dungannon Town Councillors got involved in the process a few years ago which was 100% funded, and stated that although he wouldn't be against the recommendation he would have concerns regarding the future of the lease in the eventuality of STEP not being able to continue. He said that in the past the Council had made the mistake of allocating land to another group and if the land were to be sold the proceeds would not be returned to Council.

Councillor Molloy said that there were safeguards written into the lease and would be happy to proceed with the recommendation but would like clarification on the possible outcome of STEP being unable to continue and enquired whether the debt would be against the building, Debtors or Council.

The Council Solicitor said that one of the main reasons a lease is needed is because under the terms of the funding that the Council received, the funder, SEUPB, has to take the priority charge on STEP's Lease.

Councillor Molloy asked if the Council would have to buy the lease out in the eventuality of STEP becoming insolvent.

Councillor Cuddy enquired whether the building would be allocated to the SEUPB or the Council if STEP were to become insolvent.

The Council Solicitor said that she would check, but she understood that as the Council was the landowner, has a provision within the Lease to terminate the Lease in certain circumstances, including insolvency then a charge on the Lease would not prevent the Council from doing this.

Councillor Molloy asked that clarification on concerns raised be brought back to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the revised Lease and Lease Map as previously circulated as Appendix A and B. Clarity on concerns raised tonight be brought back to Council.

Matters for Information

PR028/19 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 9 January 2019

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 9 January 2019.

PR029/19 Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues – Subscription 2019-20

Members noted correspondence on Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues – Subscription 2019-20.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items PR030/19 to PR045/19.

Matters for Decision

PR030/19	Staffing Matters for Decision
PR031/19	Village Renewal Scheme: Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – Lands situated at Roan Park, Eglish, Dungannon
PR032/19	Acquisition of Land at Market Square/Feeneys Lane, Dungannon
PR033/19	Ticketsolve Contract
PR034/19	2019/20 Insurances
PR035/19	Rate Estimates 2019/20
PR036/19	Minimum Reserve Provision Policy
PR037/19	Robustness of Rate Estimates 2019/20
PR038/19	Adequacy of Reserves
PR039/19	Rates Support Grant Judicial Review Update
PR040/19	Staffing – Office Accommodation Arrangements

Matters for Information

PR041/19	Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 9 January 2019
PR042/19	Contracts and DAC
PR043/19	Finance Report for 9 months ended 31 December 2018
PR044/19	Staffing Matters for Information
PR045/19	GDPR Compliance and Progress Update

PR046/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.27 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____