

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 16 June 2016 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor Molloy, Chair Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy (7.28 pm), Doris, Elattar, Forde, McAleer (7.06 pm), McNamee, T Quinn, J Shiels
Officers in Attendance	Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McIntyre, Programmes and Policy Officer Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Agenda Item 4: South West College - Mrs Farquhar, SUSE+ Mentor Mr McManus Deputy Head of Training

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D149/16 Apologies

Councillors McEldowney, C O'Neill and Wilson.

D150/16 Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest particularly in relation to Paper Q, which, although in confidential business the Chair encouraged Members to make any declarations of interest they may have at this stage of the meeting.

D151/16 Chair's Business

The Chair spoke in relation to the recent and premature passing of Mr Eamon McClean, Manager of Speedwell Trust and who had worked in partnership with Council. The Chair offered the condolences of the Council to the McClean family.

Councillor Burton stated there was great respect for Mr McClean within the community and spoke of the shock of hearing of Mr McClean's untimely death.

Councillor T Quinn stated he was on the Board of Trustees for the Speedwell Trust and that Mr McClean would be irreplaceable. The Councillor stated Mr McClean's death was very sad for his family and the community.

D152/16 South West College: SUSE+ Presentation

The Chair welcomed representatives from South West College and invited them to make their presentation on the SUSE+ programme.

Mr McManus thanked Council for its ongoing support of the Step Up to Sustainable Employment (SUSE+) programme, he advised that SUSE+ had now been operational for a year and was over-performing in its targets. Mr McManus stated it was hoped that over the duration of the programme that 202 people will enter employment which will be of benefit to the local economy. Members were provided with an overview of the programme, its catchment and partner organisations, funding sources of the programme and how targets were being met and exceeded.

Councillor McAleer entered the meeting at 7.06 pm

Mrs Farquhar also outlined her role as a mentor to individuals participating in the programme and highlighted the 3 phase programme strategy. Mrs Farquhar emphasised that the programme provides a tailored approach and provides specialised development for each individuals needs to assist them back to employment.

Mr McManus referred to the operating structure of SUSE+ and stated that the programme has a strong steering committee. Mr McManus highlighted the key concepts of SUSE+ and the key priorities for development of the programme for 2016-2017.

Mr McManus concluded by stating that the college would shortly be bidding for Peace IV funding for a cross border project and asked for Councils ongoing support in respect of this.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that the presentation provided a good insight into the SUSE+ programme and hoped the college would be successful in receiving Peace IV funding.

Councillor J Shiels congratulated Mr McManus and Mrs Farquhar on the success of the project and stated he was pleased to hear that the programme offered a tailored approach to participants from all age groups.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question Mr McManus advised that a greater focus would be given to the Cookstown area this year to improve performance in that area.

Councillor Clarke stated that SUSE+ was a fantastic programme and thanked the officers for their work. The Councillor felt that the needs of a rural area are different to that of urban areas and that this programme offered a local approach to the needs of Mid Ulster.

Mrs Farquhar advised she had previously worked in both the private and public sector and she could honestly say that this was the best programme she had ever worked on because of its tailored approach.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy thanked Mr McManus and Mrs Farquhar for their presentation following which they withdrew from the meeting at 7.25 pm.

D153/16 Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 12 May 2016

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 12 May 2016 (D116/16 to D140/16 and D148/16), were considered and signed as correct and accurate.

Councillor McNamee spoke in relation to the re-opening of Tullaghoge Fort and commended the staff who had worked on providing such a great facility. The Councillor referred to the new entrance and car park and felt that Tullaghoge Fort was now much more accessible to everyone. Councillor McNamee felt there could be further improvements made to Tullaghoge Fort by providing a toilet block and a playpark.

Councillor J Shiels concurred with Councillor McNamee's comments, he stated that the re-opening of Tullaghoge Fort had been his first visit and again congratulated those who had worked on the project. Councillor J Shiels agreed that a toilet block should be provided at Tullaghoge Fort.

Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 7.28 pm

Matters for Decision

D154/16 Arts and Culture and Sports Development Community Support 2016/17

The Director of Culture and Leisure presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Arts and Culture and Sports Development Support Programmes for 2016/17.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's question the Director of Culture and Leisure advised that this was a new programme, she continued that one of the aspects relates to how Council supports schools and that a further paper will come before committee on this in the near future.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the proposed Arts and Culture Support Programme and Sports Development Grants as detailed within report.

D155/16 Erasmus Youth Project

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report which sought approval for Council to participate in a European ERASMUS Youth Project based on European citizenship and participation. The Head stated that in light of the reference made as part of the presentation by South West College regarding their EU Citizenship project, that it would also be important to link.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to participate in the ERASMUS Youth Project with officer time being committed to transnational meetings over a three year period.

D156/16 Countryside Management Services

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval for specialist consultancy/investigatory services to assist Parks Service with countryside access disputes and public path development issues.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's question the Head of Parks advised that slippage monies would come from throughout the organisation.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with procuring the necessary services to assist Mid Ulster District Council in the delivery of Countryside Management Services over a period not extending beyond 31 March 2017. Services to be procured from slippage monies available to Council.

D157/16 Irish Language Development Programme and Code of Courtesy for Irish

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report which sought approval of the Irish Language Development Programme for 2016/17 and adoption of the Code of Courtesy for Irish.

Councillor Cuddy asked if there was any feedback available as to the success of last year's programme.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that the programme for this year was based on the successes of last year and agreed to bring a report to a future meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve that proposed Irish Language Development Programme for 2016/17.
 - That the proposed Courtesy Code for Irish be adopted.

D158/16 Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report which sought the approval of the proposed Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme allocation to be awarded to successful applicants for 2016/17. The Head of Culture and Arts advised that there was a 23% increase in the number of bursaries awarded from last year and a 22% increase in the amount of funding provided.

Councillor Cuddy expressed the need for Council to give consideration to providing other schemes in order to cater for all of the community.

Councillor J Shiels asked if there is a need to go to the Gaeltacht or if more activities could be provided locally.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that the Gaeltacht is located mostly in Donegal and that bursaries are mostly for students although families are also now applying. The Head of Culture and Arts advised that going to the Gaeltacht helps the individual to immerse themselves in the Irish language.

Councillor J Shiels advised he could think of areas within Mid Ulster which could provide support for Irish language activities and that Council may wish to give consideration to this in the future. The Councillor asked if provision of bursaries is means tested.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that the bursary scheme is not means tested but is cross checked with other schemes ie. Líofo.

Councillor Clarke agreed with the sentiment that there would be a time in the future when people would come to Mid Ulster to learn Irish.

Councillor Cuddy reiterated his comments that Council spends a lot of money on this bursary scheme but that there is a section of the community that is not catered for and that Council needs to offer a balance.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that Council's Ulster Scots policy is under development which will bring progress in respect of Councillor Cuddy's comments.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that the Regional and Minority Language Bursaries be approved for the 231 successful applicants identified with a total amount allocated of £29,895.65.

Matters for Information

D159/16 Leisure Services Progress Report

Members considered previously circulated report which provided update on the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlighted events that will be occurring in the future.

Councillor McNamee asked if there was any update in relation to broken glass incident at Greenvale Leisure Centre.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that investigations were still ongoing as to the reason for the glass breaking but that the viewing gallery had been reopened for persons waiting on those taking swimming lessons with wooden panels now in place on the balcony.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question the Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the Pulse sub-committee is scheduled to meet twice a year and that the last meeting had taken place in February, a further meeting is due to be organised in the near future.

Councillor Cuddy suggested that Pulse be invited to attend a future Development committee meeting.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the five year break point in the Pulse contract would be in September and that a paper will come before Members which will set out future management options of the Greenvale Leisure Centre.

Councillor Cuddy still felt it would be useful for Members to meet with Pulse.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the paper to come before Members will provide a background to the management of Greenvale Leisure Centre and that at this stage timescales may not allow for Pulse to come to committee before this paper is considered.

Councillors McNamee and J Shiels both felt that there was a sub-committee in place in which discussions should be directed through.

Councillor Burton referred to reference within report to Fairhill Bowling/Tennis Pavilion and asked if Council work with King George V Pavilion in Fivemiletown.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised she would check this for the Councillor.

D160/16 Small Grants for Greenways

Members considered previously circulated report which advised of an opportunity for Councils and other bodies to avail of funding to develop their own schemes as part of a greenway network for the entire region.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to submit initial expressions of Interest for two proposed greenway routes to include – Ulster Canal route from Moy to Caledon and Caledon via Clogher Valley to Lisnaskea.

D161/16 Mid Ulster District Angling Summer Schools

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the scheduled launch date and promotional event for the Mid Ulster District Council Summer Angling Schools.

In response to Councillor J Shiels question the Head of Parks advised that officers were currently looking at the condition of facilities at Glenone and considering how to develop the site and its activities.

D162/16 Parks Service Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the progress being made regarding activities associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations occurring in the future.

Councillor Burton asked when Caledon play park would re-open.

The Head of Parks advised that the play park should be open by end of June.

Councillor Molloy asked if wardens for Railway Park were in place yet.

The Head of Parks advised that shortlisting is due to take place within the next week and would hope that Railway Park Wardens would be in place in the near future.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's question the Head of Parks advised that there was still a view to progress proposals for Railway Park within resources.

D163/16 Culture and Arts Update Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the progress being made in Culture and Arts, the report detailed events that occurred during April and May and highlighted events and activities that will be occurring in the future.

D164/16 Supplementary Guidance on Regional and Minority Languages

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the supplementary guidance issued by DCAL for Regional and Minority Languages.

D165/16 Tourism Department Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on recent activities undertaken and upcoming events within the Tourism Department.

Councillor J Shiels stated that it was good to see the continued success of Maghera Walled Garden and congratulated officers working at the site.

Councillor Forde stated that the grass at Maghera Walled Garden needed to be cut.

D166/16 Halloween Activities in Mid Ulster

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of Council activities which are being planned to celebrate Halloween in Mid Ulster.

D167/16 Economic Development Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Regional Start Initiative and Maghera Development Framework.

Councillor Burton referred to the Rural Development Programme which is currently open to applications and advised she was aware of applicants who were experiencing difficulty in progressing their business plans with the delivery organisation. The Councillor stated the closing date for applications to this programme was fast approaching.

The Director of Culture and Leisure stated that officers would follow up on the issue raised by the Councillor and that if there were matters of concern it was important that officers are made aware of them.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That items (D168/16 to D172/16) be taken as confidential business.

D173/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.25 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____