

**Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 4 June 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor McKinney (In the Chair)

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Gildernew\* Hughes, Molloy, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McLean\* S McPeake, Totten

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development  
Mrs Campbell\*\*, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr Cassells\*\*, Director of Environment and Property  
Mr Kelso\*\*, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure  
Mr McAdoo\*\*, Head of Environmental Services  
Ms Mezza\*\*, Head of Marketing and Communications  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance  
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

\* Denotes members, staff and members of the public present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Quinn, the Deputy Chair, Councillor McKinney took the Chair.

*The Chair, Councillor McKinney welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr McKinney 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.*

The Chair, Councillor McKinney welcomed members to the Policy and Resources Committee and also those who were virtually watching the proceedings.

**PR077/20 Apologies**

Councillors Forde, Quinn.

**PR078/20 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Elattar declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 – Tullywiggan Play Park Lease Proposal as she is Board Member of Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

**PR079/20 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor McKinney sent the good wishes of the Policy and Resources Committee to Councillor Quinn (Chair) and his wife on the anticipated arrival of their first child.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **PR080/20 Tullywiggan Play Park Lease**

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report and sought approval to transfer through lease or acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to private dwellings 34 – 40 Tullywiggan Cottages, Cookstown from Northern Ireland Housing Executive relating to creation of a new play park by legacy Cookstown Council in 2002.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the transfer of land through either lease or acquisition, subject to agreement on Terms and Conditions as provided from Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

### **PR081/20 Elected Member Development Working Group**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the report of a meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on Thursday 5 March 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Elected Member Development Steering Group meeting, and actions contained, held on Thursday 5 March 2020.

### **PR082/20 Outcome of Consultation Undertaken on the Council's Proposed Improvement Objectives 2020-21 and 2021-22**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to update on the findings and outcome of the consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed improvement objections 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022.

He advised that it was a routine requirement of the Local Government Act 2014 to publish the improvement plan by June, but the Department of Communities has advised that this would now be extended to possibly December.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the 50 or so responses being returned and felt that this could potentially be staff and said that it looked like that this could be a mandatory requirement which would be difficult to monitor especially within these last three months. He stated that it was important to be mindful of not getting too involved with this.

The Chief Executive advised that there was considerable time and effort put into this document as it was a legal requirement by the Auditor. He said over that last four years it has been demonstrated how our services have improved immensely and would agree that although a lot of work has been put in, it shouldn't be seen as burdensome, but more of something that should be embraced. These objectives are for a two-year period, but due to the recent situation efforts over this last two months have focused on the corona virus recovery and achieving objectives.

Councillor Cuddy said that he welcomed the clarification from the Chief Executive and content that this was beneficial to the Council.

Councillor Ashton referred to Improvement Objective Two regarding technology and stated that there was a strong response around issues relating to rural broadband and felt there was an onus on the Council to take action.

Councillor Molloy agreed with Councillor Ashton's comments and said that there was good engagement with the community regarding concerns and many people raised issues around rural broadband. These concerns relate to people trying to work from home and children trying to complete school work and stated that broadband was failing the population of Mid Ulster and that this Council needed to step up to the mark.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the outcome of the Corporate Improvement Objectives Consultation 2020 and 2021 and the adoption of the objectives.

## **PR083/20 Member Services**

Councillor Molloy referred to the response to designated training needs for members and enquired if it reached the 60% mark.

The Head of Democratic Services said that he would investigate and advise members on the exact figure but was certain that it was sitting around the high 50% mark.

The Chair suggested that when new members join the Council they should get the full required training so that they can actively proceed forward onto Committees such as the planning committee.

## **Matters for Information**

### **PR084/20 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday March 2020**

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 March 2020.

### **PR085/20 National Association of Councillors: Annual Subscription**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence received from the National Association of Councillors (NAC) on annual membership/contribution payable for 2020-21.

#### **PR086/20    Marketing & Communications Update**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on key areas of recent marketing and communications activity.

#### **PR087/20    Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages & Civil Partnerships**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on provision of Registration services within Mid Ulster District Council.

#### **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 PR088/20 to

#### **Matters for Decision**

- PR088/20    Staff Matters for Decision
- PR089/20    Contract for the Collection and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclates (Blue Bin Contract)
- PR090/20    Recognition for Essential Staff during COVID-19

#### **Matters for Information**

- PR091/20    Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 5 March 2020
- PR092/20    Staffing Matters for Information
- PR093/20    Contracts and DAC
- PR094/20    Miscellaneous Matters

#### **PR095/20    Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.08 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_