

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 5 December 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Colvin, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Head of Environment and Property
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm.

PR213/19 Apologies

Councillors Gildernew, Quinn and Totten.

PR214/19 Declaration of Interest

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

PR215/19 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Molloy advised that agenda item 19 – 2020/21 Rates Estimates - would be considered as a matter for information and agenda item 23 – Planning System Replacement Update December 2019 - would be taken as a matter for decision.

Matters for Decision

PR216/19 Response to Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation Consultation on Equality and Disability Action Plans

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which provided a draft response to the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation consultation on its Equality Action Plan and Disability Action Plan.

Councillor S McPeake stated that he was content with the response as detailed but felt that the good relations objective could be strengthened and should include reconciliation and peacebuilding. Councillor S McPeake proposed that the response be submitted with these added comments.

Councillor Doris seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft response on the Maze Long Kesh Equality and Disability Action Plan as outlined at Appendix to report with reconciliation and peacebuilding to be added to the objectives.

PR217/19 Appointments to NILGA Policy and Learning Networks

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the appointment of elected members to represent the Council on NILGA Policy and Learning Networks. Networks requiring representation extend to:

- Reform, Devolution and Improvement
- Local Economic Development, Investment and International Affairs
- Place Shaping and Infrastructure
- Health, Social and Environmental Wellbeing

Councillor S McPeake stated that Councillor Doris had already been nominated and approved to sit on the Elected Member Development Network and that it was only fair to have representation from each political party on the remaining networks.

Councillor Colvin seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

The Head of Democratic Services stated he would follow up on nominations to the networks with party leads.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that nominations be sought from party leaders in respect of representation to NILGA Policy and Learning Networks.

PR218/19 Working Group Meeting Report – Council Representation on Outside Bodies

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the report of the first meeting of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies held on Wednesday 6th November 2019.

Councillor McKinney proposed that D'Hondt should be applied for the filling of outside bodies from the AGM in May 2020 as opposed to May 2023 as set out in report.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that this recommendation would probably have to be taken back to the Outside Bodies Working Group.

The Head of Democratic Services stated that the working group had held a further meeting tonight and that a paper with recommendations would be brought before the Committee in February.

Councillor S McPeake did not feel it was appropriate to cherry pick at the moment as some outside bodies had already been appointed for a four year term.

Councillor McKinney stated that he would stand by his proposal.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor McKinney's proposal.

Councillor S McPeake stated that the situation had evolved since the paper before Members tonight was written.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated it may be premature to take a hard and fast decision now and that it may be better to wait on the outworkings of the working group and the report which will be brought forward in due course.

Members voted on Councillor McKinney's proposal –

For – 4

Against – 5

Councillor McKinney requested a recorded vote.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that a recorded vote should be requested prior to the vote being taken.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies held on Wednesday 6th November 2019.

PR219/19 Council Performance Improvement Policy (draft)

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which sought Member's approval on the draft Council's Performance Improvement Policy.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft Performance Improvement Policy as detailed at appendix to report.

PR220/19 Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the recommendation from Development Committee for capital budget allocation associated with the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.

Councillor Ashton asked what the Parks and Play five year plan would add to the rates each year.

The Director of Finance advised that going forward, £500,000 would be added to loans year on year which will fund a cyclical programme.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that maintenance and renewal should also be built into the plan and associated budget.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the recommendation from Development Committee for the allocation of £1,250,000 funding from Council Capital Budget, over a five year period from April 2020, for the delivery of the Parks and Play Five Year action plan subject to inclusion in the rates estimates.

PR221/19 Members Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR222/19 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 November 2019

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 November 2019.

PR223/19 Marketing and Communications Update

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

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor Doris 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 PR224/19 to PR237/19.

Matters for Decision

- PR224/19 To consider a Council and Social Housing Association partnership approach across Mid Ulster towards the provision of social and affordable housing
- PR225/19 Land Acquisitions and Disposals
- PR226/19 Lands at Railway Park, Ballysaggart
- PR227/19 Staff Matters for Decision
- PR228/19 Staff Matters for Decision – Policies
- PR229/19 Server and Storage Infrastructure Review
- PR230/19 Broadband Connection Procurement
- PR231/19 Procurement of Valuation Services

Matters for Information

- PR232/19 2020/21 Rate Estimates
- PR233/19 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 November 2019
- PR234/19 Staff Matters for Information
- PR235/19 Planning System Replacement Update December 2019
- PR236/19 Contracts and DAC
- PR237/19 Financial Report for 7 months ended 31 October 2019

PR238/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.
The Chair, Councillor Molloy wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

Chair _____

Date _____