

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 4 December 2014 in Cookstown District Council Offices

Members Present: In the Chair, Councillor Burton(Chair)

Councillors Forde, Mallaghan, McAleer, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith, C O'Neill, T Quinn, G Shiels and Wilson

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell Director of Policy & Development (MDC)
Mr Cassells, Director of Technical Services and Leisure Services (MDC)
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Services (CDC)
Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive (CDC)
Mr McCrory, Head of Community Engagement (MDC)
Mr McShane, Sports Services Manager(CDC)
Mrs Forde, Mayor's PA/Member Support Officer (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7pm

D52/14 Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillor McEldowney, Dillon and Reid. The Chief Executive advised that the Chairperson, Councillor Burton would be late.

D53/14 Election of Chair for Meeting

The Chief Executive sought nomination for a member to chair the meeting until the arrival of Councillor Burton.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Councillor Forde Chair the meeting of the Development Committee of 4 December 2014 until arrival of Councillor Burton.

Councillor Forde took the Chair.

D54/14 Declarations of Interest

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

D55/14 Deputation P Glasgow, Glasgowbury

The Chair welcomed Paddy and Stella Glasgow, representatives of Glasgowbury to the meeting. The representatives showed a series of three video clips showcasing

their achievements and highlighting a rock festival at the top of Sperrins, which since inception had grown from 1000 participants at a cost of £1k to £250k with access of 5000 participants.

Video clips also showcased the Cornstore facility, highlighting workshops with children and adults with special needs. They explained they had worked with Autism NI and Downs Syndrom groups to deliver projects with special needs groups. They further highlighted that they had received funding in conjunction with BT to deliver Internet Confidence courses designed to encourage older generations to devices such as ipads. The representatives emphasising that the organisation was on a learning curve recognised that arts was a rapid growing industry in Northern Ireland, and organisations such as Glasgowsbury: Small but Massive needed investment to expand and continue delivering arts in rural communities.

The representatives tabled a brochure and confirmed they:

- had delivered creative projects in rural Mid Ulster since 2000;
- were managed by a core of 2 staff supported by self employed creatives and volunteers;
- governed by a Board of 7 Directors officially constituted in 2003;
- became a company limited in 2010 with charitable status since 2011;
- relocated to a landmark heritage site building, the Cornstore, Draperstown in 2013;
- had presented to DCAL, DARD and now Council on financial support; and
- had achieved recognition in being awarded UK Promoter of the Year Award.

In conclusion, the representatives advised that in its final year Glasgowsbury was 80% sustained and 20% externally funded with many students had gained invaluable experience working at the event. They added that it was hoped to bring The Cornstore to the same level. Mr Glasgow also made reference to praise received from the Probation Board and local justice agencies for their work.

The Chair thanked the representatives for the presentation.

Councillor Molloy remarked that he had been sorry that Glasgowsbury had stopped as he had personally attended the event, had found it professionally run, camped 50 yards from the gate next to families and it was an extremely safe environment. He added that it would be nice to have it back.

Councillor C O'Neill commended the representatives on the creative hub work, in particular asking about engagement with schools. The representatives spoke of their work during the Derry City of Culture year which involved visiting schools.

They also commented that they would like to become further engaged with schools and to have them use the centre, together with expanding work with special needs groups and those with behavioural issues. They further emphasised the wealth of experience students had gained in working on the Glasgowsbury event such as setting stages and sound systems.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.30pm

Councillor G Shiels remarked on the workshops designed for people with autism stating he had attended three different meetings during the week at which autism projects would be of great interest. In response the representatives spoke of the benefit of music therapy and lessons advising that they hadn't been pre trained but what they had engaged in had succeeded.

Councillor Forde thanked the representatives for the presentation following which they withdrew from the meeting at 7.35pm

D56/14 Exchange of Chair

Councillor Forde vacated the Chair and Councillor Burton assumed the Chair.

Matters for Decision

D57/14 Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 6 November 2014

Councillor Wilson asked for the undernoted amendments:

Page 5 of 'In Committee' minute item D48/14 that 10th paragraph meeting venue be amended from Greenvale Hotel to Mid Ulster Sports Arena. Also that in the 6th paragraph 'The Chair, Councillor Forde' be amended to read 'Councillor Reid' and noted that the statement was inaccurate.

Councillor Quinn clarified he had requested an amendment at the Council meeting on 27 November.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 6 November (items D33/14-D43/14 and D51/14), were considered and, subject to the forgoing amendments, were signed as accurate and correct.

D58/14 Consultation response to strategy for the delivery of Generalist Advice Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020

Ms Campbell advised that the purpose of the report was to consider a draft response to the Consultation Document, Advising, Supporting, Empowering - A Strategy for the Delivery of Generalist Advice Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020. Ms Campbell highlighted the key issues noted in the response and asked members to consider the response for submission to the Department for Social Development covering a series of issues:

- The need to have an Advice Service that is accessible and of high quality;
- Individuals should be empowered to allow them to help themselves. However the use of self service and technological systems should not be introduced if the approach has a detrimental impact on the people within the district who

are in most need of generalist advice. The Council would strongly urge that resources should be focused on face to face and telephone service provision.

- Delivery approach for advice services should be aligned to avoid duplication and conflict;
- Advice to the most vulnerable must be free. Council would have concerns about advice providers being put under additional pressure to identify other sources of funding detracting from the quality of advice provision;
- Advice quality standard should be introduced across the Advice Sector; and
- The role of volunteers within the sector is essential. The Council agrees that their contribution to the sector must be fully recognised and their skills are used to full effect.

Councillor Monteith expressed concerns that there was no thought in the consultation document around specialist advice, stating people may need to obtain general advice on issues such as housing rights, mortgage issues, employment rights and as such they needed to be signposted to specialist advisers such as the Labour Relations Agency which were all Belfast based. He further stated that these questions had not been raised in the consultation document but Council should find a means of incorporating them into the response.

Councillor Monteith added that a mechanism was required to ensure those charities providing advice should be involved with forming the policies surrounding it stating that the dynamics of one would dictate the other. Emphasis was made that funding and policy needed to be separated and policy makers needed the freedom to view with a critical eye.

The Chair, Councillor Burton, concurred with issue of specialised and quality advice.

Councillor Wilson in referring to specialised advice said it was very important and that as it was not included in consultation document it meant if services were tendered for in the future it could not form part of it. He stated that factors concerning specialised advice should be highlighted in the response.

Responding Ms Campbell stated that there was a box for any other comments in which she would include issues raised concerning specialised advice.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the response presented be submitted to DSD with the inclusion of concerns on specialised advice.

D59/14 Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan

Ms Campbell presented a report giving a development and regeneration update. She drew attention to key issues included in the report and advised that the Local Economic Development Plan 2014-2016 was to date not fully developed and would be presented to a future meeting. With regard to a Good Relations Strategy and plan for Mid Ulster she advised that OFMDFM letters are to be issued to Mid Ulster in January 2015 and a draft plan would be subsequently prepared in the New Year for it to be finalised by February 2015.

D60/14 PEACE IV

Ms Campbell presented a report giving an up on Peace IV and advised that to date no guidance on Peace IV had been issued but that Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) anticipates that the Programme will be approved by the Commission in May 2015. They therefore expect that Local Action Plans to be developed by May 2015, and submitted to SEUPB following this date.

In response to the Chair's question on the level of funding Ms Campbell advised that it is likely that SEUPB will be inviting Local Authorities, on behalf of a PEACE Partnership, to submit proposals for up to 100% funding under three areas:

- Children and Young People
- Shared Space and
- Building Positive Relations at a Local Level

Ms Campbell advised that Officers had requested a meeting with SEUPB to discuss a number of matters including partnership makeup, delivery mechanisms, budgets and new arrangements regarding vouching requirements but the body appeared reluctant to meet until after guidance had been issued. She further advised that until more information becomes available from SEUPB, the process of developing the PEACE IV plan will be agreed through Council.

Ms Campbell stated that information being gathered through the community planning consultation could be used to inform the Mid Ulster PEACE IV Action Plan. She emphasised that it was essential that the PEACE IV Action Plan be integrated with and compliment the Good Relations Action Plan.

IN COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That item D61/14 – D67/14 be taken in committee.

D68/14 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 9.05pm in closing the meeting the Chair Councillor Burton on behalf of both the Chief Executive and herself wished everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____