

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present

Councillor McAleer, Chair

Councillors J Buchanan, J Burton, Cahoon, Kelly, Groogan, Johnston, McElvogue, McGuigan, McNamee, Robinson, Varsani

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)

Mr Conlon, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)

Mr Currie, Senior Building Control Officer (SBCO)

Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor

Mr Fagan, Legal Representative

Mr Fox, Building Control Development Manager (BCDM)

Mr Gillis, Licensing Officer (LO)

Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES)

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)

Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 16 – McKinney Hall Entertainment Licence Renewal

Mr McKinney

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McAleer in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee by referring to Annex A to this minute.

E122/24 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

E123/24 Apologies

Councillors Cuthbertson, Mallaghan, Martin and Milne.

E124/24 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor J Burton declared an interest during confidential business in agenda item 8 - Festive Lighting Replacement - Delegated Authority Request.

E125/24 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McAleer stated that he had not been notified of any Chair's Business for tonight's meeting and asked that for future meetings that Members submit their requests 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Matters for Decision

E126/24 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services (HoTS) presented previously circulated report which provided update on current bus shelter status.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that –
- Bus shelter application listed to move from stage 5, under 3.4, is recommended for approval:
1Nr – 3.4.1 – Ardboe Parish Hall Carpark.
 - Bus shelter application listed under 3.7 is recommended for approval to installation this month:
1Nr - 3.7.1 – Farlough Road, Derryvale.

E127/24 Rethinking Our Resources Consultation Response

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to submit a response to the DAERA consultation on Rethinking our Resources: Measure for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.

Councillor McGuigan stated that Council have invested heavily over a number of years in recycling centres and the materials that can be collected for recycling and that going by the figures outlined in reports Mid Ulster Council is one of the highest recyclers and sends the lowest amount of residual waste to landfill. The Councillor stated he did not think Council should be changing its processes at this stage as to do so would require further massive investment and that Council already has a system in place that is delivering. Councillor McGuigan proposed the consultation response.

Councillor Cahoon seconded Councillor McGuigan's proposal stating that the commingled option seems common sense, is effective and practical and follows the direction of travel in England. The Councillor added that commingling seems a logical way forward and will keep Mid Ulster Council's recycling figures as one of Northern Ireland's top performing Councils.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the submission of the consultation response to DAERA as outlined at appendix to report by the deadline on 27th June 2024.

E128/24 Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme Funding

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report which provided update on a funding application to the Chewing Gum Grant Scheme.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer commended the AD: ES and his team on securing more external funding for Council.

Councillor McNamee proposed the recommendation and stated that the key thing is education on how people dispose of gum.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor J Burton asked if the machine used is solely for cleaning off chewing gum or if it can be used for cleaning the street as well.

The AD: ES stated that the machine is not used solely for chewing gum and advised that it is also used for cleaning public realm sites which has proven effective.

Councillor J Burton stated that traders in the Dungannon area would like to see a bit more work put in to keep the town clean so it was good to hear this machine can also be used for street cleaning.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve acceptance of the £27,500 funding offer from the Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme.

E129/24 Festive Lighting Replacement - Delegated Authority request

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which sought to award delegated powers for the award of a tender for the supply and delivery for a range of festive lighting to be used in the main towns throughout the district, if required.

Councillor McGuigan referred to the lights that are to be upgraded and asked if there is any possibility of villages or groups getting access to these lights if they are in good condition. The Councillor stated that groups and villages do not have the money required to purchase and replace lights and whilst there is a grant available this does not cover all costs.

Councillor Robinson referred to the total figure of £495k for new and replacement lighting and asked if there is a breakdown of this figure.

The AD: PS stated that the potential reuse of lights that are in good condition can be considered by officers similar to previous community asset transfer arrangement but highlighted that the reason that the lights are being replaced is because they have

come to the end of life. The AD: PS stated that £495k is the overall figure and that there is no specific split in terms of settlements. This will be divided out based on the specification for the items for each town and will be determined at the tender outcome stage.

Councillor J Burton asked if officers will be working with traders in Dungannon to work out the placement of lights.

The AD: PS stated that there are a number of locations in Dungannon that have been identified for additional lights and this has been factored into the tender. The AD: PS stated that officers are working closely with Regeneration Officers in each of the town centres in terms of lighting installations and that the locations for these are largely determined by the infrastructure that is in place to power the lights.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that, pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, that authority is delegated to the July 2024 Environment Committee to approve the award of contract for supply and delivery of town centre festive lighting goods, in the event it is not possible to bring a tender report for the appointment to the June 2024 Council meeting.

Matters for Information

E130/24 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 14 May 2024

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 May 2024.

E131/24 Environment Directorate Departmental Plan 2024/25

Members noted previously circulated report which set out the annual Departmental Plan for the Environment Directorate for the period 2024/25.

E132/24 Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the new Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.

E133/24 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E134/24 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E135/24 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the result of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

Councillor Robinson referred to a road in his locality which recently had signage changed and that a number of residents had been in contact with him to say they did not receive a survey. The Councillor asked how these surveys are posted as the residents in contact with him were adamant they did not receive a survey.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that surveys go out in the normal post, not by registered mail. The AD: PS stated that in instances where surveys are posted out and residents call in to say they have not received a survey then a duplicate is sent out.

Councillor Varsani referred to the resurveying of Rossmore Road previously agreed by the Committee which has now come back with an emphatic return of 81% in favour. The Councillor thanked the Committee for voting in favour of allowing the resurvey to take place within the policy. Councillor Varsani stated that the residents have made their wishes clear and that she looked forward to the erection of the signage. The Councillor stated that it has been a long road but that the cultural and linguistic heritage is set to be enhanced for those living in and passing by the area.

Councillor Robinson clarified that he did not support the proposal to resurvey Rossmore Road which he stated was a change from policy. The Councillor asked if consideration should be given to posting out surveys by registered post going forward to avoid a similar issue happening again as residents would be unaware to ring in to ask for a duplicate survey if they had not received notification in the first instance.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer stated that the DUP Party have previously made complaints that the cost is excessive in relation to dual language signage but that if Councillor Robinson wanted to make a proposal that surveys are posted by registered mail then officers can look into it.

Councillor Robinson proposed that future surveys in relation to dual language signage be posted by registered mail.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer stated that officers will bring back costings in relation to the proposal.

Councillor J Burton seconded Councillor Robinson's proposal.

The Strategic Director of Environment stated that the proposal will have a cost implication in terms of process and that officers will need to assess this before a definitive decision can be taken.

Councillor McNamee stated there was no issue in bringing back costings in relation to registered post but it was his view that it will be too costly and the system currently in place works well.

Councillor Varsani stated there was no issue in exploring the option and that it be brought back to Committee for decision. The Councillor asked if the issue Councillor Robinson was speaking about was in relation to a change of sign or a new sign.

Councillor Robinson stated that there had been a request for dual language signage and a survey was subsequently issued and that residents on the road in question are adamant they did not receive the survey. Councillor Robinson stated that it was a bit strange of Councillor McNamee to say he was concerned about cost and that he also had concerns about cost. The Councillor stated that he had visited one of the junctions on the road in question and that there were no less than six signs at that junction. Councillor Robinson stated that if there are concerns about cost he questioned why perfectly good road signs were being removed to replace them with dual language signs.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer stated it is what is voted for by residents when the survey has been undertaken.

Councillor McNamee stated there is a dual language signage policy in place and that processes within the policy are followed. The Councillor suggested that Councillor Robinson bring the name of the person to the attention of the AD: PS to see if how they would have voted would have made a difference to the result of the survey.

Councillor Robinson stated he had spoken with two families on the road in question and if they had received a survey it would have made a significant difference to the result which was why he felt it is important that this issue did not arise again.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that officers bring back costings in relation to posting dual language signage surveys by registered post.

E136/24 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

Live broadcast ended at 7.28 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Varsani 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 E137/24 to E143/24.

Matters for Decision

- E137/24 McKinney Hall Entertainment Licence Renewal
- E138/24 Contracts for the Receipt and Processing of Kerbside Collected Mixed Dry Recyclable (Blue Bin) Waste
- E139/24 Procurement Frameworks for the Supply of Refuse/Recycling Products

Matters for Information

- E140/24 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 14 May 2024
- E141/24 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E142/24 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E143/24 Maghera Regeneration Programme Update

E144/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.10 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt].

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast as aforesaid, will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will let you know before this happens.

I would remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted.

Thank you and we will now move to the agenda.