



23 May 2024

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 23 May 2024 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| 5. | Council minutes of meeting held on 25 April 2024 | 3 - 14 |
| 6. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 7 May 2024 | 15 - 28 |
| 7. | Policy & Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 9 May 2024 | 29 - 36 |
| 8. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 14 May 2024 | 37 - 46 |
| 9. | Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 16 May 2024 | 47 - 68 |
| 10. | Conferences, Seminars and Training | 69 - 74 |
| 11. | Consultations | 75 - 82 |

Matters for Information

12. Correspondence Report

83 - 92

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

13. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 25 April 2024
14. Planning Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 May 2024
15. Policy & Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 May 2024
16. Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 May 2024
17. Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 May 2024
18. Document for Sealing: Appointment of ICT: Small Settlements Moy Pitch Development. Ref: MUDC/TC/C/2022/004
19. Document for Sealing: Appointment of ICT: Small Settlements Castlecaulfield Recreation Grounds. Ref: MUDC/TC/C/2022/004
20. Document for Sealing: Oona Valley Community Association - Release of Charge
21. Document for Sealing: Transfer of title of the Cornmill Car Park, Coalisland (Schedule Ref No. 125) MUDC to Department for Infrastructure
22. Document for Sealing: Off Street Car Park Enforcement Contract with Marston (Holdings) Limited
23. Document for Sealing: Maghera Environmental Improvement Scheme Licence Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 25 April 2024 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair	Councillor Molloy
Members Present	Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, J Buchanan, W Buchanan, F Burton, J Burton, Cahoon, Carney, Clarke, Corry, Cuthbertson, Forde (BEM), Gildernew, Graham, Groogan, Johnston, Kelly, Kerr, Mallaghan, Martin, McAleer, McConnell, McFlynn, McGuigan, McLean, McLernon, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, McQuade, Milne, Monteith, Quinn, Robinson, Varsani and Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive Mr Black, Strategic Director Communities and Place (SD:CP) Ms Campbell, Strategic Director Environment (SD:Env) Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) Ms Keys, Marketing and Communications Manager Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSSE) Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) Mr McKeown, ICT Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

C072/24 Notice of Recording

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

C073/24 Apologies

Councillors McElvogue and Totten

C074/24 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Molloy reminded Members of their responsibility regarding declarations of interest.

*Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Food Bank
Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Tyrone GAA as a member of Dungannon Clarkes*

Councillors Bell, Black, Burton, Cuthbertson and Forde declared an interest in Community Grants.

C075/24 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Molloy shared that, "During the past month I had a kind invitation to the premier of 'Blown Off Course', in celebration of Portuguese connections as part of Sonorities 2024 in Queens University. I also met with reps from Spain, Italy, Brazil, and other countries, and was able to relay the huge contribution Portuguese and other nationalities have in making our multi-cultural and diverse district a better place. Then last week I also welcomed Madame Zhang Meifang, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Belfast, to OM Dark Sky and then to SeamusHeaney HomePlace, the delegation was very complimentary of both facilities. The international flavour continues next month as I'd like to remind everyone that the Continental Market will be rolling into Cookstown on the 11th and 12th May – after an absence of two years, it'll be great to see the town buzzing again – all we'll need is the sunshine!

Cookstown has also been in the news recently with the start of the latest consultation on the A29 Bypass, and some of you were with me last week as we viewed the plans. I'd encourage everyone to have a look at the Department's dedicated web page on the project -you'll find the links on our social media – and to take the opportunity to give your views on the scheme. And we continue to lobby for a similar scheme for other towns and villages along the A29 including Dungannon, The Moy and Moneymore. Also related to improvements for residents we had the launch of works for the eagerly awaited Maghera Public Realm Scheme.

The Chair of Environment committee Cllr Cuthbertson and myself attended the EcoSpeak event this week and it's great to hear young people advocating on environmental issues which affect us all, well done to all those who took part. Yesterday evening myself and the other Dungannon DEA Cllrs attended a meeting with The Dungannon Town Centre Traders which was a very productive meeting which we took away a number of enquiries to follow up on top of the list was the drive for 2-hour on street parking which whilst the responsibility of DFI needs this Council to endorse and if I have a seconder I will so propose."

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council write to Department for Infrastructure to endorse the call for two hour on street parking in Dungannon.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy concluding said, "Lastly I wanted to send best wishes to local press photographer Davy Dougal who is hanging up his camera at least in an official capacity. Davy as many of you will know was ever present at local events to

capture many memories. That's all I have for this evening. I have several members who have indicated to speak. Members we have a previous understanding in place on letters of congratulations and this isn't to curb the celebration of many worthy recipients from throughout the District and I undertake to congratulate all. When we reviewed Civic recognition members were advised to send letters using their letterhead and council logo if desired. If it is wished that the Chair does likewise it does not need to wait to come before this meeting, as Chair I can do that at any time."

Councillor Graham extended congratulations to Fivemiletown Royal British Legion who received the King's Award for Voluntary Service at a ceremony which she attended. She acknowledged that the award was the highest a local voluntary group could receive in the United Kingdom and is in effect an equivalent to the MBE. She shared that the volunteers are from all sides of the community and work hard to make a difference which was especially highlighted during the pandemic. Councillor Graham extended congratulations to Clogher Valley Rugby Club men on winning the Senior Cup and the ladies who won the Championship League B, Dungannon Hockey Club Ladies first XI who won the senior cup and extended best wishes to them on their up-and-coming Ulster Shield Final. Councillor Graham also extended congratulations to St Mary's Primary School in Cabragh in winning the 'Overall Best School NI 2024' at the Families First Education Awards. She stated it was a wonderful achievement especially for a rural school and commended all involved. In conclusion Councillor Graham thanked the Chair for the opportunity to highlight the groups and said she had sent letters of congratulations.

Councillor Robinson endorsed the congratulations to Clogher Valley 1st XV in winning the 2C competition to move up to "B grade" and winning the Bank of Ireland Cup. He also commended Augher Primary School in winning the EcoSpeak competition.

Councillor Cahoon spoke of footballer Stuart Dallas and the great role model he had been for Mid Ulster district and the whole of Northern Ireland. She highlighted he had first made his mark at Coagh United, then Crusaders before moving further afield. Councillor Cahoon proposed that the Chair send a letter marking his retirement and thanking him for the inspiration his career had brought to many.

Councillor Cahoon also extended congratulations to Coagh Primary School on a staff member winning Classroom Assistant of the Year at the Families First Awards.

Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor Cahoon's remarks about Stuart Dallas stating Stuart had lived beside him and had been a great role model for young people. He said you could take the man out of Cookstown but success had not taken Cookstown out of the man. He shared that Stuart always had htime for young people, had played 69 times for Northern Ireland scoring 3 goals. He concluded in whatever retirement brought for Stuart that he wished him well.

Proposed by Councillor Cahoon
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That Chair write to Stuart Dallas wishing him well in his retirement from football and expressing appreciation for the role model he has been to young people throughout the District and Northern Ireland.

Councillor Wilson extended congratulations to Rebecca Bell on winning the Royal British Legion National Youth Standard Bearer a great achievement and the 6th youth standard award for Cookstown. He also extended congratulations to those who provide training to the youth year on year.

Councillor Wilson concluded by congratulating Cookstown High School on school All Ireland Hockey Championship and requested that as the Chair had commended the wins up to this point that he write a letter of congratulations. The Chair, Councillor Molloy agreed.

Resolved That Chair write to congratulate Cookstown High School on winning the All-Ireland Hockey Championship.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to the NIPSA campaign regarding pay and grading of non-teaching staff and the recent review which highlighted historic injustices to the staff who play a positive role in schools throughout the district. He requested that NIPSA be invited to make presentation to relevant committee.

Resolved That NIPSA representatives be invited to committee to make presentation regarding Pay and Grading review for non- teaching staff in the Education Sector.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy concurred and said his daughter worked in the role and he could appreciate the extensive work they do.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred with comments in relation to Davy Dougall's retirement saying he had served a total of 51 years as a local photographer.

Councillor Cuthbertson extended congratulations to Dungannon hockey club who played a championship game at Stormont last week beating Coleraine 2-0. He said there was great enthusiasm for the game, but it highlights the lack of support in that there is no Council owned hockey facilities in Dungannon. He concluded that he had highlighted many times, that Council needs to invest in infrastructure in Dungannon and across the district.

Councillor Burton extended congratulations to Fivemiletown Royal British Legion who had received the King's Award. She shared how Ian Lendrum and the team had done great work during covid serving the entire community.

Councillor Burton also extended congratulations to Caledon play group celebrating 25 years and highlighted that the leader Patricia who was soon retiring had a tremendous impact on the many children she has nurtured bringing great work and a feel good factor to the group. Councillor Burton requested that the Chair write to Caledon Play Group commending them on 25 years' service and make special mention of Patricia.

Resolved That Chair write to Caledon Play Group commending them on 25 Years of serving the local community with special mention to the leader Patricia who is soon retiring.

Councillor Burton also associated herself with earlier comments commending Clogher Valley Rugby Club for their recent achievements. She also highlighted that the Clogher Valley Guide Company were celebrating 70th anniversary and congratulated them on the achievement saying that generations had been involved in the company as guides and then as leaders.

Councillor Burton also congratulated Davy Dougall on his retirement stating he had taken many photographs during a career which spanned 51 years, he was always witty and got the job done quickly then moved to the next event!

Matters for Decision

C076/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on 28 March 2024

Councillor Cuthbertson sought an update on request made at March meeting C052/24 Chair’s Business that officers draw up an itinerary of graffiti in Dungannon town and asked if the task had been assigned.

In response the Chair, Councillor Molloy had said that the matter was being progressed.

Councillor Kerr sought an update on the Gortgonis track and also the proposed meeting with DfI in relation to footpaths. He further highlighted that road defects were causing damage to cars highlighting the Coalisland Road in particular.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said he was aware that there was planned works for that particular section of the road.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to C052/24 in relation to issues concerning Oakridge SEC and Sperrinview.

In response the AD: ODSP said that contact had been made with the school office and they were to follow up with dates. He further advised that at a recent Community Planning Partnership meeting the matter had been raised and Council was endeavouring to get dates in relevant diaries.

In response to Councillor McLernon’s enquiry it was confirmed that Directors from Southern Health & Social Care Trust would be invited to attend.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 28 March 2024 (C049/24 – C063/24 and C071/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C077/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2024

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 9 April 2024 (P045/24 – P052/24 and P060/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C078/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 10 April 2024

Councillor McNamee requested an amendment to the Development Committee meeting that D067/24 Chair’s Business second paragraph should read Chair, Councillor Molloy not Councillor Monteith.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to D067/24 Development Report and concurred with Councillor Monteith’s comments in relation to the opposition to the D Day events to promote British militarism. He further concurred with comments in relation to the Justice and Security Act and the use of stop and search. Councillor Kerr reiterated that the stop and search was being used disproportionately against communities deemed to be nationalist and republican. He stated that it was well known that such searches have a negative effect on young people’s mental health.

Councillor Kerr proposed that Council should both oppose and show opposition to the Justice and Security Act.

In response the Chair, Councillor Molloy said the matter would be better dealt with by a motion to Council.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Wednesday 10 April 2024 (D062/24 – D073/24 and D077/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C079/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2024

Councillor Kerr drew attention to PR078/24 Deputation: Childcare Provision: Children with additional needs and advised that Ms Toner and Ms Hanna had further requested that the undernoted detail be included in correspondence detailed in the resolve.

- That criteria for a disability social worker for children with additional needs be explored, given that currently there is little or no support provided by SHSCT social work team;
- That Council write to the Minister for Education expressing concern that children receive their school placements late April yet children with special educational needs don't receive notification to much later some maybe just days prior to school term commencing.

Resolved That the undernoted detail be included in correspondence detailed in the resolve.

- That criteria for a disability social worker for children with additional needs be explored, given that currently there is little or no support provided by SHSCT social work team;
- That Council write to the Minister for Education expressing concern that children receive their school placements late April yet children with special educational needs don't receive notification to much later some maybe just days prior to school term commencing.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 11 April 2024 (PR074/24 – PR082/24 and PR088/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C080/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2024

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E080/24 Chair's Business discussion in relation to wildflower sowing at roundabouts and requested that as well as the 12 roundabouts included other roundabouts such as the one at Upper Clonoe be included.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 16 April 2024 (E077/24 – E091/24 and E095/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C081/24 Conferences, Seminars and Training

The HoSS&E sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, seminars and training as outlined in Appendix A and B of the report.

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined at Appendix A and B to the report.

C082/24 Community Grants

Members considered the Community Grants paper which was presented previously to Development Committee and approval was sought for the following –

- Community Grant Aid Programme award allocations 2024/2025
- Pitches and Recreational Spaces Strategy grant award allocations 2024/2025
- Irish Language Activity grant award allocations 2024/2025

Councillor Mallaghan thanked officers for the opportunity to meet and discuss concerns about community grants. He stated that there should be a review of Community Grants Policy as soon as possible. Councillor Mallaghan said that the report had provided two options and Sinn Féin would propose that option two be the way forward. He said that he would ask that as it is two months into the financial year that if there was an opportunity for officers to review savings within their sections that could be used to raise the value of some of the grants. He acknowledged he did not want to hold up the letters of offer and if Council was happy that it was appropriate to delegate authority to the Development Committee to approve.

Councillor Carney seconded the proposal but expressed disappointment that Naomh Colum Cille had not met the criteria but had been successful the previous year but had no match funding to avail of the grant. She requested that officers feedback to the club on the application.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Mallaghan and said that hopefully some additional money could be identified from reserves.

Councillor Mallaghan clarified that his proposal was to identify additional funding from in year budgets not Council reserves.

Councillor Wilson drew attention to the Pitch and Recreation Strategy grants and said if Council proceed with option 2, Donaghmore GAC grant remains the same but the other applicant's level of funding is reduced.

In response the Chair, Councillor Molloy said that officers would report back to the Member as given the number of individual grants it could not be discussed. Councillor Wilson said whilst he appreciated this, this particular grant was not reduced pro rata.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said that this section of grants could be referred back to committee for discussion.

Councillor Wilson proposed that if Council wished to proceed with option two the Pitch and Recreation Strategy Grants should be excluded from the proposal until clarification is provided.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said that delegated authority could be granted to the committee in relation to same.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the letter being issued would include an indication that there could be further monies later.

The Chief Executive said such discussion was why the matter was considered in committee. He said the report represents three months' work of a complete officer team assessing against an agreed criteria with each application assessed on its own merit and this was how it had been done since 2015 noting that council had excelled in this field. He said his recommendation was to proceed with option two, with delegated authority to the committee as outlined. He said there would be one letter of offer which would reflect what the committee agree with delegated authority.

Councillor Monteith said he took on board what the Chief Executive said but there was issues Members wished to discuss in relation to grant schemes and the item should be taken in confidential business by the committee that gives opportunity for frank discussion.

In response the Chief Executive said that Members were entitled to discuss and the matters were regarding policy and Councillor Monteith was correct that it should be in confidential business.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy highlighted that all Members were welcome to attend committees.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That

- (i) the Community Grants are awarded in line with option two of the officers report;
- (ii) Officers explore potential in year budget underspends which could be used to provide a funding uplift, up to the maximum award, and report these to the May Development Committee;
- (iii) Officers consider the member query in relation to Pitches & Recreational Spaces Strategy, Feasibility Development Grant and re-table any required amendments for this grant at the May Development Committee.
- (iv) Delegated authority be granted to the Development Committee to agree any potential funding uplift and any amendments to the recommended awards under the Pitches & Recreational Spaces Strategy, Feasibility Development Grant.

- (v) The Community Grants Policy is reviewed expediently.

Matters for Information

C083/24 Consultations

Members noted consultations notified to Council.

Councillor Brown drew attention to the consultation by Department for Infrastructure: A29 Cookstown Bypass. He said as well as Members making their own responses Council should also make a response highlighting that the Bypass whilst welcome would have knock on effects for example in Moneymore.

Resolved That Council respond to Department for Infrastructure: A29 Cookstown Bypass. Delegated authority to Committee if required: Closing Date 29 May 2024

Councillor Monteith drew attention to NI Water Consultation on Draft Water Resource Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan & Supporting Documents and requested that Council make a response highlighting Lough Neagh needs to be front and centre of any response. He suggested a workshop for Members in order that all views could be encompassed, and that delegated authority be granted to the relevant committee should it be required.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council respond to NI Water Consultation on Draft Water Resource Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan & Supporting Documents. Members workshop to be facilitated to formulate response. Delegated authority granted if required. Closing Date 24 May 2024

C084/24 Correspondence

Members noted update on correspondence received for attention of Council.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy drew attention to letter detailing the motion carried at Derry City and Strabane District Council regarding Palestinian Refugees and proposed that Council support same.

Proposed by Chair Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council support Derry City and Strabane District Council motion as detailed in the report.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to letter received from Police Service of Northern Ireland and spoke of the shock that clarification on the closure of enquiry offices has brought. He acknowledged that Members had thought one office, Cookstown would close, but in fact confirmation had been given that both Dungannon and Magherafelt would experience the closures thus people for example in Fivemiletown would now have to travel some 35 miles to the Cookstown enquiry office. Councillor Cuthbertson said he had raised the matter at PCSP but as a higher authority had made the decision, he proposed Council should write to express their concern at the closures.

Resolved That Council write to the PSNI expressing concern at the closure of Magherafelt and Dungannon enquiry offices and requesting that the decision is reconsidered.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to correspondence from BT proposing the removal of a telephone kiosk at Killymerron Park, Dungannon. He said that in speaking to several residents they had indicated they would like the kiosk and a working phone to stay active. Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that Council write to BT requesting that the telephone kiosk and working telephone remain at Killymerron Park, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That Council write to BT requesting that the BT telephone and kiosk be retained at Killymerron Park, Dungannon.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to correspondence from NI Water and said that recently he had read of 20m tonnes of sewage being dumped into rivers and waterways which is causing major concern. He acknowledged that the matter had been highlighted in the past and often the attitude was this happens. Councillor Quinn said that parents had contacted him, and he had no answers to give. He requested that his concern be put on record about this and the major environmental issues at Lough Neagh.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy concurred and spoke of large outlet pipes running into the Blackwater River but no one accepted responsibility.

Councillor Quinn proposed that Council request a meeting with NI Water to seek clarity as to what is leaking into waterways and where it is happening across the district. He further referred to pipes at the Washingbay.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said that the proposed meeting should be a single item agenda.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with NI Water to discuss sewage/waste dumping and disposal into waterways throughout the district.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at 7.43pm

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That items C085/24 to C091/24 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 28 March 2024
- (ii) Planning Confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 April 2024
- (iii) Development Confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 April 2024
- (iv) Policy & Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 April 2024
- (v) Environment Confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 April 2024
- (vi) Document for Sealing: Planning Agreement Pursuant to Section 76 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011, between Mid Ulster District Council and Jamdac Development Limited.
- (vii) Document for Sealing: Lease in triplicate for the Acquisition of Land at St Colmans Park to facilitate Bus Shelter – NIHE to Mid Ulster District Council.

C092/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.45 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Members Present	Councillor S McPeake, Chair Councillors Black (5.20 pm), J Buchanan, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Graham, Kerr, Mallaghan, McConnell, McElvogue, McFlynn, D McPeake, Robinson, Varsani
Officers in Attendance	Mr Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor Ms Doyle, Head of Local Planning (HLP) Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer (SPO) Mr McClean, Senior Planning Officer (SPO) Ms McKinless, Senior Planning Officer (SPO) Mr Brown, ICT Ms Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer
Others in Attendance	LA09/2023/0775/F – Jim Maneely LA09/2023/0775/F – Eamonn Loughrey LA09/2019/1482/F – Hayley Wilson Shane Carr LA09/2023/0683/O – Eamon Cushnahan LA09/2023/0466/O – Damian McMurray

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm.

P061/24 Notice of Recording

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

P062/24 Apologies

Councillors Carney and Martin.

P063/24 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

P064/24 Chair's Business

Mr Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) said that members would be aware of DfI's consultation regarding the A29 Cookstown bypass which was discussed at full Council with a corporate line being taken on it. The HSP advised that Planning

Department were also written to directly in a parallel way and wished to get members agreement to feed some comments back into the overall corporate response. There were no issues for local planning and welcomed the delivery of the road, but what will be caveated into the response will be some comments around making sure that habitat, heritage, flood risk and other potential impacts are considered. Also welcomed will be planting and landscaping proposals to assist the integration of the road line and in consulting with Environmental Health Department, were pleased to see that noise from road traffic, construction and contaminated land air quality are all factored into the environmental statement. Comments will be added in the ensure that lighting with the road line does not impact on anybody's enjoyment of the residential property along the road line.

The HSP said if members were agreeable that he would feed this back as a response to the corporate view.

Councillor Cuthbertson enquired if this would be a separate view from the full Council as he recalled Councillor Brown raising issues in relation to build up of traffic going into Moneymore and if Council would highlight this. The member said that he was unsure whether this was a planning issue or a corporate issue.

The HSP advised that he had noted this already on the draft that he had seen from full Council and intended to add this point across.

Agreed.

The Head of Local Planning (HLP) advised that the following application has been withdrawn from tonight's meeting schedule - Agenda Item 5.2 – LA09/2020/1679/F – Change of house type from approved 6 semi-detached dwellings under M/2005/0066/F to 1 block of 4 town houses, 1 block of 5 town houses at lands immediately W of 21 Fintona Road, Clogher for Newpark Homes Ltd.

The Head of Local Planning referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting –

Agenda Item 5.7 – LA09/2023/0365/F – Farm storage shed at 200m W of 24 Reenaderry Road, Coalisland for Mr John Duffy

Agenda Item 5.9 – LA09/2023/0659/O – Infill site for dwelling and garage at lands approx. 50m N of 152 Moneymore Road, Magherafelt for Ms Dorothy Bradley

Agenda Item 5.11 – LA09/2023/0975/O – Farm dwelling and garage at approx. 260m SW of 31 Loves Road, Magherafelt for Mr Seamus Donnelly

Agenda Item 5.12 – LA09/2023/1199/O – Dwelling and garage at site 45m W of 1 Tullynure Road, Lissan, Cookstown for Mr Henry McCracken

Agenda Item 5.14 – LA09/2023/1331/F – Retention of timber handrail and perspex roof canopy over rear porch at 24 Parkmore Heights, Magherafelt for Rafal Zakonek and M Reniewich

Agenda Item 5.17 – LA09/2024/0176/O – Dwelling and garage at 40 SW of 11 Lough Road, Magherafelt for Mr Peter Cassidy

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above be deferred for an office meeting.

Matters for Decision

P065/24 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2018/1643/F Residential development of 42 units (30 semi-detached and 12 detached), a new access/right turn lane from Coolshinney Road, open space/private amenity space, landscaping and ancillary site works at lands 100m SW of 13 Coolshinney Road and 20m N of 2 Thornhill, Magherafelt for Mullaghboy Construction Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2018/1643/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/1643/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1679/F Change of house type from approved 6 semi-detached dwellings under M/2005/0066/F to 1 block of 5 town houses at lands immediately W of 21 Fintona Road, Clogher for Newpark Homes Ltd

Application withdrawn earlier in the meeting.

LA09/2022/1045/F Housing development of 52 units comprising of 48 two storey semi-detached and 4 two storey detached dwellings adjacent to 25A Ballyneill Road, Ballyronan for Bell Contracts

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1045/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1045/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1238/F **Housing development of 19 two storey dwellings and associated site works (16 semi-detached and 3 detached) at lands immediately W of NW of 10 Altmore View, Cappagh for Damian Donnelly**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1238/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1238/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1765/F **Northerly phased lateral extension to the existing sand and gravel pit at Murnells with restoration to Woodland Planting and Grassland Habitats at lands at Murnells Sand and Gravel Pit, N of 46 Murnells Road, Pomeroy and W of 56 Cavanoneill Road, Pomeroy for Ms Catherine Keenan**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1765/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McConnell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1765/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0355/F **Two storey dwelling and garage at lands 75m S of 16 Ballyheifer Road, Magherafelt for Mr and Mrs Jarlath and Oonagh Conway**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0355/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0355/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0365/F **Farm storage shed at 200m W of 24 Reenaderry Road, Coalisland for John Duffy**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0390/O **Site for dwelling and garage on a farm at approx. 250m SW of 24 Rarogan Road, Garvaghy, Ballygawley for Mr Patrick J & E O'Hagan**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0390/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McConnell
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0390/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0659/O **Infill site for dwelling and garage at lands approx. 50m N of 152 Moneymore Road, Magherafelt for Mrs Dorothy Bradley**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0775/F **Supermarket and petrol forecourt, additional three retail units with associated car parking, underground fuel tanks and free-standing forecourt canopy. Public realm landscaping fronting Church Street. Servicing to the three retail units via Loran Way. Alteration works to new site access via Fountain Road, previously approved under LA09/2017/1083/F at lands at 2-10 Church Street/Fountain Road, Cookstown for TJ Hamilton**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0775/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Clarke advised that he wished to raise a point regarding this application. The member said that this proposal faces onto Fountain Road, which had been raised before and possibly overlooked at that time. Fountain Road joining Church Street has a set of traffic lights and two lanes of traffic going out of the junction, with most of the traffic emerging from the left-hand lane going towards Dungannon, the centre lane would not be as busy as traffic go straight ahead or turning right. The member said that he uses the road regularly and found that when there was a build-up of traffic, the left-hand lane gets a filter early but the traffic in the centre lane can block anyone getting into the left-hand lane. The member suggested if there was an extension of a few vehicle lengths permitted onto the inside lane it would relieve a lot of build-up of traffic.

The Chair said that it would be useful for members to hear what the roads report was advising on it.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) said that she was able to get the latest response from DfI Roads who did not offer any objections subject to conditions that were in accordance with the fallback position which was still live from the 2017 application which proposed the access from the Fountain Road as well. The SPO advised that she had checked the case officer's report and all the conditions on that were on the 2017 application. An additional one had been added that roads have recommended

regarding retail or other operations happening which is all noted on the report under the Private Streets also.

Councillor Clarke said that it was unfortunate that there wasn't the opportunity to extend by a few vehicles lengths to relieve the traffic build up on that stretch of road. The member felt that if this remains the same the situation will not change.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0775/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0975/O **Farm dwelling and garage at approx. 260m SW of 31 Loves Road, Magherafelt for Mr Seamus Donnelly**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/1199/O **Dwelling and garage at Site 45m W of 1 Tullynure Road, Lissan, Cookstown for Henry McCracken**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/1311/F **Dwelling and domestic garage (change of house type and garage approved I/2006/0008/RM including relocation of garage within extended curtilage) at site opposite 64 Feegarron Road, Cookstown for Mr & Mrs Alan & Claire Boyle**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/1311/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/1311/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/1331/F **Retention of timber handrail and perspex roof canopy over rear porch at 24 Parkmore Heights, Magherafelt for Rafal Zakonek and M Reniewich**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2024/0067/O **Site for single dwelling and garage at lands approx. 60m SW of 21 Corvanaghan Road, Cookstown for Ms Joanne McGurk**

Ms McKinless (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2024/0067/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Ms McKinless (SPO) advised that the application was submitted by the applicant and no agent involved.

The Chair said that it would be useful to defer the application for an office meeting to allow the applicant a chance as they had already paid their fees and had got to this stage. The Chair felt as there was no agent involved the committee should do this justice and allow the applicant to avail of an agent and provide the opportunity to come to an office meeting.

Councillor Clarke advised that he was also going to suggest this and would be happy to second the Chair's proposal.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2024/0067/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2024/0154/F **Alterations and ground floor extension to rear of existing dwelling at 61 Killyneil Road, Dungannon for Dr Roy Peak**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2024/0154/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that he had been copied into two pieces of correspondence in relation to this matter. One for an objection regarding a window facing out the back from the objector where he had been refused a rear facing window on his property previously some years ago. The member stated that he was copied into further correspondence from the objector advising that there had been a condition included to put in an obscure window, but the objector felt that the best scenario would be for a roof-light rather than obscure glass due to the window being opened. The member was unsure if any conversation has taken place with the agent or applicant where this could be agreeable rather than putting the other condition on. The member said that he had seen the correspondence from the complainant who advised that he was refused a rear-facing window when he was building his house, but as this application was for a renovation it seemed different. The member stated that these two houses were always there and because the objector built a new house, he was refused the opportunity for a rear-facing window.

The Chair advised that every situation was different and what may seem similar to an objector doesn't necessarily be that way. He said that it would be useful for Mr Marrion (SPO) to comment on the windows and privacy aspect in relation to this application.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the two houses were back-to-back.

Mr Marrion (SPO) advised that this was for an extension to the dwelling to the gable wall of the property and a window in the gable itself. The SPO provided members with an overhead view of the property outlining the cable projection to the rear where the window is upstairs, the objector is requesting that roof-lights be put into the side

opposed to the window at the rear. The SPO outlined the objector's property and separation distances between the two sites which was significant even for being in a rural area. Having looked at that and the condition proposed to introduce obscure glazing for the window, officers felt that this would be enough to prevent any undesirable and unacceptable overlooking of the objector's property.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2024/0154/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2024/0176/O Dwelling and garage at 40m SW of 11 Lough Road, Magherafelt for Mr Peter Cassidy

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

Councillor Black entered the meeting at 5.20 pm.

LA09/2024/0216/O Site for single storey dwelling and garage at approx. 20m N of 229 Coalisland Road, Mullaghmarget, Edendork for Ms S Casey

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2024/0216/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor Varsani advised that she had taken a close look at the details on this application and felt that it was quite an unusual one in that there had been no objections, it was in a cluster, doesn't have any road access problems except perhaps the actual entrance needing a bit more visibility and was the same as most of the other houses on the same road. The member felt that this application could benefit from an office meeting and was also aware that it was stated that no noise impact statement has been carried out yet due to it being beside an industrial site and felt that this should not be held against residents. The member suggested that any issues could be explored through an office meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2024/0216/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2019/1482/F Retention of workshop at approx. 70m W of Unit 10, Station Road Industrial Estate, Station Road, Magherafelt for Four Dee (NI) Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1482/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1482/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0466/O Dwelling and garage at land approx. 150m N of 30 Killyfaddy Road, Magherafelt for Mr Arron McMurray

The Chair advised that the above application will be heard in confidential business due to personal circumstances.

LA09/2023/0467/O Dwelling and domestic garage in a gap site at land adjacent and NE of 70 Glenhoy Road, Ballygawley for Mr Sean O'Neill

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0467/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McElvogue
Seconded by Councillor McConnell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0467/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0683/O Dwelling at an existing cluster adjacent to and SW of 150A Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Mr Patrick Brady

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0683/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0683/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

P066/24 Receive Report on Property Certificate Charges

Ms Doyle (HLP) presented previously circulated report to seek approval for the implementation of agreed revised charges for Regional Property Certificates (RPC) processed by the Planning Department.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That the administrative charge of £84 be applied immediately following consultation with The Law Society.

P067/24 Receive Dalradian Update Report

Mr Bowman (HSP) presented previously circulated report which was to seek members agreement on the content of the Council's proposed statement of case further to previous submission to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) in relation to the upcoming Dalradian Mine project Local Public Enquiries due to be held on 10th September 2024 (LA10/2017/1249/F).

The HSP advised members that he has just seen from PAC's website that they have appeared to suspend the hearings yet again with no date now, when originally aiming for an enquiry in September and were preparing a statement of case for the deadline of 31st May.

The HSP stated that the purpose of the paper was to provide an update position to reflect the fact that we were aiming for 31st May submission. He said that there were a few other things that he wished to seek members agreement in relation taking forward our statement of case. Council had resolved and have made their position publicly known already and part of the discussion at the time was that it went into the Dark Skies and Stone Circles. When preparing the evidence Officers had been looking at things like that and was to seek members agreement that this be fleshed out a bit more in terms of potential impacts that this could have on the Dark Skies Park and Stone Circles. Also, at the time of the last report Fermanagh and Omagh's Draft Plan Strategy had not got to independent examination, it has now got through that stage and has since been adopted and now able to update our line in terms of that plan.

The HSP sought members agreement to add the additional points to the Statement of Case in preparing the evidence and forward in due course when that arises in the future.

The Chair said that the report has now been updated to reflect the additional changes in the circumstances since the original response, objecting to the proposal and hoping to include the protection of the Dark Skies and Stone Circles areas which wasn't as prevalent at that time. Also to agree to include further comments from Fermanagh and Omagh based on their approved Draft Plan Strategy.

The HSP agreed or effectively for this Council to reflect the now more advanced stage that the Fermanagh and Omagh plan is since 2021 when it hadn't been to independent examination.

Councillor Clarke felt that this would be very important as things have moved on a lot due to our ASAI's having grown and extra townlands within Mid Ulster. He advised that Omagh has included the ASAI's as it is a huge area and includes a lot of features including the Stone Circles and Dark Skies. The member stated that this was more of an important site now than at any stage.

The HSP said that as part of a wider discussion around Heritage or Archaeological Heritage this would be looked at along with comments that HED have also provided. He said that there was a significant amount of material online but would certainly take those points on board. The HSP stated that these were somewhat covered within the first resolution from the last time to consider the impacts generally on the

AONB in terms of visual impact, but these will be factored into the consideration also.

Councillor Kerr said that he had been following the public enquiry and was aware that it has been suspended in September. The member queried if the public enquiry does go ahead what representation does Mid Ulster intend to use and asked if Council have any experts to outline our very rigorous opposition to the proposed gold mine. He was aware of other public authorities coming out publicly against it and asked if it would be worth exploring having a joint effort in any legal fees to show that there was a united front as it was a very important public enquiry as it affects many authorities. The member said he was aware that there were major health implications for residents living in Mid Ulster Council area if the gold mine was to go ahead.

The HSP advised that Council does not have any particular experts in that field, Officers would be representing the Council in relation to what we have agreed to pursue so far with a lot around that being visual impact and things that Officers can form a fairly solid view on anyway. For areas like the Dark Skies and other areas, it may be worthwhile having a think about a bit more expert opinion on that since there is now time to do so. He was aware of the difficulty for Environmental Health Officers to comment on light pollution as it was not an area of expertise for them and felt that there was merit in looking on what could be drawn on and happy to explore this further now that we don't have to meet the deadline of 31st May. The HSP said that he would be happy to explore the area on expertise around light pollution which may help.

The Chair adding on from Councillor Kerr's comments said that previously as a Council we said that if and when the inquiry came about, we would look at supporting the other Councils in possibly jointly procuring in bringing in advice or specialisms at that stage. He said that it would do no harm in looking at that resolution and determining the appropriate time for doing so and was his understanding that was the decision taken at that time.

Councillor Kerr said that he welcomed the HSP's comments but wished to raise major negative factors of the application in relation to health implications. If people's life expectancy is being lowered, then this should be one of the more stronger fields of experts that Council should be exploring as no-one should be at risk because of this application.

The Chair enquired if it was known when the public enquiry would resume again.

The HSP advised that it does not indicate when it would resume again and updated the committee on PAC's statement:

"that the commission to suspend arrangements for the current enquiry timetable in the circumstances and once the commission is in receipt of a valid direction from DAERA in relation to the expected abstraction and impoundment licence applications together with all of the relevant papers in respect of those applications, it will move to set directions and new dates for the submission of statements of case".

The HSP said that this was very open ended and unsure how long this was going to be.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he would urge caution on comments made in relation to engaging legal teams and experts as this could run this Council into a lot of expense as this was not our decision and would not be making it. This Council has a Planning team of Officers within our remit who have a proven track record in relation to planning skills and policies and did not think that we need to be engaging or wasting money on outside advice when we have a team of Officers who know the planning system and provide advice on policy.

The Chair said that he would differ with the member's opinion and the way of dealing with this would be going back to see where Council stands as he believed that there was a record of committee taking the decision of when specialist advice was required that we would look at assistance from them various fields. There was a proposal came forward at the time that Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & Omagh come together in a joint procurement venture and decision was taken that we would hold back to see what was happening. Given the complexities, the different areas of specialisms and reports, we certainly do not have the capabilities within our staff for what was going to be required. The Chair felt that it was important to keep an eye on things and employ those services as and when required.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved To agree that those additional issues of concern referenced in the minutes of the 2nd August 2021 meeting, and at Paragraph 3.2 within this report, along with the more advanced stage of the Fermanagh and Omagh Council plan, are to be included and reflected in the Council's evidence to the Inquiry further to the Council's initial submission.

P068/24 Update on Findings of Survey Carried Out on Preferred Start Time for Planning Committee

Ms Doyle (HLP) presented previously circulated report to provide Members with and update on the findings of the survey carried out on preferred start time for Planning Committee.

The Chair thanked the HLP and her team for carrying out the survey which was done very speedily with Councillors and staff.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That following review of the start time of the Planning Committee, commencement of meeting be changed to 6pm in line with the overall majority of Members and Officers commencing next month.

Matters for Information

P069/24 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 9 April 2024

Members noted previously circulated minutes of Planning Committee held on 9 April 2024.

P070/24 Receive Appeal Decision – Iniscarn Road, Moneymore

Members noted update from Planning Appeals Commission following a decision by the Planning Committee to refuse planning permission for the proposed development.

P071/24 Receive Planning Service Plan 2024/25

Members noted Planning Department Service Plan for the period 2024-2025.

Live broadcast ended at 5.42 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan 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 P072/24 to P075/24.

Matters for Decision

P072/24 Receive Enforcement Notice

Matters for Information

P073/24 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 9 April 2024

P074/24 Enforcement Cases Opened

P075/24 Enforcement Cases Closed

P076/24 Any Other Business

P077/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 5 pm and concluded at 6.50 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Planning, 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.

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 9 May 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Corry, Chair

Councillors Brown, F Burton, Cahoon, Gildernew, Johnston, McAleer, McFlynn, McLernon, S McPeake

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)
Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)
Ms Dyson, Head of Human Resources (HoHR)
Ms Keys, Marketing and Communications Development Manager (MCDM)
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)
Mrs McNally, Assistant Director of Corporate Services and Finance (AD: CS&F)
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy & Performance (AD: ODSP)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Finance (SD: CS&F)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Kerr

Agenda Item 4 – Deputation: NIPSA

Mr Mullholland, Deputy Secretary
Ms McSherry, Classroom Assistant and NIPSA Rep

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

PR089/24 Notice of Recording

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

PR090/24 Apologies

Councillors Bell, J Burton, McLean, Molloy, Totten and Wilson.

PR091/24 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Gildernew declared an interest in agenda item 15 – Staffing Matters for Decision.

PR092/24 Chairs Business

None.

PR093/24 Deputation – NIPSA

The Chair, Councillor Corry welcomed Mr Mulholland and Ms McSherry to the meeting and invited them to address the committee.

Mr Mulholland stated the purpose of the presentation tonight was to make Members aware of the issues regarding the ongoing pay and grading review in education. Mr Mulholland stated it was regrettable that the presentation is needed but that he was grateful that Members were prepared to listen and take discussion points forward. Mr Mulholland provided a history of the pay and grading review in education which arose from 2018/2019 NJC pay agreement at which it was agreed that all NJC bodies would review pay spines. Mr Mulholland outlined the issues raised as part of the discussions of the pay and grading review, namely –

- Length of pay scales
- Pay differentials
- Outstanding job evaluations
- Ongoing education welfare officers pay dispute

Mr Mulholland stated the pay and grading review was supposed to deal with these issues and after two years of negotiations consent was agreed and a business case was constructed however due to the suspension of the Assembly this business case stopped moving. Since the return of the Assembly with additional budget the expectation was that the pay and grading review would be dealt with quickly however he advised that within the new budget not one penny has been allocated to this review. Mr Mulholland highlighted that the review is not for senior staff in the education authority but for lower paid workers – cleaners, classroom assistants, kitchen staff etc and that the review is valued at £180 million for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. Mr Mulholland advised that since the first draft of the budget there have been new developments and that there is a proposal for an early draw down of £58 million to cover 2024/25 with nothing backdated. Mr Mulholland advised that assurances have been sought that the issue of backdating is also dealt with and a response to this is expected in the near future.

Mr Mulholland stated there is now anger amongst education authority employees and that this will mean a period of industrial unrest and that unions will submit legal notice for industrial action next week. This industrial action will be in the run up to the summer but will continue into the new school term in the autumn. Mr Mulholland stated that it

has been clear in exchanges with political parties that there is agreement as to the justice of the case being advanced and also commitment to try to do something about it but to date this has not turned into cash on the table.

The Chair, Councillor Corry thanked Mr Mulholland for the informative presentation and stated she has stood alongside education workers on the picket lines and recognises the important work they all do.

Councillor McLernon stated that Sinn Féin recognise the importance of the education workers who are amongst the lowest paid in the community and do the most vital work to support children and young people. The Councillor stated that the Sinn Féin Finance Minister is committed to working collectively with the Education Minister to find a resolution for the education workers and will be raising the matter as a priority with the Treasury.

Councillor Kerr stated he was a passionate trade unionist and hoped that the situation regarding the pay and grading review is resolved quickly. The Councillor stated it is a shame there is a shortfall regarding backdated pay and that he would encourage NIPSA to reach out to every other local authority in the North on this matter.

Mr Mulholland stated that both the Education and Finance Minister have been clear on their commitment to go to the Treasury to seek additional funding and that he was also aware of the other pressure points such as health that are out there but that he would ask that the pay and grading review is put to the top of the political agenda. Mr Mulholland stated that there has been engagement at various levels – Secretary of State, Ministers, MLAs and Councillors and anything that can be done by this Council to reach out to other Councils would be extremely helpful and that Councillors use the avenues available to raise the issue up through the assembly. Mr Mulholland stated there needs to be a collective push by everyone and that a lot of pressure will need to be put on Treasury to find a resolution.

Councillor Brown stated he was a Chair on a Board of Governors and that cleaning, kitchen and building maintenance staff are an integral part of the school. The Councillor stated that his party will continue to press on the pay and grading review issue.

Mr Mulholland stated that the Education Minister has met with NIPSA and is fully supportive of the pay and grading review and that this is noted and helpful, likewise with the Finance Minister. Mr Mulholland stated that the issue now needs to be elevated within the Assembly and given the same standing as health as a crisis area that needs to be resolved. Mr Mulholland stated that unfortunately there is potential for an extended period of disruption in schools and one of the things under discussion is industrial action around exam periods and that this is not a comfortable place to be.

Councillor Johnston stated that as a teacher who got a pay award and is going to get backdated pay she was embarrassed that there was no equality for support workers. The Councillor stated she had no doubt that both the Education and Finance Minister will be committed to giving priority to the issue and asked in terms of the £58 million for an early draw down for the 2024/25 pay award if this is the best that can be hoped for.

Mr Mulholland stated that the expectation and demand is that the pay and grading review is paid in full and that there is nothing left out. Mr Mulholland stated that the pay

and grading review was a fully negotiated settlement and that as a trade union he expected that when negotiations take place that it means something. Mr Mulholland stated that the Education Authority are the employer and that they should be instructed to pay what was agreed.

The Chair, Councillor Corry stated the consensus of the Members is that they are fully supportive of the education workers and that Members will continue to raise the pay and grading review issue wherever they can and that she would encourage people to join a trade union as that is where the strength is.

Mr Mulholland, Ms McSherry and Councillor Kerr left the meeting at 7.26 pm.

Matters for Decision

PR094/24 Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property

Members considered previously circulated report which sought approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- Mesothelioma UK: Action Mesothelioma Day: 5th July 2024 Colour: Pink
- Deafblind Awareness UK: Deaf Blind Awareness Week: 27 June 2024 Colour: Purple
- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS): World PCOS Day: 2 September 2024 Colour: Teal
- North West Migrants Forum: Black History Awareness & Show Racism the Red Card: 1 October 2024 Colour: Red

The HoSS&E advised of additional requests which had been received since the report was published namely:

- Child Brain Injury Trust: Acquired Brain Injury Awareness Week: 24 May 2024 Colour: Purple and Blue
- Mid Ulster Loneliness Network: Loneliness Awareness Week: 10 June 2024 Colour: Blue

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –
- Mesothelioma UK: Action Mesothelioma Day: 5th July 2024 Colour: Pink
 - Deafblind Awareness UK: Deaf Blind Awareness Week: 27 June 2024 Colour: Purple
 - Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS): World PCOS Day: 1 September 2024 Colour: Teal
 - North West Migrants Forum: Black History Awareness & Show Racism the Red Card: 1 October 2024 Colour: Red

- Child Brain Injury Trust: Acquired Brain Injury Awareness Week: 24 May 2024 Colour: Purple and Blue
- Mid Ulster Loneliness Network: Loneliness Awareness Week: 10 June 2024 Colour: Orange and Yellow

PR095/24 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR096/24 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 April 2024

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 11 April 2024.

PR097/24 Update Committee on the Outcome of the Consultation Undertaken on the Council's Proposed Performance Improvement Objectives 2024 – 2025

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the outcome of the public consultation undertaken on Council's proposed improvement objectives 2024 – 2025.

PR098/24 Rural Needs Annual Progress Return to DAERA (2023/24)

Members noted previously circulated report which set out Mid Ulster District Council's Annual Progress Report to DAERA in relation to the Rural Needs Act NI (2016) for the period 2023-24.

PR099/24 Annual Subscriptions

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined correspondence received from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) and the National Association for Councillors (NAC) and Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) on annual contributions payable for 2024-2025.

PR100/24 Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance Directorate Service Plan 2024-25

Members noted presented previously circulated report which set out the Directorate Service Plan for Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance for period 2024-25.

PR101/24 Chief Executive - Marketing & Communications Service Plan 2024-25

Members noted previously circulated report which set out the Service Plan for the Marketing and Communications Service for the 2024-2025 year.

Live broadcast ended at 7.29 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McLernon
Seconded by Councillor Brown 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 PR102/24 to PR115/24.

Matters for Decision

- PR102/24 Land and Property Matters
- PR103/24 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR104/24 Revised Policies: (1) Safeguarding of Children & Young People Policy (2) Adult Safeguarding Policy
- PR105/24 Draft ICT Strategy for Review & Feedback
- PR106/24 Ann Street Development – Update
- PR107/24 Verbal Update: Mid South West Growth Deal: Desertcreat Project

Matters for Information

- PR108/24 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 11 April 2024
- PR109/24 Microsoft Enterprise Licensing Agreement Tender Award Update
- PR110/24 Staff Matters for Information
- PR111/24 Managing Employee Attendance Report 23/24
- PR112/24 Pension Discretions Policy
- PR113/24 Treasury Management – Update
- PR114/24 Financial report for 12 months ended 31 March 2024
- PR115/24 Contracts and DAC

P116/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.17 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.

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Cuthbertson, Chair

Councillors J Buchanan, J Burton, Cahoon, Kelly, Groogan, Milne, McAleer, McElvogue, McGuigan, McNamee, Quinn (7.02 pm), Robinson, Varsani

Officers in Attendance

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

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

Mr Conlon, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)

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

Mr Curran, ICT

Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

E096/24 Notice of Recording

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

E097/24 Apologies

Councillors Mallaghan and Martin.

E098/24 Declarations of Interest

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

E099/24 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that Councillor Cahoon wished to raise an issue under Chair's Business.

Councillor Cahoon referred to the footbridge at Lough Beg which has been closed for a few weeks and now that we are going into the summer months it would be important to have it reopened as it was one of the most popular tourist spots we have within the district. The member enquired if there was a timeframe for the reinstatement of the footbridge at this location.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that he would come back to members with a more detailed timeframe but was aware of some work currently ongoing with respect to the design of a new footbridge. The AD: PS confirmed that he would follow the issue up with the Outdoor Recreation team and would provide members with a further update following discussions.

Councillor McGuigan seconded the request. The member advised that the same issue around the footbridge was brought to his attention today and although he had not been at Lough Beg for a while, a member of the public raised the concern with him.

Councillor Quinn entered the meeting at 7.02 pm.

Councillor McNamee concurred with previous comments as he had visited the site recently and agreed that the closure of the footbridge was causing a huge impact to the walk itself. The member hoped that this could be operational again very quickly coming into the summer months, otherwise it would be a disaster for that area.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Officers investigate the reinstatement of the footbridge at Lough Beg as a matter of urgency.

The Chair wished to thank the Council in relation to work carried out on the bridge at Dungannon Park. The member said that there was now a great new bridge, with the walk not being closed for long around the park which was great to see for public users.

Matters for Decision

E100/24 Bus Shelters Update

Mr Conlon, Head of Technical Services (HoTS) presented previously circulated report to update Members on the current bus shelter status.

The Chair welcomed Mr Conlon to his first committee meeting and wished him all the best in his new role as Head of Technical Services replacing Mr Raymond Lowry.

Councillor Robinson thanked Council as he had been involved with the bus shelters at Knockmany and Station Road, Clogher. The member referred to another bus shelter at Findermore Road on the A5/A4 which was a little more complicated as it needed more work around it and sought an update on where the budget would come from and what stage it currently was at.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) said that she was aware of this particular application and the policy Council has at the moment relates to the installation of bus shelters and it was her understanding that this site was more of a bus stop. The SD: Env advised members that at the moment we would not have the budget within current Council budgets for that aspect of work as costings could be quite significant. This was something that was under consideration and would have to be taken through the various processes as there was no budget in place and something that SMT would have to consider as it sits outside the policy of bus shelters but ultimately it would be a Council decision as to progressing and where budget would come from.

Councillor Robinson enquired if there were any incidents like this in the past and what was the outcome.

The SD: Env said that it was her understanding that this was not something that has been done in the past and would be setting a precedent otherwise.

The AD: PS also stated that he was not aware of any scenarios for an actual bus stop configuration. The work typically carried out involves approvals coming to Technical Services team and then passed to Property Services team for installation of the bus shelter i.e. clearing the land, installing concrete base and installing the shelter and does not involve substantial environmental improvements or civil works to make this possible.

The Chair in referring to Councillor Robinson's query advised that he only knew the location from driving past it and enquired who owned the layby.

The AD: PS advised that he was not aware of the ownership but certainly could investigate the issue.

The Chair said that this may not relate to a bus stop but in other areas, like the A29, the Council took control of two laybys from DfI and spent a considerable amount of money on picnic facilities and landscaping and felt a precedent could already be in place. The Chair said that surely if this was a safety issue for a bus shelter and although he was unsure when Councillor Robinson alluded to the request being made for the bus shelter, felt that this would have been made fairly early on, enquired if this was retained by Council under a monthly update or does this need to move on to SMT.

The AD: PS advised that the bus shelter update sets out a very clear staged process and because it was quite unique the matter would have to be considered by SMT.

The Chair asked that an update on the situation regarding bus stop at Findermore Road, Clogher be brought back to a future committee meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McElvogue
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- i) Note the contents of the report on the progress made on bus shelters within the District
- ii) Approve bus shelter application as listed under 3.4 and to move from stage 5:
 - 3Nr – 3.4.1 – 3.4.3:
 - 3.4.1 - (Millview Manor, Coalisland Road)
 - 3.4.2 - (Fintona Road, Clogher)
 - 3.4.3 – (McErleans Villas, Ballynease Road, Bellaghy)
- iii) Approve bus shelter application as listed under 3.7 to installation this month:
 - 1Nr – 3.7.1 (Lavey Chapel Carpark, Gulladuff)
- iv) Withdraw bus shelter application as listed under 3.9 this month:
 - 2Nr – 3.9.1 – 3.9.2:

- 3.9.1 - (Goland-Armaghlughey Road, Ballygawley)
- 3.9.2 – (Tullyhogue Village)
- v) Update on bus stop at Findermore Road, Clogher to be brought back to a future meeting of this committee.

E101/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Reduced Speed Limit 40mph at Quarry Road, Knockloughrim

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to seek the agreement of Members in relation to a proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce a 40mph speed limit at Quarry Road, Knockloughrim.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a 40mph speed limit at Quarry Road, Knockloughrim.

Matters for Information

E102/24 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 16 April 2024

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 16 April 2024.

Councillor McNamee referred to new parking Ringgo app and enquired if there were many issues this month compared to last month.

Mr Scullion (Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) said that it has been reasonable quiet, and concerns has seemed to settle, although there were still a few queries, these were a lot less than last month.

E103/24 Update on Sites Managed for Biodiversity

Members noted update on the number of sites which are managed for biodiversity.

The Chair said that he was aware that an issue was raised in the past and this was why this list was before members tonight.

The Chair said that it was his understanding that these were sites which currently fall under our grass maintenance role within Council policy and enquired whether any of the new ones added on do not fit within our grass policy scheme.

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) advised it did not.

The Chair referred to item 3.3 – No. 25 Clonoe roundabout and said that our policy was widely debated by Councillors in the previous mandate, where there were a limited number of roundabouts that Council maintain which were only gateway roundabouts i.e.

Ballygawley, Castledawson and one or two other roundabouts at the most. He remembered clearly a discussion had ensued at a number of meetings in relation to Tamnamore not being considered as a gateway roundabout into Mid Ulster. For grass maintenance, policy states that it has to fall inside a village within a 30mph zone and 300 plus residents and said that before proceeding with these, that this be investigated to make sure that those listed meets the policy for our grass maintenance rather than selecting a few from somewhere and including them into this. The Chair felt if these sites did not quality within policy that they should not be on this list.

The AD: ES advised that Clonoe roundabout was done historically going back to Dungannon legacy Council with reasons being raised at the last full Council meeting. The AD: ES stated that as it was a small roundabout, this was why it was selected for a wildflower trial to see how it would progress, with requests being made on a number of occasions. He said that Clonoe roundabout was a trial and going forward it would be used as a potential for other areas.

The Chair felt that was reasonable enough but should not be on our grass maintenance schedule as Tamnamore was removed as it was a 40mph zone and not deemed as a gateway roundabout. The Chair said that it could end up that people on the floor adding in roundabouts and places from all over and this was a reason why there was a need to be clear and stick to policy.

Councillor McAleer said that his issue did not relate to this particular issue and referred to agenda item 11, item 3.5 – Loughshore Community Services, Moortown and advised that they had received a grant for wildflower on the Battery Road and enquired whether this would be included at some point or was this something that was separate.

Councillor Quinn said that he had raised this issue last month and would certainly welcome Clonoe being added and was also aware of it being a legacy Council matter, but adding wildflower to the roundabout may stop people driving over it which would certainly be welcome. The member advised that there was wildflower planting down at Washingbay Park through Lough Neagh Partnership and given the walkways around Washingbay and the Park that lead up to the Holy River, felt that this would be an ideal location to plant wildflowers to see how it progresses and very welcome for the area. The member said that by looking over the 17 areas, felt that there was a good spread and Coalisland Recycling Centre was always one that caught the eye for anyone that used it due to staff always looking after it and good to see that continuing on. He was aware of some more being added to the list and hoped that this could be expanded over the next few years. He referred to discussion last month regarding Moneymore carriageway where it was indicated that this could prove costly to plant the wildflowers and enquired how much it would actually cost to set this up i.e. costs by acreage or by metre etc or how does costings be identified. The member felt that it would be well worth the expense as he had seen for himself some of these places which were striking and something different to what we were used to and after raising this matter last month, he was inundated with photos from other areas like Rotterdam and Amsterdam and commended the Council in taking the initiative for bringing this forward.

The Chair advised that the AD: ES had stated last month that there were daffodils planted on the Moneymore central reservation and the beauty of these flowers is that they reoccur each year, wildflowers would have to be mowed down and replanted. He

agreed that wildflowers were nice when they were flowering but when they die off, there could be a lot of complaints being received about why they were not being mowed off.

Councillor McGuigan felt that this should be referred back to the working group as there was a good piece of work done in relation to grass cutting and opportunities for planting wildflower with costings being carried out at that time. The member felt that we should revert back to this situation again and have another working group meeting to try and work this all out as there were a lot of issues being raised. The member said that in the past this was all mapped out with all parties having a copy of where wildflowers should be planted, and costings involved and felt that Council should refer back to this again as there was a potential for getting into another large discussion. The member said if the working group was reinstated, then we could proceed down that direction and bring a proposal to committee out of that group.

Councillor Robinson adding on from Councillor McGuigan's comments advised that he had sat on that working group and felt that it didn't sit well as part of the working group proposals to stop cutting the grass at the Ballygawley roundabout. The member said that he had discussions in the past with the AD: ES in relation to the new roundabout at Ballygawley which was built when the A4 was upgraded. Ballygawley was the gateway from Northern Ireland up to Donegal for southern traffic and was an eyesore and each year it was disgraceful and like a wilderness. Under the working group proposals, it was suggested to stop cutting grass at the old roundabout which would make it very poor looking for anyone travelling through from Dublin or Cork to Donegal and would portray a very bad image of the Clogher Valley and indeed Mid Ulster Council. The member said that it would be beneficial if something could be done to have this new roundabout included for maintenance. He said that he was aware that it was owned by DfI, and he had spoken to their representatives who were willing to let someone else maintain it.

The Chair advised that there had been a number of discussions at meetings which Councillors may remember in relation to the Ballygawley junction which was debated and refused along with Tamnamore and felt there was a need to be careful not to pick one or two that shouldn't be on the list due to requests coming from all over.

The AD: ES in response to Councillor McAleer's query advised that the scheme in Moortown was separate to this as it was funded through the Live Here Love Here Small Grants scheme.

The AD: ES in response to Councillor Quinn's query regarding Washingbay advised that he was not familiar with this issue but could investigate. In response to query regarding wildflower costings, he advised costings were made at the working group but did not have them at hand tonight but were provided to the working group.

The AD: ES in response to Councillor McGuigan's query advised that this could certainly be brought back to the working group but sought clarity on whether those identified tonight could be progressed or would this be a decision for the working group.

The Chair enquired if Councillor McGuigan was making a proposal that this all goes back to the working group which could be convened within the next few weeks.

Councillor McGuigan agreed that this would be his proposal. The member said that we started this piece of work and should be focussing on it and issues raised by Councillor Robinson should be included and discussed within the working group to see how we can progress going forward in terms of what we can do and what the costings were. The member felt if there were increased costs and we don't have the budget, then we have to make decisions as we cannot do everything that was requested, but certainly we need to have that discussion and try and move forward in a positive way. He referred to the biodiversity project in front of members which was all good but felt there was a need to manage that.

The Chair felt that this was a fair proposal and at the working group Officers could outline costings and whether maintenance includes grass being cut twice per year. He said that when the wildflowers die it looks unsightly but was important that the general public was aware that it could be like that for a few months until it is mowed off until the end of the season.

Councillor Quinn seconded the proposal.

Councillor Quinn said that he was happy to second the proposal to a point but would have been happy to let the list in front of members tonight go through and continue on with the working group for additional ones thereafter. He said we need to make sure that the working group is up and running as soon as possible to keep momentum going as we don't want this being done in October or November time as it would be too late when spring arrives next year. It would be beneficial to have it brought back to committee next month if possible.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Working Group discuss options and concerns around Biodiversity managed sites and a report is brought back to the Environment Committee.

E104/24 Eco Speak Competition 2024

Members noted update on the Eco Speak Competition for Mid Ulster Primary Schools.

The Chair advised that the AD: ES and himself was on the judging panel of the final which was greatly supported with approximately 22 schools taking part. The Chair said that it was a great return as the event had not run from 2019 and was something to build on, with a high standard of competitors and great to hear some of the new ideas coming forward. The Chair hoped that this will be another huge success next year again.

Councillor Robinson congratulated the Council and commended the event and said that it was great to see a pupil from his old school, Augher Central Primary School winning the competition.

E105/24 Fairtrade Re-Certification

Members noted update on the re-certification of the Council as a Fairtrade Community.

E106/24 Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme 2023/24 Update

Members noted update on the completed projects that received funding under the 2023 Live Here Love Here, Small Grants Funding Scheme for Mid Ulster District Council.

The Chair referred to his own DEA area, Dungannon, Killyman and Dungannon Swifts Charitable Trust benefiting from the scheme and was good to see local groups getting money back from this as it was something we pay into as a Council.

E107/24 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for October to December 2023

Members noted update on the Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Quarter 3 of 2023/24 from October to December.

E108/24 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E109/24 Building Control Workload

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

E110/24 Building Control 23/24 Workload Overview

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the workload analysis for Building Control Service from 1st April 2023 to 31st March.

E111/24 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 7.24 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Quinn 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 E112/24 to E120/24.

Matters for Decision

- E112/24 Cottagequinn Cemetery Capital Scheme Contract Award
- E113//24 Connecting Pomeroy Project
- E114/24 Internal Directional Signage and District Road Name Signage Tender
- E115/24 Procurement Framework for Washroom Services

Matters for Information

- E116/24 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 16 April 2024
- E117/24 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E118/24 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E119/24 Off-Street Car Parking Update 2023-2024
- E120/24 Structural Engineering Services Update

E121/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.50 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.

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 16 May 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Bell, W Buchanan, Clarke, Corry (7.13 pm), Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn, Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Deputation – Human Library Ms McCreanor

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

D078/24 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site.

D079/24 Apologies

Councillors Black, F Burton and Milne.

D080/24 Declaration of Interests

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Go Succeed as Chair of Cookstown Enterprise Centre.

D081/24 Chair's Business

Councillor Gildernew referred to the ongoing issues in the Killeeshil and Cabragh area arising from odours which are continuing to emanate from the Northway Mushroom Compost Plant. The Councillor stated that everyone is now aware of the issue and the detrimental impact this is having on the community and residents in the area on an ongoing basis. Councillor Gildernew referred to the social media, public meetings and campaigns the community have organised to try to get their voices heard and to achieve a resolution to this issue but that to date there has been no resolution. The Councillor stated that the community feel they are being ignored and failed by a range of statutory agencies. Councillor Gildernew stated that NIEA are the statutory body responsible for regulation of the plant and that they continue to deem the plant as compliant with what seems to residents to display little regard for their lives. The Councillor stated that NIEA is operated by DAERA and proposed that Council write to the DAERA Minister and invite him to Killeeshil to meet with residents and the community group to hear their concerns at first hand and to get a better understanding of this issue.

Councillor Bell seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to the DAERA Minister and invite him to Killeeshil to meet with residents and the community group in relation to ongoing issues with odours emanating from Northway Mushroom Compost Plant.

D082/24 Deputation – Human Library

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Ms McCreanor to the meeting and invited her to make her presentation on the Human Library.

Ms McCreanor stated she is a Freelance Education Consultant and has been working with First Steps Womens Centre in Dungannon for the last two years to deliver a weekly cultural awareness and integration class. Ms McCreanor advised that from this class she has also started running Human Library Events which help to integrate newcomers into the community and that her presentation tonight is to raise the profile of what a Human Library is (appendix 1).

Councillor Molloy stated he had visited a Human Library event and that it was fantastic to learn from each other about ethnic backgrounds and cultural diversity. The Councillor stated that the more we hear from others on their stories and experiences the more misconceptions can be broken down. Councillor Molloy stated he hoped to hear more about these events in the future.

Councillor Gildernew stated this was her first time hearing about the Human Library and that it sounded like a fabulous event that works at breaking down barriers. The Councillor asked that the next time a Human Library Event is being organised that Councillors are invited to attend.

Ms McCreanor advised that she is hoping to run an event in September which she would invite Councillors to.

Councillor Quinn stated he had also never heard of the Human Library and that it is vital that everyone learns from each other. The Councillor stated that he worked for Terex which is a global company with a lot of different nationalities working together and that asking questions can open up possibilities and brings people closer together. Councillor Quinn stated that the Human Library events sound excellent and that he would like to take part in the future.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he had also never heard of the Human Library before but would look forward to attending a future event. Councillor McNamee thanked Ms McCreanor for coming to the meeting tonight to raise awareness of the Human Library following which Ms McCreanor left the meeting at 7.11 pm.

Matters for Decision

D083/24 Mid Ulster Loneliness Network 24/25

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which provided update on the ongoing work regarding Age Friendly Communities and associated Networks across the Mid Ulster District Council Area and sought approval for a request for funding towards Mid Ulster Loneliness Network.

Councillor McLernon proposed the recommendation and that it is good to see the good work continue with the Loneliness Network and Council's Age Friendly agenda.

Councillor Gildernew seconded Councillor McLernon's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the request for a contribution of £3,000 per annum for the period April 2024 – March 2026 towards the Loneliness Network in order to further promote and develop the network as supported by the other key partners of the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network including NHSCT and SHSCT.

Councillor Corry entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.

D084/24 Extension of the Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the renewal of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABC) for the provision of Tobacco Control work for the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the signing of the renewal of Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the provision of Tobacco Control work for the period April 2024 – March 2025.

D085/24 Development Report

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025
- John Hewitt, and Tyrone Guthrie Bursary Support
- Railway Park Final Design
- PeacePlus Partner Request
- EU Linkages with Community Led Partnership Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid
- DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding
- Development Department Update

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Mid Ulster Advice Services and Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025.

Councillor Monteith referred to the Charlie Donnelly portrait which was previously displayed in the Council Offices in Dungannon and was later moved to Ranfurly House but then seemed to disappear. The Councillor stated that the portrait was presented to the legacy Dungannon Council and asked officers to ascertain the whereabouts of this portrait.

Councillor Gildernew proposed the report recommendations. The Councillor referred to Social Inclusion referred to within the report and welcomed the collaboration Test and Learn process with the Civil Service and government agencies and that she was delighted that Aughnacloy was chosen as one of the projects to be reviewed by all the agencies. Councillor Gildernew stated she hoped valuable lessons can be learned through the Test and Learn projects and that new ways for agencies to work together better can be established. The Councillor expressed her disappointment at the lack of participation into the process by DfI who at the highest level said they would participate but then failed to send anyone to the meeting held in Aughnacloy in January. Councillor Gildernew also expressed her disappointment at the exclusion of elected representatives to the rest of the process after the public meeting in January; by not being invited to a follow up meeting and then when addressed the meeting is held tonight clashing with this meeting and that as a Councillor for the DEA she was disappointed that she has been excluded from the meeting.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

Councillor Wilson referred to the bursary to attend the John Hewitt Society Summer School and asked if Council has any say in relation to who attends. The Councillor stated that he is supportive of the request but that he had concerns that Council has no say in who attends the Summer School or what the criteria is to attend and that further to this there is no feedback received from the person attending.

The AD: Dev stated that Council should have received a report back last year from the person attending and apologised for officers not following up on this at the time. The AD: Dev stated that officers can get the criteria used for selecting who attends and stay more involved in the process and that the person attending the Summer School could be invited to a future committee meeting to share their experiences.

Councillor Wilson stated he was supportive of the request in relation to the Summer School but that he just had some concerns with the governance but that this could be tidied up with improved reporting back.

Councillor Quinn referred to work ongoing in relation to Coalisland Canal and that engagement is continuing on designs and asked if there was an update on this.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that there is a lot of work ongoing in the background in respect of Coalisland Canal including looking at what alternative options can be presented to the community following the engagement session held in March. The SD: C&P advised that it is hoped to have an update session with DEA Members by mid June followed by a community engagement session with final designs being signed off by early July in order to move forward with whatever project is agreed at that stage.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- Approve the Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards.
- Approve the allocation of funding to support an Arts Bursary Award through the John Hewitt Summer School and Tyrone Guthrie Centre.
- Approve ‘in principle’ the overall concept design and phased approach for Railway Park Regeneration and agree Phase 1 as final designs for implementation (subject to the capital planning process).
- Approve Council participation in the Peace Plus project led by Ulster University in partnership with Foras Na Gaeilge.
- Approve Council participation in EU Linkages Community led Partnership with Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid.
- Approve the transfer of DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding to Mid Ulster Advice Service (STEP).

D086/24 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - OBFD

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report which provided update on key activities as detailed below –

- Hidden Heritage Tours 2024
- Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024
- A29 Cookstown Bypass – DfI Consultation
- Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme – Renewal
- Town Business Spruce Up Scheme
- Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/25

Councillor Bell proposed the report recommendations and commended officers for their hard work in bringing forward the additional proposals in relation to Hidden Heritage.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Bell's proposal and also commended officers for the additional Hidden Heritage proposals which she felt is a great opportunity to showcase the work at the new visitor centre at Friel's Bar and Restaurant in Swatragh. Councillor Corry also raised the following points –

- **Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme** – Some businesses not aware of scheme and are interested and asked that scheme be promoted again.
- **Town Business Spruce Up Scheme** – Lobby DAERA in relation to potential schemes for smaller towns and villages.
- **Vacancy and Dereliction** – Planning can sometimes cause difficulties in relation to improving derelict buildings and with no funding can become costly.
- **Halloween** – Previous discussion in relation to inclusion of laser lights and asked if there was update/costings.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the Town Business Spruce Up Scheme as Cookstown Enterprise Centre had received funding.

Councillor Wilson also thanked AD: EDT&SP and the whole team for the work which went into the Continental Market held last weekend. The Councillor stated the event was superb and attracted a lot of visitors.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Enterprise Week under Dungannon Enterprise Centre.

Councillor Molloy agreed that the Continental Market was a great event and echoed Councillor Wilson's comments. The Councillor also agreed with Councillor Corry's comments in relation to working with DAERA regarding a spruce up scheme for rural areas.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked if businesses can still continue to register to the giftcard scheme and in relation to Enterprise Week he asked if the multisectoral tendering programme is still being continued.

The AD: EDT&SP responded to Members comments –

Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme – Officers continue to promote the scheme and are currently working up another wave of promotion. The AD: EDT&SP stated that if a particular business is interested in the scheme to advise her and she would get officers to meet with that business.

Town Business Spruce Up Scheme – The AD: EDT&SP stated the report enclosed in Members' papers this evening (item 14) outlines the various types of funding available for rural/urban areas. She highlighted that Council has convened a

Dereliction Meeting on Monday 20 May 2024 which Members are encouraged to attend and noted that officers from DAERA and DfC will be in attendance. This is a key meeting to ask questions and try to progress things as Council does not have the regeneration powers or funding to tackle dereliction but is keen to work in partnership with Government Departments, which hold the powers and budgets, to co-design schemes to regenerate Mid Ulster's towns and rural areas.

Continental Market – Thanking the Member for his comments, the AD: EDT&SP stated the Continental Market was delivered jointly by her team and the Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing and his team.

Multisectoral Tendering Programme – There is no longer a Multi-Sectoral Tendering Programme, however, there are a range of supports available to businesses through the Go Succeed and other programmes, providing support for business start-up and growth. AD: EDT&SP advised of event being held on Friday 17 May 2024 in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown, which Members have been invited to attend. This event will showcase the results of the previous round of business support programmes, whilst also officially launching the new programmes that are now available to support local businesses.

Laser Lights – AD: EDT&SP stated she could not recall a previous discussion in relation to laser lights but would discuss this with the Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing.

Councillor Monteith referred to the 5,000 population limit used to define urban/rural and that this has not been a useful tool on the ground as there is a massive difference in need and has led to a lot of avoidance from Departments in relation to their responsibilities and that Council should do something to challenge this as it is not serving this Council area well. Councillor Monteith proposed that officers carry out research in relation to the 5,000 population limits which Government Departments use to define urban/rural and bring back a report to a future meeting providing an analysis of the difficulties this creates and assess alternative ways forward.

The AD: EDT&SP agreed with the Councillor's sentiments and stated that the debate can commence on Monday 20th May 2024 at the Dereliction Meeting, when officials from the Department for Communities (DfC) and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) will be in attendance. The AD: EDT&SP stated that whilst Council can make recommendations, unless the Departments are willing to adopt such recommendations across Northern Ireland, they are unlikely to agree to specific arrangements for Mid Ulster. The AD: EDT&SP stated a similar situation exists in relation to DfC and their determination that DfC funding can only be attributed to support schemes within 'town centre boundaries'. This therefore excludes the many businesses located between the town centre boundaries and the 30mph limits which cannot avail of any funding.

Councillor Molloy felt there is no reason why Departments cannot work together and have a pool of funding at the same time. Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he felt Council is better placed to know where businesses are and where boundaries should lie.

Councillor Wilson stated there are three businesses from the bottom of Oldtown to Moneymore Road corner and that all are excluded under the Business Spruce Up scheme and there is a similar situation on the Fairhill in Cookstown.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- **Hidden Heritage Tours 2024**
 - To provide an additional Hidden Heritage Tour on 2 October 2024, entitled '*Famine and Folklore*' at Friel's Bar and Restaurant, Swatragh and;
 - Enhance the visitor experience by providing living history and storytelling at The Bridewell (Magherafelt), US Grants Ancestral Homestead (Ballygawley) and the Emigrants Walk (Swatragh) during European Heritage Open Days on 15 & 16 September 2024.
- **Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)**
 - To approve Digital Signage Service Level Agreement between Council and Etolan Ltd, trading as Legato Solutions, for financial year commencing 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, at a cost of £2,200+Vat for provision of ongoing digital signage support at four sites across Mid Ulster, located in Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland.
- **Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024**
 - To approve a budget of circ. £28,000 for the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 from Council's Economic Development budget 2024/2025.
 - To approve Officers proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management Partner to co-ordinate, manage, deliver and promote Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November 2024. The costs of a Management Partner will be subsumed within the budget detailed at 5.3.1 of report.
 - To approve Council's Chief Executive be granted authority to appoint the successful Management Partner, following the procurement exercise to allow work to progress over the summer months.
- **A29 Cookstown Bypass – DFI Consultation**
 - To approve Council's draft Consultation Response to the A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme and by the powers granted by Full Council to the Development Committee, submit response to Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), prior to the closing date of Friday 29th May 2024 at 5pm.
- **Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme - Renewal**
 - Approval to enter negotiations with Miconex to extend the Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme for a further 2 years commencing in September 2024.

- Approval of projected budget of £14,000 per year (for 2 years) from Council's Economic Development Budget, as part of the original contract. A management fee will be implemented, if Council decides to terminate the contract as previously agreed under the original contract to honour gift cards purchased up to September 2024.
- **Town Business Spruce Up Scheme**
 - To note that following assessment of applications by the Independent Chartered Architect, applications ranked Nos. 1 - 67 were issued with Letters of Offer (by 31 March 2024), as previously agreed, up to the value of funding received from Department for Communities (DFC), totalling £200,000.
 - To note the number of scheme applicants exceeded the funding available from DFC. Therefore, whilst applicants ranked Nos. 68-117 were successful, scoring 40 or above, with combined funding sought totalling £173,722.45, these applicants were informed in writing they had been placed on a Reserve List until such times as Council may be able to attain additional funding from DFC, and therefore, in the interim period, they must not commence any works.
 - To approve that Council make a further funding bid to DFC to seek financial assistance of up to £200,000 to fund the successful applicants ranked Nos. 68 – 117, which are currently held on a Reserve List. The application would also request that any residual funding from DFC be directed towards offsetting the Independent Chartered Architect's costs.
 - In the event Council's funding bid to DFC is successful and the additional funding is provided to Council to deliver Phase 2 schemes, then approval is requested for Council's Chief Executive to be granted authority to;
 - (a) Sign and return the Letter of Offer to DFC;
 - (b) Issue Letters of Offer to applicants ranked Nos. 68 – 117, on the Reserve List.
 - (c) Procure the services of an Independent Chartered Architect to undertake site visits, verify works, etc, for Phase 2 (Reserve List) Schemes.
- **Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025**
 - To approve the projects and associated budgets as detailed in the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025.
- **Dereliction**
 - In addition to the upcoming Dereliction workshop on 20 May 2024, that officers carry out research in relation to the 5,000 population limits which Government Departments use to define urban/rural and bring back a report to a future meeting providing an analysis of the difficulties this creates and assess alternative ways forward.

Matters for Information

D087/24 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 April 2024

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 April 2024.

Councillor Quinn asked if there was an update in relation to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council organising a joint meeting with the Minister in relation to the Blackwater and if there is no update he would suggest that this Council organises its own meeting with the Minister. The Councillor also referred to complaint received in relation to the Ferry Bridge which he understood is under ABC Council control but that there had been a problem with quads in this area going back and forth across the bridge. Councillor Quinn stated that PSNI have also received similar complaints and he asked that this issue be raised with ABC Council with a view to potentially putting bollards at either side of the bridge whilst still allowing for pedestrian and pram access. The Councillor advised that this recent activity has caused damage at both sides of the bridge and something needs to be done.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that he didn't have an update in relation to a meeting with the Minister but that he would check on this. The SD: C&P stated that in relation to the quads issue that officers would look at this and also raise through the PCSP. The SD: C&P stated that bollards may be one solution but that accessibility also needs to be considered.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to the bridge at Lough Fea being closed and that this is having a big impact on users. Councillor McNamee asked how long the work will take to complete and asked that a report be brought to the Council meeting in May.

Councillor Wilson stated that a number of people had also contacted him in relation to the issue and that he had met fishermen who use the Lough. The Councillor asked if there was a possibility of getting a metal bridge in place as a temporary measure whilst work is ongoing.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked why the bridge has been shut.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) also expressed frustration that the bridge is currently closed. The AD: HL&W advised that officers were in receipt of a structural engineers report and also NI Water had expressed concern in relation to the bridge and when high water levels and swell causes waves to crash against the bridge it is causing some displacement. The AD: HL&W stated that the structural engineers report cannot be ignored however officers are moving at pace and a design has been finalised and costs are being secured and that it is hoped that the bridge can be reopened as soon as possible. The AD: HL&W advised that an update report would be brought to Council on the situation to date and to put timescales on works.

Councillor Gildernew referred to previous discussion in relation to bridge in Caledon being closed and asked for an update on this as well.

Councillor Quinn referred to event Craic Theatre had in Stormont last week and that it was good to see local talent from the Mid Ulster area putting their point across on the importance of Arts funding.

D088/24 Environmental Health Service Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during the period 1st February 2024 and 31st March 2024.

Councillor Monteith referred to housing fitness and proposed that a workshop be held in relation to housing standards. The Councillor stated that one of the first grants to disappear following the financial crash in 2008 was the home Improvement Grant and there was now 16 years of investment lost in keeping houses up to standard. Councillor Monteith stated there are major issues with the Housing Executive stock in the Mid Ulster area and that tenants are still being told that black mould is being caused by condensation and that these tenants are not ventilating their properties properly. Councillor Monteith referred to housing fitness inspections carried out by Environmental Health officers and that several people had been in contact with him who had these inspections carried out but were told by officers they could not get a copy of the report and that they would have to go to the Housing Executive who also would not provide the report. The Councillor felt that the tenant should be entitled to see a report which is carried out on their behalf.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that a Members workshop could be organised in relation to housing standards. The AD: HL&W advised that in relation to inspection reports he was aware that a report does go to the homeowner which in many cases is the Landlord but was unsure as to the forward sharing and disclosure to the tenant but would check and come back to Councillor Monteith. The AD: HL&W stated that tenants rights could also be included as part of the workshop as there have been some recent changes to legislation.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal. The Councillor also referred to the Affordable Warmth Scheme and that people are not getting the help needed to complete the forms and apply for the grants when Members had been assured that applicants would be supported.

Councillor Molloy referred to the Space Shaping report prepared by Council and to be agreed by Housing Executive but has been stalled by Housing Executive. The Councillor asked that this also be looked at again to see what stage it is at.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to hold workshop for Members in relation to housing standards.

D089/24 Forest Schools Programme for 2024/2025

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Forest Schools programme for 2024 - 2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

D090/24 Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation Update

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined visitor throughput at the primary outdoor recreational sites throughout the Council area.

Councillor Monteith stated the Members have been contacted by Riverdale Football Club who are located in Benburb and are the primary user of facilities belonging to Council. Due to weather issues the Councillor advised that the club have only been able to use the facilities fifteen times in the last season which is not adequate for a football club. Councillor Monteith proposed that Riverdale Football Club be invited to a future meeting to discuss their ongoing issues as he felt that if weather conditions are not going to change then a lot of the grass pitches will become redundant and not fit for purpose meaning a major investment in new surfaces and drainage. The Councillor felt that in more rural areas where there only is one facility that these facilities should be looked at first. Councillor Monteith asked for an update in relation to Ballysaggart Lough and proposed that DEA meetings be held.

Councillor Wilson stated that it was remiss of him not to mention earlier the Strategic Director of Communities and Place and the Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing and their teams for their hard work in relation to the Continental Market. The Councillor stated that the visitor numbers to facilities were impressive and that he hadn't realised there were so many facilities. Councillor Wilson asked how visitor numbers to the Burnavon and Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House are recorded.

Councillor Molloy stated it was good to see the visitor numbers at facilities but noted that there had been a decrease in numbers at some facilities and asked if there was a reason for this. The Councillor stated it is incumbent on Council to ensure that facilities are maintained regularly and are safe to use and that any anti social behaviour is dealt with. Councillor Molloy felt that Service Level Agreements with local community groups also help to take pride in facilities in their areas. Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal in relation to inviting Riverdale Football Club to a future meeting and stated that Dúiche Neill Hurling Club in Benburb are also struggling for facilities and if Councillor Monteith was agreeable he would suggest that this club also be invited to present to Committee either separately or in partnership with Riverdale.

Councillor Monteith agreed to include Dúiche Neill Hurling Club in his proposal.

Councillor Gildernew referred to visitor numbers at Brantry Lodge which have went down significantly but that there had recently been a colour run event held in Brantry with 4-500 people attending. The Councillor stated that a lot of people at the event did not previously know the facility is in their area and that hopefully visitor numbers at this location will rise again in the near future.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that officers have met with Riverdale Football Club and that the club is experiencing significant growth. The AD: HL&W stated that the need is recognised and referenced in the pitches strategy and that concept designs are being worked to convert the pitch at Benburb from grass to 3G and that this will allow officers and the club to look at funding opportunities. The AD: HL&W advised that in relation to Ballysaggart

Lough there are ongoing officer meetings and discussions with landowners but that a DEA meeting will be arranged to provide update. The AD: HL&W stated that the visitor number figures provided are probably conservative and that sensors are sited at locations where most people enter the facility but that some facilities have a number of entry points that are not being monitored. In relation to reduced number of visitors at some facilities the AD: HL&W stated this could relate to weather closures, maintenance or non monitored entry points being used.

Councillor Monteith stated that the potential at Ballysaggart is unbelievable and that a walkway around the Lough has to be the goal. The Councillor stated that he was happy to hear that conversations with landowners are ongoing but that Members have been hearing this for a long time and that there needs to be plans put in place. Councillor Monteith stated he is contacted on a daily basis in relation to the poor condition and upkeep of the site and that it is an Area of Special Scientific Interest in relation to birds but that there is no interpretative panel to indicate this. The Councillor stated that Council has plenty of good facilities but this is not one of them and that there needs to be a clear statement to the community that something is going to happen.

The Assistant Director of Development stated that in relation to visitor numbers at arts facilities there are ways of calculating these numbers such as ticket sales, income and officers are seeking to provide figures which are more robust than just the sensor figures.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To invite Riverdale Football Club and Dúiche Neill Hurling Club to present to a future Development Committee meeting.
 - To hold DEA update meeting in relation to Ballysaggart Lough (Dungannon and Clogher Valley Councillors to be invited).

D091/24 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - OBF1

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the following key activities -

- International Women's Day Events – March 2024
- Rural Regeneration and Business Support Funding
- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 21.2.24
- Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes – 25.9.23
- Tourism Development Group Minutes – 10.1.24
- N2/A5 Cross Border Committee Minutes – 30.11.23

D092/24 Service Improvement Plan for Chief Executive's Directorate 2024-2025 - Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Department

Members noted previously circulated report which set out the Departmental Service Improvement Plan for the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Service for the 2024-2025 year.

The live broadcast ended at 8.08 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 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 D093/24 to D100/24.

Matters for Decision

D093/24 Pavement Café Licensing – Proposed Fee Structure
D094/24 Tender for Catering Provision
D095/24 Tender for Fireworks
D096/24 Community Grants 2024/2025
D097/24 Catering Provision Contract for Burnavon Arts Centre
Cookstown and Ranfurly House & Hill of O’Neill
Dungannon
D098/24 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic
Programmes Report – Cbfd

Matters for Information

D099/24 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
10 April 2024
D100/24 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership 2024-2025 Interim
Funding Position

D101/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.48 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.



Where real people are on loan and difficult questions are expected, appreciated and answered!

What does a Human Library aim to do?



It aims to challenge stereotypes and assumptions by facilitating open conversations that focus on people's lived experiences.

Instead of checking out books, you get to have a personal discussion with a 'human book'.

Innovative Team Building Activity

A human Library isn't just for newcomers. It is great for organisational team building.

It allows team members to connect, learn and share diverse perspectives.

It provides a great opportunity to foster empathy, understanding and collaboration within organisations.



How it works



Following some icebreaker activities, participants are invited to ‘check-out’ a human book for a set amount of time. This can be done on a one-to-one basis or in small groups.

Stimulus questions are provided to guide conversations. After a period, your facilitator will invite you to return your book and borrow a different one.

The aim is to ‘unjudge’ a book by its cover in a safe and facilitated space.

Benefits



‘Books have the power to transport us to new worlds, human books can transport us to new understandings!’

A fun and engaging team building event to foster empathy, understanding and collaboration.

Icebreaker activities and stimulus questions to guide conversations.

Short online pre- & post-event surveys to measure effectiveness.

One off event for time and budget sensitive situations.

Experienced facilitator who will host and lead post event discussion.

“Really enjoyed the event. Wonderful opportunity to learn and hear from inspirational women of our diverse society, sharing impactful stories and lived experiences”.

Alfie Wong MBE,

NICS Race and Ethnicity Champion and Head of Racial Equality Delivery Team at the Executive Office

“Despite not knowing what to expect, the conversations flowed so easily. Everyone was so open. I loved the fun games at the start too. Brilliant morning!”

Maura

Guest at First Steps Women’s Centre event

“What an experience! I loved it. I learnt so much!”

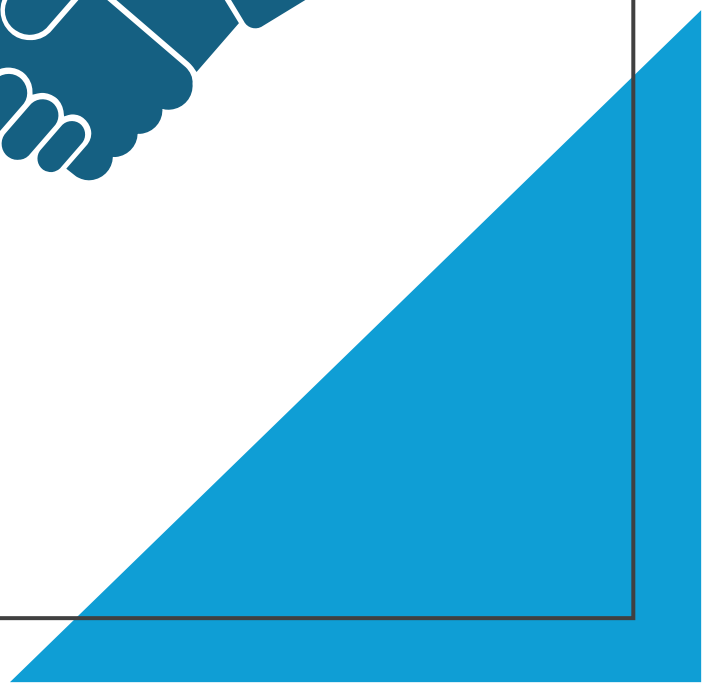
Roisin Shields, Senior Teacher, St Pat’s College, Dungannon

Testimonials

Thank you!



Contact: rosiemccreanor@yahoo.co.uk



Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	22 May 2024
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Committee & Member Services Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
2.0	Background
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2024-2025 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Members are asked to consider engaging in training opportunities as outlined in Appendix A.
3.2	Officer Approvals There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2024/2025 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member

	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A Member Conferences, Seminars & Training Appendix B Staff Conferences, Seminars & Training

THE SOMME ASSOCIATION



233 Bangor Road
Newtownards
BT23 7PH

Telephone 028 91823202
Facsimile 028 91823214

Website: www.sommeassociation.com
Email: sommeassociation@btconnect.com
Face Book: The Somme Association

Vice-President
The Viscount Brookeborough, DL

Chairman
Mr Alan McFarland

Director
Mrs Carol Walker MBE

Honorary President:
H.R.H The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

7th May 2024

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Mr McCreesh

May I on behalf of the Officers of the Somme Association, invite representatives from your Council to attend the services to commemorate the 108th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in France.

A Commemoration Service shall be held at the Ulster Memorial Tower, Thiepval, France, at 14.30hrs on 1st July 2024 and at 16.30hrs at the 16th (Irish) Division Memorial in the village of Guillemont.

For further assistance or if you have any questions, please email me at sommeassociation@btconnect.com

Your Councils attendance would be greatly appreciated and I hope that representatives shall be able to attend.

Yours sincerely

Carol Walker MBE
Director



Trip to the Somme Commemorations - Costs

Cost details to follow but it is anticipated that the average cost per person travelling from Sunday 30 June 2024 and returning on Wednesday 3 July will be £1000 circa.

It is hoped to have more definitive costs next week.

To be noted:

- given the date/time of travel that flights and hotel are booking up very quickly;
- costs are taken from Councillors Individual conference/training/seminar budget, costs incurred in excess of budget are to be met by the member.

Conferences – May 2024

Approval:-Retrospective

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
Scottish Local Authorities Customer Services Manager's Conference	Organisational Development Strategy & Performance	3	£251.94+ £392.97 (Flights & Accom)	16/5/24	Glasgow
CIEH Housing & Health Conference	Env Health – Bus & Comms	1	£99	22/5/24	Online

Approval:-

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
Shaping Sustainable Town Centres	Econ Devlpt Chief Executive's	1	N/a	31/5/24	Dublin
SOCITM NI in partnership with NILGA/DOF	Finance, Legal, Governance & Transformation	2	Free	29/5/24	Belfast
Listowel Writers' Week, Kerry	SHHP Bus & Comms	1	£425 approx. (Travel & Accom)	30/5/24-3 days	Kerry

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	23 May 2024
Reporting Officer	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Policy Engagement and Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council and to provide details of submitted consultations.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
3.2	Appendix B contains a draft consultation response that requires approval for submission to DFI. The draft DFI Consultation: Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan 2024 response was developed following a workshop with elected members (held via Teams on 14/5/24).
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None documented with DFI Consultation documents.
	Rural Needs Implications: None documented with DFI Consultation documents.

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members review and note consultations notified to and submitted by Mid Ulster District Council and provide comment/approval for the attached draft response.
6.0	Documents Attached & References Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations Appendix B: Draft Consultation Response: DFI Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan 2024

Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Lough Neagh Partnership	The Lough Neagh Heritage Resilience Consultation	This consultation relates to the 10-Year Lough Neagh Resilience Plan. This project aims to preserve and protect the unique landscape of Lough Neagh, ensuring its vitality for generations to come.	May 31 2024	No (notice of this consultation was circulated to members on 30/4/24).
	Link to Consultation	https://loughneaghpартnership.org/the-lough-neagh-heritage-resilience-consultation/		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	Yes		
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Local Government Staff Commission	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2026 - Consultation	This Strategy sets out a vision for tackling inequalities, fostering Good Relations across our communities and recognising the contributions that people from different backgrounds make to life in NI. The action plan sets out how we will deliver these ambitions.	24 June 2024	No
	Link to Consultation	Not available- a copy of the document is available upon request.		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	Yes		

15 May 2024



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Department for Infrastructure
12-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

Email: watercorrespondence@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Reference: Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan 2024

To whom it may concern:

Mid Ulster District Council would like to take this opportunity to provide comments on DfI Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan 2024.

Mid Ulster District Council agrees that increased planning from 25 years to 50 years, which is intended to try to take account of future longer term climate change impacts and demographic changes, is to be welcomed. In addition, increased planning to transition from a current Level of Service (LoS) of 1 in 40 to be resilient to 1 in 200-year droughts in the future is also welcomed by the Council. If these changes creates increases resilience then it is deemed by the Council as an important inclusion in the plan.

The Council agree that an anticipatory approach is a good basis for planning in relation to preserving such a precious resource and to prevent water shortage. However, the Council is also mindful of current unknowns in relation to the long-term impacts of climate change, for example the creation of large numbers of climate refugees via the displacement from countries (or areas within countries) that have the potential to become uninhabitable by 2050 is a concern. These variables should also be considered when long term planning for demand and provision is being developed.

The Council is also mindful of the increasing risk from climate change and its impact on the resilience of water supplies. Risk factors that the Council would like to highlight in relation to the impact of future resilience include considering the capacity of reservoirs to cope with additional stormwater and rainfall. Additionally, solids are more likely to end up in our lakes and rivers as a result of the strong flows of stormwater and heavy sustained rainfall, therefore, provision should also be put in place to address this. The Council would also like to ensure that discharge from a storm overflow is only carried out when it can be demonstrated that there is no local adverse ecological impact and that the increased occurrence of storms and the associated storm water does not become an additional pollutant to our water system.

Also, while the blue-green algae in Lough Neagh is not thought to be linked directly to climate change, there is no doubt that issues relating to climate change will exacerbate the situation. This will have a knock-on effect on the water standards, availability, and quality and as such significant efforts should be employed to address the root causes of this potentially toxic problem that could cause the biodiversity and ecological breakdown of Lough Neagh. The Council would suggest that the introduction of more effective environmental governance would be an appropriate step to counteract these issues at source.

In relation to the planned 5% reduction in leakage below the Sustainable Economic Level of Leakage, the Council would like to ensure that this target provides a significant enough reduction to make a notable impact on the current levels of water lost because of leakage. While any reduction is certainly positive, the Council is of the opinion that any target set should be as ambitious as possible to reinforce the message that water is a precious commodity that shouldn't be wasted. Also, it should be noted that the less water requiring treatment is of financial benefit to NI Water. Therefore, the maintenance of leakage management and reduction of lost water is cost effective and as such, every possible effort should be made to significantly reduce water leakage and wastage.

With regard to the implementation of an adaptive approach involving investment, 'when it becomes clear there is a need to do so' seems to lack a proactive and strategic approach. The Council would recommend at least investing in future proofing to avoid future larger scale works needing to be undertaken but that have become cost prohibitive. The Council would also suggest that more information and initiatives are put forward to further emphasise to the public that water is a limited resource, and it should be treated as such, especially as the world struggles to effectively address the climate crisis. A change is required in the public's attitude towards water use, water conservation and limiting wastage. This type of initiative may also encourage reduced water demand which in turn will ensure that water is not being treated and distributed unnecessarily.

Finally, the Council would also recommend that additional signage and enforcement measures be put in place in relation to water pollution. There is a general lack of awareness regarding the penalties for pollution. Better communication of penalties may lead to a decrease in pollution and improve the water quality so that it is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Mid Ulster District Council looks forward to being informed of the outcome of this consultation.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Dominic Molloy

Chairperson, Mid Ulster District Council

Report on	Correspondence to Council
Date of Meeting	Thursday 23 May 2024
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	E Forde, Committee & Member Services Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from Department of Health and Social Care</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from the Department of Health and Social Care in relation to Council's letter about Adult Respite Provision for those with complex needs. The response was emailed to Members on 25 April 2024. Refer to Appendix A</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from Department for Communities</p> <p>The Chair has received a letter from Minister for Department for Communities in response to Council's correspondence in relation to legislation for Hybrid/Remote meetings. Refer to Appendix B</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Derry City & Strabane District Council</p> <p>The Chair has received a letter from Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council calling for support of motion in relation to a business case for early intervention support for children with Autism. Refer to Appendix C</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from BT re Public Telephones</p> <p>The Council has received a response from BT in relation to letter regarding phone box at Killymerron Park, Dungannon. Refer to Appendix D</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Department of Health and Social Care Appendix B: Department for Communities Appendix C: Derry City and Strabane District Council Appendix D: British Telecom

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Cllr Dominic Molloy
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: COR-1405-2024

Date: 18th April 2024

Dear *Dominic,*

Thank you for your email correspondence dated 3 April 2024 regarding the Mid Ulster District Council's concerns regarding respite provision for adults with a learning disability, complex needs and challenging behaviour. Officials from my Department (DoH), have been in contact with officials in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to address the queries and issues noted in your correspondence.

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust have advised that it currently commissions 23 short break beds across the Trust area. These beds are registered with RQIA as either residential (9) or nursing (14).

In addition to bed based short breaks the Trust provides short breaks to families through other types of service provision – Domiciliary Care sitting service, short breaks direct payment, flexible short break direct payment and Shared Care short breaks (with a host family).

Of the 23 short break beds across the Trust 11 are located in Dungannon – Woodlawn House (8), Dungannon Care Home (2) and The Haven (1). These three services are registered as Nursing Care for those with a Learning Disability / Learning Disability over 65 years of age.

Both Dungannon Care Home and Woodlawn House provide short breaks for those with complex needs and challenging behaviour. These services also provide short breaks to individuals with complex physical healthcare needs who may not have complex behaviours.

In April 2023 The Haven decided to reduce their contracted short break beds with the SHSCT from 3 to 1 resulting in a reduction in short break beds in the area. The Trust continues to work to develop bed based short break options across the Trust area within the funding available to it.

Woodlawn House short break service was temporarily suspended mid-December 2023 to respond to an unforeseen crisis in the community – however by January 2024 this service became fully operational again.

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that it recognises the importance of regular short break service provision for families and recognises that families value these services highly. The Southern Health and Social Care Trust also recognises the limitations of existing resources and how demand / need can often outweigh capacity.

Further investment for short breaks would enable the Trust to increase access to this important service. Families, parents/carers and service users continue to emphasise the need for a range of day opportunities, day care, respite/short break services. Trusts are now delivering this via the mechanisms noted above.

Across all Trusts, short breaks provision has been identified as an area of increasing need with demand extending beyond the existing capacity within relevant facilities. These pressures have been raised with the Department's 'Strategic Planning and Performance Group' (SPPG) as one of a number of commissioning priorities within the Learning Disability programme of care.

Throughout 2023, the DoH has led on an exercise to finalise a draft service model for learning disability, which includes several outcomes and actions to expand day services and short breaks in Northern Ireland. The current draft has been shared with key stakeholders to inform the next phase of this work and wider consultation.

In parallel to this work, the Department's Strategic Planning and Performance Group are working closely with Trusts to undertake a financial review of adult learning disability services. The outputs of this work will inform decisions on the service model and long-term planning for learning disability services to support individuals with a learning disability, their parents, families and carers.

I trust this correspondence addresses the issues raised in your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', is positioned above the printed name.

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health



**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Your ref: C061/24

Telephone: (028) 90582 3346
e-mail: anthonycarleton@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref: TOF 1277 2024
Date: 25 April 2024

Councillor Dominic Molloy
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Council Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Via email: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Dominic,

COUNCIL REMOTE/HYBRID MEETINGS

Thank you for your letter of 10 April 2024 to Minister Lyons. The Minister has asked that I provide a response on his behalf.

The Minister is committed to giving councils the flexibility to hold remote/hybrid meetings and intends to bring forward regulations, within as short a timeframe as possible, using enabling powers in the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021.

As noted in your correspondence, a letter was issued to all council Chief Executives with a draft of the regulations on 12 March and responses about the draft regulations have been received from a number of councils. Departmental officials will continue to engage and update councils on this matter whilst the regulations are being progressed.



Yours sincerely,

Anthony Carleton
Director
Local Government & Housing Regulation



Mayor / Méara
Councillor / An Comhairleoir
Patricia Logue

Our Ref: TJ/C216/24

9 May 2024

Dear Chief Executive

At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 24 April 2024, the following Motion was passed:

That this Council acknowledges the unacceptable waiting times for autism assessments in the North of Ireland, causing significant hardship and developmental delays.

Council recognises that early intervention is critical for developing key skills in children with autism, yet the backlog hinders timely support, impacting individual potential and straining educational and healthcare services.

Council resolve to formally write to the Minister of Education and the Minister for Health to urgently develop and present a comprehensive business case outlining specific, actionable strategies to address and resolve this backlog including a detailed analysis of its impacts, clear reduction targets, proposed measures for ongoing assessments, and the necessary financial and staffing resources.

This plan should involve and support families throughout the process.

Council demands immediate action and insists on a collaborative effort among the Minister for Health, Minister for Education, and Minister for Finance, together with key stakeholders to develop a detailed report on the business case

and action plan, including a clear implementation timeline, within this mandate period to immediately address and resolve the existing backlog.

Council will seek collaboration from ALL NI councils to support this call pledging to facilitate and support the development of the business case and action plan.

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.

Yours Sincerely



**Councillor Patricia Logue
Mayor
Derry City and Strabane District Council**

From: btp.authorisation.team@bt.com
To: [Eileen Forde](#)
Cc: [Emma McCullagh](#)
Subject: RE: Telephone Kiosk
Date: 02 May 2024 13:22:22
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good afternoon Eileen ,

Thank you for forwarding on the correspondence.

Since Ofcom has changed their process to remove the last at a site telephone kiosk there is no longer a local veto to object to the removal of a telephone kiosk .

Under the new process Ofcom have decided to put in place strengthened criteria to protect PCBs from removal where they are still needed.

The criteria would protect last at a site# PCBs where:

- they do not have coverage from all four mobile network providers; or
- they are located in an area with a high frequency of accidents or suicides; or
- they have made 52 or more calls over the past 12 months (i.e. the equivalent of one call per week); or
- there is other evidence of a reasonable need for the PCB

#A site is defined as 400 metre walking distance from the next nearest PCB.

We have also received correspondence from the Council via Emma McCullagh (copied into this email) we will now await a response from the Council before the 20th May 2024 any representations received should have taken in the new Ofcom removal criteria [Review of the telephony universal service obligation](#).

Best regards

The BT payphones team



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We monitor our email system, and may record your emails.

BT Group plc

Registered office: One Braham, Braham Street, London, E1 8EE

Registered in England no: 1800000

From: Eileen Forde <Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 10:40 AM
To: btp authorisation team <btp.authorisation.team@bt.com>
Subject: FW: Telephone Kiosk

You don't often get email from eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning

Please find attached letter from Council requesting the retention of

Removal of Public Payphone at BT71 6DN

Telephone Number: 02887752153

Address: PCO1 Killymerron Park Dungannon

Best regards

Eileen

Eileen Forde
Committee & Member Services Manager
Dungannon Office
Telephone 03000 132 132 Ext 24004
Telephone 07825140198



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