

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 July 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Corry, Chair

Councillors Bell*, Brown*, J Burton, Cahoon, Johnston, McAleer, McFlynn, McLernon*, S McPeake, Molloy*, Totten*, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive**
Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P)
Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Environment)**
Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)
Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources (HoHR)**
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP)
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT (HoIT)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

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 in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

PR111/23 Notice of Recording

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

PR112/23 Apologies

Councillors Gildernew and McLean and Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Finance.

PR113/23 Declarations of Interest

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

PR114/23 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR115/23 Draft Response to The Department for the Economy's Spending Plans for 2023/2024

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which sought approval of the draft consultation response developed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in response to the consultation on The Department for the Economy's Spending Plans for 2023/2024.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft response as circulated at appendix to report.

The Chair, Councillor Corry referred to discussion at last month's meeting regarding response to consultation on Rate Support Grant and asked if Councillor McLernon's comments had been forwarded on.

The HoSS&E advised that the response to the Rate Support Grant consultation was amended to include the comments raised by Councillor McLernon at last month's meeting. The HoSS&E stated that a copy of the response would be circulated to Members.

PR116/23 Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan) 2023 to 2024

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which considered Council's Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for period 2023-2024.

Councillor S McPeake stated that this is a well put together document and highlights the remit of the four objectives which are all important. The Councillor referred to objective one - *Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment though local action* – and felt that this would fit in with the Climate Change Working Group and that it is important to get this working group up and running to be able to take this objective forward.

The HoSS&E took on board the Councillor's comments.

Councillor Wilson asked if there were targets set against the objectives.

The HoSS&E advised that in appendix 2 of the Plan the Council's corporate health indicators are set out and this deals with the specifics in terms of targets.

Councillor Burton referred to objective in relation to creating cleaner neighbourhoods and that it is important that Council does everything it can in this regard. The Councillor highlighted that Council no longer has the services of WISE but still has the same problems in terms of chewing gum, dog fouling and waste. Councillor Burton referred to the volunteers who do a lot in villages and that it is important that these people are supported and asked how Council will know it is succeeding in meeting this objective.

The Chair, Councillor Corry referred to report taken through June Development Committee in relation to the possibility of Councils working collaboratively with regard to littering issues and that a further report is to be brought to the Development Committee on this issue.

Councillor Burton stated she was aware of this but asked if there are targets so that Council will know if there has been an improvement.

The HoSS&E advised that the lead officer in relation to objective three will be the Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing and that listed in the plan are key actions for all objectives. The HoSS&E advised that within the realms of the work that targets will be set in order to see benefit in all areas.

The Chief Executive referred to article he had read recently which stated that 70% of litter emanates from 4 to 5 companies. The Chief Executive stated that Council should set targets where it can but highlighted that Council does not create the litter and that everyone has a responsibility in terms of disposing of their waste and litter in a responsible way. The Chief Executive also felt that companies who are part of the problem need to step up and be part of the solution and that he expected that this will be worked towards and that he was aware of engagement with the said companies to encourage them to become more involved in the solutions.

The Chief Executive also welcomed Councillor McPeake's comments in relation to the Climate Change Working Group. The Chief Executive stated that both the Climate Change Working Group and Transformation Working Group are critical and he would encourage these groups to be populated over the summer period. The Chief Executive stated that there are real responsibilities and targets to be met between now and 2030 starting with buildings and how these will be powered and heated going forward. The Chief Executive also highlighted the need to move away from fossil fuels and the number of vehicles and equipment which Council has that relies on these fuels at the moment and the need to convert these. The Chief Executive stated that the Climate Change Working Group will be critical as Council will have to transform how it does business in the coming years and that officers are keen to get the group up and running.

The Chair, Councillor Corry agreed that there is a lot of work to be done going forward.

Councillor McFlynn stated she welcomed the report and highlighted the Eco Schools Programme and that educational officers continue to work with schools to get them all up to green flag status.

Councillor Bell stated he wanted to take the opportunity to thank officers for their hard work in tackling the litter issue in the towns and villages and especially the removal of chewing gum from streets. The Councillor stated that chewing gum is a real problem in towns and villages and that it was his understanding that new machinery has been in operation which can remove this which has produced fantastic results.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Corporate Performance Improvement (PIP plan) Plan 2023-2024 to 2024-2025 as set out at appendix to report.

PR117/23 Member Services

Councillor S McPeake referred to previous allocation of umbrellas to Members and asked if stocks could be refreshed as there were a number of new Councillors and they would be useful for outdoor engagements/site visits etc.

Councillor McFlynn supported the suggestion stating that they had been soaked at an outdoor event at Davagh.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred.

The Chief Executive agreed to take this forward.

Matters for Information

PR118/23 Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 13 June 2023

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 13 June 2023.

PR119/23 Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance: 2023-24 Directorate Service Plan

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Directorate Service Plan for Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance for period 2023-24.

Live broadcast ended at 7.15 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Burton 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 PR120/23 to PR132/23

Matters for Decision

- PR120/23 Cookstown Chamber Upgrade
- PR121/23 Leisure Services VAT claim update
- PR122/23 Review of Staff Enhancements/Coaching Supplements
- PR123/23 Land and Property Matters: Easement, Lease & Disposal
- PR124/23 Mid South West (MSW) Region Update – Programme Management and Innovate UK funding

Matters for Information

- PR125/23 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 June 2023
- PR126/23 Managing Attendance
- PR127/23 Staff Matters for Information
- PR128/23 Council Organisational Redesign – Update on Structural Changes
- PR129/23 Restructure for Planning Department for Information
- PR130/23 Contracts and DAC
- PR131/23 Mid South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal Update
- PR132/23 Bonfire Working Group Minutes – 3 July 2023

PR133/23 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, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

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

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely, please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I 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 first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.