



11 April 2024

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Burn Road, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Thursday, 11 April 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
5. Deputation - Childcare Provision: Children with Additional Needs

Matters for Decision

- | | |
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| 6. Requests to Illuminate Council Properties | 3 - 6 |
| 7. Committee and Council Meetings 2024-2025 | 7 - 14 |
| 8. Member Services | |

Matters for Information

- | | |
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| 9. Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 March 2024 | 15 - 20 |
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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

10. Staffing Matters for Decision

Matters for Information

11. Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 March 2024
12. Staff Matters for Information
13. Financial report for 11 months ended 29 February 2024
14. Contracts and DAC Update Report

Report on	Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property
Date of Meeting	11 April 2024
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>To consider requests received to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope4mefibro: ME & Fibromyalgia –International Awareness Day: 12 May 2024: Colour: Blue • Alzheimer's Society: Dementia Action Week: 13 May 2024: Colour: Blue • British Porphyria Association: Porphyria Awareness Week: 18 May 2024: Colour: Purple • HSC NI Foster Care: Foster Care Fortnight - Fostering Moments: 20 May 2024: Colour: Turquoise & Yellow (or Turquoise) • Tourettes Action: Awareness Day: 7 June 2024: Colour: Green • Hope4mefibro: Severe ME Awareness Day: 8 August 2024: Colour Blue • 1st Tyrone Scout Group Dungannon: 65th Anniversary: 18 October 2024: Colour: Purple & Blue (or Blue)
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council has a policy and procedural arrangements in place to facilitate the illuminating/lighting-up of its designated properties from requests made by charitable organisations for charitable causes. The designated properties are the Burnavon, Bridewell and Ranfurly House.
2.2	The policy confirms that requests are considered by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee. Should the scheduling of the committee not permit requests being considered within the timeframes for determination, they can be presented to monthly Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council has received correspondence from organisations requesting that consideration be given to lighting up our three designated council properties.

3.2	<p>Requests for consideration and recommendation by Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope4mefibro: ME & Fibromyalgia –International Awareness Day: 12 May 2024: Colour: Blue • Alzheimer’s Society: Dementia Action Week: 13 May 2024: Colour: Blue • British Porphyria Association: Porphyria Awareness Week: 18 May 2024: Colour: Purple • HSC NI Foster Care: Foster Care Fortnight - Fostering Moments: 20 May 2024: Colour: Turquoise & Yellow (or Turquoise) • Tourettes Action: Awareness Day: 7 June 2024: Colour: Green • Hope4mefibro: Severe ME Awareness Day: 8 August 2024: Colour Blue • 1st Tyrone Scout Group Dungannon: 65th Anniversary: 18 October 2024: Colour: Purple & Blue (or Blue) <p>Scope of the Council Arrangements</p> <p>The policy scope extends to requests made by charitable organisations for the promotion of its charitable cause on a given date or set of dates.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Not applicable</p> <p>Human: Not applicable</p> <p>Risk Management: Not applicable</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: Council policy and procedural arrangements have been referred to.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: Not applicable</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>That the Committee considers making recommendation to light up the designated properties on the dates specified to mark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope4mefibro: ME & Fibromyalgia –International Awareness Day: 12 May 2024: Colour: Blue • Alzheimer’s Society: Dementia Action Week: 13 May 2024: Colour: Blue • British Porphyria Association: Porphyria Awareness Week: 18 May 2024: Colour: Purple

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSC NI Foster Care: Foster Care Fortnight - Fostering Moments: 20 May 2024: Colour: Turquoise & Yellow (or Turquoise) • Tourettes Action: Awareness Day: 7 June 2024: Colour: Green • Hope4mefibro: Severe ME Awareness Day: 8 August 2024: Colour Blue • 1st Tyrone Scout Group Dungannon: 65th Anniversary: 18 October 2024: Colour: Purple & Blue (or Blue)
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	None

Report on	Committee and Council Meetings: 2024-2025
Date of Meeting	Thursday 11 April 2024
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and 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	To consider the 2024-2025 Committee and Council Meeting Schedule for approval. This schedule will commence from June 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	The business of council is undertaken through its committee and council meetings, a schedule for which is considered annually for approval by this Committee.
2.2.	A meeting Schedule for the period June 2024 to May 2024 has been developed and attached as appendix A to this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council conducts its business through a Traditional Committee System of governance, whereby recommendations are brought from its 5 Committee to the next available meeting of Council for approval.
3.2	Appendix A to this report is the proposed schedule of meetings for the period June 2024 – May 2025. The Council's Annual meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 3 rd June 2024.
3.3	In summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2024 Annual Meeting will take place on Monday 3rd June as per requirement under Standing Orders. Committee meetings as a rule of thumb have been scheduled to take place across the first two weeks of each month, unless to accommodate public or bank holidays in which case they take place across a single week.

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council meetings will take place on the 4th Thursday of each month, where scheduled, unless to facilitate upcoming public or bank holidays. • There is no Council meeting scheduled for August, this being the Council’s recess month in line with the approach taken in 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Committee may be minded to schedule an August meeting for 2024 should this be required. • Special Council meeting to consider the annual accounts is scheduled for Monday 23 September 2024. • Special Council meeting to consider the 2025-26 District Rate is scheduled to take place on Monday 10th February 2025 to meet the Departmental deadline for striking the rate for Mid Ulster. • Meetings will commence at 7pm, with the exception of planning whereby a 5pm commencement time was determined by the committee. • In the absence of legislative provision all meetings will be in person. When legislative provision is reintroduced Council and Committee meetings may resume in hybrid if Council is minded to do so. • Council and Audit will meet in Dungannon, Planning will meet in Dungannon and when refurbishment of audio equipment is complete will alternate between Dungannon and Magherafelt. Policy & Resources, Environment and Development will meet in Cookstown until refurbishment of audio equipment is complete following which they will alternate between Cookstown and Magherafelt. <p>The Committee is requested to give consideration and approval to the attached Schedule to facilitate forward planning by Members and Council Officers.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: none</p> <p>Human: none</p> <p>Risk Management: none</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: none</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: none</p>

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the Committee considers and gives approval to the Council & Committee Meeting Schedule for the period June 2024 to May 2025
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Council & Committee Meeting Schedule 2024-2025

**Mid Ulster District Council
Council & Committee Meeting Schedule
June 2024 - May 2025**

MONTH	COMMITTEE	DATE	LOCATION
June 2024	AGM	3 June 2024	Dungannon
	Planning	4 June 2024	Dungannon
	Policy & Resources	6 June 2024	Cookstown
	Environment	11 June 2024	
	Development	13 June 2024	
	Audit	18 June 2024	Dungannon
	Council	27 June 2024	Dungannon
July 2024	Environment	1 July 2024	Cookstown
	Planning	2 July 2024	Dungannon
	Development	3 July 2024	Cookstown
	Policy & Resources	4 July 2024	
	Council	25 July 2024	Dungannon
August 2024	Planning	6 August 2024	Dungannon
September 2024	Planning	3 Sept 2024	Dungannon
	Policy & Resources	5 Sept 2024	TBC
	Environment	10 Sept 2024	
	Development	12 Sept 2024	
	Audit	17 Sept 2024	Dungannon
	Special Council	23 Sept 2024	Dungannon
	Council	26 Sept 2024	Dungannon
October 2024	Planning	1 Oct 2024	TBC
	Policy & Resources	3 Oct 2024	
	Environment	8 Oct 2024	
	Development	10 Oct 2024	
	Council	24 Oct 2024	Dungannon
November 2024	Planning	5 Nov 2024	TBC
	Policy & Resources	7 Nov 2024	
	Environment	12 Nov 2024	
	Development	14 Nov 2024	
	Audit	26 Nov 2024	Dungannon
	Council	28 Nov 2024	Dungannon

MONTH	COMMITTEE	DATE	LOCATION
December 2024	Environment	2 Dec 2024	TBC
	Planning	3 Dec 2024	
	Development	4 Dec 2024	
	Policy & Resources	5 Dec 2024	
	Council	19 Dec 2024	Dungannon
January 2025	Planning	7 Jan 2025	TBC
	Policy & Resources	9 Jan 2025	
	Environment	14 Jan 2025	
	Development	16 Jan 2025	
	Council	23 Jan 2025	Dungannon
February 2025	Planning	4 Feb 2025	TBC
	Policy & Resources	6 Feb 2025	
	Special Council - Rates	10 Feb 2025	
	Environment	11 Feb 2025	
	Development	13 Feb 2025	
	Council	27 Feb 2025	Dungannon
March 2025	Planning	4 March 2025	TBC
	Policy & Resources	6 March 2025	
	Environment	11 March 2025	
	Development	13 March 2025	
	Audit	18 March 2025	Dungannon
	Council	27 March 2025	Dungannon
April 2025	Planning	1 April 2025	TBC
	Policy & Resources	3 April 2025	
	Environment	8 April 2025	
	Development	10 April 2025	
	Council	24 April	Dungannon
May 2025	Planning	6 May 2025	TBC
	Policy & Resources	8 May 2025	
	Environment	13 May 2025	
	Development	15 May 2025	
	Council	22 May 2025	Dungannon

NOTES

- Council meets on 4th Thurs of month. December Council will be second week in month.
- Planning committee will meet on the first Tuesday of the month

- Policy & Resources Committee will meet on Thurs following 1st Tuesday of each month.
- Environment Committee will meet on 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- Development Committee will meet on Thursday following 2nd Tuesday.
- Audit Committee will meet on Tuesdays.
- Meetings follow aforementioned sequence except to avoid holiday periods in the case of July and December (Committee meetings over 4 consecutive nights).

DRAFT

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 7 March 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Corry, Chair

Councillors Bell, F Burton, J Burton, Cahoon, Gildernew, Johnston, McAleer, McFlynn, McLean, McLernon, S McPeake, Molloy, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)
Ms McCartney, Strategic Programme Development Manager (SPDM)
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 Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (AD: ODSP)
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT (HoIT)
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Services & Finance (SD: CS&F)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.01 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.

PR052/24 Notice of Recording

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

PR053/24 Apologies

Councillor Totten and Ms Dyson, Head of Human Resources.

PR054/24 Declarations of Interest

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

PR055/24 Chairs Business

Councillor McLernon spoke in relation to recent correspondence from the Minister for Communities regarding ending the provision for hybrid meetings from 6 March. The

Councillor stated that Councillor Mallaghan on behalf of Sinn Féin has tabled a motion for the forthcoming Council meeting and called on all parties to support the motion with a unified voice so that Council can call on the Minister for Communities to urgently progress regulations to enable hybrid meetings for Councillors. Councillor McLernon stated that having the provision in place makes political life more accessible to Councillors and staff and to those who have other demands on their life such as caring responsibilities, parenting, university, disability and illness. The Councillor stated that money has been invested into providing these provisions within Councils and that everyone recognises and appreciates the positive impact hybrid participation has had. Councillor McLernon stated that 8 March is International Women's Day and that everyone should identify the importance of making political office more accessible to women and highlighted that the recent correspondence from the Minister only goes to create another barrier to making it less accessible.

The Chair, Councillor Corry echoed Councillor McLernon's sentiments and stated that the correspondence was very disappointing particularly when considering climate change and reducing our carbon footprint and is something that needs to be reconsidered.

Councillor McLean stated he recognised that there is a need for hybrid meetings and that he had also made representation in that regard. Councillor McLean assured Councillors that conversations have been had with the Minister and explained that the situation has arisen because the legislation which was brought in was emergency legislation due to Covid and that this legislation has lapsed before there has been opportunity to have discussions with all parties. The Councillor advised that he had received assurance from the Minister that there will be consultation and future provision for hybrid meetings.

Councillor Burton stated she agreed with the previous speakers and that the matter is also an item for discussion at the NILGA meeting tomorrow and that it would be a real concern if the hybrid option was not available going forward. The Councillor referred to her recent illness and that the option to join meetings remotely during that time had been a great support to her. Councillor Burton recognised the fact that the legislation was brought in during Covid and that emergency legislation cannot be worked under forever but reiterated the importance of the hybrid option and that hopefully the legislation could be renewed in the near future.

The Chair, Councillor Corry stated that Councillor McLean's comments were positive and that she looked forward to the matter coming back for the reasons outlined by Members. Councillor Corry stated that the hybrid option widens participation and highlighted that the deputation tonight was for parent alienation and that the representative had planned to join remotely but was now unable to.

Councillor Wilson asked how the law covers presentations made to Committee where no decisions will be taken. The Councillor stated that it could be up to three months before legislation comes back and that this would be a long time to hold up groups who want to present and felt it would be worthwhile to seek clarification on this element.

The Chair, Councillor Corry stated that officers would seek advice on the matter raised by Councillor Wilson.

Councillor S McPeake agreed with the Members comments and the importance of the hybrid option and stated that the matter was discussed at PCSP and that those Members were also concerned at the impact of the removal of this option and that clarification is being sought.

PR056/24 Deputation – Parent Alienation

The Chair, Councillor Corry advised that the representative was unable to attend tonight's meeting and that the presentation would be rescheduled.

Matters for Decision

PR057/24 Draft Consultation Response on the DFI Water and Sewerage Charges - Options for Revenue Raising Consultation

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which outlined Council's response to the DFI Water and Sewerage Charges - Options for Revenue Raising Consultation.

The Chair, Councillor Corry thanked the officer for the response and agreed that provision is already made for water services within rates.

Councillor McLean felt that more could be added to the response and referred to recent meetings he had had with NI Water. The Councillor highlighted that one of the issues he is aware of and that is becoming more prevalent is that NI Water are putting severe charges on developers in the process of what they call offsetting. Councillor McLean referred to town centres where capacity has been reached for sewerage and stated that if a developer wants to put additional sewerage into the system they have to offset the storm water by 12 times. The Councillor stated that Council is trying to encourage development in town centres in order to enhance them and make them more accessible etc but that if a developer wants to renovate a derelict building in a town centre then the biggest stumbling block for that development is NI Water. Councillor McLean stated that the cost of the offsetting is where the charges come in as developers have to collect rain water from adjacent properties, that this has to be calculated with consultants being paid to carry out the work and that the time taken to do this work can be in excess of a year. Councillor McLean stated that when a developer does get permission to go ahead with the work they then have to use a NI Water contractor and that all those charges have to be paid for. The Councillor stated he was aware that the cost of all this work for one development came to almost £1 million and that the reality of this is that the cost then has to be passed on to a future buyer. Councillor McLean stated that he would be happy to work with officers to add to the response as outlined.

The Chair, Councillor Corry thanked Councillor McLean for the contribution which she stated is important to include in the response.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor J Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft response as set out at Appendix A of report for submission and to include commentary in relation to costs being imposed on developers by NI Water.

PR058/24 Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- Linking Generations NI: Global Intergenerational Week 2024: 24 April: Colour Pink
- Sarcoidosis UK: Global Sarcoidosis Awareness Month: 26 April: Colour Blue

The HoSS&E advised of an additional request which had been received since the report was published to mark World Parkinson's Day on 11 April. Councillor Wilso proposed the additional request saying it was particularly appropriate as former councillor Mr George Shiels who suffered from Parkinson's had recently passed away.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –
- Linking Generations NI: Global Intergenerational Week 2024: 24 April: Colour Pink
 - Sarcoidosis UK: Global Sarcoidosis Awareness Month: 26 April: Colour Blue
 - World Parkinson's Day: 11 April Colour Blue

PR059/24 Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers

The Assistant Director of Corporate Services and Finance (AD: CS&F) presented previously circulated report which provided update and sought approval on amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers.

The AD: CS&F highlighted that the job titles of officers within planning going forward are Planning Lead for Strategic Planning and Planning Lead for Local Planning instead of current Head of in both cases at present. The AD: CS&F stated that the proposed changes are set out at 3.2 of the report and clarified that the changes in terms of planning do not change what is being delegated to the Planning Committee but makes clear which of the planning leads will take on the various aspects of planning delegation going forward.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the amended Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers as included in Appendix to report and that it takes effect on 1st April 2024.

PR060/24 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR061/24 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2024

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 8 February 2024.

Councillor Gildernew referred to her question in relation to the Good Employment Charter and whether trade unions had been involved in the development of the Charter and that she had not received a response on this to date.

The Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) agreed to get back to Councillor Gildernew on the matter.

PR062/24 Performance Improvement: Local Government Auditor's Audit and Assessment (Section 95) Report 2023-24

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the key findings of the Local Government Auditor's Audit and Assessment (Section 95) Report 2023-24.

Live broadcast ended at 7.19 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McLernon 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 PR063/24 to PR072/24.

Matters for Decision

- PR063/24 SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project
- PR064/24 Insurances – 2024/25
- PR065/24 Members Allowances Update
- PR066/24 Land and Property Matters
- PR067/24 Capital Programme Budget Priorities

Matters for Information

- PR068/24 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 8 February 2024
- PR069/24 Staff Matters for Information
- PR070/24 Financial Report 10 Months to 31 January 2024
- PR071/24 Treasury Management – Update
- PR072/24 Contracts and DAC Registers - Update

P073/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.52 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.