

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 9th June 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor S McAleer, Chair

Councillors Ashton*, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, Kearney, S McGuigan*, McKinney, S McPeake, McLean, Molloy and Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance
Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources**
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications**
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance
Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive**
Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Finance, Legal, Governance and Transformation**
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mrs Forde, Member Support Manager

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.01pm

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

PR111/22 Notice of Recording

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

PR112/22 Apologies

Councillor Forde

PR113/22 Declarations of Interest

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

PR114/22 Chairs Business

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer advised Members that she had agreed an additional report be considered and invited the AD: ODP to present report on Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan) 2022 to 2023.

The Assistant Director: ODSP drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Council's Corporate Performance Improvement (PIP Year 2) Plan 2022-2023.

Councillor McKinney drew attention to environmental impact and sought clarity as to what different had been done from last year and asked what the Council's action plan was regarding same.

In response the AD: ODSP advised that within the report there was key activities outline and drew particular attention to recycling rates and the boost in carbon reductions associated with recycling and EE omissions. He also drew attention to the greater use of Council infrastructure highlighting the recycling of laptops and pcs which have been distributed in the community. In conclusion he highlighted the focus on air quality and council programmes such as biodiversity and affordable warmth to educate on improved efficiencies.

Councillor McKinney highlighted that he had read that Aberdeen Council had 75% fuel free fleet using alternatives to fossil fuels but currently it did not appear that Mid Ulster was taking the first steps. In response the AD: ODSP said there was planned activity to review vehicle fleet.

The SD: Environment said a recent recommendation had been brought through Environment Committee to work with Sustainability NI and consultations would take place on best practice. She highlighted that work was being undertaken but emphasised that it was better to research and ascertain what best practice was before embarking on what could be a wrong approach. The SD: Environment mentioned projects in relation to flooding, wind power and use of hydrogen. She also advised that practical steps were already taking place with staff for example online meetings reducing mileage costs and less impact on the environment. She concluded there was much work in progress and more would come.

Councillor Cuddy stated that Council should be able to measure improvements and demonstrate same and have projects to build momentum on rather than just a report. He expressed disappointment on the use of consultants.

Councillor McLean said it was important to take cognisance of what the SD: Environment had said that research was required before taking a strategic move as quick gains don't always pay off. He said he was conscious of use of consultants but Council was a large organisation which needed to be cost effective. He said Council had recently purchased vehicles and their value needed to be taking into

consideration in fleet replacement. He concluded that whilst Council should be proactive it also needed to be cautious factoring implications of each stage.

Councillor Molloy referred to the FASTER project The FASTER Project is a joint initiative by partners in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland to support the overarching ambition to transition to low carbon transport systems. He highlighted in particular projects for electric vehicle charging points, which there was a dearth of across Mid Ulster. He said Council should not reinvent existing projects and proposed that the FASTER project be invited to present to relevant committee.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to invite FASTER project to make a presentation regarding transition to low carbon transport systems.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council's Corporate Performance Improvement (PIP Year 2) Plan 2022-2023.

Matters for Decision

PR115/22 Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property – June 2022

The Assistant Director: ODSP presented previously circulated report which considered requests to illuminate/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark;

- Monday 10 October 2022 – Baby Loss Awareness Week the colour to be blue and pink.

In response to Councillor McLean's query in providing all of the colours requested in requests the AD: ODSP said that various colours are achieved by the use of filters.

Councillor S McPeake referred to previous discussions about media and promotion of the worthy causes brought forward.

In response the AD: ODSP said that it is reliant on facilities providing the photographs of the buildings when lit. The Head of Communications stated that each event is released on social media and there is a dedicated web page detailing each occasion a building is lit up and the charity it is supporting.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –

- Monday 10th October 2022 – Baby Loss Awareness Week

PR116/22 Member Services

None

Matters for Information

PR117/22 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 4th May 2022

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 4 May 2022.

PR118/22 Somme Association: 2022-2023 Membership Subscription

Members noted the content of the report.

PR119/22 Full Fibre Project Update

Members noted the content of the report.

PR120/22 Chief Executive's – Departmental Service Plan 2022-2023

Members noted the content of the report.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

The live stream ended at 7.20pm

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Molloy 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 Member consider items PR121/22 to PR131/22.

Matters for Decision

- PR121/22 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR122/22 ICT Contracts Extensions
- PR123/22 Financial Update Report – 12 months to 31 March 2022
- PR124/22 AVC Pension – Salary Sacrifice/Shared Cost AVC
- PR125/22 Capital Framework 2020 -2024/25
- PR126/22 Dungannon – Property Update
- PR127/22 Lease: Feeney's Lane, Dungannon

Matters for Information

- PR128/22 Policy and Resources Committee Confidential minutes held on Wednesday 4 May 2022
- PR129/22 Staffing matters for Information
- PR130/22 Industrial Relations Update
- PR131/22 Contracts and DAC

PR131/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.03 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.