

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 5 March 2020 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Buchanan, Colvin, Doris, Gildernew, Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Head of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mrs Kerr, Head of Finance
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR053/20 Apologies

Councillors Ashton, Elattar, Forde and Quinn, Chief Executive and Director of Finance.

PR054/20 Declaration of Interest

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

PR055/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Molloy referred to previous discussions and decision taken to remove wall at Drumcoo as it had become a magnet for anti social behaviour. The Chair advised that the whole wall was erected by Council some 30 years ago but that it has since come to light that a section of the wall belongs to a third party, he stated that he has asked officers to engage with the third party to try to come to a resolution and that a report would be brought back to Committee on the matter.

Matters for Decision

PR056/20 Capital Discretionary Grant Budget

The Director of Business and Communities presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a transfer of budget (£300,000) from reserves to the capital funding for Discretionary Capital projects across Mid Ulster.

In response to question from the Chair, the Director of Business and Communities advised that some of the groups/projects are now in a position to draw down funding.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the transfer of £300,000 from reserves to Capital Discretionary Grant for the period 2018-2019, 2019-2020.

PR057/20 Corporate Plan 2020-2024: Consultation Outcome

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which provided detail on the outcome of the public consultation on the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024 for the Committee's reconsideration following discussion at and decision taken by Council at its February meeting.

The officer stated that a number of issues had been raised at Council, principal among them being that the recommendation relating to the adoption of the plan with amendments and a further action relating to a separate consideration of issues raised by the 'PUL community' in the outworking of the council's Good Relations programme, was not clear.

The Head of Marketing and Communications sought clarification from the Committee, stating it was understood that the Committee's intention was to agree changes to the Corporate Plan based on the outcome of consultation and that this recommendation was not subject on any further discussion on issues raised by the 'PUL community'.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that was how he had interpreted the discussion at February Committee.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the final Corporate Plan 2020-2024 following the consultation exercise, subject to recommendations on the vision, values, themes, priorities, the plan narrative being amended to reflect issues raised and the corporate commitments being retained with some minor amendments to wording.

PR058/20 Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to reflect changes in the Senior Staff Structure

The Council Solicitor presented previously circulated report which sought approval to make changes to the Scheme of Delegation resulting from amendments to the staff structure.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the changes to the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers resulting from amendments to the staff structure in accordance with Appendix 1 of the report.

PR059/20 Lease of lands at Pomeroy forest from DAERA/Forest Service – Update

The Council Solicitor presented previously circulated report which provided update on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs/Forest Service Northern Ireland's legal arrangement with the Council in relation to lands at Pomeroy Forest and to seek approval to the amended terms.

In response to question from Councillor McLean in relation to the increased rental value the Council Solicitor advised that the increase is in keeping with the valuation and that LPS have been engaged throughout the process.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note and agree the revised terms of the 20 year lease in relation to lands at Pomeroy Forest including those in section 3.3 of report and Appendix A of report, between Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs/Forest Service Northern Ireland and Mid Ulster District Council.

PR060/20 Consideration of Corporate Improvement Objectives for 2020-2022

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the proposed improvement objectives for 2020/21 and 2021/22 as set in compliance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and timelines for public consultation exercise.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the four improvement objectives for 2020-21 to 2021-22 as set out at 2.5 of report and Appendix A of report and to commence consultation on same along with associated timeline as set out at 3.5 of report.

**PR061/20 Report of Recommendations from Working Group:
Representation on Outside Bodies**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the final Recommendations Report emanating from the activity of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies together with the report of its meeting held on 6 February 2020.

Councillor S McPeake stated that this had been a complex piece of work and it was good that it had reached a conclusion. Councillor McPeake referred to the report of the Outside Working Group meeting held on 6 February 2020 which was attached at Appendix A to the report and referenced his comment in relation to the filling of positions on Outside Bodies at AGMs and In Term, the Councillor advised that he had stated that ICBAN constitution should be cross community *not* inclusive of all parties as detailed in report and asked that this comment be corrected.

Councillor S McPeake stated that a lot of good work had been done by the working group and that there was a further job of work to do in relation to civic recognition and the convening of a working group to look at the existing policy. Councillor McPeake stated that this working group should be set up as soon as possible and also felt that the DEA meetings will be useful. Councillor McPeake also referred to the establishment of an Arts Facilities Forum and asked that this be brought forward as soon as possible.

Councillor McKinney expressed some disappointment that it will take three years for the recommendations to come into play.

Councillor Colvin referred to the convening of a working group to consider civic recognition and stated that it was important for these awards to have some value to the people receiving them.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed that introduction of DEA meetings.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies held on Thursday 6 February 2020 as set out at Appendix A of report, subject to the above amendment, and the Report of Recommendations from the Working Group as set out at Appendix B of report.

PR062/20 Response to NILGA Consultation: Council Reform to Date

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered a draft response to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) consultation on Council Reform to Date – Driving What's to Come.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft response to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) consultation on Council Reform to Date – Driving What’s to Come as set out at Appendix B of report.

PR063/20 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule 2020-2021

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the 2020-2021 Committee and Council Meeting Schedule.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for the period June 2020 to June 2021.

PR064/20 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR065/20 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2020

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2020.

PR066/20 Local Government Staff Commission: 2020/21 Contribution

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence received from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) on annual contributions payable for 2020-21.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn 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 PR067/20 to PR075/20.

Matters for Decision

PR067/20 Staffing Matters for Decision
PR068/20 Replacement of the Clocking Technology within Mid Ulster District Council Facilities

- PR069/20 Contract for the Collection and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclates (Blue Bin Contract)
- PR070/20 Land Acquisitions and Disposals

Matters for Information

- PR071/20 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2020
- PR072/20 Staff Engagement Survey Results
- PR073/20 Prudential Code for Capital Finance Indicators and Authorised and Operational Borrowing Limits
- PR074/20 Financial Report for 10 months ended 31 January 2020
- PR075/20 Contracts and DAC

PR076/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.24 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____