

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 7 June 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan (Outgoing)
Councillor McLean (Incoming)

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell*, Black*, Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Clarke*, Colvin*, Corry*, Cuddy, Cuthbertson*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, Glasgow*, Graham, Hughes*, Kearney, Kerr, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn, B McGuigan*, S McGuigan, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy, Monteith, Oneill*, Quinn*, Robinson*, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr A McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure**
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications**
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development **
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure**
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance**

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

AC1/21 Apologies

Councillors McKinney and Mullen

AC2/21 Declarations of Interest

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

AC3/21 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan extended condolences to Councillor Glasgow on the death of his grandmother the wife of a former Councillor on Cookstown Council who had made a huge contribution to local government over a period of 43 years.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan invited outgoing Deputy Chair to speak.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Graham said,

“Although this really has been a year like no other due to Covid and the restrictions we have faced, it has still been a very rewarding year for me. I have met many community and voluntary groups and have learned about the many and various things they have done and still continue to do which has made such a huge difference to their part of Mid Ulster. It has been an honour and a privilege to fulfil my role in this Centenary year of Northern Ireland and to recognise the outstanding contributions made by Captain Sir Tom Moore and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh by opening books of condolence.

I want to pay tribute to all the healthcare and essential workers who have kept us all going throughout this year and I know that we all hope for better times ahead. It would be remiss of me not to mention all those who have suffered during this pandemic and my thoughts and prayers are with those families who have lost loved ones, especially those from Mid Ulster.

I would like to thank my party colleagues for their nomination, for the faith and the trust they placed in me and for their constant support. Also to the two Chief Executives and their staff, for all their help and support during my term and then to the Chair, who I have to say, while we don't always agree politically, I think we worked very well together and to give due credit you worked extremely hard. I would also like to thank the people of the Clogher Valley who elected me in the first place because without them, I would never have had this opportunity. As it was impossible to host any events this year, it was challenging to say the least, to try to think outside the box and to bring something to groups instead.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout my year in office, especially my family and to say how very much I have appreciated all the kindness and encouragement I have received. In closing, I would wish the incoming Chair and Deputy Chair a very healthy and successful year ahead.”

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reflected on his year saying,

“It is probably fair to say that this year has been like no other and the traditional role of the Chair turned on its head. But, while being Chair during a pandemic may have been a very different experience, it was no less rewarding and it's remarkable how we all adapted – as a council and as a community. I've been very impressed at how we as an organisation responded – our essential services have been delivered without interruption, no matter what stage we were at in the cycle of restrictions and reopening. It went to show just how vital many of our core services are and shone a spotlight on some of our employees who aren't often front and centre, but who deserve to be. I would place on record my appreciation of the depth of loyalty and service showcased by employees many of who had to redeploy or had to shield.

When some of our main facilities were closed, our staff responded by changing how they engaged with their customers and we had everything from virtual swimming lessons for children to online events and webinars. There were so many that stood out, but two in particular were my personal favourites – my job as Santa’s unofficial elf, switching on the Christmas lights in our main towns, and, of course, the tribute event to Mickey Harte which was broadcast last Thursday evening and has been the most viewed film on our YouTube channel ever.

One of the most important roles I’ve had as Chair is to support public health messaging at a local level, whether we were in lockdown or re-opening when safety had to be – and still is – a very real and necessary priority. Today for the first time in nine months there has been zero infection which is good news. I would also extended condolences to those who lost loved ones during Covid.

In my role as Chair I met dozens and dozens of local businesses and the level of resilience and innovation in our business sector has been second to none – from those who changed their business models to those who diversified into new areas of work, and all those who worked their way through some very tough times and didn’t let their heads drop, some in the district renowned for entrepreneurialism took the plunge and started new businesses. If the businesses didn’t flag, nor did we and a total of £1.3M in Covid recovery grants were delivered to provide much-needed practical support for businesses in towns and villages across Mid Ulster. At the same time, we adjusted our economic support arrangements and re-purposed our £1.1M suite of programmes to ensure we could tailor our offering to reflect the new economic landscape in which our businesses found themselves.

Not everything was about the pandemic, however, and it’s important to remember that we didn’t only react and respond – we also moved major plans forward and that’s also a credit to this organisation. We launched the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy, for example, with a level of investment and a vision for economic growth which will transform this region in the long-term with approximately £256 million investment. We continued with our own ambitious capital programme and I’ve lost count of the number of announcements about our investment in tourism, leisure, outdoor recreation and parks projects. When you look back at just some of them, the level of investment is substantial, from £700K on EU-funded shared spaces projects, an indicative £1M award from Sport NI for new facilities at Mid Ulster Sports Arena, the new Solar Walk at Davagh, valued at over £500K, the very real and positive impact of the rural development programme on the ground in Mid Ulster – where we very recently marked a total of £390K in 11 play areas alone under that programme.

I did plenty of visits to see work in progress too, but it’s been a real pleasure over the course of the last few weeks in particular to begin to see lots of those projects complete. We finally were able to open OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory last week, which is a real boost to what we’re developing in the Sperrins and the whole experience has been a real hit with visitors, which augers well for later in the year when we can have the full night-time offering available. And just a few hours ago, I launched, along with Marie Heaney, the new Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open

Ground experience down at The Strand at Lough Beg – if you haven't been, you should take the time to visit. It's one of 5 locations which are now linking the literature of Seamus Heaney with the landscape which so inspired his work. Like all projects, it's one to be proud of, and I couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable way to end my term in office.

In closing I would thank the Communications team for their level of commitment, Jennifer and Paula for keeping the diary, the Chief Executives Anthony Tohill and Adrian McCreesh who took over the role. I would also acknowledge Andrew Cassells who retired in April. I would especially thank my wife Louise and my daughters Aoife and Saorlaith, the pandemic certainly brought its difficulties when grandparents could not childmind. I would thank my Sinn Féin colleagues for giving me the honour of being the First Citizen and the opportunity of seeing what goes on in the district. I would highlight recent events such as Sperrinview Special School launching the healthy mile and Youth Voice event and meeting the young people who are our future. I would also thank Philip, Eileen, Martina and Leanne managing the meetings is quite a task and your work does not go unnoticed. To Members I thank you for your input to healthy debate and a special thanks to Councillor Graham for her help to me in the role of Deputy Chair. I wish the new Chair and Deputy Chair all the best you are taking on a great role, our council area is amazing and many others look to us for their lead.”

Councillor Molloy on behalf of Sinn Féin acknowledged the work of the Chair and Deputy Chair and spoke of how they had inspired communities throughout the district during challenging times. He commended them in carrying out their roles in face of the challenges of the Covid pandemic. He spoke of how the Chair had overseen the smooth transition of the Chief Executives and rose to the challenge of Chairing hybrid meetings. Councillor Molloy concluded in commending all those who had held positions of responsibility during what had been a challenging year.

Councillor Ashton on behalf of the DUP commended both the Chair and Deputy Chair on the successful roles they had played in challenging times. She highlighted that it was no easy task to Chair a meeting with people in front of you and many more 'on screen', she also highlighted that the Chair had given everyone an opportunity to speak. She further commended the Chair and Deputy Chair on their creativity in what was a very difficult year and asked fellow Members to join with her in giving a round of applause.

Councillor Cuddy on behalf of the UUP thanked the Chair for his management of the meetings throughout the year highlighting that although they had one blip on the whole there was a mature approach and understanding of the standing orders. He thanked Councillor Graham for the role she had carried out stated that she was a great ambassador for the Council. He concluded stating that both the Chair and Deputy Chair had completed a great year's work.

Councillor Kerr concurred with previous speakers and commended Councillors Mallaghan and Graham on their roles. He also extended his thanks to the Chair on the courteous treatment he had received and commended him on the articulate way he had managed meetings and had grabbed the role of chair by the scruff of the neck in what was a challenging year and displayed great leadership. Councillor Kerr

concluded by wishing the incoming Chair and Deputy Chair every success for the coming year.

Councillor Kearney speaking on behalf of the SDLP commended both the Chair and Deputy Chair on a good year's work during which they had led the Council forward. He applauded their adoption to new situations and the responsibilities of bringing hope to the community. He concluded by saying that hopefully better times were ahead and thanked Councillors Mallaghan and Graham for keeping everyone's spirits up.

The out, going Chair Councillor Mallaghan thanked everyone for their warm comments.

AC4/21 Nominations of Councillors to hold Positions of responsibility for 2021-22 as confirmed at the AGM of May 2019

The outgoing Chair Councillor Mallaghan referred members to the meeting pack containing the previously agreed Positions of Responsibility for period 2019-2023, filled using the d'Hondt method.

	Year 1 2019/2020	Year 2 2020/2021	Year 3 2021/2022	Year 4 2022/2023
Council				
Chair	SDLP	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	UUP	SDLP	DUP
Audit Committee				
Chair	SF	SF	UUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	UUP	SF	SF	SF
Development Committee				
Chair	UUP	SF	SF	SF
Deputy-Chair	IND (Monteith)	DUP	IND (Kerr)	DUP
Environment Committee				
Chair	DUP	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	SF	SDLP	SF	UUP
Planning Committee				
Chair	SF	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	UUP	SF	DUP
Policy & Resources Committee				
Chair	SF	SDLP	UUP	SDLP

Deputy-Chair	SDLP	UUP	SDLP	DUP
Housing Council for NI				
1 Representative	SF	SF	SF	SF
Partnership Panel for NI				
1 Representative 4 year term	SDLP			
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for NI				
1 Representative	UUP	DUP	DUP	UUP
Policing & Community Safety Partnership - Mid Ulster (Note 3)				
10 Representatives 4 year term	SF		DUP	
	SF		DUP	
	SF		DUP	
	SF		SDLP	
	SF		UUP	

Councillor Ashton nominating officer for the DUP nominated Councillor McLean to take the Chair.

Councillor Mallaghan stood down from his position

The new Chair Councillor McLean took position at 7.24pm.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said that he hoped Members would bear with him as he endeavoured to keep a check on the screen, he continued stating, "I consider it a great honour, privilege and pleasure to have been appointed as Chair to this council on this the centenary year of Northern Ireland and my thanks to my nominating officer and my party for their support and their faith in me to represent the Council and all the residents of Mid Ulster in this special and historic year. Our wee Country is as it is often referred too is 100 years old, and whilst there are those who will talk that there is little or nothing to celebrate, it would be incumbent of me, if we did not mark the past, acknowledge the present and look towards the future.

Northern Ireland has had many achievements throughout the past 100 years, and indeed some of those life changing achievements have come from within the Mid Ulster Council area, whether it be through innovation and entrepreneurship in the business world; various sporting achievements, writing enchanting novels, music and singing, or gospel preaching and hymns; we have accomplished much, but there is

much more for Northern Ireland to do going forward, and our Council has a great part to play in that.

I've been here before, as some of you will well know, elected back in 1989, I've served as the Chair of the old Magherafelt District Council on two occasions in 2007 and again in 2012, so I think I know something of what I'm letting myself in for. Some of you will say I'm a glutton for punishment taking on this role for a third time in a much larger council.

And while 2012 doesn't seem that long ago, almost 10 years have passed, and plenty has changed – you only need to look at the past 15 months to know how rapid change comes and how challenging it can be.

While the outgoing Chair Cllr Mallaghan and myself have little in common in terms of our political aspirations and views; I believe it would be remiss of me not to comment on his fairness in this debating chamber – he made every effort to assure every councillor was given ample time to express their varied options and put over their various points of view. For this he is to be commended.

And again, whilst I didn't on many occasions agree with his decisions or the decisions of his party, I believe he represented this council well in what could only be described as probably the most unusual and difficult of circumstances that any of us have ever experienced as councillors.

Can I also pay tribute to the outgoing Deputy Chair Councillor Graham who supported the chair in the various responsibilities and used her office to assist the chairman, when he was unavailable to promote and represent Mid Ulster District Council. Cllr Graham has carried out that responsibility very well, and I know that as this year progresses, I will very much welcome the support of my vice chair, as we strive to represent Mid Ulster Council, on various platforms throughout the coming year.

It would also be remiss of me not at this time to mention the director team previously lead by Antony Tohill and in more recent days Adrian McCreesh and everyone of our valued workforce who excelled themselves over this past year in spite of all the restrictions to deliver what can only be described as an excellent service for the people of our district.

I am previously on record as stating that we the councillors are the front face of council but the staff and workforce and the engine that makes it all work.

I am fortunate in that I am starting my term of office in a period of positivity and cautious optimism, when restrictions are easing and our vaccination programme continues to be rolled out at pace, and when we can look forward to a more normal summer and the beginning of a return to a way of life which we enjoyed before the pandemic.

I would concur with others in paying tribute to all of the frontline services who have stepped up to the plate during this pandemic and our thoughts and prayers are especially with those who have been greatly affected by it.

That idea of positivity and hope is one which I trust will characterise my time as Chair – learning from our mistakes and focusing on the positives of our Council.

And there is much to be positive about in the weeks and months to come.

We are currently completing, for example, a major capital investment programme in leisure and outdoor recreation facilities worth over £5.2M. These projects are transforming places like Roundlake in Fivemiletown, Ballyronan Marina and Davagh Forest to name three of the largest, and the outcome will genuinely transform the overall visitor experience to each one, not to mention the MSW growth deal which this council is heavily involved in.

After all this is what we're about - making a difference to the lives of local people, whether by ensuring they have great walks, parks, open spaces, pitches and play areas for people to enjoy; by ensuring that we're supporting our local businesses with bespoke Covid recovery plans for our hardest-hit sectors or tailored business programmes to encourage innovation, build capacity, knowledge and skills; by ensuring that we respond to those who are in need by working to address those needs directly but crucially in partnership with other agencies, as well as with our voluntary and community sector.

That sector came into its own during the pandemic, as did an amazing network of volunteers, who stepped up to make sure some of the most vulnerable were looked after and cared for. We can't underestimate the value of this work and I look forward in the year ahead to meeting the many, many volunteers and community groups who are woven in to the social fabric of Mid Ulster.

I look forward also to working positively and constructively with all of you as council colleagues and with Adrian, the directors and the dedicated staff as we continue to meet whatever challenges lie ahead and deliver for the people of Mid Ulster."

The Chair, Councillor McLean sought a nomination from the SDLP for Deputy Chair.

Councillor Kearney nominated Councillor McFlynn saying that she had been a Councillor for thirteen years, was the most experienced Member in their grouping and was the second lady from the SDLP Members to hold the position and expressed good wishes for the year ahead.

Councillor McFlynn assumed the role as Deputy Chair.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor McFlynn expressed her sympathy to Councillor Glasgow and his family on the death of his grandmother. She spoke of his grandfather Sam and how she had worked alongside him on the former Cookstown District Council and extended her condolences to him also. Speaking on her appointment as Deputy Chair, she said,

"It's a privilege and honour to take up the position of Deputy Chair for Mid Ulster Council for the coming year to represent and support all our residents and

businesses. I'm looking forward to supporting our Chair Councillor Paul McLean and the Senior Management Team and to getting out and about across the district. Positivity and hope come to mind as we come out of Covid and try and rebuild our district for the future. Last year has been difficult for many people, isolation, loneliness and fear of the unknown were prevalent, you could see and hear if when you reached out to people. We have to have hope that the days ahead will be brighter and Mid Ulster Council will have its part in that. Council are currently working on projects which will improve our district and our mental health going forward. On Saturday myself and Councillor Martin Kearney and other councillors met with Mid Ulster Youth Voice 16-18 year olds. They were passionate and inspirational in their views on what this place should be like equality, employability, environment and the eagerness to promote Irish. It was brilliant to see youth from cross communities discussing important issues. Council need to engage and involve our youth more right across every department. Can I thank my SDLP colleagues for the nomination and putting their faith in me. I'd like to pay tribute to all our staff in every department and indeed every person who worked on the frontline in the past year sometimes in very difficult circumstances. I wish our outgoing Chair Cathal and deputy chair Meta good health for the coming year. Family is very important to me and all of us but I thank mine for their support every day."

The Chair invited party nominating offices to nominate Members to hold the following positions of Responsibility, as listed for 2020-2021 in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Positions of Responsibility	Party	Councillor
Council Chair	DUP	Councillor McLean
Council, Deputy Chair	SDLP	Councillor McFlynn
Audit Committee, Chair	UUP	Councillor Colvin
Audit Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor B McGuigan
Development, Chair	SF	Councillor Molloy
Development, Deputy Chair	IND	Councillor Kerr
Environment Committee, Chair	DUP	Councillor Brown
Environment Committee Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor McNamee
Planning Committee, Chair	DUP	Councillor Black
Planning Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor S McPeake
Policy & Resources, Chair	UUP	Councillor McKinney
Policy & Resources, Deputy Chair	SDLP	Councillor Kearney
Housing Council for NI	SF	Councillor Elattar
Partnership Panel for NI (term of Council)	SDLP	Councillor Hughes
Reserve & Cadets Association for NI	DUP	Councillor Brown

Policing & Community Safety Partnership (term of Council)	SF	Councillor Mallaghan
	SF	Councillor B McGuigan
	SF	Councillor McNamee
	SF	Councillor S McPeake
	SF	Councillor D Molloy
	DUP	Councillor Burton
	DUP	Councillor Cuthbertson (Chair)
	DUP	Councillor Forde
	SDLP	Councillor McFlynn
	UUP	Councillor Wilson

A5/21 Appoint of Councillors to Committees

The Chair, Councillor McLean invited Nominating Officers from parties to nominate Members to allocate Members to serve on committees. Nominations and changes made as notified by Nominating Officers.

Audit Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021-2022
1. Chair	UUP	Cllr Robert Colvin
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr Brian McGuigan
3. Member	SF	Cllr Cathal Mallagahn
4. Member	SF	Cllr Niall McAleer
5. Member	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton
6. Member	SDLP	Cllr Christine McFlynn
7. Member	IND	Cllr Dan Kerr
8. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

Development Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021 – 2022
1. Chair	SF	Cllr Dominic Molloy
2. Deputy-Chair	IND -	Cllr Dan Kerr
3. Member	SF	Cllr Seán Clarke
4. Member	SF	Cllr Cora Corry
5. Member	SF	Cllr Catherine Elattar
6. Member	SF	Cllr Niamh Doris
7. Member	SF	Cllr Ian Milne
8. Member	SF	Cllr John McNamee
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton

10. Member	DUP	Cllr Frances Burton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Kyle Black
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Kerri Hughes
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Walter Cuddy
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Trevor Wilson
16. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

Environment Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021- 2022
1. Chair	DUP	Cllr Wesley Brown
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr John McNamee
3. Member	SF	Cllr Niall McAleer
4. Member	SF	Cllr Brian McGuigan
5. Member	SF	Cllr Ian Milne
6. Member	SF	Cllr Sean McGuigan
7. Member	SF	Cllr Joe Oneill
8. Member	SF	Cllr Darren Totten
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Wilbert Buchanan
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Frances Burton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Clement Cuthbertson
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin Kearney
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Sharon McAleer
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Mark Glasgow
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Meta Graham
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Trevor Wilson

Planning Committee		
Position	Party	2021-2022 Membership
1. Chair	DUP	Cllr Kyle Black
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr Seán McPeake
3. Member	SF	Cllr Gavin Bell
4. Member	SF	Cllr Sean Clarke
5. Member	SF	Cllr Cora Corry
6. Member	SF	Cllr Cathal Mallaghan
7. Member	SF	Cllr Donal McPeake
8. Member	DUP	Cllr Wesley Brown
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Clement Cuthbertson
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Wills Robinson

11. Member	SDLP	Cllr Kerri Hughes
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Christine McFlynn
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Robert Colvin
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Mark Glasgow
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Derek McKinney

Policy & Resources Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021-2022
1. Chair	UUP	Cllr Derek McKinney
2. Deputy-Chair	SDLP	Cllr Martin Kearney
3. Member	SF	Cllr Niamh Doris
4. Member	SF	Cllr Catherine Elattar
5. Member	SF	Cllr Phelim Gildernew
6. Member	SF	Cllr Sean McGuigan
7. Member	SF	Cllr Sean McPeake
8. Member	SF	Cllr Dominic Molloy
9. Member	SF	Cllr Darren Totten
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Wilbert Buchanan
12. Member	DUP	Cllr Anne Forde
13. Member	DUP	Cllr Paul McLean
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Sharon McAleer
15. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Walter Cuddy

A6/21 Chair of Mid Ulster Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

The Chair, Councillor McLean invited the nominating officer for the DUP to nominate the Chair of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for year 2020-2021.

Councillor Ashton nominated Councillor Cuthbertson.

A7/21 Nominations for representation on Outside Bodies

The Chair Councillor McLean drawing attention to the previously circulated report and giving no amendments to the membership notified the report was noted.

Matters for Information

A8/21 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule 2021-2022

The Chair, Councillor McLean drew attention to the previously circulated 2021-22 Schedule of Meetings for Council and Committee meetings

The Chair, Councillor McLean reminded Members that the Remote Meetings Regulations expired on 7 May 2021 and as Department for Communities had as yet not introduced new regulations all members would be accommodated in the relevant Chamber to attend committees in person from June onwards. Arrangements will also be in place that Members who vulnerable can use zoom to connect to the meeting. It was noted that the Council meeting on 24 June 2021 would be held in the Dungannon Chamber and virtually over zoom with restricted numbers present. Representation from each party will be based on D'Hondt therefore 5 Sinn Fein, 3 DUP, 2 UUP, 2 SDLP with a further 3 spaces to accommodate Independent Members. Working within this framework will permit 2 metre social distancing.

AC9/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.45 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 a roll call of members in attendance.