

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 July 2017 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris (7.02 pm) Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McPeake, M Quinn and Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Ms Kerr, Head of Finance
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Ms Grogan, Committee Services Officer

Others in Attendance: Councillors T Quinn and Wilson

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR127/17 Apologies

None.

PR128/17 Declaration of Interest

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

PR129/17 Chair's Business

The Chair thanked Councillor Buchanan for Chairing the last meeting and to his own party for the nomination to Chair this committee.

Matters for Decision

PR130/17 Request to lease a soccer pitch on the Moneymore Recreation Centre site by Henry Joy McCracken, GAC, Moneymore

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform Members of the request by Henry Joy McCracken, GAC, Moneymore (Moneymore GAC) to lease a grass soccer pitch at Moneymore Recreation Centre and to seek direction on how to progress this request.

Councillor Doris entered the committee at 7.02 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney

Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to Officers carrying out investigatory work as outlined and report to full Council.

PR131/17 Expressions of Interest to lease soccer pitches and a Pavilion at Beechway, Cookstown

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform Members of the outcome of the Expression of Interest exercise for Sports Clubs to lease Beechway Football pitches and Pavilion.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan

Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that agreement be given to Cookstown Youth FC (CYFC) being offered the opportunity to lease Beechway football pitches and pavilion and that officers proceed to negotiate a suitable Lease before returning the agreement to Council for ratification.

PR132/17 Rainey Street Public Toilet Replacement

The Director of Environment and Property drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for funding from Council's Capital Programme for the replacement of the Public Toilets at Rainey Street, Magherafelt.

Councillor McLean enquired if the people entering the toilets were screened from the public.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that the public would still be walking into the toilets from the street but could put up a vanity wall if required.

Councillor Bateson said that a screen would be a simple thing to install and wouldn't prove expensive.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query regarding the running costs, the Head of Property Services advised that there would be no additional running costs, as these would be the same as what they are now.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake

Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to closing the existing facility and secure the funding as detailed under the Capital Programme to progress a replacement toilet for Magherafelt Town Centre.

Matters for Information

PR133/17 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 June 2017

Members noted minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 June 2017.

PR134/17 Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 & Definition of Rural

The Director of Finance drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on requirements resulting from introduction of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 and how Council Departments will practically implement the associated rural impact assessments.

Councillor Cuddy enquired about the population of the five main towns within Mid Ulster.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt all exceed 5,000 as does Coalisland so these would be classed as urban and Maghera's population would be under 5,000 so would be classed as rural.

Policy & Resources Committee June 2017, (Minute Ref: PR109 refers) resolved that:

'it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the implementation of the suggested rural proofing mechanism as it relates to Mid Ulster District Council. It is further recommended that the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs definition of rural (settlements of less than 5,000 residents) be noted and adopted by this Council as a definition for rural settlements in undertaking rural proofing, subject to the definition used by Mid Ulster Local Action Group being checked and cross referenced'.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to adopt the default definition for 'Rural' as set out within Department for Environment, Agriculture & Rural Affairs guidance relating to the Rural Needs Act, as being settlements of less than 5,000 residents. Consideration will however continue to be given to the funding and investment scenarios when implementing the required rural proofing arrangements.

PR135/17 Rate Support Grant

Members noted the previously circulated report to provide Members with an update in relation to the quantum of Rate Support Grant (RSG) to be received in 2017/18 from the Department for Communities (DfC) formerly Department of Environment (DoE).

Councillor Ashton said it would be beneficial to request a meeting with Officials who make the decisions.

The Director of Finance advised that he would take this on board.

PR136/17 Member Services

No issues.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy 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 PR137/17 to PR152/17.

Matters for Decision

PR137/17 Lands at Lime Kiln Lane, Cookstown
PR138/17 Lands at Railway Yard, Cookstown
PR139/17 Engineering Centre of Excellence
PR140/17 Greenvale Leisure Centre Management Information System
PR141/17 Capital Programme – Resource Allocation
PR142/17 Earls Project – Lease of land at Railway Park, Dungannon - STEP Building
PR143/17 Employers Liability Claim
PR144/17 Rate Support Grant Judicial Review Update
PR145/17 Collective NI District Council Leisure Services VAT Claim Update
PR146/17 Grievance Procedure for Mid Ulster District Council
PR147/17 Staffing Matters

Matters for Information

PR148/17 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 7 June 2017
PR149/17 Sickness Absence Update for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 May 2017
PR150/17 Staffing Matters
PR151/17 Contracts and DAC
PR152/17 Financial Update

PR153/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.25 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE