

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 7 November 2022

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office, Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Chief Executive,

Re: Motion – Implementation of ROMPs Legislation

At the recent Council meeting held on 1 November 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion:

This Council notes with concern how, since Local Government Reform in April 2015, the Department for Infrastructure (and the Department for the Environment before that) has failed to commence section 129 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 on the Review of Old Minerals Permissions (ROMPs).

Members are concerned that such delays in legislating for the need for historic minerals permissions to comply with modern-day environmental standards have already given rise to significant environmental harm that are beginning to impose undue liabilities and responsibilities on public authorities due to repeated Ministerial decisions since 2006 not to commence ROMPs legislation.

In recognition of the considerable pressures that the implementation of ROMPs will place on the financial and staffing resources of this Council, it is considered unreasonable to have these responsibilities and liabilities imposed upon it due to past Departmental decisions and delays.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to legislate for the removal of responsibility for the implementation, administration and delivery of ROMPs from this, and all local authorities, and to be implemented, administered and delivered by his Department in the interests of fairness, consistency, accountability and the public good as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore, we will contact the other Councils in the North to support this call and to make similar representation to the Minister/Department for Infrastructure.

The Council trusts that you will support this Motion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison McCullagh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alison" and the last name "McCullagh" clearly distinguishable.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

**From the Permanent Secretary
Mark Browne**

Councillor Cora Corry
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
DUNGANNON
BT71 6DT

E-mail: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Tel: 028 9127 9309
Email: mark.browne@education-ni.gov.uk

SCORR 0099 2022

11 November 2022

Dear Cora

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL (PS), FIVEMILETOWN

Thank you for your letter of 1 November 2022 regarding St Mary's Primary School (PS), Fivemiletown.

The Council's support for the school has been noted. I should explain that any significant change to a school, including its closure, requires the publication of a statutory Development Proposal (DP). The Department's role in the DP process commences once a proposal is published. Publication of a DP initiates a two-month objection period during which anyone can submit their views on a proposal directly to the Department.

At present, the Education Authority (EA) is undertaking pre-publication consultation in relation to DP 694 which proposes that **"St Mary's Primary School, Fivemiletown will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter"**. The pre-publication consultation ends on 23 November 2022.

Following the pre-publication consultation on DP 694, should the EA decide to publish the proposal, you may wish to resubmit your views during the statutory objection period.

At the end of the two-month statutory objection period the Department compiles and assesses all the relevant information in relation to the DP before making a recommendation to the Minister/Permanent Secretary. The recommendation takes account of:

- the proposer's Case for Change (CfC);
- objections received within the two-month objection period;
- other views including those of support received within the two-month objection period;
- advice from policy teams within the Department;

- the professional advice of the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) for the Department of Education (DE);
- an assessment of the school against all six of the criteria and indicators as set out in the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) with no weighting applied to their individual importance; and
- any other information considered pertinent to the proposal including an Equality Impact and Rural Impact assessment (if applicable).

Careful consideration is taken of the Department's recommendation and a decision is taken in the context of the Department's statutory duties, stated priorities, education policies and what is in the best interests of children and young people.

I trust this clarifies the current position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Browne', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

MARK BROWNE (Dr)

**From the Permanent Secretary
Mark Browne**

Councillor Cora Corry
Mid Ulster District Council
info@midulstercouncil.org



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Tel: 028 9127 9309
Email: mark.browne@education-ni.gov.uk

11 November 2022

Dear Cora

SCHOOL TRANSPORT – DIFFICULTIES CONTACTING EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Thank you for your letter of 31 October in relation to the difficulties experienced when contacting the Education Authority (EA) and your request for contact details for EA officers.

As you may be aware, the Department of Education is responsible for home to school transport policy and the EA for the operation and delivery of the policy, which includes determining eligibility for transport assistance. I have therefore forwarded your request to the EA and asked it to respond to you directly.

Yours sincerely



MARK BROWNE (Dr)

From: [Palmer, David](#)
To: [Eileen Forde](#)
Cc: [McLaughlin, Maria](#)
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Mid Ulster District Council
Date: 11 November 2022 20:58:56
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good Evening Eileen,

Further to your correspondence of the 1st November in relation to the planned maintenance contracts within the Mid Ulster District Council.

Following the announcement on the 26th October of the agreement to release ten contractors from planned maintenance contracts as a result of escalating cost, arrangements were made directly for the local Housing Executive office to write to the tenants impacted by any delays. The letters offered reassurance to our tenants of our commitment to deliver the improvements to their homes and that we are doing everything in our power to make sure this work is started as soon as possible.

We are currently exploring the possibility of using frameworks to bring the schemes to the market quicker, however if this is unsuccessful, it is envisaged that the schemes will go to market at the end of January/early February 2023 with a June 2023 Board approval. Initial survey/design and approval phase (at clearing house) is anticipated to be August – November 2023, with proposed December 2023 on site start date. Despite the extremely difficult economic conditions, our ambition is to increase expenditure in our programmes to over £200m in 2022/23, which is good news for our tenants and for the construction industry across Northern Ireland.

We have been engaging with the industry, contractors and partner organisations, and it is clear that the economic environment will take a long period to recover. We must continue to ensure that there is minimal disruption to programmes of work while at the same time ensure that contracts are value for money and are sustainable for the construction industry. It is hoped that we can continue to scale up our programmes as we navigate extremely difficult economic conditions.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

David Palmer
Regional Programme Delivery Manager
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Email: david.palmer@nihe.gov.uk
Ext: 85146
Tel : 02895985146
Mob: 07436354459

HousingExecutive

From: McLaughlin, Maria <Maria.McLaughlin@NIHE.GOV.UK>
Sent: 03 November 2022 15:52

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Our ref: C/183/2022

14 November 2022

Dear Chief Executive

Re: Notice of Motion – Government help with Cost of Living Crisis

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 7 November 2022 the following motion was agreed:

"Over the past few months and due to a variety of reasons and circumstances we have seen price hikes and increases on a wide scale that have impacted severely on so many in our district resulting in hardship and unable to make ends meet. Newry Mourne and Down District Council demands that the Government put in place much needed measures to provide much necessary help and support to residents of the District who have been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. If this motion is adopted Council writes to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, also the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland enlisting their support for this motion".

Members spoke at length about concerns for everyone affected by and impacted by price rises on a daily basis for everyday essentials and how the absence of the Assembly was only exacerbating the already dire situation.

Members fully supported the motion and the need for immediate action to deal with the crisis.

I would ask that you give this matter serious consideration and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

