

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 September 2018 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

Councillors Cuddy, Doris, Forde, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, McLean, Molloy, M Quinn, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mrs Kerr, Head of Finance
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR174/18 Apologies

Councillor Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Elattar, McPeake.

PR175/18 Declaration of Interest

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

PR176/18 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR177/18 New Data Protection Policy Adoption

The Head of ICT drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the adoption policy of a new Data Protection Policy.

Councillor Cuddy enquired if this was the same scenario for the rest of the 10 Councils.

The Head of ICT said that the policies are not the same they would generally reflect the same legislative assurance and controls for all Councils.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council to adopt the Data Protection Policy.

PR178/18 Property Services – Report for Permission to Commence Consultation on the Draft Council Fleet Safety Policy

The Head of Property Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval to proceed with consultation of a new Fleet Safety Policy developed for Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Draft Policy and proceed with internal consultation.

In response to a query, the Head of Property Services advised that the Unions would be involved in the process.

The Head of Property Services left the meeting at 7.08 pm.

PR179/18 Response to NILGA Report – Devolution in Northern Ireland

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report and advised that the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) had circulated a report to all Councils entitled *Devolution within Northern Ireland* seeking commentary on its contents, general proposals and direction and asked that consideration be given to the report.

Councillor Molloy said that taking on some responsibility would be a good thing for issues like infrastructure etc. but that funding would need to come with the responsibility to make sure it was done right.

Councillor Kearney advised that he attended a joint meeting NILGA, SOLACE and National Association of Councillors yesterday in Derry where discussions were continuing to take place to try and build bridges and bring things forward. He said that these meetings were very productive and useful.

Councillor McKinney stated that he would have concerns regarding this, as there was a feeling that no funding will come forward, resulting in roads becoming in a dilapidated state of repair.

Proposed by Councillor McKearney
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the draft response to the NILGA report on Devolution within Northern Ireland.

The Chair advised that Data Handling Policy, Policy on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders, Dignity at Work Policy would be taken in Matters for Decision rather than for Information.

PR180/18 Data Handling Policy, Policy on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders, Dignity at Work Policy

The Director of Organisational Development drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for:

- Data Handling Policy
- Policy on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders
- Dignity at Work Policy

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve following policies:

- Data Handling Policy
- Policy on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders
- Dignity at Work Policy

Councillor Cuddy said that there was now a lot of policies being brought forward and enquired as to how and when Officers decide when they have to be updated and reviewed.

The Director of Organisational Development advised there is usually little changes to be made, but at the moment, there were some Mid Ulster policies which need to be continuously developed and reviewed and brought back to committee for approval.

Matters for Information

PR181/18 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 September 2018

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 September 2018.

PR182/18 Annual Report and Self-Assessment on the Performance Improvement Plan 2017/18

Members noted report on Annual Report and Self-Assessment on the Performance Improvement Plan 2017/18.

The Chief Executive advised that this was a very detailed report and a lot of Officer time and investment put into developing it. He said that it shows this Council's dedication which is also subject to Auditor approval and would be confident that Officers were carrying out their intended commitments which they set out to do.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was getting the balance right and would be interested to see evidence which didn't depend on facts and figures.

The Chief Executive advised that the Auditor was very thorough and liked to see evidence on what was behind the scenes like minutes etc. He said that there was now a new Local Government Auditor in place and she had advised that she would be looking for a balance.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
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 PR183/18 to PR194/18.

Matters for Decision

- PR183/18 Staffing Issues for Decision
- PR184/18 Business Support Team Project Update
- PR185/18 Recycling Centres – Capital Expenditure Request
- PR186/18 Lease of Lands situated at the rear of Clogher Primary School from the Select Vestry Committee
- PR187/18 PEACE IV Shared Space Regional Project (“Connecting Pomeroy”) – Legal Agreements
- PR188/18 Tascomi Inflationary Price Index
- PR189/18 Local Government Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement (NIMA)
- PR190/18 Review of 2017/18 Financial Statements

Matters for Information

- PR191/18 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 July 2018
- PR192/18 Financial Report for 4 months ended 31 July 2018
- PR193/18 Contracts and DAC
- PR194/18 Staffing Matters for Information

PR195/18 Duration of Meeting

The commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.10 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____