

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 10 January 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Black*, W Buchanan, F Burton*, Clarke, Corry*, Forde*, Gildernew, McLernon*, McQuade*, Milne* (7.21 pm), Molloy* (7.15 pm), Monteith*, Quinn*, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)
Mr Clarke, Neighbourhood Development Manager (NDM)
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)
Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP)**
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 5 – Deputation – Volunteer Now
Ms Hayward – Chief Executive
Ms Gribbin – Community Engagement Manager

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.04 pm.

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

D001/24 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

D002/24 Apologies

Councillor Bell.

D003/24 Declaration of Interests

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Go Success as Chair of Cookstown Enterprise Centre.

D004/24 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to additional paper circulated in relation to Schools Sports Facilities Access Grants.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the successful grant applications as detailed in section 3.5 of the report.

D005/24 Deputation – Volunteer Now

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Ms Gribbin and Ms Hayward from Volunteer Now and invited them to make their presentation (appendix 1).

Ms Hayward made presentation on the work of Volunteer Now. Volunteer Now are a charity who work to promote, enhance and support volunteering across Northern Ireland. Ms Hayward also outlined the key challenges and trends in volunteering particularly since the pandemic.

Ms Gribbin explained the work of Volunteer Now on the ground and sought support in relation to encouraging organisations in the Dungannon area to work with them. Mr Gribbin highlighted that in other Council areas Volunteer Now are involved in Community Planning, Local Action Groups, Age Friendly Networks etc and felt there is an opportunity to work with Mid Ulster Council more closely on these matters. Ms Gribbin also referred to the digital support platform "Be Collective" which is free for organisations to use.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to the volunteering statistics and that it was interesting to note the drop in volunteering since the pandemic. Councillor McNamee stated that Mid Ulster covers the legacy Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt areas and that Volunteer Now works in the Dungannon area, the Councillor asked if Volunteer Now have any influence in the Cookstown and Magherafelt areas.

Ms Hayward advised that Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre cover the Cookstown and Magherafelt areas and that Volunteer Now cover the Dungannon area.

Ms Gribbin advised that there are organisations from across the Mid Ulster area who work with Volunteer Now and are able to avail of their training.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked the representatives for the explanation and was glad that Cookstown and Magherafelt areas were not being left behind.

Councillor Clarke stated he was surprised to hear that volunteering dropped during Covid as he was aware of a huge volunteering effort at that time and that GAA clubs had made a big commitment into supporting their own communities.

Ms Hayward stated that initially figures did not go down but that as time has gone on volunteers have fallen away as people have returned to work after the pandemic. It was advised that Volunteer Now are not alone in seeing this trend as a similar trend has been seen across Europe, America and Australia.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) referred to the previous work with Council in the Dungannon area and that hopefully this can be strengthened going forward. The SD: C&P advised of the Community Development Strategy for the District which Council hopes to embark on, subject to Committee consideration, and that part of this work will look at all the support organisations that are operating in the District and how these can be co-ordinated and maximised.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Ms Gribbin and Ms Hayward for their attendance following which they withdrew from the meeting at 7.27 pm.

Councillors Milne and Molloy joined the meeting during the presentation.

Matters for Decision

D006/24 Development Report

The Neighbourhood Development Manager (NDM) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- Rolling Community Grants
- Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 – 2024
- Pitches Strategy new Grant Programmes
- New Foodbank/Hardship Resourcing Process (Social Supermarket Proposal)
- Forest Schools Project 2023 -2025

Members made comment under the following –

Community Grants Review and Policy 2023-2024

Councillor Burton referred to the proposal to replace the rolling grants (with the exception of the Sports Representative Individual & Team Grant) process to three timebound windows with opening and closing deadlines.

The NDM stated that officers appreciated there will be a need to communicate the three opening/closing dates so that organisations can forward plan to meet the deadlines.

Councillor Burton referred to money running out for a number of the grants this year and asked did officers know how many people/organisations Council were not able to facilitate so that Members have some idea when going into the rate setting process.

The NDM stated that approximately 20-30 applications would have come in since monies were expended in October. The NDM stated that every grant is subject to available budget and it will be important for organisations to forward plan.

Councillor Molloy asked if there will be a similar budget for the three grant rounds.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that officers are currently looking at budgets as part of rate setting process for next year and that there has been some initial engagement with parties. The SD: C&P advised that at this stage the proposal is that the grants will remain static ie. There will be the same amount of money next year as there is in this current financial year, but that this will be subject to political consideration as part of the rate setting process.

Councillor Gildernew referred to the three different opening times for the grants and asked if a grant is fully expended in round one whether there will be rounds two or three or if the grant budget will be split in three.

The SD: C&P advised that there will be one overall pot for each of the individual grants and it will be advertised that a grant will be available subject to monies being exhausted. The SD: C&P stated that if all the money for a grant is expended in round one then rounds two and three will not open.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated it is hoped that organisations will forward plan and not all come in at the one time.

Councillor Burton asked how much is in the pot going forward.

The SD: C&P stated he did not have the exact figure but that it will be included in the report being issued to Members as part of the estimates. The SD: C&P advised that the amount of money being budgeted for the next financial year is the same amount as was allocated for the current financial year.

Councillor Burton stated that she would be concerned that if monies ran out this year then they will more than likely run out next year as well if the same amount is allocated. The Councillor stated that the grants do a lot for Mid Ulster in terms of bringing events/people to the area.

Councillor Monteith stated that he did not feel it makes a lot of sense to split the grants into three rounds as all organisations will apply in round one and there will be no money left for rounds two or three.

The SD: C&P stated that there is a risk but that there will always be a risk because there is not an endless pot of money. The SD: C&P stated that having three open calls as opposed to a rolling call is that at the end of each round it allows officers to understand how much resource is available for rounds two or three and that this is difficult to do at the moment because it is unknown how many applications are going to come in each month.

Councillor Monteith stated that there is the potential for organisations to lose out because they have followed the advice of officers.

The SD: C&P stated it was no different to what is happening now in that if an organisation wanted to have an event in March they may not apply until the October or November they are operating in.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that there were some groups that lost out this year and felt there is a need to look at having some sort of safety net and that there can be monies set aside to ensure that situation did not arise again.

Councillor Burton stated she would not be confident that officers were aware of how many groups missed out on funding this year and that one of the things this Council gets credit for is providing grants but that there is a need to ensure that the situation does not get any worse than it is at the moment.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to earlier comment in relation to Community Development Strategy and that part of the strategy will be to review the Grants Policy and that Members will all have an opportunity to input into this when the time comes.

Councillor Wilson referred to Council's strategic events which come through the grants process such as Cookstown 100 and Clogher Valley Show etc and stated that Council do not pay a lot of money for these and that they are the events which attract a large number of people to the area. Councillor Wilson stated that he felt the grant given towards Cookstown 100 is a pittance when considering their huge insurance costs etc and the number of people that come to the District for the event and that all strategic events should be given greater consideration.

The NDM stated that officers will take all comments on board and that hopefully the new Community Development Strategy will inform all this going forward.

Pitches Strategy new Grant Programmes

Councillor Monteith stated that when the Pitches Strategy was first discussed it was felt there would need to be work, particularly in urban areas, in the Development Plan for the zoning of land for recreational space and specifically pitches. The Councillor stated that one of the issues in urban areas is the prohibitive price of land for clubs to provide more pitches and asked for a report on any discussions between Development and Planning on this issue. Councillor Monteith referred to the maximum £50k grant available and asked if this can be used towards the purchase of lands or if the monies have to be used towards the construction of a pitch.

The NDM stated that the grant does not cover the purchase of assets or land.

Foodbanks/Hardship Funds Process (including Social Supermarket Funding)

Councillor Gildernew referred to the Social Supermarket model outlined in the report and asked if the criteria can be widened out as she felt it does not cover working families who do not fall under the listed categories. The Councillor stated there are a lot of working families in difficulties and are going to a foodbank as a last resort however they do not fall into the criteria. Councillor Gildernew stated that a number of families who are in difficulties are reaching out as a last resort however the situation is not of their making and that wording such as poor budgeting and financial

mismanagement might put them off coming forward. The Councillor referred to the eight week support and asked if someone asks for help do they get it at the start of the eight weeks, end of the eight weeks or for the eight weeks.

The NDM stated that those who are in crisis will get immediate support until the situation has stabilised and that the Social Supermarket model will kick in after this initial phase and will look at a programme of support. The NDM stated that those who are in work are not excluded but highlighted that support organisations are having to make harder choices as to who gets support and who doesn't.

Councillor Burton felt that the wraparound idea is much better as she was unsure as to the need of some people who use the foodbank. The Councillor asked how much Council has in the budget for this fund as it is important to know for the rate setting process.

The NDM advised that for the current year, the monies are all from central government and there has been no money coming from Council but that it is something to consider going forward.

Councillor Corry asked if it is a mandatory requirement to complete the debt management programmes as in some cases peoples wages are simply not going far enough.

The NDM advised there is no mandatory requirement for anyone to complete the debt management programme and that it is more the relationship between the support organisation and the individuals needs and trying to maximise the support for them.

Councillor Monteith stated he had previously asked for a breakdown of what is available in each area from the groups that Council has funded and that he has no issue with the wraparound concept but asked that if this goes out to tender how does one organisation deliver all that is outlined in the report and how can it be ensured that there is a geographic spread. The Councillor stated that all the organisations currently have different criteria for how often support can be availed of and stated that one size does not fit all and that he was unsure how the system outlined will reflect that.

The NDM stated that government policy is relying on charities and organisations providing support and it is down to the individual organisations on how they provide support and it is difficult for Council to dictate what they should or shouldn't be doing but that he would be confident that each organisation would have the best interests of trying to support those who ask for help but highlighted that demand is currently outstripping resource. The NDM stated that if money became available to appoint a co-ordinator then that person could work with the groups to co-ordinate what support was needed in a situation.

Councillor Monteith asked if officers were 100% sure that the groups can deliver this support in every postcode in the District because that was not happening at the moment.

The NDM stated that there is geographical spread across the District in terms of the organisations Council are working with but took the point that there will be some rural areas where a person will have to actively seek help.

Councillor Gildernew responded to earlier comments and stated she did not believe there was anyone that goes to a foodbank who is not in need and that she did not have issue with people not taking foods that are not going to be used. The Councillor stated that children with autism or people with other medical conditions may be able to eat some foods and not others and it did not come down to being picky. Councillor Gildernew stated that anyone who goes to a foodbank is in need and should be supported.

Councillor Burton stated that she was not against anyone who is in need of food but felt that if there are food boxes put together and a person does not want an item in that box then they should give it back and not pick what they want out of another box. The Councillor stated that the wraparound service should provide more help for the families and less stress on those trying to provide at a foodbank. Councillor Burton stated that she would like to know how much Council money is available to provide the services and what money is coming from the department as it is coming to the rate setting process.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to concern that the services will not cover every postcode area but that he had not seen a solution that will cover every postcode area and felt that if everyone was made aware of what is available close to them then there is not much more Council can do. Councillor McNamee stated that Members will have to wait to see what monies come from central government but that there is also opportunity to discuss the matter in party groupings and with officers.

Councillor Monteith stated that if a person makes contact with a foodbank then they will do their best to help the person or refer them on but that there is a perception that if a foodbank is in a certain location then a person from outside that area may not make contact as they feel there will be no support for them there. The Councillor stated that there needs to be a mechanism of advising people where they can go for help and that communications need to be better.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked that officers find out what monies is likely to come to Council and that discussions need to take place on this before setting the budget.

The SD: C&P thanked Members for their comments which were useful and will be taken on board. The SD: C&P stated that there is not a one size fits all and that one of the biggest issues will be communication and how Council continues to network with organisations. The SD: C&P stated that the report focuses on process but that running parallel is the funding of the grants and managing Council budgets along with lobbying central government and that this detail will be made available to Members as part of the rates discussions on the basis that it is known before the rate is struck.

Forest Schools Project 2023 -2025

Councillor Corry stated that the Forest Schools is an excellent programme which is highly subscribed each time it comes out. The Councillor stated that the Forest School is currently based at Hill of The O'Neill and that she had previously asked that other areas such as Iniscarn be considered.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that there are plans for Forest Schools to be implemented before the end of March in different areas across the District and that he would gather the information and circulate to Members.

Development Update – PCSP

Councillor Quinn referred to the RAPID bin being moved in Coalisland and asked that this be promoted as some people may not be aware of what a RAPID bin is.

Arts Festival

Councillor Quinn stated that there had previously been discussions in relation to a Mid Ulster Arts Festival and that there was a keen uptake amongst the arts groups for this however this interest waned when the groups realised that they would not get any extra money to partake in such a festival. The Councillor asked if officers are still investigating this and if there are monies available to encourage groups to put on performances as he felt if the initiative could be driven forward it would not only help the arts but also local businesses.

The SD: C&P advised that officers are still exploring the potential for an arts festival but that resourcing is a challenge. The SD: C&P stated that officers are looking for funding opportunities particularly under Peace+.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that officers will contact the PCSP Manager in relation to promoting the RAPID bin and its re-siting in Coalisland.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Good Relations grant as set out at appendix 1 of report.
 - To approve the Community Grant Aid Policy 2024 – 2025 as set out at appendix 2 of report.
 - To approve the approach for the 2 new grant programmes under the Pitches & Recreational Strategy as set out in report.
 - To approve the revised approaches for the Foodbanks/Hardship Funds Process (including Social Supermarket Funding) – Subject to funding as set out at appendix 3 of report.
 - To approve the Council participation in the Forest Schools Programme 2023-2025.

D007/24 Extension to the Partnership Liaison Officer post shared between Councils and HSENI

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which provided information on the extension request for the Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) post between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and district Councils and to seek approval to continue with Mid Ulster District Council's financial contribution until 31st March 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to continue with the provision of annual funding towards the Partnership Liaison Officer until 31st March 2026.

D008/24 Economic Development Report – OBFD

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report which provided update on key activities as detailed below –

- Digital Transformation Flexible Fund 2024-26
- Go Succeed Grants 2024-25
- DfE Consultation on Draft Tourism Strategy for NI – 10 Year Plan

Councillor Gildernew proposed the recommendations and as Chair of the Tourism Development Group she thanked officers for their work in putting together a very robust response to the consultation on Draft Tourism Strategy for NI – 10 Year Plan.

Councillor Burton seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

Councillor Wilson stated that he felt there were very few KPIs within the Draft Tourism Strategy and that whilst he agreed that Council's response to the consultation is very detailed it should include reference to the need for more KPIs within the Strategy as they are a useful tool to have and measure against.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that the consultation response highlights that measures are essential and should be built into the strategy but agreed to look at the wording within the response and strengthen it accordingly.

Councillor Wilson stated that he did not feel the wording within the consultation response regarding measures was strong enough at the moment and should be reconsidered to include KPIs.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –
• **Digital Transformation Flexible Fund 2024-26**
That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to approve the payment of grants to successful applicants from the Mid Ulster Council area in line with the Letters of Offer. A report will be brought to

the Development Committee thereafter to update Members on the outcome of assessment and to note approved projects.

- **Go Succeed Grants 2024-25**

That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to approve the issuing of Letters of Offer to successful applicants. A report will be brought to the Development Committee thereafter to update Members on the outcome of assessment and to note approved projects.

- **DfE Consultation on Draft Tourism Strategy for NI – 10 Year Plan**

To approve Mid Ulster Council's draft Consultation Response to DfE's Draft Tourism Strategy for NI – 10 Year Plan as set out at appendix to report, to include additional wording in relation to KPIs and; Grant delegated authority for Council's Chief Executive to submit MUDC's Consultation response to DfE, by the deadline of Friday 12 January 2024, prior to Council Meeting on 25 January 2024.

Matters for Information

D009/24 Minutes of Development Committee held on 6 December 2023

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 6 December 2023.

E010/24 Environmental Health Service Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during November and December 2023.

Councillor McLernon asked if there was an update in relation to the dredging of the River Blackwater.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that updates in relation to this were being taken through the Environment Committee but that she was aware of a further meeting being co-ordinated between Mid Ulster Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council and DfI.

Councillor Monteith referred to air pollution and previous meetings in relation to the two worst areas for this being Moy and Dungannon. The Councillor stated that there had been conversations that vegetation and billboards on Council property at New Well Road in Dungannon could be making air quality issues worse in this area and asked for a report back or that a meeting take place in respect of this matter.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) agreed to Councillor Monteith's request and highlighted that officers are looking at organising a meeting for the air quality action plan update but were waiting on confirmation of availability from statutory external partners.

Councillor Molloy referred to publicity regarding abandoned dogs and stated that he had recently visited Dungannon Park and Windmill Wood and that there were a number of dogs off the lead and that there was also dog fouling. The Councillor

stated that he had been approached by a number of people who will not walk their dog at Windmill Wood because of other dogs off the lead and asked officers to look at this and seek a way forward in reminding people that dogs should be on a lead and that dog fouling should be cleaned up.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee agreed with Councillor Molloy's comments and that the matter be brought forward to the relevant officers.

Councillor Burton expressed concern at the condition of some of the footpaths and referred to 86 year old lady who had fallen this week on Main Street, Caledon due to the condition of the footpath at that location. The Councillor asked for a report on what Council plans to do in relation to this matter as she stated that some of the footpaths are in a very bad condition.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that officers had noted the issue and would advise the relevant department.

Councillor Quinn referred to the footpaths in Coalisland town centre and that these footpaths have been slippery since the public realm scheme has finished. The Councillor referred to the Council policy which states that there needs to be three consecutive days below zero before gritting of the footpaths will take place and stated that he would like to see this policy reviewed.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that every town is the same and that there are similar issues in Cookstown but that officers would pass the comments on.

Councillor McLernon agreed with Councillor Quinn's comments and felt that the policy of three days below zero before gritting takes place does need to be looked at and that consideration should be given to preventative measures as there had been a number of falls in Coalisland recently.

Councillor Burton clarified that the fall in Caledon was not due to frost but because of a broken flagstone.

E011/24 Centre for Ageing Better UK Annual Conference

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on an Age Friendly best practice opportunity – the Centre for Ageing Better UK Network of Age Friendly Communities Annual Conference 2023.

E012/24 Update on Concept for lands at Mullagh Road, Maghera

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update from Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) on a concept for lands at Mullagh Road, Maghera that focuses on the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road / Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.

Councillor Corry stated she welcomed the concept plan circulated and the future public consultation. The Councillor felt that the scheme will be a fantastic asset to the Maghera area.

E013/24 Economic Development Report - OBFI

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the key activities as detailed below –

- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Minutes – 14 September 2023
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Update
- NIBSUP / Business Start Up Performance 2023/24
- Town Centre Spruce Up Scheme

Councillor Monteith asked if there was any further update in relation to opening up the Spruce Up Scheme to other settlements and towns. The Councillor also referred to the town centre boundaries for this scheme and that he did not see any maps within the report of the areas included/not included as he was aware that this has caused difficulties in the past.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) advised that officers had contacted DAERA to determine if they had funding available to assist with rolling out of the Spruce Up Scheme to rural areas across Mid Ulster. The AD: EDT&SP stated that DAERA advised they have no funding available in the current financial year and could not comment on budget availability for the next financial year as their budgets are not yet known. In relation to town centre boundaries the AD: EDT&SP advised that officers have strongly lobbied for the boundaries to be stretched out to the 30mph limits of each town in order to be inclusive of as many businesses as possible but on each occasion DfC had refused to accommodate such requests. The AD: EDT&SP advised that there have been a number of meetings with DfC officials in relation to this matter and stated that they will not move from their position that the town centre boundaries need to mirror the boundaries as identified within the Area Plans for the four towns. The AD: EDT&SP stated that officers are aware of Members views and entirely agree with them but stated it has not been possible to achieve this and highlighted that if Council wants to avail of DfC funding, then it must abide by DfC guidelines in terms of the eligible boundaries.

Councillor Quinn stated there are businesses on the edge of the town boundary in Coalisland who are just missing out and that if the boundary could be stretched to the 30mph it would be more inclusive. The Councillor asked if this is something DfC could move on or whether Council would have to wait on a Minister being in place to lobby them directly.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that DfC have indicated their policy position and are not willing to move from it. The AD: EDT&SP stated that if a Minister was in place, then there may be an opportunity to lobby again for a change to the current policy. Councillor Monteith stated that Council then becomes the bad guy and that there is no good news story as the same people consistently miss out. The Councillor stated that town centre boundaries has been an issue whether there has been a Minister in place or not and that the DfC's comment that the town centre boundary has to mirror the area plan does not match some of the documents produced by DfC which show different town boundaries. It was also highlighted that the area plan for Dungannon is 30 years old. Councillor Monteith stated that DfC keep moving the goalposts and

that there is no consistency and that whilst Council has to deliver the scheme for those that can avail of it he felt that if DfC want to implement the rules then they should do the grant scheme.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that the people that can avail of the grant do appreciate it and that Council does not have much option but to proceed under the DfC rules.

The live broadcast ended at 8.47 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 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 D014/24 to D016/24.

Matters for Information

D014/24 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 6 December 2023
D015/24 Economic Development - CBF
D016/24 Mid South West Growth Deal Update

D017/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.50 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

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.