



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Report of
Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster District
Council

Report of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Monday 14th January 2019 in the Council Offices, Cookstown.

Attendees Members: Cllr John McNamee (Chair), Cllr Seán McPeake, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Seán McGuigan, Cllr Trevor Wilson, Cllr Ian Milne, Cllr Rónán McGinley, Cllr Derek McKinney.

Officers: Tony McCance, Déaglán Ó Doibhlin, Rebecca Ní Dhonnaile.

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	Apologies	
	Cllr Kim Ashton, Adrian McCreesh.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
	No declarations of interest submitted.	
3.0	Minutes of previous meeting held on 8th October 2018.	
	A report of the minutes of the previous meeting of 8 th October 2018 was presented to the Working Group.	

4.0	Signage Programme update	
	<p>T. McCance provided an update on the progress of the signage programme. He highlighted that all boundary signage; play park signage and cemetery signage is now in place – excluding one boundary sign at Clogher which has been delayed due to the gas to the west project. He advised that procurement for 103 dual-lingual road signs is complete following council meeting held in December 2018 and that those signs are currently at various stages of manufacture.</p> <p>T. McCance also highlighted the issue of vandalism to signage - 12 signs have been replaced as a result of being vandalised. He informed the group that the Property Services are working hard to ensure prompt replacement/cleansing once a vandalised sign is reported. The Chair of the meeting, Cllr J. McNamee expressed his disappointment at the reports of vandalism towards signage. He enquired about reporting vandalised signs to the police and T. McCance agreed to confirm with property Services that this is happening. Cllr McNamee also enquired about the extent of the damage and the cost implementations of this. T. McCance advised that the damage reported in some cases could be significant but that costs depended on the extent of the damage and on the type of sign. He advised that not all vandalism resulted in replacement signs being required and that some could be cleaned to remove the damage. Cllr R. McGinley enquired about the locations of these vandalised signs. T. McCance explained that signs are being vandalised regularly in specific locations of the District.</p> <p>T. McCance advised the Working Group that a signage company was appointed on the 20th December 2018 for the provision of external signage at all seven leisure facilities throughout the district. These are currently in manufacture and are expected to be in place within next few weeks. He advised that once this is complete, attention will then turn towards the installation of bilingual signage at the arts facilities in the District.</p> <p>Cllr. R. McGinley expressed to the group that he has received complaints from members of the public due to the length of the process from a dual-lingual road name plate is requested until it is in place. T McCance agreed to pass these concerns on to the appropriate service Heads.</p>	T. McCance

5.0	Ulster Scots Language and cultural activity update	
	<p>T. McCance presented to the group an update on the proposal previously approved by the Working Group on 8th October 2018. He advised that it had been ratified at the council meeting at the end of November 2018. He also advised that he approached the Ulster Scots Community Network following the outcome of the decision from Council to discuss the proposal delivery. He advised that responsibility now rests with the Ulster Scots Community Network to provide details on how exactly the project will be rolled out and that the classes are expected to commence this side of the financial year close, whereas the cultural activities are more likely to occur after April.</p> <p>Cllr R. McGinley questioned the relevancy of Ulster Scots cultural activity to the RML Implementation Working Group and requested that it be removed from the title of this item in the order of business. T. McCance assured the group that no Ulster Scot cultural activity is paid for under the RML budget, but the Arts and Culture budget only. It was agreed that the 'cultural activity' aspect and wording be removed from the agenda from future Working Group meetings.</p> <p>Cllr T. Wilson questioned the legitimacy of Ulster Scots as a language and therefore the likelihood of successful classes occurring under the proposed project.</p> <p>Cllr I. Milne questioned how the demand for these classes would be proven. T. McCance explained that the Ulster Scots Community Network must determine levels of demand and then demonstrate this demand to council with numbers for classes/location of classes etc.</p>	T. McCance
6.0	Irish Language Programme update	
	<p>D. Ó Doibhlin provided the meeting with an update on the Irish Language Programme with the following information:</p> <p>Opportunities to Learn: Monthly Tús / Nasc Bootcamps continue to be successful with the remaining dates for this term occurring as follows: 19th January 2019. 16th February 2019 16th March 2019 13th April 2019</p>	T. McCance, D. Ó Doibhlin, R. Ní Dhonnaile

25th May 2019

15th June 2019

Staff Course in Council: In line with our policy objective of offering appropriate training to staff, a second 8 week course in conversational Irish begins on the 22nd January 2019. The course will run concurrently across all 3 offices with two levels on offer, beginners and refresher and follows the success of the first 8 week course began in October 2018.

National Award Winners

D. Ó Doibhlin advised the group of the success of three Mid Ulster community groups who received awards from national organisation Glór na nGael as a result of their efforts in promotion of the Irish Language. Cairde Uí Néill, Coalisland; Glór na Speiríní, Ballinascreen and An Carn, Maghera were all announced as award winners, today, 19/01/2019. Officers plan to arrange a reception for these groups in order to achieve our objective of recognising and celebrating the language in the broader context of linguistic and cultural diversity across the District

Gaeilge don Teaghlach

A new project pilot ran in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge, Carn Tochair is set to commence at the end of January. The project aims to assist non-Irish speaking parents with children attending a Gaelscoil. Officers plan to launch the project in early March.

Primary School Project

43 schools across the District took part in the project this year and we continue to receive excellent feed-back from school principals.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

As councillors were aware, we will advertise funding opportunities for individuals and community groups who wish to run Irish Language activities as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge once this is ratified by Council.

The chair of the meeting, Cllr J McNamee commended the three groups on their achievements and on all the work that they do in order to promote the Irish Language in their respective communities.

	Cllr R. McGinley advised the group that he is currently undertaking the Diploma organised under the Irish Language Programme in conjunction with Ulster University.	
7.0	A.O.B.	
	Date of next meeting to be arranged for early April 2019.	
<i>Meeting concluded at 6.30pm</i>		

Reports of Working Groups: Finalised Reports of Working Groups should be forwarded to Democratic Services on committees@midulstercouncil.org with a cover report to be scheduled on the agenda of the next available relevant committee meeting

