

Report of Corporate Good Relations Working of Mid Ulster District Council- 10 October 2022

Report of Corporate Good Relations Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on 10 October 2022 at 5.30 pm in the Committee Room, in Dungannon.

Attendees **Members:** Councillors C Corry, Cllr M Quinn (on behalf of Cllr M. Kearney)
 Officers: P Moffett, J McGuckin, A. McAleer
 Facilitator: J Kremer (Good Relations Facilitator)

In the absence of Cllr John McNamee it was agreed that John Kremer (Good Relations Facilitator) would Chair the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome: A welcome to the meeting was provided by John Kremer (Good Relations Facilitator).

Agenda Item 2: Apologies: Cllr. Kim Ashton, Cllr John McNamee, Cllr S McPeake and Cllr P McLean

Agenda Item 3: Outstanding Items: The group was informed that a delivery agent for the constitutional change had not yet been appointed following a recent tender exercise. Members suggested the consideration of alternative approaches for the identification of a delivery agent. Members suggested and agreed that delivery agents such as Ireland's Future should be considered by officers, together with delivery by a single provider with the appropriate experience.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion on Membership Participation & Involvement: Members noted that increased participation in the group would be welcomed and agreed that it was an area for further discussion at the next meeting of the working group. It was agreed that as part of this discussion to:

- Review the Terms of Reference to encourage sustained participation and involvement in the group.
- Review the Chairing and leading of the Working Group.
- Ensure 'Section 75 Business' be added as a standing item on future agendas. This item will provide an opportunity to discuss general items such as the content of the Annual Report for the ECNI and any Equality Scheme complaints or issues.
- Review the types and nature of business to be considered and ensure that the full scope of the terms of reference is utilised.

Agenda Item 5: Section 75 Training Requirements:

It was agreed to organise a Good Relations training session (open to all elected members). This session should focus on, 'What is Good Relations?' The session would aim to provide members with a clear understanding of the Council's Equality Scheme and commitments.

Agenda Item 6: Diversity and Inclusion-MUDC Chair's Priorities:

Council Chair, Cllr Cora Corry provided an overview of some of the activities that she has undertaken as part of her Diversity and Inclusion priorities. On the basis of this information it was agreed for the group to discuss the followings aspects of race relations at future meetings:

- Refugee support e.g. language requirements
- Employment barriers for the BME community
- Marking of Minority Cultural Festivals e.g. Diwali
- Spaces for Prayer/Worship
- Collaborative BME community sporting opportunities
- Provision of information and signposting for minority communities

Agenda Item 7: Date of the Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in November in Magherafelt. It was discussed and agreed that going forward the meeting location should rotate across Council area.

The meeting ended at 6.30pm