



20 April 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in
The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road,
Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 20 April 2023 at 19:00 to transact the business
noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

- 1 Notice of Recording
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the
Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in
the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item
and the nature of their interest.
- 4 Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
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| 5. | Council minutes of meeting held on 23 March 2023 | 3 - 24 |
| 6. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 3 April 2023 | 25 - 30 |
| 7. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 4 April 2023 | 31 - 50 |
| 8. | Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2023 | 51 - 64 |
| 9. | Policy & Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 6 April 2023 | 65 - 74 |
| 10. | Conference Report | 75 - 78 |

11. Delegated Authority to Chief Executive on Matters - Period of Local Election 2023 79 - 82

Matters for Information

- 12 Consultations 83 - 98
13 Correspondence Report 99 - 128

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

14. Audit Committee minutes of meeting held 21 March 2023
15. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 23 March 2023
16. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 April 2023
17. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 April 2023
18. Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2023
19. Policy & Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 April 2023
20. Mid Ulster Business Awards 2023

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 March 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Corry

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell*, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton*, Clarke*, Colvin, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Glasgow, Graham*, Kearney, Kerr, Mallaghan, Martin, N McAleer, S McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney*, McLean*, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Mullen*, O'Neill*, Quinn and Robinson

Officers in Attendance Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (AD: ODSP)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CS&F)
Ms Keys, Marketing and Communications Manager*
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

C063/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

C064/23 Apologies

Councillors Elattar, Mullen, Totten and Wilson

C065/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Corry reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

C066/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Corry advised that over the past month the focus of her the incredible talent and achievements of the residents of Mid Ulster, such as Philomena Begley, an international ambassador of music for the district as well as many individuals, clubs, groups, and organisations that we have celebrated in our latest round of civic receptions. She commented on the scope of the achievements and the depth of each award recipient's commitment and enthusiasm given to their chosen field of success.

The Chair, Councillor Corry spoke of the generosity of Mid Ulster and thanked all those who attended the Seisiún Mór and International Women's Day events. She said that not only was every entertained with fantastic traditional music, song and dance but they were also inspired by amazing women, whose achievements are making a major impact in the world of business, community and all areas of society. She advised funds had been raised to assist the vital work of her chosen charities: STEPS Mental Health, Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid and Tourette's Support NI.

In conclusion the Chair, Councillor Corry encouraged everyone to contribute to the current consultation on Performance Improvement Objectives. She highlighted that Council want to deliver the best possible services to everyone who uses them, and that is why the objectives have citizen's needs at the heart of service delivery and focus on improving outcomes for residents. She stressed that it was important to ensure Council is on the right track for the next two years and as such have developed objectives that focus on what is important for residents in the twenty first century such as the environment, cleaner neighborhoods, the regeneration of our district and making sure citizens are connected and can access services that matter to them. It was noted that details to contribute to the consultation was on Council's website and that responses should be made by 21 April.

Councillor Doris advised that she had been contacted by residents who were frustrated with the booking of swimming lessons in council owned leisure centres and said whilst she appreciated officers had put the effort in to recruit and train staff the impact of this was not being felt on the ground. She highlighted that in particular she had many complaints about the booking system and many parents have expressed disappointment as, despite being online early, they had not been able to book their children into swimming lessons. Councillor Doris quoted a parent saying that it was easier to get 'tickets for a Beyonce concert than booking swimming lessons with Mid Ulster District Council'.

Councillor Doris said the issue had been raised, work had been done but the issue was clearly not resolved and she would propose that a report be brought to the Development Committee to include an action plan as to how swimming lesson provision could be increased, booking systems improved and the provision of classes and booking systems standardised across the district.

Councillor Kerr said he too had been contacted by parents who were totally frustrated and had expressed disappointment at the lack of transparency and communication. He said that it appeared the service only remained open for a few minutes and people had even been unable to register interest, he requested that the

details be updated and lessons advertised externally. Councillor Kerr asked how Council could meet the demand as more lessons would raise more revenue and children would acquire a lifelong skill. Councillor Kerr also advised he had been contacted by Cookstown Swimming Club and highlighted difficulties in accessing Greenvale Leisure Centre for training. He proposed that Senior Officers progress a meeting as soon as possible with Cookstown Swimming Club with regard to use of Greenvale Leisure Centre to alleviate difficulties caused by short notice booking cancellations.

Councillor Quinn said he too had been contacted by parents who had been totally frustrated by the system and were taking their children and their money to other council areas. He acknowledged the issue had been ongoing for some time and more resources was needed to deliver solutions. He concluded seconding proposals of Councillors Doris and Kerr.

Councillor Cuddy said he recognised the issues being raised but felt it was important to acknowledge the good leisure staff were delivering across the district. He said his wife and family used the facilities regularly and spoke highly of them.

The Chair Councillor Corry said the matter would be referred to Development Committee for discussion.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That a report be brought to the Development Committee to include an action plan as to how swimming lesson provision could be increased, booking systems improved and the provision of classes and booking systems standardised across the district.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That Senior Officers progress a meeting as soon as possible with Cookstown Swimming Club with regard to use of Greenvale Leisure Centre to alleviate difficulties caused by short notice booking cancellations.

The Chair, Councillor Corry acknowledged that the leisure team had worked hard to address issues and a report would be processed through committee.

Councillor McFlynn spoke of Gallion Heights in Moneymore which was a new development that was only equipped for gas heating which was contracted to one provider thus removing the ability for residents to shop around. She highlighted that the Into the West gas provision bypassed Moneymore and many people had purchased their homes thinking this would be a future option. Councillor McFlynn proposed that Council write to the Regulator regarding gas provision at Gallion Heights, Moneymore stating that the letter should also seek clarity as to why the 'Into The West' gas provision is not going through Moneymore

Councillor Brown seconded the proposal and said that it was his understanding that the decision to bypass Moneymore had been a financial one.

Councillor McFlynn said she had spoken with one resident who said it cost £250 to heat her home per month.

Resolved That Council write to the Regulator regarding gas provision at Gallion Heights, Moneymore. Letter to seek clarity as to why the 'Into The West' gas provision is not going through Moneymore.

Councillor Colvin drew attention to parental alienation and explained that it was defined as a strategy whereby one parent can unintentionally and intentionally display to a child unjustified negativity aimed at the other parent with the purpose of damaging the child's relationship with the other parent and turn the child's emotions against them. He explained that the outworking of this can then be captured as a form of Domestic Abuse as it is accepted as a group of behaviours that causes high levels of conflict, confusion and distress for a child. Councillor Colvin shared that international research indicates the impact of parental alienation on children to include emotional and psychological harm, anxiety disorders, depression, trauma and complex trauma, suicidal ideation, self-harm and suicide. In conclusion he spoke of a Local charity *La Dolce Vita Project* that seeks to raise awareness of this important matter and proposed that Council permits the charity to present to an appropriate Committee.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred seconding the proposal.

Resolved That local charity La Dolce Vita Project be invited to present to committee in relation to Parent Alienation.

Councillor Sharon McAleer advised that she had been contacted by Mr Liam Dougan from Carers NI Policy Forum. She stated there was over 220k unpaid carers in Northern Ireland many, a recent survey had revealed, found it challenging to access breaks and leisure services especially due to the rise in costs due to the cost of living crisis. Councillor S McAleer said that the survey had revealed there was some 15,729 throughout Mid Ulster and only 5000 of these claimed carers allowance. She highlighted that there was no specific discounted rates of carers using council services and also of the need to support Carer ID cards. It was noted that during the pandemic Carer ID cards had been issued by all trusts and following their expiration the Northern Trust launched its own Carer ID Card, which is available to unpaid carers throughout the Northern Trust who are registered but unfortunately not all carers are registered with a trust, to date 993 people have applied for a card. Councillor S McAleer explained that the cards are not automatically issued and were not developed to provide concessionary access to events and venues it does prove someone is an unpaid carer. She further advised that the Southern Trust had not continued to process Carer ID cards post lockdown. Councillor S McAleer proposed that Council liaise with Carers NI and the NHSCT and SHSCT to progress identity card provision for unpaid carers, discuss ways of incorporating unpaid carers not registered with a Trust to allow all to access to concessions to example leisure centres, events etc and that Carers NI and representative from Carers Policy Forum

be invited to make presentation to the Council in relation to unpaid carers identity cards.

The Chair Councillor Corry seconded the proposals and said that many carers both paid and unpaid are struggling especially at this time.

Proposed by Councillor S McAleer
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Corry

Resolved That Council

- (i) Council liaise with Carers NI and the NHSCT and SHSCT to progress identity card provision for unpaid carers, discuss ways of incorporating unpaid carers not registered with a Trust to allow all to access to concessions to example leisure centres, events etc;
- (ii) Carers NI and representative from Carers Policy Forum be invited to make presentation to the Council in relation to unpaid carers identity cards.

The Chair, Councillor Corry advised that there would be an additional document for sealing and sought a proposer and seconder that it be considered later in the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That as requested Council consider the additional item for sealing Transfer and Conveyance of Lands from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to Mid Ulster Council.

Matters for Decision

C067/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2023

Councillor Kerr drew attention to C039/23 Environment Committee and sought an update on the proposed public consultation with regard to recycling centres emphasising that it needs to happen as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive advised that following ratification of the Environment Committee minutes officers would progress with decisions.

In response to Councillor Kerr’s comments with regard to changes in routes in the Torrent area the Chief Executive advised that the matter would be clarified with staff.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 23 February 2023 (C031/23 – C046/23 and C056/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C068/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Special Council Meeting held on 2 March 2023

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Special Council held on Thursday 2 March 2023 (C057/23 – C062/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C069/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 7 March 2023

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 March 2023 (P023/23 – P029/23 and P034/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C070/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 9 March 2023

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 March 2023 (PR040/23 – PR051/23 and PR066/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C071/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2023

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 (E057/23 – E074/23 and E089/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C072/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2023

Councillor Cuddy drew attention to D054/23 lands at Altmore/Cappagh and reflected on discussions from legacy councils and recent reports that a company was building two reservoirs in Scotland to generate hydro power and with the two reservoirs at Cappagh it may be a unique opportunity for council to explore the introduction of hydro power in Mid Ulster.

Councillor Mallaghan said with the watercourse at Dungannon Park there may also be opportunity for a hydro-electric project.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said that both were interesting concepts.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 March 2023 (D041/23 – D055/23 and D060/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C073/23 Conferences, Seminars and Training

The HoSS&E sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, seminars and training as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report.

C074/23 Civic Recognition Requests

The HoSS&E sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, and as detailed within the report at Appendix A.

Councillor Kearney requested that his name be added to nomination for Friel’s Bar in Swatragh.

Councillor Kerr spoke of two nominations approved previously for which he had been the nominating Councillor. He advised that detail had appeared on social media that the two nominees had been invited to a reception by the Chair as they had been unable to attend the Civic Reception event. He sought clarity as to why he had not been invited as the nominating Councillor.

The Chief Executive stated the comments would be taken on board.

Councillor Kerr sought assurance that this would not happen again.

Councillor Glasgow said his understanding was that if a nominee could not attend the civic reception to award was posted out to them.

Councillor Kerr asked if previous Chair's handled the situation in the same manner.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that all comments should be made through the Chair, he reiterated that the comments be taken on board and officers would revert to said Members.

Councillor Robinson proposed that Archie Condry, Country Club Tug of War (Mark Robinson) and Jackie Brush & Officers of Aughnacloy Rising Sons of William LOL 156 be added to civic reception list due to their being no plans for civic recognition in advance of new council.

It was noted that the proposed nominees all met the required criteria for recognition. Councillor Burton requested her name be added as nominating Councillor.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That Archie Condry, Country Club Tug of War (Mark Robinson) and Jackie Brush & Officers of Aughnacloy Rising Sons of William LOL 156 be added to civic reception list.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Members receive clarity in relation to presentation of civic awards to those unable to attend designated reception and that nominating councillors be included on invitation list to all civic award presentations

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Officers consider if recent Irish Restaurant Awards 2023 presented to hospitality venues throughout the district meet the criteria for civic awards.

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition detailed at Appendix A as outlined in the report;

Matters for Information

C075/23 Consultations

Members noted consultations received for attention of Council.

Councillor Mallaghan proposed that Council respond to Department for Energy Security and Net Zero: Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning. He stated that the response should be that Mid Ulster Council does not want nuclear activity either in the district or across the North of Ireland. He stressed it is important that local authority message is it is unacceptable.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That Council respond to Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Consultation: Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning: Closing Date 24 May 2023. Response to include that Council are opposed to any Nuclear activity across the Mid Ulster District and the North of Ireland.

C076/23 Correspondence

Members noted update on correspondence received for attention of Council.

Councillor N McAleer proposed that that Council support Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to the notice of motion - Reduction in Voting Age to include writing to the Secretary of State as outlined in the motion. He stated that there had been some positive moves in the South and Council should support.

Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to correspondence from ABC Council in relation to energy company profits, he said it was a topic Council had discussed, the profits were obscene especially in the current cost of living crisis. He proposed that Council endorse ABC Council motion and send letters as appropriate.

Councillor Doris drew attention to response from Department of Health regarding a women's health strategy and expressed disappointment that they declined the offer to meet with Council. She stated that as elected representatives each Member was the bridge from the elected and emphasised that the National Health Service is a funded body. She also alluded to waiting lists in relation to, for example, smear tests which were unacceptable.

Councillor Doris proposed that Council respond to Permanent Secretary for Department of Health expressing disappointment that they are declining to meet with Members especially given that NHS is a funded body, Members are elected to represent and there are so many ongoing issues in relation to women's health provision.

The Chair, Councillor Corry seconded the proposal stating that a Women's Health Strategy was badly needed and highlighted that advertisements in relation to heart attacks only relate to male symptoms.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That Council respond to Permanent Secretary for Department of Health expressing disappointment that they are declining to meet with Members especially given that NHS is a funded body, Members are elected to represent and there are so many ongoing issues in relation to women's health provision.

Councillor Mallaghan seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council support the motion moved by ABC Council and write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in similar terms as requested.

Councillor Gildernew drew attention to correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in relation to consultation regarding South West Acute Hospital. He proposed that Council send a robust response to the consultation as a large proportion of Mid Ulster residents use the SWAH hospital. He advised that going by google maps it was 17 miles from Fivemiletown to SWAH but 43 miles to Craigavon Area hospital and stressed that those in outlying areas would have to travel further. He said that the hospital had difficulty in attracting consultants and Council needed to make strong representation as in a life saving situation 20 miles made a huge difference. Councillor Gildernew concluded that the hospital was noted for its work with stroke patients.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal.

Resolved That Council support Fermanagh & Omagh District Council request and respond positively to the SHSCT Public Consultation on the South West Acute Hosital.

Councillor Colvin referred to the earlier proposal to support Newry Mourne and Down District Council motion regarding the age of voting. He said not everyone agreed with the Sinn Féin position and he himself would like more information on the matter. He said for example in America the age to drink was 21 whilst in Northern Ireland it was 18. With regard to the proposal to support ABC Council motion regarding the energy company profits he said it was somewhat disingenuous of Council to speak of others when the rates had been raised by almost 8% and ABC Council rates raised by approximately 7% and concluded that people in glass houses should not throw stones.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Gildernew's comments regarding SWAH and said whilst residents of the Clogher Valley paid their rates in Mid Ulster they worked, shopped and were educated in Fermanagh and it was important for Council to respond to the consultation. She said the issue regarding getting doctors to work west of the Bann was huge and Council should be robust in its response.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the correspondence from Department of Infrastructure emailed to Members. He welcomed the response but said the

response only referred to a bunker available in Magherafelt and asked if clarity could be obtained as to whether it was available elsewhere in the district.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if when correspondence comes for information, Council decides to support the request surely it is not an endorsement of Mid Ulster Council policy.

The Chief Executive said the Member was correct that the request was an endorsement of another councils position. He said Mid Ulster policy would be agreed through Policy & Resources Committee then ratified by Council.

Councillor S McAleer concurred with the comments in relation to SWA Councillor Gildernew referred to comments in relation to Department for Infrastructure and raise the issue of resurfacing works on Main Street, Caledon. He said the entire street was closed in both directions for 12 weeks and businesses were 'up in arms' and it had been a topic on the Nolan show earlier in the day. He requested that Council write to DfI and also the Contractors to ask if a light system could be introduced to allow access from one or other side of the road.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said the issues would have to be considered by environment committee.

Councillor S McGuigan drew attention to correspondence from Planning Appeals in relation to A5 public enquiry timetable and said that at a meeting of the A5/A2 group all councils had been asked to be supportive and also highlight the public enquiry on all platforms to encourage people to respond.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Corry and

Resolved That Council promotes the A5 Public Enquiry timetable on its website and communication platforms encouraging people to respond.

The Chief Executive stated there had been a proposer and seconder to support Newry, Mourne and Down district Council request and a counter proposal by Councillor Colvin thus it would go to vote.

Councillor Colvin said it had been a comment but then proposed not to support the request but to seek more information on the matter.

Councillor Glasgow seconded Councillor Colvin's proposal.

Councillor Kerr stated he fully supported the quest for the voting age to be lowered as young people were more inclined to use their vote, he also said he would not look to America for guidance as you can walk into Walmart and buy a gun.

Councillor Colvin reiterated he was not against changing the age to vote but he would like that it is referred to relevant committee for debate.

Councillor N McAleer said he was happy with his proposal.

Councillor Mallaghan sought clarity as to why it had been stated it would go to vote when Councillor Colvin had not formerly proposed.

The Chief Executive said he had assumed it was a proposal.

Councillor Mallaghan said he thought it had been a concern.

Councillor Cuthbertson sought clarity as to what the letter would say.

Councillor N McAleer said it was straightforward in that Council would support Newry Mourne and Down District Council motion and send a letter as request.

Councillor Glasgow said he had 'no notion of what was going on but it was no surprise regarding a vote as it would mean skipping through the thought process.

The Chief Executive said it would be Members decision.

Councillor Cuthbertson again sought clarity as to what the letter would say and that it would not be the policy of Mid Ulster Council.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said the letter would detail that Mid Ulster supported the Newry Mourne and Down motion.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated the Chief Executive stated this would not happen.

The Chief Executive said the letter would state support for the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Corry called for a vote on Councillor N McAleer's proposal.

For	21
Against	13
Abstained	0

The Chair Councillor Corry declared the proposal carried.

That Council support Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to the notice of motion - Reduction in Voting Age to include writing to the Secretary of State as outlined in the motion.

Councillor Burton referred to earlier comments in relation to road works at Caledon and said whilst there is conflict the works has been long awaited. She said she thought there was a light system.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said the matter could be discussed at Environment Committee.

Councillor Burton sought clarification regarding travel permits as she had been advised they were issued to council on 15 March but Members had not received copy.

The Chief Executive reiterated the Chair's statement that the matters would be looked at by the Environment committee and reminded Members it was not an agenda item.

Councillor Glasgow reflected on the traffic management at Moneymore and said that communications regarding diversions needed to be shared early.

Councillor S McAleer concurred with comments in relation to the response to be sent to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health. Councillor S McAleer mentioned the roadworks.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said road work matters would be referred to Environment Committee.

C077/23 Notice of Motion

Councillor S McPeake moved the motion,

"That this Council recognises the vital role that 'Out and About Community Transport' and 'Shop Mobility' organisations provide in our towns and rural areas of Mid-Ulster for various user groups including the elderly, people with disabilities, the unemployed and our young people and that this Council is shocked to learn that these much valued, not-for profit, Charitable organisations have been put on notice that no departmental funding is guaranteed for them beyond April 2023 and that this Council seeks an urgent meeting with DFI Permanent Secretary seeking the securing and ring fencing of the budget necessary to sustain this vital service to our rural communities"

Councillor S McPeake speaking on the motion said, "It was approximately a fortnight ago when I was first made aware of the potential cuts to 'Rural Community Transport' and 'Shop Mobility' services locally. It was at a meeting the week earlier where a DFI official had with Rural Transport Managers across the north when this official stated that no further DFI funding could be guaranteed to sustain these services post April 2023. Out and About Community Transport run a vital service throughout the district providing over 18,000 'Dial-a-Lift' services each year. They provide transport for people with disabilities, health appointments, Day centre appointments, shopping, local employment, training needs, links to wider public transport or going out to meet family or friends. The breadth and importance of these services to the health and wellbeing of our local communities is truly immense.

Shop Mobility provides equipment for people with disabilities to help them travel around towns. They bridge the gaps in the health service by providing equipment and support to people with a broad range of mobility issues. They work closely with the medical profession, GP's, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, providing wheelchairs, mobility scooters and other walking aids for those needing them.

As news of the potential funding shortfall began to emerge the sheer and devastating impacts that the cuts would have quickly dawned on those directly impacted. Not least to the committed staff and the many service users whose lives would be most

directly impacted. Users of the services that include many of the most vulnerable groups in our society. I have spoken with the managers of the service providers whose futures are being threatened and they are at a loss for what it means to their clients whom they see more of a family than customers or clients and also their staff and volunteers and they are seeking support of any kind to help save the services.

Just a few days ago I received a call from an elderly lady who, that morning had received notice from Out and About, that potentially her weekly visit to the town was going to stop as a consequence of cuts to the rural transport budgets. She wanted whatever could be done to be done to save this vital service. She spoke of her looking forward to her weekly excursion to the town with friends of mixed religions, most of whom were like herself, lived alone and whose only social occasion of the week was to meet others thanks to Rural Community Transport. To say that this lady I spoke to was in despair would be an understatement. She was devastated at the thought of what might happen, should the service cease.

For me the possible termination of these services would be disastrous in so many fronts and serious questions need to be asked as to why these services are under threat. For example-does the department not to have a statutory duty to sustain these services to these people, the elderly, people with disabilities. Has, or will there be Equality Impact Assessments carried out to determine the impacts such cuts will have on these groups of people? We hear a lot being talked about the policy of 'Rural Proofing'. Where does Rural Proofing fit in when vital services to the most disadvantaged rural dwellers could possibly be stripped away, surely rural proofing and safeguarding these services cannot be ignored?

I have seen correspondence which Francie Molloy MP has received from Secretary of State in response to Francie's request to him seeking assurances on the Rural Transport and Shop Mobility budgets being secured. In the response the Secretary of State says that resolving such matters is the role of elected members of the NI Assembly and in the absence of such the matter should be referred to Department of Infrastructure. We are clearly at a disadvantage at present in terms of having no Assembly up and running or elected and accountable Ministers to lobby on this important issue affecting all our communities. What I am proposing is that we nevertheless request a meeting with the DFI Permanent Secretary on this issue and seek the ring fencing of funds that are so absolutely vital for the retention of these services within our district."

Councillor McNamee seconded the proposal and said he had been a director of Rural Transport and a member of Shop Mobility and would concur with Councillor S McPeake. He said intervention is needed from the Secretary of State and Permanent Secretary as to not save this service would be scandalous.

Councillor Bell said people had worked tirelessly to build the services up and the impact would be felt on the whole of the North.

Councillor S McGuigan concurred with previous contributors and said he had met with Mark Farquhar and the Chief Executive of Community Transport over the past weeks. He spoke of the range of emotions being felt by service providers and users in that they felt shocked, angry and attacked. He said he had submitted questions

but to date had received no answers. Councillor S McGuigan reiterated the question about the impact assessments especially on elderly people, if a cost benefit analysis had been carried out, who would absorb the gap in costs. He highlighted that the service is across a range of departments and a joint approach was needed. He concluded that it was imperative that Council seek a halt to the withdrawal of funding.

Councillor Martin spoke of the shock in the community when people learned that the funding was not guaranteed post March. She said like other Members had been inundated with calls from service users who would feel the impact of the cuts both in their physical and mental wellbeing given that 80 and 90 years olds would be losing their independence. She said she had a specific interest in the service as one of her parents had MS and whilst they don't avail of the service directly many of their friends from rural areas who attend MS support groups describe the service as a lifeline. She concluded that the SDLP would support the motion.

Councillor Kerr supported the motion stating it was a vital service which should be retained and not decimated.

Councillor Glasgow said the UUP would support the motion and shared that he had attended a meeting along with Councillors McFlynn and Forde at Community Transports new premises. He said they are a rural service and as such he would like to see the equality impact assessment, Section 75 as in the words of one community group their life line was being cut off. He said it had recently been discussed at planning committee that a journey of 7 mile required three bus changes. He said this happening shows the importance of devolved government and said that the Secretary of State is in charge when devolved government is not in place. Councillor Glasgow said the people using the service did not care about nationality or anything else they just wanted the service to go to church, the shops, support groups etc. He highlighted that occupational therapists and hospitals refer people to the service so they can attend appointments and the impact of cuts would be wide spread. He said elected members at local government level were the only body meeting at present and thus must do all they can. In conclusion, Councillor Glasgow said that the withdrawal of the service would have a serious detrimental impact on mental health as people would be left stuck in their homes and this situation demonstrated the need for effective devolved government.

Councillor Colvin concurred and said it was an insensitive cynical attack on the most vulnerable in society. He shared stories of service users and said that the Secretary of State had a track record of making decisions and there is bound to be money to sustain this service. He concluded that civil servants should hang their heads in shame and Council must make the strongest case possible for those impacted.

Councillor Burton said the DUP would support the motion stating that since the news broke of the cuts there is a public outpouring of despair given the huge impact they would have on the most vulnerable in society. Councillor Burton said that she represents council on CDM Community transport and knows first hand the vital need the service provides both in through the door to door and dial a lift. She said it was somewhat ironic that DfI introduced the service and now it is Shopmobility and Community Transport who deliver it. She spoke of the friendships which evolve as

people travel together to shop or attend appointments and the vital lifeline the service provides to many elderly people. Councillor Burton spoke of the 154 staff across Northern Ireland 15 of whom were in Mid Ulster and 6 within Shopmobility stating that they were the front face of the service and were in fear of being put on notice. She highlighted that the deadline for written confirmation 29 March for April funding and stressed the urgency especially given the end of the financial year when lease agreements may need renewed and also referred to the 2017 legislation that permitted the Department of Finance to redirect funding. In conclusion Councillor Burton asked if Councils strategic development grant funding could be fast tracked to the organisations.

In response to the Chair, Councillor Corry's query Councillor S McPeake said that points raised by Members had been pertinent and he was happy to include them in correspondence in particular relating to impact assessments. He said he was delighted with the views and support across the Council on what was a very emotive issue.

The Chair, Councillor Corry declared the motion carried.

Councillor Corry said that the matter was close to people's hearts and it was dreadful the impact it would have should services be cut on 1 April especially given the aging population.

C078/23 Notice of Motion

Councillor McFlynn speaking on the motion said, "During Covid our health service was under extreme pressure. Dentists practically closed apart from emergency appointments. Our hospitals and A and E were complete overwhelmed. Our GPs and practices were also under stress. Appointments were difficult to get and we are still hearing stories of how difficult it can be to get an appointment with your GP. When GPS closed pharmacies had great difficulty get the prescription though for patients. During that time our Pharmacies stepped up a gear and filled the gap helped people every single day and we should all be extremely thankful. They carried out blood pressure checks, diabetes checks and filled blister packs for the vulnerable and they continue to offer these services without funding. They helped residents with heart conditions and helped deliver vaccinations. Approximately 123,000 people visit the 523 pharmacies every day in N Ireland that's a staggering 37m visits each year.

The Mid Ulster SDLP team recently met with community pharmacies NI and local pharmacists from Mid Ulster and Fermanagh. We wanted to thank them for the work they have done in recent years and to hear first-hand the difficulties they are facing. Which included staff issues, accessing drugs and the cost of getting them delivered due to increase fuel costs. The finances they are currently receiving are nowhere near what they need to maintain their service. Some pharmacies are facing closure and where will our residents be then. Pharmacists feel that the computer systems between the health service GP surgeries and pharmacies could be digitalised which would make it easier for patients to obtain their medications without having to contact the GP this would be very helpful to long term patients they wouldn't have to continually order the medications at the surgery. The KPMG report estimates that

community pharmacies could be underfunded by 30% in 2022/23. It also states that NI could question the drug tariff it receives in comparison to other regions in the UK.

The remuneration and reimbursement options provide mechanisms to address the funding deficit which would enable long term sustainability and viability of this important primary sector care. The community pharmacy commissioning plan which was agreed by our previous health minister Mr Robin Swan if implemented could bring benefits to patients and deliver efficiencies to the health service.”

Councillor McFlynn moved the motion

“This Council recognises the vital role played by Community Pharmacies, particularly in rural areas, in providing access to healthcare during the Covid-19 pandemic and that the network made a huge contribution to the public health response through new and enhanced roles developed in conjunction with the Department of Health and the Health and Social Care Board. Notes the finding of a recent KPMG report that estimates the cost of providing community pharmacy services for 2022/23 to be around £200million compared to indicative community pharmacy funding of £133.2million. Agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Health highlighting this funding deficit, and calls on any incoming Executive to secure the significant investment needed to implement the agreed 2021 Community Pharmacy Commissioning Plan.”

Councillor Kearney seconded the motion and said like the motion presented by Councillor S McPeake society is being confronted by another vital service in crisis. He said that often community pharmacies were family run passed down generation to generation, they serve their local communities and had been a tremendous prop to the health service especially during covid. Councillor Kearney concluded that health centres were closing throughout the north and that as his son was a community pharmacist he was very aware of the demand on their services.

Councillor Doris said that Sinn Féin would support the motion. She said that community pharmacists play an excellent role in taking the pressure off hospital and GP services and fully deserve more support.

Councillor Brown stated that community pharmacies play a crucial role and are the most accessible in care providers. He stated they understand their communities, are well placed to deal with marginalised groups and are greatly appreciated by the wider public. He said that throughout the pandemic they remained open and played a huge role in the vaccination programme. He concluded that the DUP would support the motion.

Councillor Glasgow stated that the UUP would support the motion. He said that the pandemic had changed everything but the community pharmacy continued their role at a time when dentists closed and GPs were limited. Councillor Glasgow said that to remove community pharmacies would be another detriment. He spoke of Robin Swann in his time as Health Minister had pushed to enhance community pharmacies especially given that GPs are struggling. He highlighted the services being provided by community pharmacies such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol checks, diet

advice and a first point of contact for new mothers. He concluded that the UUP would support the motion.

Councillor Kerr supported the motion stating that during the pandemic community pharmacies had stood up to the test and spoke of the support the community volunteer group had given local pharmacies during the pandemic to ensure people received their medication.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said that community pharmacies provide a fantastic service and declared the motion carried.

Councillor McFlynn thanked Members for their support and said it was vital to fight for the retention of this service in that they can stay close to residents so that people do not have to travel to the next town.

C079/23 Notice of Motion

Councillor Quinn moving the motion said, "If you are a councillor in the Dungannon area you will no doubt know about the First Steps Women's Centre based in Dungannon Town. If you are not from the area you will know it by reputation alone and I know chair you yourself called into the centre only a few weeks ago. If by some accident you don't know the centre then it can simply be described in one phrase and that is "A LIFE LINE". The services that the centre provides can really be described as 2nd to none. It is a life line to struggling mothers who can't get the help they need anywhere else and it's a lifeline to women coming from other countries who are struggling, in dire need or simply running out of option to look after themselves and their family.

This centre provides a warm safe space for women, it's gives them a chance to meet other people in a similar situation, it's gives them links to educational courses, to badly needed counselling, it's gives them the chance for professional child care which is an invaluable resource to those mothers who are trying to advance themselves in ways that simply wouldn't be possible without FSWC. It also provides safe transport for those at risk and for those women now able to get into the centre themselves. It helps those coming to our shores the chance to learn English which in turns helps those families integrate better into our community. Their staff have been able to bring in a minimum of 450k per annum over the last 12 years into the mid ulster area. They have provided 350 course places, 65 child care places as well. Last week Cllr McAleer, Patsy McGlone MLA and myself met with Michael McGoldrick and he was able to show us first-hand the amazing work that they do, he was also quick to stress how helpful and supportive our council have been in the past and particularly our current chief executive. During the visit I was simply blown away by the wide range of help offered by FSWC, to have something like this on our doorstep is something we should be very proud off. We can't underestimate the impact that this service has in our rural areas as well.

Despite all this work, these services are now at risk because of the cuts set to come in. FSWC are set to lose 270K per annum because of the cut to the ESF fund. They are having to make 5 of its staff redundant, losing over 62 years' experience. They

are going to lose additional services like their benefit checker which has brought in 500k over the last 10 years to the Mid-Ulster area

These are just some of the losses they are facing, but the impact of that those cuts will have on the community as a whole will be devastating. It's not over stating it that losing these services may have fatal impacts for some living in our community. I am also well aware that it is not just FSWC that are going to have their services devastated, with other groups in Mid-Ulster facing similar cuts"

Councillor Quinn moved the motion

"That this Council notes with concern the massive reduction to ESF funding which will have major implications in both the voluntary and community sector right across Mid-Ulster which will many vulnerable people at risk. That the Council calls for an emergency meeting with the permanent secretaries to Department for Communities, Department for the Economy, Department of Finance and Department of Health to discuss."

Councillor Quinn stated that it may not be possible to have the meeting prior to the elections but emphasised it should be a priority in the new council term.

Councillor Kearney seconded the motion stating that the funding would be sorely missed as the centre supported education, provided mentoring, counselling and other services. He referred to the consequences of the Barnett formula and drew attention to childcare provision in England which monies has recently been made available for 30 hours of free childcare. He spoke of a National Association of Councillors NI event earlier in the day which highlighted the number of people who benefitted from the funding to be approximately 200k and its loss would leave a huge gap and also lead to job losses.

Councillor Cuddy said that the UUP would support the motion. He said ESF had provided development of work place skills and helped people in reaching their full potential. He said it was imperative to find a way forward.

Councillor Kerr concurred with the points raised and highlighted that he had raised the same issue at the February Development committee. He said a number of education facilities receive ESF funding and the impact of its loss would be felt both locally and nationally. He concluded that local facilities provide good courses which are much needed.

Councillor Buchanan stated that the DUP would support the motion.

Councillor Molloy said that Sinn Féin would support the motion stating that ESF funding cuts had been predicated with the arrival of Brexit and it was clear there was no plans to replace it. He said it FSWC carry out sterling work, as a party they had engaged with them and would support all that can be done to protect funding.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said she too had engaged with groups back in October and had lobbied on their behalf she stated that the groups do good work and this was another example of the result of Brexit and the most vulnerable being impacted.

The Chair, Councillor Corry declared the motion carried.

Councillor Quinn thanked parties for their support and stated that he was delighted to see three motions carried this evening.

The live broadcast concluded at 8.55 pm.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That items C080/23 to C086/23 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 23 February 2023
- (ii) Planning Confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 March 2023
- (iii) Policy & Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 March 2023
- (iv) Environment Confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 March 2023
- (v) Development Confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 March 2023
- (vi) Council Insurances 2023/24
- (vii) Document for Sealing – Grant of Easement/Wayleave Land Registry CLC001-0004

C087/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.07 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 – apologies and then a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 3 April 2023 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McGuigan, Chair

Councillors Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Cuthbertson, Glasgow*, Graham, Kearney, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, B McGuigan*, McNamee*, Milne (7.09 pm)*, O'Neill*, Totten*, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)
Kathryn Donnelly, Council Solicitor (CS)**
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)**
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES)**
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)
Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 20:
Belfast City Council:
Cormac McLaughlin, Council Legal Rep

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.06 pm.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor S McGuigan 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.

E090/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

E091/23 Apologies

None.

E092/23 Declarations of Interest

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

E093/23 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

E094/23 Street Renaming

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the renaming of a street in a new residential Housing Development within Mid Ulster District Council.

- Site Off Killyfaddy Road, Magherafelt.

Options to be considered:

1. Hillside Manor
2. Hillside Hall
3. Hillside Way

Proposed by Councillor Kearney

Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development Site Off Killyfaddy Road, Magherafelt as Hillside Manor.

E095/23 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential housing development within Mid Ulster. Requests for the naming of streets within proposed residential development as follows:

- Sites off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield, Dungannon

Proposed by Councillor Burton

Seconded by Councillor Graham

Site 1 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH1)

1. Lisnacastle Gardens
2. Lisnacastle Park

3. Lisna Park

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development at Site 1 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH1) as Lisnacastle Gardens.

Site 2 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH2 Left)

1. Braefield Mews
2. Braefield Gate

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development at Site 2 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH2 Left) as Braefield Mews.

Site 3 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH2 Right)

1. Braefield Lane
2. Braefield Avenue

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development at Site 3 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH2 Right) as Braefield Lane.

Site 4 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH3)

1. Braefield Manor
2. Braefield View

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development at Site 4 off Lisnamonaghan Road, Castlecaulfield (PH3) as Braefield Manor.

Matters for Information

E096/23 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 14 March 2023

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 March 2023.

E097/23 Bin Ovation Update

Members noted update on usage and functionality of the Bin-Ovation App.

Councillor S McAleer referred to the confusion around the correct day for bin collections on Eglish Road, Dungannon as the Bin Ovation App was displaying incorrect information at present.

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) advised that the Bin-Ovation App was a high-tech educational awareness tool which allows the the Council to share its waste/recycling information with residents 24/7, 365 days a year. The App provides instant information to users via smart phone/tablet devices. The AD: ES said that issues had arose but would be remedied when the online software provider completed an entire update.

E098/23 Update on Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers

Members noted update on the Government response to the previous consultation on the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers.

E099/23 Community Repaint Scheme/Funding

Members noted update on the successful funding application to the Paint Reuse Capital Grant Scheme.

E100/23 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E101/23 Renaming and Renumbering Existing Streets

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on results of a request for the Renaming and Renumbering of an existing street.

E102/23 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

E103/23 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E104/23 ESB Electric Vehicle Network Charging Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the introduction of pay for use of ESB public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network from 26th April 2023.

Councillor Cuthbertson enquired if there was any date set yet for Scotch Street.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that ESB hasn't been in touch yet but would follow up the matter and provide an update to the member.

Live broadcast ended at 7.14 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Burton 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 E105/23 to E113/23.

Matters for Decision

- E105/23 Contract for the Collection and Recycling of Cardboard
- E106/23 Application for Memorial Plaque on Council Property
- E107/23 Contract for the Collection and Recycling/Recovery of Scrap Metal and Lead Acid Batteries from Council Recycling Centres
- E108/23 Electricity Suppliers 2023/24
- E109/23 Gribbens Bar Entertainment License Application

Matters for Information

- E110/23 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 14 March 2023
- E111/23 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E112/23 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E113/23 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E114/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.00 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:-

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- 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

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 4 April 2023 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor Mallaghan, Chair

Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke* (7.13 pm), Colvin, Corry, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Martin*, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn*, Robinson

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Service Director of Planning (SD: PI)
Mr Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning (HSP)
Ms Doyle, Head of Local Planning (HLP)
Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor
Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
Mr McClean, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)**
Ms McKinless, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Molloy***

LA09/2021/0719/F
LA09/2022/1561/O

Councillor B McGuigan
Mr Cassidy***

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

P035/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

P036/23 Apologies

None.

P037/23 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in agenda item 6.13 – LA09/2022/0097/O.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest in agenda item 5.5 – LA09/2022/0314/F.

P038/23 Chair's Business

The Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) referred to planning application LA09/2017/1349/F for animal isolation and farm machinery store located SW of 37 Rocktown Lane, Knockloughrim which was agreed to be approved at the September planning meeting. The SD: PI stated that the approval was subject to a condition which would require visibility splays to be provided however he advised that the approval was not issued because upon further examination it was concluded that there was an existing lane, the sheds did not represent intensification of the use of the lane and therefore the condition did not need to be applied. The SD: PI stated that Roads Service have been advised and are in agreement with the planning department and he asked for committee approval to grant planning permission without the condition.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2017/1349/F be approved without condition in relation to visibility splays.

The SD: PI referred to addendum and PAC decision in relation to unauthorised power plant at Granville. The SD: PI stated that an Enforcement Notice had been served because the appellant was unwilling to make an application and to ensure that the development did not become immune, particularly as there was a great deal of local objection. At the appeal it was argued it was permitted development under industrial permitted development rights, however the planning department argued that these did not apply as the use dealt with waste to generate heat. The Commissioner agreed with the Planning Department. As part of the appeal the appellant also appealed on the grounds planning permission should be granted, following investigation the Council concluded it did not wish to give reasons for refusal as a result the Planning Appeals Commission granted approval. The SD: PI advised that this was a satisfactory outcome as it had protected the Council from complaint, had brought the development under planning control, whilst also allowing anyone who opposed the development to have their say.

The SD: PI referred to 12% increase in planning fees last week, he stated that there had only been one 1% increase in fees over the last seven years and that the increase is needed for the sustainability of the planning department and also to help balance out a possible reduction in plans being submitted and loss of revenue in the coming year due to interest rate rises etc.

The SD: PI stated that this was the last planning committee meeting of the electoral term and it was worth reflecting on it, he advised that Covid had obviously took its toll during the term in respect of meeting targets and also referred to the difficulties in progressing the Area Plan. The SD: PI highlighted the introduction of the new computer system and that this will help to give control as to how to manage and develop the service going forward and that there is opportunity to survey customers on how the service can be further tailored. The SD: PI also referred to restructuring

process within the department which he felt will help to see the planning service through the next term. The SD: PI felt that the closing term has been successful considering some of the issues which have had to be dealt with.

Councillor S McPeake referred to report being brought to P&R Committee this week in relation to Scheme of Delegation for planning and asked if this related to the same issues discussed and agreed on some months back.

The SD: PI advised that this did relate to the same thing. The SD: PI stated that the Scheme of Delegation was agreed on following workshops etc close to a year ago and that this was then sent to the Department for their agreement and was now returning to the P&R Committee for approval.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to the area plan for Fermanagh and Omagh which is now through and asked what the timeframe was for the Mid Ulster plan.

The SD: PI stated that he has found the approach of the Department in relation to the area plan to be to be exceptionally unhelpful and unreasonable thus far. The SD: PI advised that officers are working on the comments sent back by the Department in relation to the Mid Ulster area plan and that there will be opportunity to discuss and plan a way forward at the recommencement of meetings in June.

Matters for Decision

P039/23 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2018/0703/F 6 semi-detached houses at sites 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 Killyliss Manor, Eglish, Dungannon for PKJ Construction Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2018/0703/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/0703/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1065/F 12 semi-detached two storey houses and associated site works at sites 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 & 38 Killyliss Manor, Eglish, Dungannon for MSJ Contracts Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1065/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1065/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0966/F **Housing development of 26 two storey dwellings, site road and associated site works at lands 20m W of 180 Battery Road, Moortown, for Loughview Developments**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0966/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The Head of Local Planning (HLP) advised that amended plans had been received in relation to the application and that this was re-advertised. The HLP advised that neighbours or objectors were not notified of the changes therefore the application should be withdrawn from tonight's schedule to allow the notification to take place.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0966/F be withdrawn from tonight's agenda and be brought back when notification of neighbours and objectors has taken place.

LA09/2022/0230/O **Site for dwelling and garage at lands approx. 30m SE of 99 Mullaghboy Road, Bellaghy, for Mr Hugh Glackin**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting.

Councillor Mallaghan withdrew from the Chair to the public gallery for the next item. Councillor Brown took the Chair.

LA09/2022/0314/F **Retention of 2 additional fun farm buildings with the reconfiguration of parking and turning areas (approved LA09/2017/1704/F); utilisation of the existing access lane, with improvements to the existing access, to serve the business (lane approved under LA09/2017/1704/F not to be built) at 250M NE of 260 Drum Road, Cookstown for Martin McDonald**

The Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) referred to email received from Council Health and Safety Officer which raised concern in relation to the sharing of the laneway with a quarry and stated he would like to further investigate the status of the quarry and the related concerns and therefore suggested that the application be deferred.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0314/F be deferred for further consideration.

Councillor Mallaghan returned to Chair the meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting –

Agenda Item 5.4 - LA09/2022/0230/O - Site for dwelling and garage at lands approx. 30m SE of 99 Mullaghboy Road, Bellaghy.

Agenda Item 5.5 - LA09/2022/0314/F - Retention of 2 additional fun farm buildings with the reconfiguration of parking and turning areas (approved LA09/2017/1704/F); utilisation of the existing access lane, with improvements to the existing access, to serve the business (lane approved under LA09/2017/1704/F not to be built) at 250M NE of 260 Drum Road, Cookstown.

Agenda Item 5.6 - LA09/2022/0385/F - Retention of garage and container units at entrance to quarry site off the Lurgylea Road, (SW of The Church of the Immaculate Conception) 100m NE of 141 Cappagh Road, Galbally, Dungannon.

Agenda Item 5.8 - LA09/2022/1408/O - Infill dwelling and domestic garage at 70m NE of 107 Drummerrerr Lane, Coalisland.

Agenda Item 5.10 - LA09/2022/1563/O - Dwelling and domestic garage on infill site at lands 68m S of 90 Cookstown Road, Dungannon.

Agenda Item 5.13 - LA09/2022/1697/O - Dwelling and garage at 60m NE of 11 Creagh Hill, Castledawson.

Agenda Item 5.16 - LA09/2022/1761/F - Infill/gap sites for 2 dwellings and domestic garages at 90m NW of 28 Mawillian Road, Moneymore.

Agenda Item 5.18 - LA09/2023/0105/O - Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 60m E of 32 Drummuck Road, Maghera.

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2022/0385/F	Retention of garage and container units at entrance to quarry site off the Lurgylea Road, (SW of The Church of the Immaculate Conception) 100m NE of 141 Cappagh Road, Galbally, Dungannon for Mr Terry Donnelly
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Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1145/F **Office building with associated access, vehicle and cycle parking, drainage infrastructure, hard and soft landscaping and bin storage and external plant within fenced enclosure at lands at Tobermore Road, opposite 15-17 Cherry Hill and approx. 50m S of 58 Largantogher Park, Largantogher, Maghera for BSG Civil Engineering Ltd**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1145/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The SD: PI referred to addendum and late objection received and whilst the objection raises concerns he does not see these as being in opposition to this proposal.

Councillor S McPeake stated that the lands were previously approved for housing and that the proposal is not contradicting that as it will be sited on development land. Councillor S McPeake proposed the officer recommendation.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1145/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1408/O **Infill dwelling and domestic garage at 70m NE of 107 Drummerr Lane, Coalisland for Mr John McCabe**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1473/O **Dwelling and garage at 60m NW of 55 Annaghmore Road, Castledawson for Alvin McMullan Esq**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1473/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1473/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1563/O **Dwelling and domestic garage on infill site at lands 68m S of 90 Cookstown Road, Dungannon for Mr Darryl Rafferty**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1568/O **Site for dwelling and garage at lands approx. 140m SE of 84 Lisaclare Road, Stewartstown for Mr Edward Coyle**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1568/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1568/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1692/O **Dwelling and garage at lands 50m W of 160B Washingbay Road, Coalisland, for Mr Colin McCuskey**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1692/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1692/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1697/O **Dwelling and garage at 60m NE of 11 Creagh Hill, Castledawson for Mrs Anne McGrogan**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1699/F **New access at 23 Ballymacombs Road, Portglenone, for Mr James Donnelly and Sons**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1699/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1699/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1702/F **Temporary mobile classroom and school meals accommodation, hard play area, LPG gas compound, substation, retaining walls, underground drainage system and all associated ground work required for the operation of IC Dungannon during the construction and redevelopment of the College. Temporary permission is required until the new college becomes operational at Integrated College Dungannon, 21 Gortmerron Link Road, Dungannon for Board of Governors of Integrated College**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1702/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1702/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1761/F **Infill/gap sites for 2 dwellings and domestic garages at 90m NW of 28 Mawillian Road, Moneymore for Mr Paddy Campbell**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0036/O **Two storey dwelling and garage at 40m E of 98 Mountjoy Road, Coalisland for Mr David and Marissa Canavan**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0036/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0036/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0105/O **Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 60m E of 32 Drummuck Road, Maghera for Grainne and Tommy Quigley**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2019/1008/F **Retention of dwelling in substitution of M/2012/0006/F at 7 Tobermesson Road, Dungannon, for Conor Curran**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1008/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1008/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1107/F **Change of use to proposed car sales yard at approx. 25m NW of 60A Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt for Mr Joe Bateson**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1107/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1107/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1590/F **Farm building to incorporate stables, farm office, central heating plant room, agricultural storage and farm machinery garage, creation of farm laneway and alterations to public road access at 50m SE of 21 Tandragee Road, Pomeroy, Dungannon for Mr Kyle Smyth**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1590/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1590/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0129/O **Site for dwelling and double domestic garage at approx. 40m NE of 2 Ballynagilly Road, Cookstown, for Mr James Harkness**

The Head of Local Planning (HLP) presented a report on planning application LA09/2021/0129/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor Glasgow stated that the problem is that the site is too far away to cluster with the farm and asked if siting closer to the Lough Fea Road would bring the site nearer the farm.

The HLP advised that vegetation along that part of the road is too strong to allow for visual linkage but that even if the vegetation was not there the site is too far removed from the farm. The HLP advised that the application was initially submitted as a cluster but does not meet the cluster policy and that if sited where proposed could extend a ribbon of development. The HLP advised that the applicant did not want to

use the farm business up until the last minute and that this has now been investigated.

Councillor Glasgow stated he would not be overly concerned at extending the ribbon development as the proposal would be located close to the end of a road and would therefore be a natural end to development. The Councillor stated that if the applicant wants to retire from the farm business they would not want to be living in the middle of a working farm but would still wish to live close to it.

Councillor McKinney asked if there was any way an exception could be made.

The Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) advised that policy states that a dwelling should visually read with the existing buildings on the farm and where possible should utilise the existing laneway. The SD: PI advised that there could always be a reason for an exception but that no reason has been given and that this application has already been deferred.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan proposed the officer recommendation.

Councillor Bell asked if there had been any discussion with the applicant in relation to siting the proposal on the other side of the road so it would be closer to the farm.

The HLP advised that she had explored other options with the applicant but that the site under consideration is the site they want and no where else.

Councillor S McPeake seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0129/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/0719/F Farm dwelling and garage at approx. 25m E of 25
Creagh Hill Road, Toomebridge for Mr Brendan
Mulholland**

The Head of Local Planning (HLP) presented a report on planning application LA09/2021/0719/F advising that it was recommended for refusal. Members were also advised of a letter received from Paul Birt Estate Agent which advises they are instructed by Mr Mulholland to acquire 10 acres of agricultural land in the Newbridge/Creagh area to replace land lost by him to the A6 vesting programme and that to date, they have had no success in securing this land.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Councillor B McGuigan to address the committee.

Councillor B McGuigan advised that the applicant has a working farm and claims single farm payment and that the only issue is in relation to siting. Councillor McGuigan stated that the applicant lost land through vesting for the new A6 and only received approximately £10k compensation for the loss. The Councillor stated that policy CTY10 allows for a site away from the main holding if there are plans to expand the holding. In this case it was advised that the applicant has plans to expand the farm and has engaged an estate agent to seek additional lands to

replace the lands lost, these lands are likely to cost £15k an acre and the sale of this proposed site will help to offset this cost. Councillor McGuigan stated that this site on the edge of the holding could be easily sold off without affecting any farming activities, it was advised that the site is on the edge of a cluster and would be rounding off. The Councillor stated he did not accept that the proposal would significantly alter the existing character of the area and that the vicinity of the site is already built up. Councillor McGuigan stated that the proposal will be sited approximately two metres below road level and would not be unduly prominent on the landscape and felt that to further aid integration a condition could be applied to require the existing vegetation to be retained and new hedgerows to be planted behind the visibility splays. Councillor McGuigan stated he believed the proposed development is not at odds with PPS21 and asked that an exception be made on this application.

The Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) stated that when the policy refers to plans to expand a farm business it would mean if further sheds were to be built which could cause health and safety issues and not because it would make it easier to sell off a site to buy more land. The SD: PI referred to argument put forward in that it was felt the proposal would not affect rural character and that he would have some sympathy in that regard but that the problem is where does this end.

Councillor S McPeake stated he attended the site visit and whilst maybe not be best integrated site there is some degree of integration. The Councillor stated that on the day of the visit there was a lot of sympathy for the proposal and that it was felt the site would not change the character of the area and would not be prominent. Councillor S McPeake stated that the Committee have been flexible in the past in relation to similar situation regarding the result of A6 works. The Councillor stated that he was surprised at the recommendation to refuse as he felt the discussions on the day of the visit were minded to accommodate the application. Councillor S McPeake stated he would be sympathetic to approving the application.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that one of the things talked about at the site meeting was that if the applicant decided they wanted to put the proposal in the middle of the field then it could most likely be approved as the principle of development had been met. Councillor Mallaghan stated that at the site meeting it was felt that the proposed site would have a better outcome in terms of integration whilst having a visual link to the farm and that was why it was felt an exception could be made.

Councillor McFlynn stated she had also been at the site meeting and concurred with the remarks of Councillor S McPeake in relation to the sympathy for the proposal. The Councillor stated that if the proposal was moved closer to the farm a new laneway would be required which would further eat into the use of the agricultural ground. Councillor McFlynn felt that the proposal could round off development in the area and that an exception could be made considering the dilemma of the applicant.

The SD: PI asked why the proposal could not be located in the corner of the field closest to the farm and the road and therefore the proposal would link with the farm group. The SD: PI stated that if a reasonable answer is given to that it then allows the opportunity to consider an exception. The SD: PI referred to the reason to buy more land but advised that this is not a planning consideration.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that if you wanted to have a site on the farm but wanted a reasonable distance between a dwelling and farm activities then you would not decide to put it in the corner closest to where that activity would take place.

The HLP referred to policy CTY10 which states a dwelling on a farm could be considered when there are verifiable plans to expand at the existing building group. The HLP advised that the argument being put forward tonight is in relation to buying more land in the locality.

Councillor B McGuigan asked if the alternative site being referred to closer to the farm would be on farm land or gardens.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that the SD: PI was referring to the corner of the field marked in blue on the map.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he would have more sympathy if someone was seeking approval for a dwelling to allow them to live on the farm but because it was a site for sale he felt there was nothing to stop a further site being requested next year and that this application should not be approved.

Councillor S McPeake stated he did not think there would be a similar situation in the near future as the application is for a farm dwelling and that this can only be applied for once every ten years.

The SD: PI stated that a farm dwelling can only be applied for once every ten years and that the previous dwelling had been applied for over ten years ago. The SD: PI referred to the reasoning for an exception and that the reason put forward to buy more land is not unique and could apply to anyone else.

Councillor McKinney stated that personal circumstances in this case is clouding the understanding of policy.

Councillor S McPeake stated that the proposed site is a natural cut out of the boundaries which are already there and that at the site meeting it was felt it made sense to have the proposal at the site where it would best fit.

Councillor Brown stated that he understood the argument but that the other suggested site would be closer to the farm group and would meet policy. Councillor Brown asked if the applicant has considered another site.

The HLP advised that there has been no consideration of any other site thus far.

Councillor D McPeake concurred with Councillor S McPeake's comments in relation to the lay of land and boundaries and that the map shown highlights the land lost through the realignment of the Deerpark Road.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the image being shown to the meeting was useful in that it highlights there could be ribbon development at the proposed site or at the other suggested site.

The SD: PI stated he did have some sympathy but urged Members to be cautious to move to the tests in relation to integration before justifying moving away from the farm group.

Councillor Brown proposed that the application be deferred for two months in order for the applicant to consider the site closer to the farm cluster.

Councillor S McPeake seconded Councillor Brown's proposal.

The SD: PI advised that the application is being deferred for two reasons – to explain the test in relation to expanding a farm and the need to put an agricultural case and also to allow time to consider alternative sites.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0719/F be deferred for two months.

LA09/2021/1182/F Retention of agricultural building including offices, storage spaces and area for sale of goods produced on the farm (amended description) at approx. 70m NE of 70 Drumgrannon Road, Dungannon for George Troughton

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2021/1182/F advising that it was recommended for approval.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked if the Council Solicitor was happy with the process as she had previously asked for the application to be deferred to consider the managing of the application.

The Council Solicitor confirmed she was content with the process.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1182/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1260/O Dwelling and garage at approx. 80m E of 24 Garrison Road, Magherafelt for Donna and Danny O'Shea

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1260/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1260/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/1284/F Dwelling at rear of 123 Creagh Road, Newbridge,
Magherafelt for Emma Gribbin**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1284/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1284/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/1384/O Site for 2 dwellings and garages at vacant lands
adjacent to and W of 191 Battery Road, Moortown for
Mr Maurice Devlin**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1384/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1384/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/1385/F Amendment to previously approved vehicular access
at 250m N of 2 Gortinure Road, Maghera for Mr
Rafferty**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1385/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1385/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/1773/F Retention of coach yard and ramp for washing own
coaches as an extension to established business at
lands immediately to the rear and NW of 30B Killyneill
Road, Dungannon for Mr Stephen Davison**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1773/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1773/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1808/O Site of dwelling house and domestic garage on a farm at rear of 39 Gortahurk Road, Desertmartin for Eoighan McGuigan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1808/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1808/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0097/O Site for a dwelling and domestic garage at site 50m S of 105 Culnady Road, Maghera for Mr Thomas Patterson

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0097/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0097/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0556/O Domestic dwelling and garage adjacent to 37 Moss Road, Ballymaguigan, Magherafelt for Ciara McGrath

The Head of Local Planning (HLP) presented a report on planning application LA09/2022/0556/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0556/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1062/O Dwelling and garage within a cluster at 95m S of 4 Drumgarrell Road, Cookstown, for Mr Ryan O'Neill

Application withdrawn.

LA09/2022/1077/F 2 storey dwelling and domestic garage at 30m SW of 55 Springhill Road, Ballindrum, Moneymore for Mr Mark Henry

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1077/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1077/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1226/O **Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 100m S of 25a Cloane Road at the junction of Cloane Road and Cloane Lane, Draperstown, for Mr Mark Quinn**

Application withdrawn.

LA09/2022/1230/O **Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 155m S of 25a Cloane Road, Draperstown, for Mr Mark Quinn**

Application withdrawn.

LA09/2022/1294/O **Site for dwelling and domestic garage on lands approx. 35m N of 12 Drumard Road, Kilrea, for Mr Colm Bradley**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1294/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1294/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1561/O **Site for dwelling and domestic garage at approx. 30m S of 26 Grillagh Hill, Maghera for Mr Malachy Scullin**

Ms McKinless (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2022/1561/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Cassidy to address the committee.

The Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) asked that if the proposal was sited at the top of the field this would take it out of the flood plain and closer to a cluster and that the agent may want to discuss this with the applicant.

Mr Cassidy advised that he has not discussed this option with the applicant but he was unsure if there would be access from the Gortinure Road. Mr Cassidy stated he would like the opportunity to explore the option and discuss with the applicant.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1561/O be deferred for two months for applicant to consider alternative siting options.

Matters for Information

P040/23 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 7 March 2023

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 7 March 2023.

Live broadcast ended at 8.14 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn 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 P041/23 to P045/23.

Matters for Decision

P041/23 Receive Report on Request for a TPO
P042/23 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

P043/23 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 7 March 2023
P044/23 Enforcement Cases Opened
P045/23 Enforcement Cases Closed

P046/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.56 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the meeting of Mid Ulster District Council's Planning Committee in the Chamber, Magherafelt and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast feed. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will 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 you are for or against the proposal or abstaining from voting.
- For members attending remotely, note that by voting on any application, you are confirming that you were in attendance for the duration of, and that you heard and saw all relevant information in connection with the application you vote on
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting. When finished please put your audio to mute.
- 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.
- An Addendum was emailed to all Committee Members at 5pm today. There is also a hard copy on each desk in the Chamber. Can all members attending remotely please confirm that they received the Addendum and that have had sufficient time to review it?
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to so everyone has a clear understanding
- For members of the public that are exercising a right to speak by remote means, please ensure that you are able to hear and be heard by councillors, officers and any others requesting speaking rights on the particular application. If this isn't the case you must advise the Chair immediately. Please note that once your application has been decided, you will be removed from the meeting. If you wish to view the rest of the meeting, please join the live link.
- Can I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or the use of any other means to enable persons not present to see or hear any

proceedings (whether now or later), or making a contemporaneous oral report of any of the proceedings are all prohibited acts.

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 4 April 2023

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

Chairs Business –

- PAC Decision for Granville industrial Estate

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
5.5	Late objection from Rosemary McGurk	Members to note
5.5	Email from Agent Carol Gourley and associated ownership documents	Members to note
5.7	Late objection from Noel and Jennifer Young	Members to note

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Wednesday 5 April 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road,
Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor Black, Deputy Chair

Councillors Ashton, Burton, Corry *, Cuddy, Doris*,
McNamee*, Martin*, Milne*, Quinn* and Wilson*

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place
(SD: C&P)

Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and
Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)

Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)**

Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic
Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD:
EDT&SP)**

Mr Brown, ICT Support

Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager

**Others in
Attendance**

Agenda Item 4 – Deputation - Life After Support Group

Ms Debbie Mullen

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Clarke 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.

D061/23 Notice of Recording

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

D062/23 Apologies

Councillor Clarke, Elattar, Kerr and Molloy

D063/23 Declaration of Interests

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

D064/23 Chair's Business

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black advised Councillor Quinn had an item for Chair's Business.

Councillor Quinn said like others as he was out engaging with different people the main topic of conversation was the funding cuts both from council and central government and the impact of same. He said he was aware Council was not immune to cuts but having discussed with others in Council and some political parties he would propose to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to give the Chief Executive delegated authority to identify ways and possibly allocate from reserves to top up funding streams and grants to assist groups impacted by funding cuts such as ESF.

The SD: C&P said Council do look for external opportunities to top up current grant funding streams but with regard to the use of Council reserves this would have to be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee. He spoke of the current funding and reminded Members that as a result of the rates setting process available Council grant funding had been reduced by £220k. He said he understood Members wanting to lessen the pain but advised that to use reserves was not a sustainable solution in the longer term and not within the scope of decision making of the development committee but what it could do was refer the proposal to policy and resources committee.

Councillor Ashton asked was community development team bringing an update on grant aid applications to the meeting.

In response the SD: C&P advised that grants assessment was currently taking place and delegated authority would be sought at the Council meeting in relation to grants as the process would not be completed in time.

Councillor Ashton referred to Councillor Quinn's comments and reminded him it was SDLP and Sinn Féin who had voted for the rates and now that the hitback was coming from the community. She said this should be a lesson to councillors as they need to realise the impact of what is put in front of them as here a month later they are changing their minds.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said that the points raised were valid.

Councillor Cuddy said considerable time was spent in striking a rate and the UUP take the process seriously, as within weeks of their decision councillors were back looking to revisit the recycling centre decision and now the grants. He said those in question needed to learn how to run an organisation. He concurred with Councillor Ashton and said parties need to think the process and decisions through. Councillor Cuddy said members had a strong officer team who presented the information and he was sure they were fed up with decisions being overturned. He concluded that everyone wanted to help communities but budgets were set for a year not a month.

Councillor McNamee said he was happy to support Councillor Quinn and he was aware Councillor S McPeake was raising the matter at the Policy & Resources committee.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said the Policy & Resources committee was the correct forum for discussion.

Councillor Corry said many groups had been in contact in relation to funding loss which was largely down to ESF funding cuts and reminded the Chamber it was the result of Brexit which had been championed by the DUP and the Assembly not sitting was a further impact. She said it may be worthwhile writing again for people were losing their jobs.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said a motion had been brought to Council regarding the loss of ESF and all parties had supported this.

Councillor Martin said she was in support of Councillor Quinn's proposal.

Councillor Burton concurred with the comments of Councillors Ashton and Cuddy and said there is a short view point, she said all would want to support groups but you cannot just rejig a budget as to run your home in this manner would not be productive. She asked how long it would be before groups new the outcome of their funding applications.

The SD: C&P said the Community Development team were assessing grants and as aforementioned the recommendation for delegated authority to the Chief Executive would be brought before Council in April.

Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillors Cuddy and Ashton and said he found it somewhat strange that use of reserves was shot down by nationalist parties at the rates setting, council had cut its own grants but now the proposal was coming to use the reserves and reiterated earlier comments that much time is spent considering budgets. He sought clarity as to who Councillor Quinn had spoken to from the UUP in relation to the matter.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black asked if Councillor Quinn wished to respond.

Councillor Quinn said he had spoken to many but would not reveal individuals.

Councillor Wilson stated he wanted to know which parties supported the idea.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council, to be considered by Policy & Resources Committee 7 April 2023, to give the Chief Executive delegated authority to identify savings and possibly allocate from reserves to top up funding streams for grants to assist groups impacted by funding cuts such as ESF.

D065/23 Deputation – Life After Support Group

The Chair, Councillor Black welcomed Debbie Mullen from Life After Support Group

Ms Mullen thanked Members for the opportunity to present and introduced Life After Support Group advising that it was borne out of the tragic death of her son Keelan at the age of 17 who had passed his driving test on the 1 February and lost his life on 2 March having hit black ice and skidded into a tractor and slurry tanker. She said her life changed for ever as a mother of four she had only three living children and following her loss she had been unable to navigate through life. She explained she was in the final year of a counselling degree and her tutors, peers and private health care had enabled her to access the help she needed but many who had suffered like her had not this support.

Four years after losing Keelan Ms Mullen said she had attended a workshop ran by the emergency services who were looking for what was missing when people were faced with such tragedy. She spoke of the support of the PSNI family liaison officer who was her lifeline at the time of the tragedy and had went above and beyond to help her. At the event she also met a gentleman from Derry who had set up a facebook page and asked her to speak at an event out of which the need for the support service had been realised, a working group formed, intervention plan developed and lobbying and support commenced. Life After Support Group was formed and have now welcomed their 203rd family to the group. She said the group work closed with the PSNI, emergency services and had tremendous support from all political parties. She highlighted that the Northern and Western Health Trusts love the group but do not financially support it, the PCSP in some areas assist with room hire and refreshments but the group needs people in position of pay outlining that some 500 counselling hours had been delivered free to people who have been impacted by people with experience.

Ms Mullen told how Derry City & Strabane Council had assisted with road safety events, permitting them use of the Guildhall Square to reconstruct road traffic collisions to allow people to see what can happen. She spoke of youth conferences, the Garda and PSNI participation in events together with emergency services who spoke of the hard hitting situations they face. She said many youths had a sharp shock but support was there for those who struggle with what they see. Ms Mullen highlighted an example of their work in that the group had lobbied with the DfI following a death at the Dark Hedges when an American couple on honeymoon had had an accident and Michael Monroe had lost his life. She told how the group had assisted the family at the time, lobbied the DfI and had got the Give Way sign changed to a STOP sign and to date there has been no further accidents at the site.

Ms Mullen shared that the PSNI had asked the group to go into their training school to engage with Family Liaison officers to help them carry out their role. She said the officers learnt from people who have experienced the tragedy as to how best to support families who have lost a loved one and assist them in trying to navigate life without them.

Ms Mullen sought support from Council with assistance in identifying a location to hold meetings in the district, suggesting Cookstown as it is central. She said the group support families from Mid Ulster and need ideas for venues to host meetings once a month.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black thanked Ms Mullen and said what she had done in the aftermath of her son's death had taken great courage, that she had touched on the most important things, individuals and families who would find help in being assisted by those who had walked the path themselves.

Councillor Doris extended sympathy to Ms Mullen on the loss of her son and commended her in using the legacy of his life to help others. She stated mental health support should not just be for those who could afford it. Councillor Doris said she had an interest in the line of work and she had no doubt the group would receive support across the Chamber and that officers would no doubt look at how they could assist and if Sinn Féin could support they would.

Councillor Burton thanked Ms Mullen for the powerful message delivered, extended her sympathy and said that the fact she supported others was testament to her and often it was the road you walk in life that gives you character. She said as a PCSP member she regularly lobbies regarding the roads given the record of road deaths in the district and shared that how someone recently had moved to the district and incurred higher car insurance costs. Councillor Burton highlighted that the district was a vast rural area of which Dungannon was the centre and officers needed to engage with the group to see how Council could assist. She shared that the PCSP in the district also host reenactments of road traffic collisions to try to get the message home to young people. She advised Ms Mullen to seek a presentation with Northern Ireland Local Government Association as all councils were affiliated to it.

Ms Mullen said that in the youth conference hosted in Derry even funeral directors attend but counsellors are always on hand as often deep emotions can be triggered and safeguarding is a strong consideration. She shared how she too suffers from post traumatic stress disorder but has now been able to participate in reenactments for prisoners in Magilligan whose actions on the road had led to custodial sentences.

Councillor Burton concurred as to how the reenactments can be traumatising and told how one youth who had participated in the reenactment was actually involved in a road traffic accident a few weeks later.

Councillor Cuddy said if you have not had the experience you don't fully understand and that it was great to see the organisation both in existence and working in the district. He said the UUP would want to support and acknowledged that money was a major issue but that Council would want the group to have a presence in Mid Ulster.

Councillor Quinn echoed the comments of fellow Councillors and spoke of the mental health support people would need emphasising that support is fantastic but the door closes at night and people are alone. He referred to 55 road deaths and 795 seriously injured which highlight the need for such services. He said the SDLP would be happy to support any way they can.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said there was no doubt there was unanimous support across the chamber.

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Ashton

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Officers make contact with Life After Support Group to discuss how Council can assist the group in Mid Ulster District.

Matters for Decision

D066/23 Update on Age Friendly & Mid Ulster Loneliness Network

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update members of the ongoing work around Age Friendly Communities and advise on a request for funding towards Mid Ulster Loneliness Network.

Councillor Corry said she was happy to propose the report and stated that both groups do tremendous work and given that the district had an aging population it was imperative that they were supported.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black asked if there was similar initiatives in other council areas.

In response the AD: HL&W said that Mid Ulster district straddles both the Northern and Souther Trust areas but he would revert to the Member as to the the extent of initiatives in other areas.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said he was just curious and was happy to second the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Councillor Black and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the request for a contribution of £3,000 towards the Loneliness Network in order to further promote and develop the network as supported by the other key partners of the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network included NHSCT and SHSCT.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burton referred to the Life After Support Group presentation and declared an interest in the PCSP.

D067/23 Development Report

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report to update members and to seek approval for the following:

- Community Support
- Social Inclusion
- Good Relations
- Peace

- PSCP

It was noted that the PCSP minutes were for information.

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Development Report.

D068/23 Economic Development – OBFD

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

- Hidden Heritage Tours 2023
- Tourism Mentor Programme 2023
- Service Level Agreement – Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2023/24)
- Service Level Agreement – MEGA 2022/25 – Update 2023/24

Councillor Quinn referred to heritage tours and asked if there was any plans to create walks around the ramparts in Derrytresk area of Torrent

In response the AD: EDT&SP said she was not aware but would ask the Tourism Manager to speak to the Member. She also said it would also be important to tie in with Council's outdoor recreation team and advised she would request their attendance when a meeting is convened with Councillor Quinn.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said it was a fair point as Council should take every opportunity it could.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Corry

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

- 1 Hidden Heritage Tours 2023
Approve content of the proposed Hidden Heritage Programme 2023 and associated budget of £4,000 from the 2023/24 Tourism budget, required to deliver the tours.
- 2 Tourism Mentor Programme 2023
 - 2.1 Approve content of the proposed Mid Ulster Tourism Mentor Programme and associated budget of £10,000 from the 2023/24 Tourism budget, which includes the appointment of a facilitator(s) to establish/develop 'Embrace the Giant Spirit' brand aligned experiences.

- 2.2 Note that subject to approval, competitive quotations will be sought from suitably qualified facilitator(s) to deliver the programme and appointment(s) made to allow the programme to commence.
- 3 Service Level Agreement: Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2023/24)
 - 3.1 Note ICBAN's 2022/23 Progress Report outlining actions completed against their 2022/23 Service Level Agreement Targets.
 - 3.2 Approve Council's Service Level Agreement with ICBAN for the financial year, April 2023 – March 2024, as detailed on Appendix 1c, subject to Council's Legal Team having final review of the SLA before issue.
 - 3.3 Approve the release of £15,000 from Council's Economic Development Budget (2023/24), subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation as detailed in the Service Level Agreement on Appendix 1c.
4. Service Level Agreement: MEGA – Year 2 2023/24
 - 4.1 Note MEGA's Progress Report 2022/2023, outlining actions completed, against their Service Level Agreement Targets for 2022/2023.
 - 4.2 Approve release of second annual payment to MEGA of £15,000 from Council's Economic Development budget (2023/2024), subject to Council being provided with all the requisite documentation as detailed in the existing Service Level Agreement (2022/23 to 2024/25).

D069/23 Granville Industrial Estate (Dungannon) Report

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report to update Members on Granville Industrial Estate, Dungannon. She advised that Council Members had led a strong lobbying campaign to request Government Departments to provide urgent infrastructure investment to allow improvement works to be carried out at Granville Industrial Estate and surrounding area. She acknowledged the work completed to date but indicated more investment is needed to target the issues as set out in the recommendations section of the report.

Councillor Cuddy thanked officers for the work and said it had long been an issue for both Dungannon and Clogher Valley Councillors. He said it was one of the most successful industrial areas which had just grown but had never had overall management. He welcomed the partnership working with statutory agencies and said there was great firms in the area which had grown but the infrastructure had not kept pace and required attention as the international companies were bringing people to the area from all over the world.

Councillor Burton welcomed the investment in the carriageway and footpath as many walk the particular stretch of road and lighting was a must and could possibly be sought through the 'Active Travel Scheme' as many workers, mothers and children walked the route. She said it was imperative that Council liaise with the Farmers Mart as often the overspill of traffic impacts the housing estate to the left hand side of the industrial area and there was issues of noise and odour. She concluded that the pathways around the development of homes was not up to scratch and opportunities could not be missed.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said opportunities should not be missed but welcomed the positive direction.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to grant approval for Council to issue a letter to Mr Johnny Graham, Senior Engineer, DfI Roads to:-

- (i) Welcome the recent £600k investment in carriageway and footway improvements at Granville, notwithstanding the need for additional street lighting on the footpath along the A45 which is critical for pedestrian safety and promoting active travel.
- (ii) Welcome the Granville Industrial Estate Options Report / Masterplan produced by Amey Consultants and to support the introduction of a left turn slip road at the main entrance as an interim measure to help alleviate congestion and improve access and egress from and to the Industrial Estate.
- (iii) Request DfI Roads engage with Dungannon Farmers Mart to discuss traffic and parking issues at Granville.
- (iv) Request DfI Roads to commence the legislative process to introduce a Stopping-Up Order on the Eskragh Road (North) in conjunction with revoking the Order at Eskragh Road (West), which came into operation in 2011.

Matters for Information

D070/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 March 2023

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 March 2023.

D071/23 Corporate Events 2023

Members noted update on the proposed Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Events Programme for April 2023 – March 2024.

Councillor Doris drew attention to identified savings and proposed that Council officers engage with the organisers of the 10k in Coalisland. She stated that the events attracts

1000s into the town centre and Council had a legacy of supporting the event and it would be appropriate to direct the savings identified towards it.

Councillor McNamee seconded the proposal and placed on record his disappointment that the Continental Market was not going ahead and sought assurance that it would be planned for 2024.

Councillor Ashton referred to Councillor Doris' proposal and said it was unfair to ask for financial support for one event, as if savings are identified there should be a review and the matter brought to Policy & Resources for approval.

The SD: C&P stated that due to the cancellation of the Continental Market there may be savings but as in the current costs crisis, planned events costs may rise, the monies previously identified may not be available for allocation across the schedule. He concluded that officers could explore options.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black asked if Councillor Doris was content to amend her proposal.

Councillor Doris said her original proposal stood as the 10K in Coalisland had previously been a corporate event run by Council, there is savings identified and to gain best impact they would be better allocated to one event than across many. She said she was not asking for the same proportion of funding as previously allocated but it was a good solution.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said whilst he understood her direction of travel a uniform approach was required as it was difficult to cherry pick.

Councillor Ashton proposed a strategic review on the savings.

Councillor Cuddy seconded the proposal stating that officers needed to have the opportunity to review as there were many good events and to select one was unfair.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor Doris and stated they were not asking for all of the identified savings but the 10k was a massive event in Coalisland which attracted 1000s and something should be done to support it.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black stated that however the savings were distributed it had to be done in a fair manner.

Councillor Cuddy said he was not against supporting the 10k in Coalisland but currently there was no figures to consider and officers should review.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black stated more clarity was needed.

Councillor McNamee said the matter would have to be considered by Policy & Resources committee and he would suggest referring it there.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said the counter proposal was to allow officers to review and bring back a recommendation as to how the savings could be distributed in a fair manner.

Councillor McNamee said it was a decision for Policy & Resources and officers were better placed to review.

The SD: C&P for clarity said there is capacity in the events budget as a result of the continental market not proceeding this year.. However he said that any allocations to group(s) would need to be considered against our funding criteria. He said Council must operate within its frameworks.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said he was conscious of the SD: C&P's comments.

Councillor Doris said she was content if officers reviewed but said she had identified a possibility for the savings and it made sense for it to go to an event for which funding had been withdrawn. She concluded that in the autumn it could be reassessed but she thought it sensible to fill the gap.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said no one disagreed but it needed to be reviewed and delegated fairly and officers were best placed to assess.

Councillor Doris concurred but reiterated that the 10k event had been pulled from the schedule and her fear was the money would be dispersed with its impact not felt.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said her feelings were clear but it was appropriate for officers to review.

The Deputy Chair Councillor Black summarised the proposal

That it be recommended to Council to delegate authority to Chief Executive/Officers to review savings in the Corporate Events 2023 budget to identify and implement any opportunities for re-profile any budget capacity, considering requirements across remaining corporate events schedule and those events previously included, in a way which is equitable and in line with previously agreed criteria.

Councillor McNamee stated that key events in the past should be considered.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Black said that officers would take all comments on board and sought a proposer and seconded for the aforementioned proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to delegate authority to Chief Executive/Officers to review savings in the Corporate Events 2023 budget to identify and implement any opportunities to re-profile any budget capacity, considering requirements across remaining corporate events

schedule and those events previously included, in an way which is equitable and in line with any previously agreed criteria.

D072/23 Economic Development Report – OBFI

In response to Councillor Corry's query regarding the Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme, the AD: EDT&SP advised that there is currently no plans to deliver a further scheme due to the significant budget reductions as a result of Council's rate setting process. She concluded by stating that officers will continue however, to keep a watching brief for any new funding opportunities and if these become available, further schemes could be considered.

Members noted update on key activities as listed below:

- Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 (2022/2023) Evaluation Report
- Letter of thanks from Network Personnel re ESF Programmes

The Live feed ended at 8.20pm

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Burton

Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

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 D073/23 to D074/23.

Matters for Decision

D073/23 Economic Development - CBFD

Matters for Information

D074/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 March 2023

D075/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.42 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

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 April 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor S McAleer, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris*, Kearney*, S McGuigan*, McKinney, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Quinn*, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)**

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)

Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources (HoHR)**

Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)

Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Corporate Service and Finance (AD: CS&F)**

Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP)

Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT (HoICT)

Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor S McAleer 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.

PR067/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

PR068/23 Apologies

Councillors Elattar, Forde and McLean.

PR069/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

PR070/23 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR071/23 Amendment to Council Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers – Appendix C Delegated Authority on Planning Matters

The Assistant Director of Corporate Service and Finance (AD: CS&F) presented previously circulated report which sought approval on amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers in relation to planning matters only.

Councillor S McPeake proposed the recommendation. The Councillor stated that the matter was discussed thoroughly some months ago at the Planning Committee and the appendix to the report provides the amendments that were agreed.

Councillor Buchanan seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Amended Appendix C to the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers included at Appendix A to the report and that it takes effect on 28 April 2023.

PR072/23 Review of Learning & Development Policy

The Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to the revisions to Mid Ulster District Council's Learning and Development Policy.

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer felt it was good to include in the policy that an employee has to stay two years after obtaining a qualification through Council.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the revised Learning and Development Policy as set out at appendix to report.

PR073/23 Revision of CCTV, Internet acceptable use and ICT Security Policies

The Head of ICT (HoICT) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Council CCTV Policy, Internet Use Policy and ICT Security Policy.

Councillor Cuddy referred to recent dog attack in Dungannon town centre and the difficulties experienced by staff in obtaining Council CCTV. The Councillor stated that he hoped the amendments to the CCTV policy will make it quicker to get issues like that dealt with. Councillor Cuddy proposed that the policies as outlined be adopted.

The HoICT advised that the aims and objectives of the CCTV policy have been amended to reflect the wider needs of the organisation for people that are looking at public safety and to provide an easier means of access to those systems maintained by the PCSP in respect of the public spaces. It was advised that internal systems are maintained and managed by Facilities Managers and ICT.

Councillor S McGuigan seconded Councillor Cuddy's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the revised Council CCTV Policy, Internet Use Policy and ICT Security Policy as set out at appendix to report.

PR074/23 Response to Consultations

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the draft consultation responses developed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in response to the consultations on:

- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030
- SHSCT Provision of Emergency General Surgery

Councillor Doris referred to Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation response and asked that a further point be included within the response that when a perpetrator is released from prison that they are located a reasonable distance from the area where the victim lives.

The HoSS&E stated he would add the point raised to the consultation response.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Councillor McKinney referred to the Bengoa Report of 2015 and stated things have moved on since then and that he felt that report is now outdated and does not go far enough in today's world and that this should be highlighted within the response including taking into consideration the needs within Mid Ulster Council area.

The HoSS&E agreed to incorporate the Councillor's comments within the response.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve –

- The draft response as outlined in appendix for submission to Department of Health (Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030) by 21 April 2023 to include added comment in relation to the

relocation of domestic and sexual abuse perpetrators being relocated a reasonable distance from where a victim lives.

- The draft response as outlined in appendix for submission to Southern Health and Social Care Trust (Provision of Emergency General Surgery) by 2 May 2023 to include added comment in relation to the Bengoa Report of 2015 being outdated and not meeting the needs of today's community.

PR075/23 Requests to Illuminate Council Properties

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- Make A Wish Foundation Anniversary
- Hope 4 ME & Fibro Northern Ireland
- Shine a Light on Neurofibromatosis
- Foster Care Fortnight

The HoSS&E also highlighted that as Council is now entering the pre-election period there will be no further committees until June 2023 and that requests will be considered in the interim by officers and recommended to the Chief Executive charged with delegated authority.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –

- Make A Wish Foundation Anniversary, 29 April 2023 - Blue
- Hope 4 ME & Fibro Northern Ireland, International ME Awareness Day, 12 May 2023 - Blue
- Nerve Tumours UK, Shine a Light on Neurofibromatosis 17 May 2023 - Blue
- Foster Care Fortnight, 19 May 2023 - Turquoise & Yellow

Members also noted that during the pre-election period requests will be considered in the interim by officers and recommended to the Chief Executive charged with delegated authority.

PR076/23 Arrangements for Annual Meeting of Council – June 2023

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which outlined arrangements for the annual meeting of Mid Ulster District Council following the Local Election scheduled for Thursday 18 May 2023.

Councillor S McPeake referred to local grants and asked that between now and the AGM that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to move funding streams if required.

The HoSS&E advised that a report will be brought to April Council meeting in relation to delegated authority.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the arrangements for the 2023 Annual meeting of Council set to be held on Monday 5 June 2023 as set out in report and report appendix.

PR077/23 Council and Committee Governance Arrangements 2023-2027

The Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report which provided update on the existing Council and Committee governance arrangements and those to be applied during the new Council term 2023-2027.

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer stated that when the timing of meetings was previously decided the option of hybrid was not in place. Councillor S McAleer also referred to the Planning Committee which is often an intense meeting which can go on late.

Councillor Ashton proposed that the arrangements regarding committees and the make up of those committees remains the same. The Councillor stated that the timing of the meetings will be for the new mandate to decide on but felt that to bring meetings into the working day does not suit Councillors who have day jobs. Councillor Ashton also felt that to move the Development Committee to bi-monthly may not be the best way forward.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Ashton's proposal. The Councillor referred to the D'Hondt process at the start of the four year term and felt that if there are new committees identified throughout the four years going forward that the D'Hondt process continue on and that this will then give smaller parties and Independents a chance. Councillor Cuddy also referred to the hybrid option for meetings and felt whilst it is good to have, there needs to be some guidance in relation to the number of meetings Councillors physically attend. The Councillor stated that there were a number of Councillors who he had not actually seen in the Chamber for a long time and felt that there should be a cap on the number of meetings attended remotely and that the majority of Members need to be around the table at meetings as it can help the decision making process.

The AD: ODSP referred to the application of D'Hondt and the rolling D'Hondt principle and that a working group was set up to look at this in relation to outside bodies. From this it was agreed through the P&R Committee that in the new Council term Council would move from D'Hondt being used on a body by body basis but instead would be looking at all outside bodies on a rolling basis and that this matter will be dealt with at the forthcoming AGM.

Councillor Quinn stated that he had sat on the working group referred to and confirmed that it had been agreed that rolling D'Hondt for outside bodies will apply going forward. The Councillor stated he felt the structure of committees and membership works well for this Council, he reflected that being a Councillor is not a full time job and that for those Members who have a day time job it would be difficult to attend meetings if they were held during the day. Councillor Quinn stated that the hybrid option is good for Members who are working and hoped that it is made permanent in the future.

Councillor McKinney stated he would be opposed to changing the times of Committee meetings and also referred to the hybrid option for meetings. The Councillor stated that taking tonight as an example there were as many officers as Councillors around the table and that elected representatives have a duty to serve and attend meetings. Councillor McKinney stated that sometimes the hybrid option is not taken seriously and felt that Members should be encouraged to attend meetings in person. The Councillor spoke in relation to the Planning Committee and that if the time of this meeting was changed to daytime then applicants, who have paid a fee to Council, would also have to take time off work to attend. Councillor McKinney stated that whilst the Planning Committee can last late into the evening on some occasions he felt that the 7pm start for meetings allows Members who do work the time to get to a meeting and that timings should stay as they are. In relation to bi-monthly meetings for Development Committee the Councillor felt that the business needs to be kept moving and that there was no need to slow the process down as he stated the public think Council does not move fast enough.

The AD: ODSP referred to bi-monthly option for Development Committee and clarified that in the month where there would be no committee meeting there would be time for Members to engage in DEA meetings.

The Chief Executive confirmed the comments made by AD: ODSP in relation to Development Committee meetings and stated that when Members request for a project to be done a month does not give a lot of time to make progress so the bi-monthly option is to allow time for officers to progress issues and projects and have something to report back on. The Chief Executive also referred to Members requests for DEA meetings and that the month between Development Committee meetings could be used for these meetings to take place. The Chief Executive stated that the Members comments tonight were appropriate and that the report gives Members something to think about going into the new mandate.

Councillor Quinn commented if there is an option to split the Planning Committee into two meetings if there is a large agenda. The Councillor also stated that the Development Committee is the only Committee Independent Members sit on and that if meetings are held bi-monthly would this be seen as less of a contribution by the Independent Members.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve -
- The operation of a traditional committee system of governance.
 - The committee structure and membership as outlined at 3.1 of report with timings of meetings to be agreed in the new mandate.

PR078/23 Member Services

None.

Matters for Information

PR079/23 Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 9 March 2023

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 9 March 2023.

PR080/23 Rural Needs Annual Progress Return to DEARA (2022/23)

Members noted previously circulated report which set out Council's Annual Progress Report to DAERA in relation to the Rural Needs Act NI (2016/) for the period 2022-23.

PR081/23 Mid Ulster Community Planning: Progress Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on activity in relation to Mid Ulster Community Planning from November 2022 to March 2023.

Live broadcast ended at 7.42 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor McKinney 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 PR082/23 to PR087/23

Matters for Decision

PR082/23 Staffing Matters for Decision

Matters for Information

PR083/23 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 9 March 2023

PR084/23 Summary briefing on employee relations relating to NJC pay negotiations in 2023/2024 year for local government staff within the scope of NJCLGS

PR085/23 Staff Matters for Information

PR086/23 Treasury Management

PR087/23 Financial Report for 11 Months ended 28 February 2023

PR088/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.46 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 - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	20 April 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
2.0	Background
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2023-2024 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members There are no conferences to report Officer Approvals
3.2	There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix A to this report is sought.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2023/2024 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member Human: not applicable

	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A Staff Conferences, Seminars & Training

Appendix A

Approval – Conferences – April 2023

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
CIPFA – Local Government Strategy Forum	Finance	1	Travel - TBC	22 nd to 24 th May 2023	Cotswolds, England

Report on	Delegated Authority to Chief Executive on Matters - Period of Local Election 2023
Date of Meeting	Thursday 20 th April 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	A McCreesh, Chief Executive

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval from Mid Ulster District Council for the Chief Executive to be delegated authority to make a series of decisions during the period of the 2023 local election.
2.0	Background
2.1	The final meeting of the current council term (2019-2023) will take place on Thursday 20 th April after which no meetings are scheduled to transact business until June 2023. The first meeting to consider decisions from council committees will not take place until Thursday 29 th June 2023.
2.2.	Although the Council's first Annual Meeting will take place on Monday 5 th June 2023 to agree positions of responsibility and receive nominations for committee membership for the new council term, following the 18th May Local Election, it should be noted that this meeting is being scheduled for the purpose of undertaking the aforementioned business.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	To permit and facilitate the continued delivery of council business authority on a number of key decisions is being requested to be delegated to the Chief Executive for the period Friday 21 st April 2023 and Thursday 29 th June 2023.
3.2	Section 7 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides that a council may arrange for the discharge of any of its functions by (a) a committee, sub-committee or an officer of the council, or (b) by any other
3.3	In light of Section 7 of the Act, delegated authority is being sought for the Chief Executive to make a series of decisions in the absence of committee and council meetings from Friday 21 st April to Wednesday 28 th June. Appendix A to the this report details those specific issues and areas which will require a decision throughout the period of Friday 21st April and Wednesday 28 th June been identified by Departments. Decisions identified.
3.4	Sec. 7 of the Act further confirms a number of functions which cannot be delegated and as such decisions on same can only be exercised by the Council. These functions extend to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Making a district rate under the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (ii) Making a determination under section 13(1) of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (affordable borrowing limit) and monitoring and amount determined (iii) Borrowing money, and (iv) Acquiring and disposing of land <p>Delegated authority is not being sought for decisions relating to any of those issues aforementioned at (i) to (iv).</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	The Council gives consideration to delegating authority to the Chief Executive on the listed matters within Appendix A commencing from 21 st April.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Forward Planning on Decisions required during period 21 April - 27 June 2023

Appendix A: Forward Planning on Decisions required during period 21 April - 28 June 2023

The following table lists those issues and areas of the Council's business/services identified as requiring approval between 21st April and 28th June:

Directorate	Forward Planning Decisions Necessitating Delegated Authority
Corporate Services & Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Tender to award Contract of Digital Transformation Strategy • Extension of Award of Contract for AMS for Financial Management System • Approval of Tender to award Treasury Management Contract • Approval of Tender to award Contract Legal Services Tender • Any decision to progress with VAT appeal or agree settlement terms. • Approval of Tender to award Contract of 10G Link (Network Security and Implementation WAN) • Any decision required regarding Judicial Review and Equality Claim Rates Support Grant
Environment & Property	<p>Procurement Awards including Sealing of Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Pomeroy – Arts Trail Project • Small Settlements approval:– Coalisland Canal, Clady/Castledawson, Manor Park, Moneymore, Castlecaulfield Pavilion, Bellaghy • MUSA – ICT appointment • Burnavon Refurbishment Works Seating • Dungannon Public Realm • Improvement to Dungannon & Cookstown Depots • Dungannon Park Reservoir
Communities & Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender for Play Park Refurbishment & Minor Works Programme 2023 (7 Sites) Number 1 • Tender for Play Park Refurbishment & Minor Works Programme 2023 (7 Sites) Number 2 • Tender for Play Park Refurbishment & Minor Works Programme 2023 (5 Sites) Number 3 • Tender for Altmore Cappagh • SLA with Department of Justice for Fireworks Assessments • Council Community Grants - Development Committee recommended to Council, to be considered by Policy & Resources Committee 7 April 2023, to give the Chief Executive delegated authority to identify savings and possibly allocate from reserves to top up funding streams for grants to assist groups impacted by funding cuts such as ESF. • Approval of CCTV Contract

Chief Executive (Economic Development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement & Appointment of Consultant Mid-South West Growth Deal • Appointment of Consultancy team Killymoon Golf Club Phase 1 Mid-South West Growth Deal
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7 April 2023

Report on	Consultation Information notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	20 April 2023
Reporting Officer	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council and to provide feedback on submitted consultations.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
3.2.	Appendix B contains feedback from DFI on a consultation response submitted by the Council to the Department's A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC) Supplementary Information to the Environmental Statement Addendum (2022) public consultation, which took place between 7th November 2022 and 23rd December 2022.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None

	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members review and note active consultations and further associated consultation information notified to Mid Ulster District Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations Appendix B: DFI A5WTC Consultation Feedback

Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Executive Office	Consultation of the Review of the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997	The Executive Office is seeking your views on the Review of the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997, to ensure that we have new legislation that is fully fit for purpose.	18th June 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-review-race-relations-ni-order-1997		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes-Can be considered at June Policy and Resources Committee.	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Education Authority	Plan of Arrangements for Special Educational Provision Consultation (Targeted Consultation)	The Education Authority (EA) is required to publish a yearly plan that outlines its arrangements for special educational provision for each academic year. The plan will detail how the EA intends to facilitate the best possible educational outcomes for children and young people with a Special Educational Need (SEN) or Disability (SEND).	26th May 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.eani.org.uk/ea-plan-of-arrangements-for-special-educational-provision-consultation		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
NI Electricity Networks	The Northern Ireland Energy Strategy – The Path to Net Zero Energy	NIE Networks is consulting to gain feedback from stakeholders on a proposal to amend existing distribution connection offer policy for exporting generators with a registered capacity less than 5MW.	5pm on Friday 12th May 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/generation-consultation		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for Infrastructure	Draft Equality Action Plan 2023-2026	DFI is requesting comments on the proposed action measures in the Equality Action Plan 2023-26.	5pm on 23rd June 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-section-75-equality-action-plan-2023-2026		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes-Can be considered at June Policy and Resources Committee.	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
NI Policing Board	Community Policing Survey	The Northern Ireland Policing Board is seeking views from across the community on the delivery of the policing service and how the police engage in local areas as part of the Community Policing Survey 2023.	30 June 2023	
	Link to Consultation	https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/community-policing-survey-2023/		

	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	No
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Representation by:

Mid Ulster District Council

Paul McCreedy

Paul.McCreedy@midulstercouncil.org

Representation Reference No:

A5WTC-2022-2-839

DfI Roads Response Reference No:

A5WTC-2022-2-839-DfI

Issue Date

10 March 2023

Ref. or location in Representation	Text extracted from Representation	Department for Infrastructure (DfI Roads) response
Paragraph 1	<p>1.0 INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council (the Council) welcomes this opportunity to respond to the consultation on the supplementary information to the Environmental Statement Addendum (2022) for the proposed A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC). The Council recognises the importance of the A5WTC in saving lives, enhancing connectivity and addressing regional imbalance.</p>	<p>Thank you for your response to the A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC) public consultation and for your support for the progression of the Proposed Scheme.</p>
Paragraphs 2-7	<p>2.0 OVERVIEW OF MID ULSTER</p> <p>The Mid Ulster District Council area represents a multicultural population of more than 146,000 across 1,714 km² (14% of the NI land mass) and is the fastest growing new Council area in Northern Ireland (its population is expected to grow to 165,000 by 2030). The area is within a 30-minute reach of Belfast (Dublin - 2 hours), and shares a land border with Republic of Ireland providing access to 450,000 people within a 50km radius.</p> <p>Mid Ulster is recognised as one of the most entrepreneurial and enterprising regions in Northern Ireland (NI). Its economy is private sector driven, boasting the largest business base outside the Belfast Metropolitan area with over 9,200 VAT registered businesses. Approximately one-third of businesses in</p>	<p>Thank you for providing an overview of Mid Ulster. We note your comments regarding the high productivity, export-intensive and entrepreneurial focuses within the region.</p>

Ref. or location in Representation	Text extracted from Representation	Department for Infrastructure (DfI Roads) response
	<p>the Mid Ulster area are urban based and two thirds are located in dispersed rural communities.</p> <p>The region has higher productivity per head of population compared to the NI average and a GVA1 of £3.97bn (producing 8.1% of NI's economic output).</p> <p>The Council area has strengths in key sectors, including Manufacturing & Engineering; Food and Agri Food; Construction; Retail, IT and Hospitality. Our businesses are the most export-intensive, accounting for 12% of NI's exports. Mid Ulster businesses embrace innovation, and the region has the largest uptake of Invest NI's Innovation Accreditation Awards outside of the Belfast region.</p> <p>Historically, Mid Ulster has been a great place to start and grow a business, and it is home to some of NI's best companies. The area has an international reputation for manufacturing excellence, hosting several of NI's leading advanced manufacturers, leading it to be recognised as the centre of manufacturing and engineering in Northern Ireland, where it accounts for 29% of the local economy (approx. 17,066 jobs), compared to 11% in NI. The sector is estimated to deliver c£1.67bn GVA contribution to the local economy and over £710m in local wages, directly and indirectly. This world class cluster is of profound importance to the area's economy – especially in key specialisms such as the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery, production of general and special purpose machinery</p>	

Ref. or location in Representation	Text extracted from Representation	Department for Infrastructure (DfI Roads) response
	<p>etc., which have linkages and supply chain associations with the construction and food and agri-food sectors. For instance, the area boasts a world-class High Growth Cluster that manufactures more than 40% of the world's mobile crushing and screening equipment.</p> <p>Its business base provides the lifeblood of the local economy, whilst the skills and capabilities of its workforce and strategic road connectivity are vital to its sustainability and growth.</p>	
Paragraphs 8-11	<p>3.0 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK</p> <p>The Council recognises that the single largest impediment to our region's economic growth and prosperity is the absence of the basic economic infrastructure. Connectivity drives the economy and Mid Ulster's ability to move people and goods is vital to the success of our businesses and the growth of our economy.</p> <p>Historically, the Mid Ulster region has suffered from significant underinvestment in road infrastructure despite its business base contributing billions into the NI economy. The Council views this as completely unacceptable and this lack of investment is a major barrier to economic growth and prosperity in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Investment in long overdue infrastructure West of the Bann should be prioritised to drive the regionally balanced growth agenda and tackle levelling-up</p>	<p>We agree that upgrading the A5 road to a modern dual carriageway standard is necessary to enhance road safety and provide a wide range of other benefits, such as those you have cited, for all road users and communities.</p> <p>The higher-level objectives of the Proposed Scheme are stated as balancing regional infrastructure, improving competitiveness and economic prosperity through improving connectivity and accessibility across the region.</p> <p>The Department has developed a non-exhaustive list of anticipated benefits from the Proposed Scheme which can be found at: https://www.a5wtc.com/Scheme-Benefits</p>

Ref. or location in Representation	Text extracted from Representation	Department for Infrastructure (DfI Roads) response
	<p>disparities. Addressing this recognised infrastructural imbalance to the West will enhance the potential for boosting economic growth and competitiveness North and South. The Council views the A5WTR as extremely important to the growth and development of the Mid Ulster economy.</p> <p>The Council notes in the published “A5 WTR Strategic Context & Policy Report - OBC2022” that the proposed scheme aligns to a range of both central and local government plans and policies including the Council’s Community Plan and Local Development Plan - Draft Plan Strategy 2030. The proposed Scheme will play a central role in helping to realise a number of long-standing strategic policy objectives. The Council also welcomes the narrative that the new route would potentially attract inward investment to districts including Mid Ulster, making them better places to live work and visit.</p>	
Paragraphs 12-14	<p>Due to the reduction of services and its peripheral location, much of Mid Ulster has the poorest access to acute hospital and care provision. Two thirds of Mid Ulster’s population of 145,000 are rural; and by 2037 83% will be aged 65+ (against an NI average of 68%). This situation is compounded by the absence of adequate road infrastructure. For example, Mid Ulster has recorded some of the worst Ambulance response times, consistently higher than the NI average and increasing year on year, and also poor access to acute</p>	<p>The Department note your comments regarding ambulance and hospital journey times, as well as increased reliance on private vehicles within Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Without any intervention, the journey times along the existing A5 would continue to worsen in the future. The Proposed Scheme would provide significant relief to the existing A5 traffic, typically reducing traffic by between 23% to over 90% on completion, with average</p>

Ref. or location in Representation	Text extracted from Representation	Department for Infrastructure (DfI Roads) response
	<p>provision – Mid Ulster travel time to a hospital with major injury treatment capabilities is over eight minutes longer than the NI average. The proposed Scheme will enhance rural connectivity to health provision which is critical to attain an equal, inclusive and fair society.</p> <p>With an absence of railways and approximately 85% of Mid Ulster households owning a private vehicle, high reliance on the car as a mode of transport is expected to continue in the future. Unfortunately, residents cannot rely on the poor public transport network that exists and which has been reduced further in recent years. For Mid Ulster residents the car is the only viable option.</p> <p>Council acknowledges that the proposed Scheme will reduce journey times for users, increase road safety and relieve congestion. Tragically, over the course of the last year (October 2021-October 2022) there have been ten fatalities observed along the existing A5 corridor.</p>	<p>reductions in traffic using the existing A5 of around 69% relative to the ‘<i>Do Minimum</i>’ scenario. The Proposed Scheme would also result in substantial journey time savings. Over the entire length of the scheme, journey time savings are predicted to be around 23 minutes in 2028 and in excess of 27 minutes in 2043.</p> <p>We are acutely aware of the significant numbers of collisions and resultant casualties on the A5 road. An accident analysis of the A5 corridor including the side roads accessing the A5 between New Buildings and Aughnacloy showed that there were 1,003 injury accidents, involving 1,589 casualties between 2015 and 2019. Over the course of the last year (October 2021-October 2022) there have been ten fatalities observed along the existing A5 corridor.</p> <p>The Economic Appraisal Report 2022* (EAR) finds with the development of the A5 scheme over 2,700 accidents would be prevented resulting close to 3,800 casualties’ reduction during the 60-year appraisal period.</p>
Paragraph 15	<p>The Council also welcomes the additional narrative and discussion that has been included in the Supplementary Information to the ESA 2022 in respect of climate and environmental impacts and the opportunity to mitigate significant effects, such as the proposed flood risk mitigation and habitat management works.</p>	<p>We note your comment welcoming the additional Supplementary Information to the Environmental Statement Addendum (ESA) 2022*.</p> <p>Collectively, the Environmental Statement (ES) 2016*, the ESA 2019* and ESA 2022* report the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Scheme. The Non-Technical Summary*</p>

Ref. or location in Representation	Text extracted from Representation	Department for Infrastructure (DfI Roads) response
		(NTS) of the ES and ESAs for the Proposed Scheme (last published in January 2023) provides an overview of the relevant content and findings of the ES and ESAs in a clear and concise manner.
Paragraph 16-18	<p>4.0 CONCLUSION</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the opportunity to restate its commitment to and support for the development of the much-needed A5 Western Transport Corridor route. The Council recognises the overall strategic importance of the A5 to the NI economy and the potential substantial benefits to the West.</p> <p>Investment in the A5WTR will strengthen the region's strategic and unique geographic location through enhanced economic infrastructure and will advance north/south and east/west cross border interactions and global transactions.</p> <p>The Council looks forward to an early resumption and positive conclusion of the Planning Appeals Commission Public Inquiry on the A5 Western Transport Corridor to enable the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to progress the Scheme without delay.</p>	<p>We have noted your response to the public consultation and your support for the Proposed Scheme.</p> <p>Yours and all other responses received to this consultation exercise will be passed to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) who are administering the Public Inquiry process. The PAC will be in touch with you in due course in relation to how and when the Public Inquiry will be taken forward.</p> <p>We appreciate the time you have taken to respond to the consultation.</p>

**Please note that all ESA 2022/Associated Documents and Core Documents are publicly available on the following website: www.a5wtc.com.*

Report on	Correspondence to Council
Date of Meeting	Thursday 20 April 2023
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	E Forde, Members Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from Planning & Water Appeals Commission</p> <p>The Chair has received correspondence dated 14 March 2023 from Planning & Water Appeals Commission detailing the timeline for the Public Local Inquiry into the A5 Western Transport Corridor Road Scheme. This was previously emailed to Members 23 March 2023. Refer to appendix A</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from National Association of Councillors NI</p> <p>The Chief Executive has received email dated 22 March 2023 from National Association of Councillors (NI) referring to their revised Constitution as per the attached Draft. This was previously emailed to Members 23 March 2023. Refer to appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Department for Communities</p> <p>The Chief Executive has received correspondence dated 24 March 2023 from the Department for Communities outlining 2023/24 Funding Position. Refer to appendix C</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from Department for Infrastructure to letter sent following February Council. The response was emailed to Members 23 March 2023. Refer to appendix D.</p>

3.5	<p>Correspondence from Department for Communities</p> <p>The Chief Executive has received correspondence from Department for Communities dated 24 March 2023 to provide update on extension to legislation regarding Council Remote/Hybrid Meeting. Refer to appendix E.</p>
3.6	<p>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure - Public Transport Policy Division</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from Permanent Secretary DfI following letter sent from February Council meeting regarding railway restoration. The letter provides update on Restoring Your Railway fund. Refer to appendix F.</p>
3.7	<p>Correspondence from Tiny Life</p> <p>The Chair has received correspondence from Tiny Life in relation to Neo Natal Maternity Leave provision and a request to present to Council re same. Refer to appendix G</p>
3.8	<p>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>The Chair has received a response to letter from Council regarding future funding for community transport. Refer to appendix H.</p>
3.9	<p>The Chair has received a response to letter from Council regarding Community Pharmacies. Refer to appendix I</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A: Planning & Water Appeals Commission</p> <p>Appendix B: National Association of Councillors NI</p> <p>Appendix C: Department for Communities</p> <p>Appendix D: Department for Infrastructure – Roads</p> <p>Appendix E: Department for Communities</p> <p>Appendix F: Department for Infrastructure - Public Transport Policy Division</p> <p>Appendix G: Tiny Life</p> <p>Appendix H: Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Appendix I: Department of Health</p>

Phone: 02890 244 710
(switchboard)

Email: info@pacni.gov.uk

Website: www.pacni.gov.uk

Our Ref 2019/D001

DATE 14th March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Public Local Inquiry into the A5 Western Transport Corridor Road Scheme

Further to previous correspondence, I am writing to update you on the inquiry timetable.

The proceedings will re-open at 10.30am on Monday, 15th May 2023 in the Strule Arts Centre, Townhall Square, Omagh, and will continue there until Friday, 19th May. During that week, the environmental statement, the habitats reports and the proposed supplementary vesting order will be discussed. After a week's break, the inquiry will convene in Omagh Enterprise Centre, Gortrush Industrial Estate from Tuesday, 30th May to Friday, 2nd June 2023, when strategic issues (including the justification for the scheme, alternatives, funding and phasing) will be discussed. A more detailed agenda will be posted on our website www.pacni.gov.uk closer to the re-opening date.

The Chief Commissioner has appointed Commissioner Gareth Kerr to preside over the inquiry. He will be assisted by Mr Trevor Rue.

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has provided the Commission with written comments on each representation received in response to its March 2022 public consultation. You should have received a copy of the comments relevant to your representation(s) in early December 2022.

The Commission is now requesting DfI Roads to submit a written comment on each individual representation received in response to its November 2022 and January 2023 consultations by 4.00pm on Wednesday, 5th April 2023 and at the same time to copy each comment to the person or organisation who made that representation. We are asking DfI to confine its comments to no more than 1,500 words per representation.

Should you wish to reply in writing to DfI's comments on your representation(s), you may send a response to the Commission by no later than 4.00pm on Friday, 28th April 2023. Responses should also be confined to no more than 1,500 words per representation. Copies of all responses received will be forwarded to DfI Roads for its information.

The Commission's procedures for the A5 inquiry can be viewed on our website but if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

RUBY McLAREN
Inquiry Administrator

:

From: NAC NI <office@nac-ni.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:52 am

Subject: NAC NI Region Constitution

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Councillors (NAC), NI Region in relation to their revised Constitution as per the attached Draft.

I would be grateful if you could table this document at your next appropriate or full council meeting.

Any comments can be sent by email to: office@nac-ni.org no later than Friday 28th April 2023.

Yours sincerely

ClIr Joe Boyle
SECRETARY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS
Northern Ireland Region

Office: 028 9181 9413

Mobile: 07711 932943

Email: office@nac-ni.org

Web: <http://nac-ni.org/>

Sketrick House - Jubilee Road - Newtownards BT23 4YH

1. Name

The name of the Association shall be The National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region herein referred to as the Association.

Mission Statement: -

The Association strives for the better governance of local communities within Northern Ireland by seeking to ensure that those who are elected to serve to the office of councillor are equipped, to the greatest possible extent, to discharge the many and varied responsibilities falling upon them.

2. Aims and Objectives

- To promote & represent civic leadership.
- To extend and strengthen the links between all Local Authorities, and to enhance friendship and co-operation.
- To address and understand matters of common and mutual interest.
- To facilitate the coming together of members on a regular basis.
- To promote equality of opportunity, combat discrimination and embrace diversity in both the work of the Association and its membership.
- To provide a forum for members to research, discuss and progress issues and a means whereby joint views may be formulated and expressed.
- To identify training needs of members, and solutions.
- To provide information on the Association to members, to ensure that they are afforded the opportunity to contribute to the Association's activities and to the development of policies.
- To promote the policies of the Association by providing information to local authorities, bodies representing local government, the public, the media, and outside organisations.
- To promote the status of members and to ensure adequate remuneration, pension rights and working conditions.
- To advocate measures which will remove barriers to serve as a councillor and encourage a diversity of candidates standing for election.
- To actively take part in consultations with the NI Assembly, when required.
- To maintain and develop the Association on a structured basis.
- To appoint elected representatives and officers, as appropriate.
- To develop relations with other organisations and bodies, as appropriate.

3. Membership

Membership shall be open to all councils in Northern Ireland as corporate members. Each council shall appoint 8 delegates to attend NAC Member's Meetings. All delegates shall have voting rights.

4. Executive Committee

An Executive Committee shall be elected, in accordance with item 16, at the AGM and drawn from members who have been appointed by their council.

The Executive Committee shall conduct the ordinary business of the Association and meet on the first Monday of each month, unless agreed to postpone to a later date for a specific reason.

All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be summoned by not less than 4 days' notice in writing, or by email, specifying the business to be conducted there-at, save that, in the case of business which the chair of the meeting deems to be of urgent nature, any such business may be included on the agenda at any time prior to the commencement of the meeting.

A quorum of 2 Executive Committee members may summon an emergency meeting with 24 hours prior notice, this would be coordinated by the secretary who will contact each member of the Executive Committee with the meeting details, either orally or electronically. The quorum for an emergency meeting will be 5 Executive Committee members, preferably cross-party.

Chair

A Chair shall be elected at the AGM of the Association, in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5 and serve for 2 years. Should the position fall vacant, a replacement shall be made by the party which held the position. Should the chair no longer be a member of the party holding the position, allocated in accordance with the rotation formula at item 5, the position shall automatically be declared vacant, and a replacement shall be made by the party.

Senior Vice Chair and Junior Vice Chair

A Senior and a Junior Vice Chair shall be elected at the AGM of the Association, in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5 and serve for 2 years. Should either position fall vacant, a replacement shall be made by the party which held the position. Should either no longer be a member of the party holding the position the position shall automatically be declared vacant and a replacement shall be made by the party.

Secretary

A Secretary shall be elected every 2 years at the AGM of the Association. If the position falls vacant during the year, a replacement shall be made by the Executive Committee. The secretary of the Association will be the designated accounting officer, and the line manager for staff.

Treasurer

A Treasurer shall be elected every 2 years at the AGM of the Association. If the position falls vacant during the year, a replacement shall be made by the Executive Committee.

Women's Representative

A Women's Representative shall be elected every year at the AGM of the Association, in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5 and serve for 1 year. Should the position fall vacant, a replacement shall be made by the party which held the position. Should the Women's Representative no longer be a member of the party holding the position the position shall automatically be declared vacant and a replacement shall be made by the party. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.

Other Executive Committee Members

- All parties represented in a NI council may appoint one other member to the Executive Committee at each AGM, provided the party has a member nominated by a council as a delegate. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- If a position falls vacant during the year, a replacement shall be from the party holding that position. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- If an Executive Committee member leaves the party they represent, the position shall be declared vacant, and a replacement shall be made from the party's members. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- Any individual elected as an Independent, and nominated by a council, may be appointed to the Executive Committee. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- If more than one Independent is nominated by council(s) they shall agree the one appointment to the Executive Committee.
- A member no longer in a party, after an election, shall not be regarded as an Independent for the Independent Executive Committee position.

5. Party Rotation for election of Officers and Women's Representative

The positions of Chair, Senior Vice Chair, Junior Vice Chair, Women's Representative, UK Executive Member nominee and appointments to other bodies shall follow the rotation.

DUP ~ SDLP ~ APNI ~ SF ~ UUP

The rotation cycle shall continue from one council term to the next and altered with any additional political party representation to the Executive Committee.

6. Co-option Policy

The Executive Committee may co-opt an elected member(s) with specific skills/knowledge to assist the NAC - there will be no voting, proposing or seconding rights.

7. Honoraria

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be paid an honorarium monthly in arrears, amounts to be determined by the Executive Committee at the first meeting following an AGM.

8. NAC UK Executive Committee

Executive Committee members are eligible for election to the NAC UK Executive following nomination by the Executive Committee. Nominations shall be made in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5.

9. Appointment to Other Bodies

Nominations shall be made in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5.

10. Finances

The financial affairs of the Association shall be conducted under the financial regulations agreed by the Executive Committee and approved by full membership.

11. Subscriptions

The Association shall decide the rate of subscriptions at the AGM each year. Subscriptions shall be due before the 1 September each year.

12. Financial Year

The financial year of the Association shall end on 31 July each year.

13. Audit

The accounts of the Association shall be subject to an independent examination at the end of the financial year.

14. Notice of Meetings

A notice of an Annual General, an Extra-ordinary General Meeting or a Special Meeting shall be issued giving 7 days' notice. Meetings may be held by way of a virtual meeting due to a time of national emergency, such as a pandemic, or other event, which involves the application of social distancing.

15. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be open to all members of the Association and shall be held each year in the month of October, at such place and at such time as may be determined by the Executive Committee. If, due to a time of national emergency, such as a pandemic or other event, the Executive Committee may vary the month to hold the AGM.

16. Procedure at the AGM

- To receive the Minutes of the previous AGM.
- To receive a Report from the Secretary on activities of the Association during the preceding year.

-
- To receive a Balance Sheet and Audited Statement of Accounts for the preceding financial year.
 - Bi-Annually elect a Chairman, a Senior Vice Chair, and a Junior Vice Chair.
 - Bi-annually elect a Secretary.
 - Bi-annually elect a Treasurer.
 - Every year to elect other members of the Executive Committee in accordance with item 5.
 - To deal with resolutions, showing the name of the Mover and Seconder and having been notified in writing to the Secretary 28 days prior to the AGM.
 - No other resolution, other than Motions of Procedure shall be permitted.
 - Voting at an Annual General, an Extra-ordinary General Meeting or a Special Meeting shall be restricted to the delegates nominated by their council.

17. Extra-ordinary General Meeting

An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee upon a written request from 5 Members and shall be held with 21 days from receipt of the request.

18. Special General Meetings

The Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting if required to do so.

19. Quorum

The Quorum of an Annual General Meetings, an Extra-ordinary Meeting and a Special Meeting shall be 15 Members. Where a quorum has not been reached before 15 minutes of the scheduled start time the meeting shall not be held, and a further meeting shall be called within 21 days.

20. Termination of Membership

Membership of the Association shall cease where a council's subscription is 6 months overdue.

21. Dissolution

If at a meeting of the full membership, called for this purpose, a motion for the dissolution of the Association shall be passed by at least two thirds of Members, where at least 7 councils are represented at the meeting, the NAC Executive, and up to 2 appointed Senior Officers from 2 councils shall realise the assets and pay the liabilities of the Association as a Dissolution Group. The Group shall make arrangements whereby they shall distribute or discharge the Association's net assets or liabilities. Any remaining property or money shall be distributed in equal share to the 11 councils. Any outstanding balance shall be met by the 11 councils and administered by the Group.

22. Amendments to the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended at any time by the Association on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, if the recommendation is passed by at least two-thirds of the representatives present and voting at the quorate meeting of the Association.



Department for

Communitieswww.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn

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Depairtment fur

Commonities

From: Colum Boyle
Permanent Secretary

Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028 90 823301
E-mail: colum.boyle@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our Ref: PSC 0180.23
Date: 24 March 2023

2023/24 Funding Position

I wanted to update you on the current budget position and the outlook for 2023/24, as I recognise the impact of the ongoing uncertainty on our partner organisations. Given the absence of a budget settlement for 2023/24, the position for all Northern Ireland Departments remains unclear, however, the financial outlook for 2023/24 is extremely challenging with pressures at a NI Block level, leading to the potential for reductions in the Department's final 2023/24 budget allocation.

I appreciate that this situation provides significant challenges and frustration for organisations and their staff who receive funding from our programmes. I also recognise the vital nature of the support and the services delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector at a time when the cost of living crisis continues to impact communities, groups and individuals.

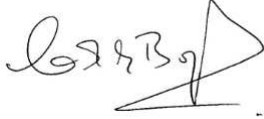
In response to concerns raised by the sector and to alleviate some of the immediate pressures that organisations are facing, I have taken the decision to provide a level of financial support to help sustain services and posts. This support will be provided by the Department to cover the 3-month period up to 30 June 2023 with the allocations based on the 2022/23 budget settlement. I hope you will understand why this allocation cannot be interpreted as an assurance as to the level of funding available for the remainder of 2023/24, given the absence of clarity on the overall budget settlement for the Department.

I can assure you that I remain committed to doing everything within my gift to ensure that organisations can continue to deliver critical services to the most vulnerable and to those who are most in need of support and advice.

I appreciate that this will not meet the immediate needs of all organisations, but I hope this goes some way to providing a level of support to help sustain critical services and retain experienced staff. Officials from across the Department continue to be available to help support organisations and to provide advice and guidance on the various programmes.

I would hope that we will be in a position to confirm our annual funding budget within the coming weeks, and in the meantime I am very grateful to you and your organisations for all that you deliver on behalf of the department for our communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colum Boyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COLUM BOYLE
PERMANENT SECRETARY



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department for

Infrastructure

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Councillor Cora Corry

Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

County Hall
Drumragh Avenue
Omagh, County Tyrone
BT79 7AF

Tel: 0300 200 7894
Text Phone: 028 9054 0022
Fax: 028 8225 4009

Your reference:
Our reference: 151300-23

20th March 2023

Dear Cora,

GRITTING ON RURAL ROADS IN MID ULSTER

Thank you for your further letter of 27 February regarding the access to grit on the rural road network in Mid Ulster.

Grit piles are placed by our contractors at strategic locations along rural roads and are replenished as and when necessary during the winter period. These are provided for use by the public on a self-help basis. Further grit piles can be requested through the local Section Offices. The request is then assessed in accordance with our Winter Service Policy.

Please note that there is also a grit bunker located outside the DfI Roads depot, Station Road, Magherafelt where members of the public can access grit 24hrs a day. During cold snaps this facility is well used and we keep it topped up on a regular basis.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Healy
Divisional Roads Manager
Western Division



To: Council Chief Executives

**Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 90582 3346
e-mail: anthonycarleton@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref:
Date: 24 March 2023

Dear Chief Executive

Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings

Further to my letters of 25 March and 26 September 2022.

Section 78 (local authority meetings) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 contained provision to provide councils with the flexibility to hold meetings by remote or hybrid means during the Coronavirus emergency. This included an enabling power for the Department to make subordinate legislation regarding remote/hybrid meetings and the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 were subsequently made and came into operation on 1 May 2020.

The expiry date of section 78 (Local Authority Meetings) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 was previously extended to 24 March 2023, thus allowing councils to continue to hold remote/hybrid meetings under the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020.

This was intended as an interim measure until such time as proposals for more permanent legislation, to be made under section 2 of the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021, could be considered by a Communities Minister. In the absence of the Assembly, it is not possible to make regulations under the 2021 Act.

A further extension order has therefore been made to extend section 78 of the Coronavirus Act for a further 6 months, until **24 September 2023**. [The Coronavirus](#)



[Act 2020 \(Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings\) \(No2\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2023](#) was made on 23 March. As previously highlighted in my earlier letter of September 2022, an Order to extend section 78 of the Coronavirus Act is subject to the confirmatory procedure in the Assembly and, whilst it comes into operation once made, it will cease to have effect 40 days from the date of making unless it has been approved by resolution of the Assembly (the 40 day period does not include any time in which the Assembly is dissolved, in recess for more than 4 days or adjourned for more than 6 days). The Department will monitor the situation and keep councils informed.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Carleton
Director
Local Government & Housing Regulation

Public Transport Policy Division



Department for
Infrastructure
An Roinn
Bonneagair
Department for
Infrastructure
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Councillor Cora Corry
Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Ground Floor, Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST, BT2 8GB
Tel: 028 9034 6247

Your reference:
Our reference: STOF-0107-2023

30 March 2023

Dear Ms Corry,

Thank you for your letter which we received on 13 March 2023 to Julie Harrison regarding Mid Ulster District Council's support for the motion carried by Derry City & Strabane District Council in relation to railways in Northern Ireland. Your correspondence has been passed to me for response as I have responsibility in my role as Director of Public Transport Policy.

While the aforementioned motion covered a number of railway matters, the Council is particularly interested in the request regarding the introduction of a 'Restoring your Railway' fund in NI, and it is this part of the motion that I will respond to.

The £500m Restoring Your Railway Fund was launched in January 2020 by the Department for Transport (DfT) in GB to provide financial support to projects seeking to restore railway lines and/or stations removed from the network during the 'Beeching cuts'. It primarily funds business cases and feasibility studies.

At present there are no specific plans to introduce such a scheme here. The All-Island Strategic Rail Review (AISRR) will however provide a strategic vision for the rail network and allow investment decisions to be made going forward to best serve the needs of citizens.

For your information, the AISRR will consider how the rail network on the island of Ireland can improve sustainable connectivity between major cities, enhance regional accessibility and support balanced regional development. This will include how our existing connections could be improved and where new rail links would be best placed. Work on

the Review is now at an advanced stage, with a draft final report expected in the coming weeks.

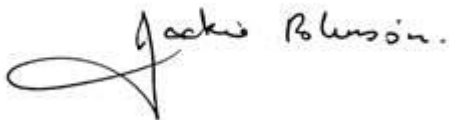
Before the Review is published, it will have to go through the appropriate governance requirements on both sides of the border, including screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). If a SEA is required, it is anticipated this will be subject to consultation around the middle of the year and the draft Review will be published for the purposes of the consultation. The Review will be finalised as soon as possible thereafter, with recommendations from the SEA process (if required) appropriately incorporated.

When these steps have been completed, it is anticipated that the Minister of Transport and Government in Ireland as well as Minister for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland will be asked to approve the Review. Should there continue to be an absence of Ministers in the NI Executive, approval will be considered taking into account the decision-making framework set out in the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc.) Act 2022 or relevant legislation in place at the time. It is expected that the final Review will be published in the second half of 2023.

Once published, the Review will provide an overarching framework to inform policy and future strategy, including decisions in relation to investment in our rail network across the island.

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Robinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jackie Robinson

Director, Public Transport Policy Division



The premature baby charity
for Northern Ireland

Unit A5, 15 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE
Tel: 028 9081 5050 | Fax: 028 9081 5850 | Email: info@tinylife.org.uk

Cc: chief.executive@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Ms Corry,

Reference: Neonatal Leave Policy for Mid Ulster District Council

I am writing following recent news that Belfast City councillors [voted in favour of amending maternity leave provision](#) for Council staff to better support families of premature babies. TinyLife hopes that other local councils will follow Belfast's example, and develop policies that will help ease pressure on families with a baby or babies receiving care on a neonatal unit.

As you may know, TinyLife provides vital support to families of babies who are born too small, too sick or too soon in Northern Ireland. We have been campaigning on the issue of paid neonatal leave for almost a decade. Most recently, we have been engaging with MPs, MLAs and policymakers to examine the implications of GB's Neonatal Care (Leave & Pay) Bill for families in Northern Ireland. We have also worked with local employers in the private sector, including FinTrU, to help develop organisation-specific neonatal leave policies. Public sector employers, like private business, have a unique opportunity to show leadership and initiative in the absence of forthcoming regional legislation on neonatal leave.

In Northern Ireland, around one in 13 babies born each year are admitted to neonatal care due to prematurity or sickness¹. Fathers and non-birthing parents have only two weeks of parental leave, meaning that many return to work long before their child is well enough to leave hospital. Additionally, some mothers of premature or vulnerable babies use up much of their maternity leave while their baby is still in hospital.

Both at work and at home, the whole family's mental health can suffer following the birth of a premature or sick baby. 80% of parents report that their mental health suffered after their baby's neonatal stay². Up to 24% of parents are diagnosed with PTSD following their baby's discharge from neonatal care³. Leo's Neonatal Charity found that 25% of dads and 33% of mums needed antidepressant or anti-anxiety medication after their baby's neonatal stay.

¹ Bliss and TinyLife (2018) [Northern Ireland Baby Report 2018](#)

² Bliss (2022) [Neonatal Care \(Leave and Pay\) Bill Members Briefing](#)

³ The Smallest Things (2021) [Life After Neonatal Care: A post pandemic survey](#)

TinyLife is a company limited by guarantee.
Registered office: Unit A5 17 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE
Charity No: NIC 101869 Company No: NI 037799

Founder and Former President - Professor James Dornan
Chair: Laura McKeaveney

Patrons: David Healy MBE, Sarah Travers, Cara Dillon
Ambassadors: Rita Fitzgerald, Denise Watson, Marissa Callaghan, Kurt Walker



The premature baby charity
for Northern Ireland

Unit A5, 15 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE
Tel: 028 9081 5050 | Fax: 028 9081 5850 | Email: info@tinylife.org.uk

With regards to the impact on businesses, a survey of parents with a child in the neonatal unit⁴ found that:

- Two thirds of dads had to return to work while their baby was still in receiving neonatal care;
- 1 in 3 dads resorted to being signed off sick in order to spend time with their baby on the neonatal unit; and
- 42% of mums and 21% of dads surveyed left work altogether to become a full-time carer for their child or children.

With 99% of respondents (including employers) who responded to the UK Government's consultation in agreement with the proposed legislation⁵, employers, including those in the public sector, have the opportunity to do best by their workers – and for their own business – *before* local legislation requires them to.

Paid neonatal leave would make a material difference to a family's financial stability and mental and physical health, as well as the long-term developmental outcomes for the new-born child. Paid neonatal leave would also ensure that skills, knowledge and talent are not lost from Northern Ireland's workforce.

We are requesting a meeting to discuss these issues, or to present to Mid Ulster councillors on the topic of neonatal leave. Should the Council decide to move forward with its own neonatal leave policy, we would like to offer any assistance and guidance we can during its development.

Attached is a briefing paper on the Neonatal Care (Leave & Pay) Bill, which may also contain some useful information on the potential impact of a neonatal leave policy in the workplace.

I look forward to hearing from you or your team in the near future and can be contacted at alison@tinylife.org.uk.

Many thanks,

Alison McNulty
Chief Executive, TinyLife

⁴ Bliss (2019) [Two thirds of dads forced to return to work while their baby was still in neonatal care](#)

⁵ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2020) [Neonatal leave and pay: Good work plan proposals to support families, Government Response](#)

Briefing: Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill



*The only premature baby
charity for Northern Ireland*

**Tiny
Life.**

KEY FACTS

The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill is a Private Member's Bill that passed all stages in the House of Commons in January. It receives its second reading in the House of Lords on 24th March.

This legislation is designed to create two entitlements - to leave and pay - for families of babies who spend time in a neonatal unit. Families will be eligible if their baby is born **premature** (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) or **full-term but sick** and is cared for in a health setting for **more than 1 week** before they reach 28 days of life.

Neonatal Care Leave would be a **day one right** to be extended to all employees who meet the eligibility conditions, regardless of how long they have worked for their employer. The maximum duration of the leave and how and when it must be taken would be set by regulations, but would be **at least one week**.

Families will be entitled to Neonatal Care Pay if they meet the minimum service and earning requirements:

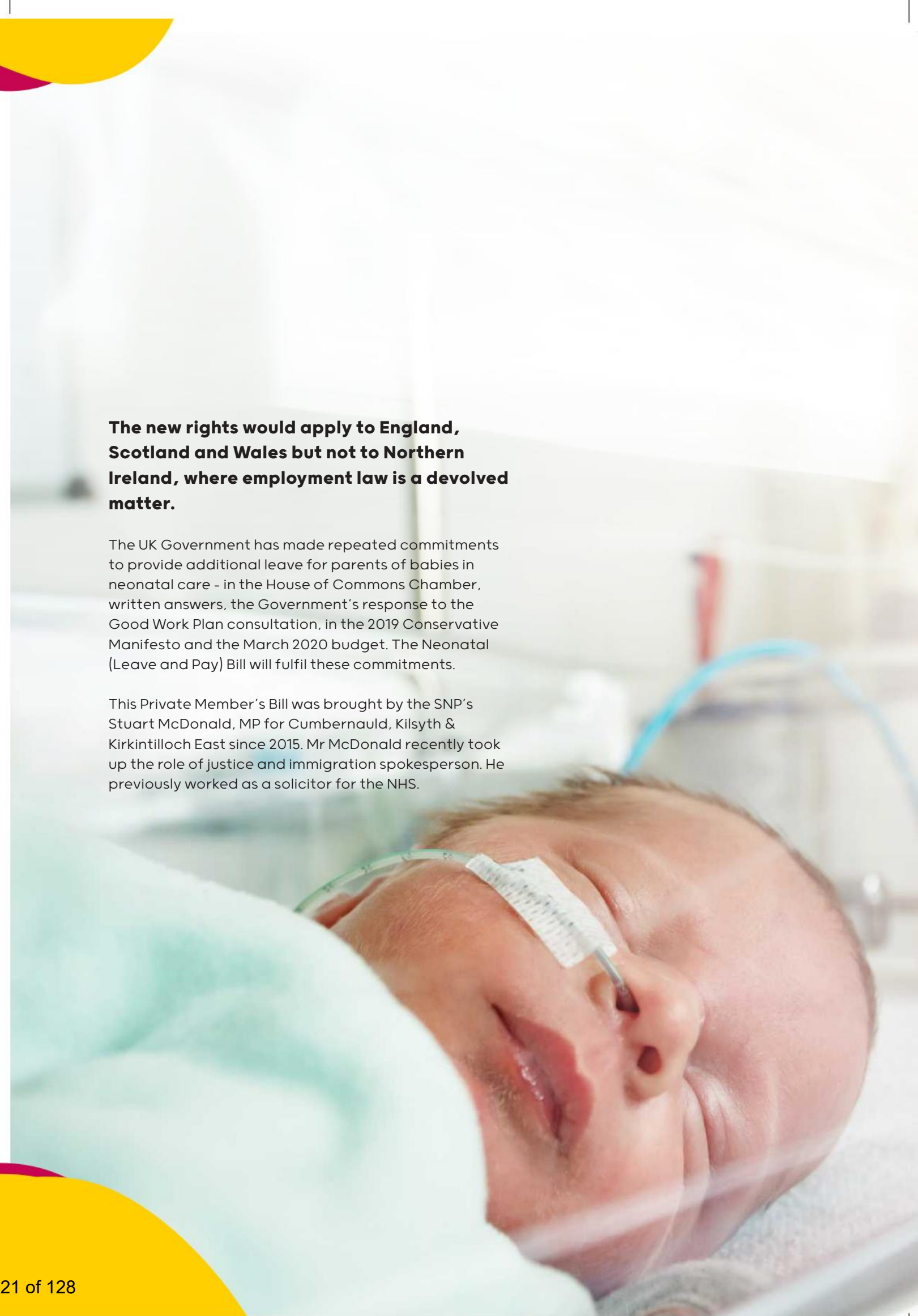
- At least 26 weeks' continuous service
- Weekly earnings at or above the lower earnings limit (currently £123 per week for 2022/23)

The level and duration of pay would also be set by regulations, but the limit that could be claimed would be **at least 12 weeks**.

The new rights would apply to England, Scotland and Wales but not to Northern Ireland, where employment law is a devolved matter.

The UK Government has made repeated commitments to provide additional leave for parents of babies in neonatal care - in the House of Commons Chamber, written answers, the Government's response to the Good Work Plan consultation, in the 2019 Conservative Manifesto and the March 2020 budget. The Neonatal (Leave and Pay) Bill will fulfil these commitments.

This Private Member's Bill was brought by the SNP's Stuart McDonald, MP for Cumbernauld, Kilsyth & Kirkintilloch East since 2015. Mr McDonald recently took up the role of justice and immigration spokesperson. He previously worked as a solicitor for the NHS.



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TIMELINE



CONTEXT

Following the birth of their child, most parents expect a hospital stay of a day or two before returning home with their baby. However, the situation is very different for the parents of the 1,800 babies admitted to a neonatal unit in Northern Ireland each year. Some of these premature or sick babies will receive weeks of neonatal care, while others will spend months in the hospital.

The inflexibility of current parental leave law heightens the trauma and stress felt by the whole family.
For some parents, much of their parental leave is spent in hospital or caring for a sick or vulnerable baby at home, leaving less time to enjoy simply bonding with their child.

Fathers and non-birthing parents are often excluded from their baby’s care by the parental leave system.
With just two weeks of Paternity Leave available, many fathers and non-birthing parents return to work long before their babies are well enough to return home.



sources:
It’s not a game: the very real costs of having a premature or sick baby in Northern Ireland, Bliss/TinyLife (2014) & ‘Two thirds of dads forced to return to work while their baby was still in neonatal care’, Bliss (2019)

Caregivers who feel forced into returning to work too soon are excluded from important caregiving activities, such as skin-to-skin contact, changing and feeding their baby.

Many mothers of babies admitted to a neonatal unit use weeks or months of their Maternity Leave entitlement before their baby returns home. Currently, Statutory Maternity Pay is only payable during the first 39 weeks of Statutory Maternity Leave. When a mother or birthing parent is due to return to work, their premature or vulnerable child may be at an earlier stage of development than their peers. Some babies will still be under the care of neonatal clinicians.



Families might find it difficult to secure childcare that is appropriate for their baby's needs. Some parents drop out of the workforce altogether.

The solution to many of these problems lies in keeping families together for as long as possible, and allowing families the time to bond with and care for their premature or sick baby at home.

Thankfully, an overwhelming majority of employers support additional leave and pay for families of premature or sick babies. The UK Government's response to the consultation noted that there was very little difference between businesses and other respondents in support of Neonatal Leave and Pay - *99% of responses were in favour of the idea*. Employers recognise that taking sick leave is not a sustainable alternative to appropriate leave and pay. Unlike the majority of parental pay, Statutory Sick Pay cannot be reclaimed by employers. **Employers would be able to reclaim the cost of neonatal pay.** Neonatal leave and pay would also provide a much more predictable pattern of leave than ad hoc sick or unpaid leave.



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IMPACT OF A NEONATAL STAY ON FAMILIES

When one parent is forced to return to work sooner than they planned or would like, this can cause challenges for the whole family. For example, this may limit the other parent's ability to visit their baby on the neonatal unit if they are reliant on their partner for transport (including after a caesarean section) or if they share a car. Twins and multiples are sometimes treated in separate hospitals - or even in different areas of the same hospital - which can limit the time that parents have to care for each of their babies. The non-working parent may not be able to spend as much time in hospital as they would like to if they need to care for older siblings in the family. Aside from these practical considerations, the non-working parent will sometimes hear life-changing news about their baby's condition, and may have to make decisions about their baby's care alone.

Parents of babies in the neonatal unit can expect £405 per week on:



Food & Drink



Transport



Parking



Overnight accommodation

sources:

Impact of cost of living crisis in neonatal care, Bliss (2022)

Additional research has found that:

- More than half of families surveyed said their finances affected their ability to spend time with their baby
- One in four families had to borrow money or increase their debt because of their baby's neonatal stay
- 77% of parents report that the costs of attending the neonatal unit had a negative impact on their mental health

The combination of additional costs associated with neonatal care, coupled with inadequate parental leave and pay, has a significant detrimental impact on the financial and mental wellbeing of a family.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY-CENTRED CARE

For the very best start in life, babies must receive hands-on care. This includes feeding, kangaroo care (skin-to-skin contact), changing, bathing and, in some cases, administration of medication. For babies, sustained periods of direct care can increase weight gain, improve breastfeeding rates, improve reflexes and gross motor development at 4-5 years and reduce pain during invasive procedures.

Parental involvement - physical and emotional closeness - is highly important for forming strong parent-infant bonds. Parents who spend time with their babies for long periods of time report increased confidence, as well as reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Because the provisions of the Westminster Private Member's Bill do not extend to Northern Ireland, **we must develop a separate Bill that will enshrine the same protections into law for people living in NI.**

The Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 could serve as a useful model. Westminster introduced legislation for parental bereavement leave and pay, which came into effect in GB in April 2020. NI's Department for the Economy then issued a public consultation on the issue of bereavement leave and pay, which was completed in summer 2020. The Department developed a small, single-issue Bill that mirrored its Westminster equivalent. The Bill received cross-party support, enjoying a relatively smooth passage through the Assembly and came into effect in April 2022.

It is currently unclear whether the Neonatal Care legislation could be introduced in NI via an Executive bill or whether it will have to be introduced in the form of a Private Member's Bill, as it was in Westminster. It is anticipated that the Westminster Neonatal Care Bill will be implemented 18 months after receiving Royal Assent, providing enough time for businesses to update their policies and for HMRC to update their IT systems.

For further information, please contact: Alison McNulty, CEO at alison@tinylife.org.uk or Rebekah Corbett, Policy and Public Affairs Officer at rebekah@tinylife.org.uk



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Tiny Life is registered as a company limited by guarantee in N.Ireland

**From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Julie Harrison**

Councillor Cora Corry
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council

Via email:
eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org

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Your reference:
Our reference: SINV-0068-2023
13 April 2023

Dear Councillor Corry

**CURRENT FUNDING POSITION FOR OUT AND ABOUT COMMUNITY
TRANSPORT AND MID ULSTER SHOPMOBILITY**

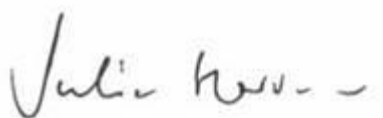
Thank you for your recent correspondence related to the current funding position for Out and About Community Transport and Mid Ulster Shopmobility and your concerns in that regard.

I fully acknowledge the difficulties presented to all the Community Transport Providers and Shopmobility Schemes by the current budget uncertainty and that at this time, funding can only be confirmed until 30 June 2023. I recognise the efforts being made to continue to provide services and I remain committed to working with all the Community Transport Providers and Shopmobility Schemes to address the situation we find ourselves in.

The position still stands that further funding decisions for the remainder of the year will be subject to the budget provided by the Secretary of State for NI, in the event that we remain without Ministers.

When the overall budget position is clearer, I will be happy to update you and Mid Ulster Council.

Yours sincerely



JULIE HARRISON

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Cora Corry
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Your Ref:

Our ref: SCORR-0414-2023

Date: 13th April 2023

Dear Cora

Thank you for your letter, dated 30 March 2023, in which you convey the Council's motion in relation to Community Pharmacy services.

I share with Council, the appreciation that community pharmacy services provided during COVID-19 and welcome your recognition of the collaboration that took place in exceptionally challenging times to put in place new services for our population. An example of a valuable ongoing legacy is that community pharmacies are now a major provider of vaccination services.

I am sure you are aware that funding is constrained for not only the Department of Health (DoH), but all Departments, and savings are being sought or funding cut right across the entire public sector. No budget has yet been set for the DoH for 2023/24, but the expectations is that there will be no uplift in funding levels.

I can assure you that the DoH is in regular contact with Community Pharmacy NI (CPNI) regarding the provision of services to ensure sustainable access to, and continuity of, community pharmacy services to the public within their current funding envelope.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter May".

Peter May