

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 14 September 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor McNamee, Chair  Councillors Bell*, Black, W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke, Corry*, Forde, Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade, Monteith*, Milne*, Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	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 Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Councillor S McPeake***

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

**D122/23 Notice of Recording**

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

**D123/23 Apologies**

Councillors Molloy and Quinn.

**D124/23 Declaration of Interests**

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

### **D125/23 Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that Councillor Wilson wished to raise any issue under Chair's Business.

Councillor Wilson advised that the old Social Security Building in Cookstown was up for sale which was an absolute eyesore and in dire need of being renovated. The member believed that there were a number of organisations who were looking to bid on it, one in particular and as Chair of Cookstown Enterprise Centre, were looking to redevelop the whole site and would require a letter of support from the Council to allow this to happen.

Councillor Wilson sought approval from Council to allow the Chief Executive permission to write a letter of support to move this project forward and to include any of the other interested parties to do the same. The member felt that it was important that this building and site gets tidied up.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor W Buchanan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to grant approval for the Chief Executive to write a letter of support for Cookstown Enterprise Centre any other interested parties to progress the upgrade and renovation of Cookstown Social Security Building.

The Chair advised that other people had indicated to him that they may send in a letter to Council in due course.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **D126/23 Ballyronan Boat Club – Development Proposal**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update members on engagement to date and proposals for consideration.

Councillor Clarke thanked the AD: HL&W for his good explanation and said that he was delighted to see progress being made and would be happy to propose the recommendation. The member stated that this would really be a new development and what happened there before is now in the past and with the current situation now at Ballyronan and the space at the site, it would great to see the progress.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Committee that approval be granted for Officers:

- (a) To ascertain conditions and agreement needed to facilitate the Ballyronan Boat Club proposal and if permissible and agreeable to all parties, draft terms for a lease of 25 years with possibility of extension for the disused old changing areas currently located on site.
- (b) To engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain current market value for retail/leasing options and incorporate into an agreement with agreed rent review conditions.
- (c) Subject to mutual agreement on above, that Council proceed to finalise the necessary agreements.

Councillor Black advised that he would be happy to support the proposal as this was a good opportunity for the Council to support the Boat Club and show a keen interest in trying to better the facility at Ballyronan.

Councillor W Buchanan enquired how the blue/green algae affect the long-term boating on the lough.

The Chair agreed that this was a very pertinent question at the minute regarding what was going on in the lough and enquired if the AD: HL&W had any update.

The AD: HL&W said that members may have been aware that a meeting had taken place last Monday at the request of this committee, Council had invited NIEA and NI Water to provide an information session for Councillors which included slides that could be circulated to members for information if they so wish. The AD: HL&W advised that one of the actions arising out of that meeting was to invite NIEA and NI Water back to this committee in due course at an appropriate time to provide an update on any of the agreed actions that was discussed at the meeting.

Councillor McLernon said that whilst discussing the matter of blue/green algae at the lough she wished to take the opportunity to raise the issue of the dredging at Blackwater and the fact that Lough Neagh Rescue were potentially being jeopardised in doing their job and providing a service due to the fact of the river in dire need of being dredged. The member requested that this matter be raised at the Environment Committee.

The Chair advised that the Council was dealing previously with ABC Council in relation to the dredging of the Blackwater where potential legal issues had arisen.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) said that she understood the Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) had been instructed by Council to seek legal advice from Council's solicitors upon the legal vires of Council undertaking any proposed dredging works to the mouth of the Blackwater River, given that this was the responsibility of Department for Infrastructure. The AD: EDT&SP said that it was her understanding that the SD: Env would bring back an update report to the Environment Committee once the legal advice had been attained.

The Chair stated Councillor McLernon's concerns would be raised at the Environment Committee and was aware that the member had indicated that the situation on the Blackwater is worse now than it ever has been.

Councillor Milne advised that he had attended a Lough Neagh Partnership meeting today and the organisation had indicated to him that a new body had been formed by possibly DAERA or some other government body where different groups have been invited along and dismayed to see Lough Neagh Partnership not being included. The member stated that Lough Neagh Partnership was one of the groups that knows everything about the lough and shocking to see them not being invited and enquired if there was any possibility of this Council making representation to DAERA or whoever to include Lough Neagh Partnership onto the newly formed body.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that to approve that:

- (a) Officers liaise with DAERA or other Government Department responsible for forming the new body for the Lough Neagh asking them to involve Lough Neagh Partnership in their future proceedings.
- (b) Dredging of Blackwater be referred to Environment Committee for consideration.

Councillor Monteith said that coming in on the back of this regarding the Environment Committee, there seemed to be an overlap given now we have environmental health responsibilities. The member suggested that Environmental Health Report be a continuous standing item on the agenda as there has always been an item on the agenda for Development Report, Community Development Update and Economic Development. The member advised that increasingly there were issues coming, including Lough Neagh due to the crisis at the minute, but there were other crisis' including the whole situation around Northway facility in the Clogher Valley area relating to air pollution the same as Dungannon and Moy. The member felt that the public do expect our Environmental Health Officers and our department to be taking a lot of the lead on this, often there is not the statutory base for it, but when there is work coming off our staff could they be in a position to look at this sort of stuff as the first point of contact for the community. He felt there was a need for this Council to be more publicly proactive in public health issues and promotion of public health.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Environmental Health Report be a standing agenda item each month to allow Councillors to raise these types of issues as some were very pertinent to local communities and important to have monthly reports.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that Environmental Health Report be a standing item each month on the Development Committee agenda going forward.

Councillor Wilson following on from Councillor McLernon's comments advised that he had previously sat on the Environment committee and was his understanding that the vast majority of the area which needed to be dredged at Blackwater belonged to ABC Council. The member agreed that whilst we were the statutory body that could dredge it or indeed if it was our responsibility in Mid Ulster Council, it could relate to ABC Council also and was unsure where ABC Council currently stood relating to this.

The Chair advised that there had been an in-depth conversation around this and agreed there were serious issues around the Lough. The member stated that there were all types of pollution around Mid Ulster and the recommended Environmental Health Report each month would provide everyone with the opportunity to raise any concerns which they may have.

### **D127/23      Development Report**

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

- Strategic Development/Community Planning – letter of offer support for the proposed Magherafelt Health Village
- VPRS Storage Scheme Support
- Development Update

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as it was important to keep up the good work that has been done with the refugee community. The member referred to Magherafelt Health Village and said that she was aware of a number of members attending the meeting in July and was a very exciting opportunity to bring free GP services into the one space including child services, opticians, pharmacists, physio, dentist etc along with caring also. The member stated that this was an extremely exciting opportunity and was very happy to support it.

Councillor Clarke said that he would be happy to second the recommendation as it was very important to move forward with this.

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to –

- Approve the issuing of a Council letter of support for the Magherafelt Health Village.
- Approve the contribution to the VPRS Storage Scheme.
- Note the Development Update.

### **D128/23      Development – Peace Plus Plan**

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

The AD: Dev asked members to note that one of these was in Capital and the programme which was being looked at the moment through a masterplan process is for Traad and this masterplan will be brought back to members in due course as it was currently being finalised through co-design and consultation with the communities.

Councillor Gildernew proposed the Peace Plus Plan for submission for SEUPB as she was delighted to see this much needed Peace funding coming to Mid Ulster District Council area from the European Union. The member hoped that the process would not be as bureaucratic in Peace funding as it previously was over the years.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to approve the Peace Plus Plan for submission to SEUPB.

Councillor Monteith said that he had a query regarding the other themes and enquired if Council were able to avail of the other themes in the mix for future applications or were we confined to this particular theme.

The AD: Dev advised that Council could apply for regional Peace Plus themes. Theme 1.1 is specifically for Council and has a dedicated allocation based on the plan. Council can apply competitively to other themes and that a number of these were open at the minute for example youth, shared education, environment etc. she can send members a full update of what is currently available.

Councillor Monteith enquired if it would be beneficial arranging a workshop for Councillors to chat and generate ideas as there was a fairly large capital works plan. The Member suggested that Officers could investigate to see if there was anything that would fit in for potential applications as there were areas which kept coming up i.e., Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon which would integrate well with no. 5 as it was a registered bird sanctuary and was also included in our capital works. The member felt that a workshop would be beneficial for members on the whole Peace Plus programme, with a view to what projects Council has already in the pipeline and potential for available funding through it.

The Chair agreed that this would be beneficial to showcase the new model and include new members of Council who may not be on the partnership or fully informed on the whole concept and may better place themselves to lever monies for their own communities.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that a workshop be arranged for all members on the entire Peace Plus Programme.

Councillor Wilson advised that Peace Plus funding was very welcome as the vast majority of the money was coming from the Exchequer. The member said that whilst reading through the report he did not see anything relating to the arts although he has seen culture mentioned all the time and enquired was arts part of the culture or was it being excluded.

The AD: Dev confirmed that arts would be part of the culture theme. She advised that an independent consultant was brought in “Insight Solutions” who had went out and identified a number of themes through engagement with the community and peace partnerships and these were the key themes which had come back. The AD: Dev said that Council had focused on as many social inclusion schemes ones as possible but arts has been incorporated under the cultural element and although it may not be as strong as some of the others in relation to potentially poverty, health and wellbeing, it was still there but may not have the same allocation of funding.

Councillor Wilson asked if this could be included as Arts and Culture as this would give it a purpose. The member advised that members had met last with the strategic arts delivery groups and that it would be good to provide them with a boost by using the word Arts.

The AD: Dev confirmed that Councillor Wilson’s request could be accommodated.

Councillor Burton said that on a similar vein to Councillor Monteith, referred to Clogher Valley Workhouse where a consultation event took place at Corick House at the end of August and was her understanding that the Education Authority hoped to get some support through this Peace money. There was a presentation from the Early Years and was strongly felt that there is very little childcare facilities in Clogher Valley area for working mothers and would appreciate an update regarding this to make sure that Council was still focused on the effort that the whole cross-community put in. There was ongoing work between Early Years and some of the older people in the care home to carry out intergenerational work which would benefit both the older and younger people. The member felt that it would be very important to keep this on the radar and to generate any support available.

The AD: Dev said that Officers were aware that Early Years had put in for a regional project which closed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. The AD: Dev advised that a letter of support has been provided based on previous letters of support following a presentation on the scheme. The AD: Dev said it was her understanding that the group were quite hopeful that they have a strong application to the large capital fund.

Councillor Burton suggested that it may be beneficial to organise a meeting around the table so that the new local representatives of Council can get a little bit more of a steer around what we are trying to achieve up in there. The member enquired if this could be accommodated pre-Christmas.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that a meeting be arranged for members particularly our new local representatives so that they can be

made aware of what Council were trying to achieve in the Clogher Valley area regarding Early Years proposals.

**D129/23 Mountain Bike NI Consortium**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to seek approval to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2023-2024.

Councillor Clarke said that he would like to support the proposal as it has been in place for a number of years which was delivering well. The member felt that it was good to be part of a region wide organisation which promotes the mountain-biking facilities across the region.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for Mid Ulster District Council to participate as a Consortium Partner with the Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £10,500 to 2023-24 campaign.

Councillor Burton enquired if promotion was all the Council got through this or was there any other benefits.

The AD: HL&W advised that appendix and short report was included around the work which has went on this last year which allowed Council the opportunity to do a shared promotion of the facilities that we have and also to avail of some expertise and the extra insight that we need. He said that it was felt that working in partnership provides Council with the maximum amount of opportunity to deliver this specialist marketing campaign right across the spectrum, not just marketing but expertise on ongoing work on trails we have also.

**D130/23 Walk NI Consortium**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to seek Council approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium for 2023-2024.

Councillor Corry said she was happy to propose the recommendation as it was a great opportunity to showcase our Sperrins and for all we have to offer here in Mid Ulster. The member advised that she would see a lot of walkers around her own area in Hudy's Way, Slieve Gallion, Derrynoyd and Carntogher and was a good opportunity to promote hillwalking in the area.

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for Mid Ulster District Council to participate as a Regional Partner with the

Walking NI Marketing Consortium with a contribution of £3,617.00 towards the 2023-2024 campaign.

**D131/23 Dog Friendly Park Trial in Dungannon Park**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to advised members of proposal to develop a trial Dog Friendly Park at Nunnery Hill in Dungannon Park.

Councillor Monteith advised that it was himself that brought this initiative forward though this committee on the request from the doggy community and said that it was good to see it up and running. The member said that he understood the need for a trial period but felt that 12-month period was a bit long and felt that if things were progressing well that consideration be given to bringing this down to a 6-month trial period with a potential for rollout across other Council areas. The member felt that if this was any sort of success in Dungannon Park at all, then there was potential for other members getting lobbied for roll out in other areas and felt that after 6 months a review be taken then. The member stated that if this facility could be set up for this minimal amount of money, it would be something certainly worthwhile for other areas.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to develop a trial Dog Friendly Park in Dungannon Park. Trail to be reviewed after a 6-month period as opposed to 12 months and also investigate the potential for a similar facility across other areas of Mid Ulster.

The Chair said that it would be useful to earmark some ground in other areas if there is a big uptake in Dungannon and important to move relatively quickly on that.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Railway Park DEA meeting be resumed as soon as possible as he felt that it has fallen of the radar once again.

The AD: Dev advised that there has been an update with a meeting taking place today on the design, there is a few tweaks to make and has to go out to the DEA but advised that this can be organised through the Capital team relatively soon.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to resume Railway Park DEA meetings as soon as possible.

**D132/23 Sports Representative Grants**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update on the proposed Community Grant allocations for the range of:

- Sports Representative Grant – Individual 44 (September 2023) - Total £9160
- Sport Presentative Grant – Teams 4 (September 2023) - Total £1450

Councillor McLernon said that she would like to propose the recommendations and also to say that it was great to see the Sports Grants reaching so many different sports individuals within the community.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the Sports Grant allocations as outlined within the report.

### **D133/23 DfC Evaluation Exercise on Pavement Café Legislation**

The The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to agree Council's response to Department of Infrastructure's evaluation exercise on Pavement Café legislation.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the previously circulated draft response to be submitted to the Department for Communities' evaluation exercise on pavement café licensing.

### **D134/23 Economic Development Report – September 2023**

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:

- **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt**
- **TV Christmas Promotional Campaign for Retail and Hospitality**
- **Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events 2023/2024**
- **Project Gigabit – Public Review**
- **ICBAN – Peace Plus – DS3 Smart Town and Villages**

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the report. The member enquired would it be possible to get a date brought forward for the Broadband Working Group as the group has not met for quite a long time and felt that this would be beneficial as there were still gaps in the Mid Ulster area.

Councillor Gildernew said she would like to second the proposal and support the contribution of £1500 to ICBAN for the funding bid associated with employment of a contractor to coordinate a major funding bid (€6 million) as this funding would be transformative for the border communities which have been extremely adversely affected through the years and would be great to see and would fully supported it.

Councillor Wilson referred to item 5.1 – Off Street Carparking and advised that high streets were dying on their feet at the moment and asked if it was possible or how

much it would cost to offer free carparking in Dungannon and Magherafelt over the festive period.

Councillor Wilson also referred to item 5.4 – Project Gigabit and wished to pay tribute to Mr McKenna (Economic Regeneration Service Manager) on this. The member advised that there was a 5G mast erected on the Morgans Hill Road, Cookstown which has affected an elderly lady living behind it as she hasn't got a smart tv and has no picture what-so-ever for this last 2 months. The problem being that no-one can identify who the suppliers are to confirm that it is their mast. The member said that he was unsure where we can go with this, but it was an absolute disgrace that some of these telecom people cannot and will not take responsibility for that mast. The member said that he was aware that the Economic Development department especially Mr McKenna was doing excellent work on this but felt there was an issue with planning on this also as obviously this Council has approved it.

In response to Councillor Wilson's query regarding Off Street Carparking, the AD: EDT&SP advised that she would liaise with the Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) to ascertain costs for the proposal to provide free carparking during the 6 week festive period, but advised that such costs had not been budgeted for in the current year.

In relation to Member's query regarding Project Gigabit, the AD: EDT&SP advised that her team has been working with Planners in an attempt to identify the owner of the new 5G mast in Cookstown. However, as the mast has no branding on it, it has not been possible at this juncture to identify which telecoms company owns it.

In response to Councillor Corry's comment regarding Broadband Working Group, the AD: EDT&SP advised that she is happy to convene a meeting of the Group but felt it would be appropriate to obtain the data sets from Department for the Economy first, so that staff could analyse these and be better briefed to meet Members of the Working Group.

Councillor Corry said that this made perfect sense and would be good to get this information.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second what Councillor Wilson had suggested regarding free carparking. The member said that he had long had the view that there should be free carparking in the town centre and there were issues raised previously regarding parking at Castlehill about people parking all day but free for 2 hours would sort this issue out. The member asked that this be investigated as a matter of urgency and if not workable then revert back to 10 pence fee.

Councillor Monteith asked for Ann Street DEA meeting to be reinstated again to discuss proposals as there hasn't been a meeting before the elections in May.

The Chair advised that there had been requests received looking different subgroups to be reconvened again.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

- **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt**

**Resolved** That it be recommended that approval be given to investigate costs associated with free carparking in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres during the festive period as a matter of urgency. In the event of this not being workable approval be given to the temporary reduced tariff for the First 3 Hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay and Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt from Saturday 25 November 2023 to Saturday 6 January 2024 (6-week period) at a cost to Council of £24,000.

- **TV Christmas Promotional Campaign for Retail and Hospitality**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the development of a high-profile Christmas Promotional Campaign (involving TV and other social media channels) to support the Retail and Hospitality sectors during the festive period at an approximate cost of £35,000 with funding from Council's Economic Development budget.

- **Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events 2023/2024**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve Officer attendance at the various Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events in 2023/2024 as detailed in the report, at a cost of circa. £10,000 from Council's Tourism budget.

- **Project Gigabit – Public Review**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to:

- (i) Note update on Project Gigabit
- (ii) Approve that delegated authority be given to Council's Chief Executive to sign and return the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to the Department for the Economy to enable release of Project Gigabit datasets, upon Council's legal team having satisfactorily completed their review of the NDA.

- **ICBAN – Peace Plus – DS3 Smart Town and Villages**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to:

- (i) Note progress of funding bid
- (ii) Approve a partner funding contribution to the Irish Central Border Area Network of up to £1,500 (sterling) towards costs associated with employment of a contractor to coordinate a major funding bid (circ.

€6 million) on behalf of the ICBAN region, related to Smart Towns and Villages.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D135/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 July 2023**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 July 2023.

Councillor Corry referred to D108/23 Macmillan Move More and said that a meeting was due to take place in August and enquired if there was any further update from that.

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that all of the Councils were in the same boat at the minute as still waiting on proposals coming forward from Macmillan and or other agencies. As members may know the current Macmillan funded programme is due to finish on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and was something that Council was pushing hard with the funder to establish what their plans were. The AD: HL&W said that just over 18 months ago there was an extension put forward on that scheme with additional funding and indeed Council also contributed as part of that funding extension. The AD: HL&W advised that there was no update yet but was something that Officers were currently working on and as soon as there is any update this would be brought back through this committee. Councillor Monteith referred to D106/23 and the British Military mast at Castlehill and asked if there was any update from the Consultant and if not, proposed that Council initiate contact with Consultant to try and move this forward as once again this was one of the issues constantly a victim of adrift.

The Chair said that he thought that more information had come back and members hadn't received it.

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) advised that Officers have been liaising back and forward, not with the Consultant, but with the agency. She stated that there was an issue in terms of costings and bringing the Consultant on board. The AD: Dev confirmed that liaisons has taken place but hasn't been finalised yet and an update would be forwarded to members.

### **D136/23 Affordable Warmth Scheme**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the ending of Councils involvement with Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Councillor Corry advised that a number of members had met with the Housing Executive regarding them taking over this scheme from Council and the great work that this Council had done through the area in being able to provide for our constituents. The member stated that from the scheme has been taken over by the Housing Executive she had a number of people contacting her regarding difficulties about getting through to the scheme and when she tried herself she was advised that they had been inundated by the volume and asked if she provide numbers and contact for residents who were in contact with her, but she was unable to do that.

The member said that it may be interesting to possibly have a future meeting with the Housing Executive again just to see any impacts that this scheme was having and whether it was reaching the same levels as it did before and if not what they were going to do to address this issue.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Corry's comments and said that it would be interesting to see how the Housing Executive was squaring up to what we were doing over the past few years.

Councillor Burton noted where the Housing Executive were saying that anyone who was not fully processed by Council Officers that their application literally starts from scratch again. The member said that she would be interested to know how many people were in that limbo place as she was aware of residents who were granted approval through an Officer as they had met the criteria and unfortunately the work hadn't just started and enquired if these people would be in the same place if the actual work hasn't been completed and having to go through the whole process again. The member said that bearing in mind that we were coming into the winter months and would be amazed at how many people who will contact Councillors to say that they have no form of heating in their house other than an open fire at this stage. The member stated that this was something that really needed to be taken on board and fight for constituents.

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that Council has been given the assurances that any applications that Council Officers has recommended across the department and met the eligibility criteria, wouldn't have to restart their application process as they were already in the system. This was for anyone who had made an enquiry to Council Officers who were possibly sitting on a waiting list that were due to get their application assessed, regrettably it was those individuals that have been told that they need to restart their application and their eligibility request from the start. The AD: HL&W stated that all Councils has pushed very hard on this with the department and regrettably that has fell on deaf ears. Officers has been in touch with all those individuals and explained the referral process and they still remain on hand to guide and talk them through that even though the relevant staff member has moved on from this post.

The AD: HL&W advised that when meeting took place with representatives from DfC and Housing Executive on 31<sup>st</sup> July, part of the commitment was that we would invite them back to a future Development Committee in the Autumn where they would provide the Council with an update on how the transition period has went and provide members with an opportunity to further scrutinise that. The AD: HL&W said if members were minded, he could certainly reach out to them and make a request for a future deputation to this committee as agreed back in July.

Councillor Forde said that she would second the proposal made by the AD: HL&W.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that an invite be issued to DfC and Housing Executive to come back to Development Committee with an update on the transition of the Affordable Warmth Scheme as agreed back in July.

## **D137/23 Economic Development Report – OBF1**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) – Action Plan 2023-24
- Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2023

*The live broadcast ended at 7.55 pm.*

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D138/23 to D142/23.

### **Matters for Decision**

D138/23 Development Report – Community Grants  
D139/23 Tender for Play Park Facilities  
D140/23 Altmore/Cappagh Tender Award

### **Matters for Information**

D141/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 July 2023  
D142/23 Economic Development Report – CBF1

## **D143/23 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.08 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