

03 March 2022

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee to be held in

The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual meansCouncil Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 03 March 2022 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
- 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
- 5. Deputation NI Veteran's Commission

Matters for Decision

6.	Women's Aid/Apex Moved On Support Housing Scheme	3 - 8
7.	COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme	9 - 10
8.	Purchase of lands at Drumcoo from Dungannon Enterprise	11 - 16
	Centre	
9.	Request to Illuminate Council Properties: March 2022	17 - 18
10.	Member Services	

Matters for Information

11	Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on	19 - 24
	Thursday 3 February 2022	
12	Annual Subscriptions: NAC and LGSC	25 - 28

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

- 13. Staffing Matters for Decision
- 14. ICT Software Contract extensions March 2022
- 15. Gortgonis Community Health & Well Being Hub
- 16. Gortgonis NIE Wayleaves / Easements
- 17. Iniscarn Forest Project
- 18. Insurances 2022/23

Matters for Information

- 19. Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 February 2022
- 20. Staffing Matters for Information
- 21. Contracts and DAC Registers
- 22. Financial Reporting for 10 months to 31 January 2022

Report on	Women's Aid/Apex Moved On Support Housing Scheme
Date of Meeting	3 rd March 2022
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officer	Martina Totten, Strategic Development Coordinator

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 Women's Aid/Apex Moved On Support Housing Scheme
1.2	To provide agreement in principle to rescinding the lease from Women's Aid and the potential sale of the lands to Apex Housing, to allow officers to discuss with Apex in more detail, subject to legal advice, LPS valuation and further report(s) being taken back to Council to agree the disposal and main terms of the same.
1.3	To seek agreement to proceed with LPS valuation of land at Limekiln Lane Cookstown ("the Lands"), for the purposes of discussing the sale of the Lands to Apex Housing Association, upon approval from NIHE for Housing Association Grant (HAG) and Supporting People award.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council has been assisting Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid and Department for Communities on the delivery of much needed 'Move On' accommodation for their clients in the district, as the next step back to permanent housing placements. Such developments address the specific needs of those affected by violence and release other properties to address the wider social housing need in the area.
	A site has been identified adjacent to the Women's Aid refuge, on Council owned land at Limekiln Lane, Cookstown.
2.2	Council previously agreed to a lease with Women's Aid for the Lands to be used for the provision of Move on Accommodation for its clients.
	Women's Aid carried out an Economic Appraisal exercise which explored the various options to deliver the house build scheme. The Appraisal recommended a partnership approach with a Housing Association, to allow the use of the Housing Association Grant (Associations are the only organizations that can access the grant). Upon discussions with a number of Housing Associations, Women's Aid entered into a discussions with Apex Housing Association and Council, to develop social housing for the sole use of women and families of domestic violence. Apex Housing Association

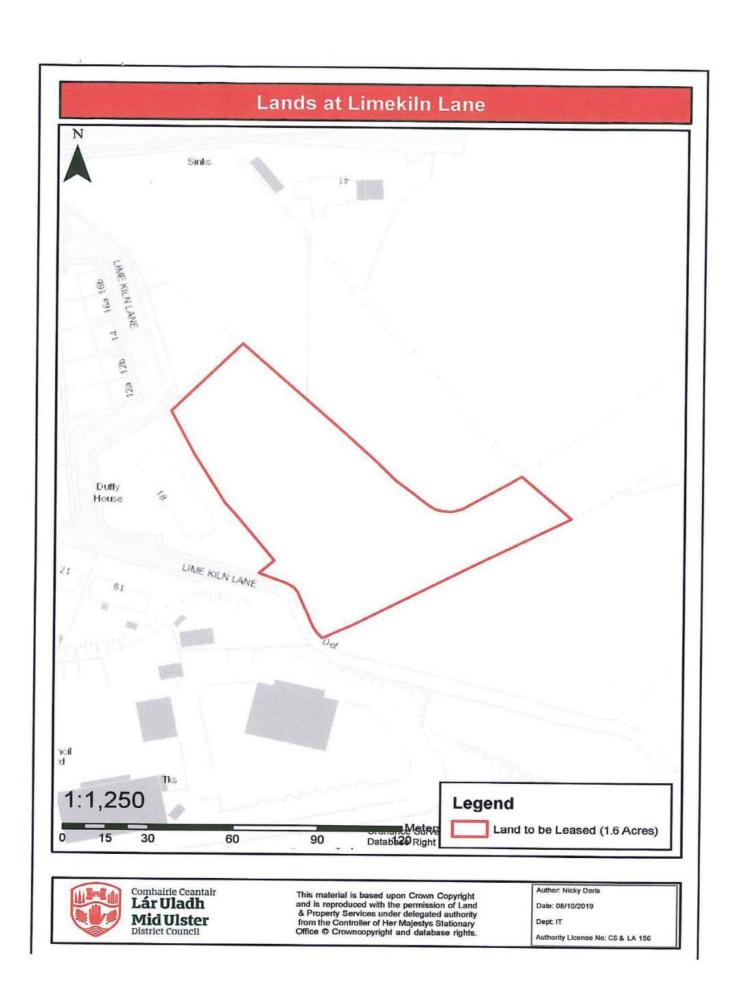
was identified as a partner; due to their commitment to move on housing for women of domestic violence, and their experience in the provision of similar housing in Derry City, their current development in Omagh. Apex Housing Association have delivered similar housing schemes in Derry City with Foyle Women's Aid and are currently undertaking delivery with Fermanagh Women's Aid. To allow Council to proceed with a potential sale of the Land, an LPS valuation is 2.3 required. 3.0 Main Report 3.1 Council has been working closely with Women's Aid and Apex housing Association to seek to move on the development for much needed 'Move on Housing Accommodation for clients of Women's Aid. 3.2 In order to progress with the development of supported social housing at the Lands, Apex Housing Association have informed Council that they must have Title Hold of the site, in order to secure the necessary public and private funding they would require to deliver the scheme. Housing Associations can make an application to DFC, through NIHE, for a HAG grant for 60% of the total build costs. The remaining 40% is raised from private investments. Causeway & Mid Ulster Women's Aid currently hold a 99 year lease from Council for the Lands. They have written to Council to rescind this lease based on the sale of Lands to Apex Housing Association with the necessary conditions to protect the developed site for Category 1 Supported (social) Housing and Women's Aid as the main used as long as is required. The future sale agreement between MUDC and Apex Housing Association will include relevant covenants, ensuring the Lands is used, in the first instance, for Category 1 Support (social) Housing, that Women's Aid have first refusal of, as sole user. Any social housing units unused by Women's Aid will remain as Category 1 social housing. MUDC's Legal services will oversee all necessary contractual requirements. It is proposed to rescind the lease from Women's Aid, simultaneously to the sale of the Lands to Apex Housing Association. Officers will report back to P&R committee before moving to the next stage of rescinding the lease from Women's Aid and selling the Lands to Apex. Before this stage is initiated, Apex Housing Association must secure HAG grant funding from DfC and Causeway & Mid Ulster Women's Aid must have received confirmation of

3.3 Council will instruct LPS to carry out a full valuation of the Lands to determine the likely valuation and terms of any disposal (i.e. sale) to Apex Housing Association. As with any disposal of Council land, the Council must comply with the requirements of Section 96(5) of the 1972 Act, which in summary requires the Council to obtain the best price or best terms. In order to comply with this requirement, LPS will need to be instructed.

Supporting People's award.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial & Human Resources Implications Fee to LPS for land valuation
	Legal Resource
	Professional Support
	LPS land valuation
4.2	Equality and Good Relations Implications None
4.3	Risk Management Implications None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note update on the Women's Aid/Apex Moved On Support Housing Scheme
5.2	To provide agreement in principle to rescinding the lease from Women's Aid and potential sale of the Lands to Apex Housing, to allow officers to discuss with Apex in more detail, subject to legal advice, LPS valuation and further report(s) being taken back to Council to agree the disposal and main terms of the same.
5.3	To agree for officers to instruct LPS to carry out valuation of the Lands.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Map of the Lands for illustration purposes only

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Report on	COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme
Date of Meeting	3 rd March 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officers	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing

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

1.0	Purpose of Report	
1.1	To provide Members with an update on the COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme, to approve 10% match funding from Council Capital Reserves (subject to approval of funding from DfC) and to grant approval to the officer team to progress the appointment of an ICT team to work up design details for project deliverables.	
2.0	Background	
2.1	The three government departments (DfC, Dfl and DAERA) are proposing to jointly fund a COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme across 10 local authority areas targeting rural settlements with 1000 - 4999 inhabitants. This is predicated on each Council developing a Small Settlement Regeneration Plan.	
2.2	A draft discussion paper has been received from the Department for Communities setting out arrangements for a proposed Small Settlements Regeneration Programme which will target investment in small settlements with population from 1000 - 4999 to aid recovery from the COVID pandemic. Settlements with populations below 1000 are not precluded provided supported projects align with programme outcomes and demonstrate value for money.	
2.3	Under the proposed delivery arrangements, Local Authorities will be responsible for developing a COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan in conjunction with key stakeholders from across the Council area.	
3.0	Main Report	
3.1	Previously in January 2022, Members at the Development committee considered and approved the draft Regeneration Plan (minute reference: D011/22).	
3.2	The indicative allocation for Mid Ulster is 90% funding for capital costs up to a maximum of £2,590,000 and 90% funding for revenue costs up to a max of £191,000 giving an overall total of £2,781,000.	

3.3	Councils are required to provide match funding of 10% against the funding allocation. Funding under this programme is to be channelled to Councils via Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011. 10% match funding contribution from Council Capital Reserves of £309,000 is required (based on a funding allocation of £2,781,000).
	It is envisaged that DfC will issue a letter of offer to Council before the end of March 2022. A decision from DfC on approval of funding is pending.
3.4	DfC has made it clear that Councils must endeavour to deliver their Regeneration Plan by March 2023 with all funding to be spent within this timescale.
3.5	
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: 10% match funding contribution from Council Capital Reserves of £309,000 (based on a funding allocation of £2,781,000)
	Human: Officer time
	Risk Management: Council policies and procedures will be adhered to in the roll out of this scheme.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality and Good Relations: Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.
	Rural Needs Implications: Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Members note the contents of this report and approve the recommendations to:
	Allocate 10% match funding from Council Capital Reserves to the COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme of approximately £309,000 – subject to approval of funding from DfC.
	 Permit the officer team to progress the appointment of an ICT team to work up design details for project deliverables.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A
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Report on	Purchase of Lands at Drumcoo from Dungannon Enterprise Centre	
Date of Meeting	3 rd March 2022	
Reporting Officer	JJ Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Finance	

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members regarding lands at Drumcoo Playing Fields and to seek members' approval to purchase lands adjoining Drumcoo Playing Fields from Dungannon Enterprise Centre (DEC).
2.0	Background
2.1	In or around 2018 Dungannon Enterprise Centre (DEC) submitted a proposal to the Council in relation to plans to develop Council owned recreational land situated at Drumcoo Playing Fields at the rear of DEC's Business Park.
2.2	DEC have recently acquired land next to Drumcoo Playing Fields, which includes an access strip from Carland Road, Dungannon and had requested that the Council explore the possibility of exchanging part of Drumcoo Playing Fields with these recently acquired lands, to facilitate an expansion of their Business Park. Council approved this exchange/swap of lands, however, legal agreements were never signed.
2.3	Then, after further consideration of Council's land base and land requirements, it became apparent that the actual site as a combined site at Drumcoo has more value and significance to the Council as opposed to a split site (which would be the case if the land was exchanged). Therefore, at the end of 2021 a change in direction was recommended to Council to the effect that the lands at Drumcoo Playing Fields are to be retained in the ownership of Council, with a view to exploring the potential to develop a publically accessible town park to benefit the local community.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Considerations The subject lands owned by Council at Drumcoo Playing Fields have been subject to ongoing considerations as part of the Council's new Estates Strategy and Asset Management Strategy, which aims to provide strategic direction on the management, maintenance, acquisition and disposal of Council property and
	assets.

- 3.2 After further consideration of Council's land base and land requirements, it became apparent that the actual site as a combined site at Drumcoo has more value and significance to the Council as opposed to a split site (which would be the case if the land was exchanged).
- 3.3 It is important to note that the existing Area Plan shows the land as existing open space with a Local Landscape Policy area stretching to the North East of the playing fields.
- 3.4 Covid-19 has reminded us of the importance of parks and open spaces for the wellbeing of local communities. It is widely recognised that they have a key role to play in the delivery of health and social strategies and of course "building back greener" from the pandemic. Officers believe there is benefit to preserving the open space and pursuing the opportunity of a town park at Drumcoo.
- 3.5 It is for the aforementioned reasons that officers recommended a change in direction in December 2021. In December 2021 the Council decided against proceeding with the previous decision to complete the exchange of lands at Drumcoo Playing Fields with Dungannon Enterprise Centre (DEC). This was with a view to retain and preserve the Council owned lands at Drumcoo Playing Fields as open space asset for the benefit of the local community.
- 3.6 At that time, the Council also authorised officers to explore the potential to develop a Town park at Drumcoo that would enhance leisure, recreation and sporting opportunities for the local community. As part of the wider considerations of these lands, it is considered prudent to continue discussions with DEC about purchasing the lands that DEC had previously acquired in anticipation of an exchange/swap of lands at Drumcoo with the Council.
- 3.7 The lands DEC acquired are outlined for illustration purposes only in red on the map at Appendix 6.1 ("the Lands").
- An LPS valuation has been obtained in relation to the purchase of the subject Lands in Appendix 1. DEC has requested that the Council pay them £190,000 so that it is a costs neutral situation for DEC. The LPS valuation would support this figure. (The LPS valuation is slightly above the £190,000 that DEC is asking for in terms of both the purchase price and the payment of their reasonable fees and costs regarding the purchase by them of the Lands.)
- 3.9 Members are being asked to approve the purchase of the Lands from DEC for £190,000 subject to the usual due diligence and an updated LPS valuation being obtained at the time of purchase.

4.0 Other Considerations

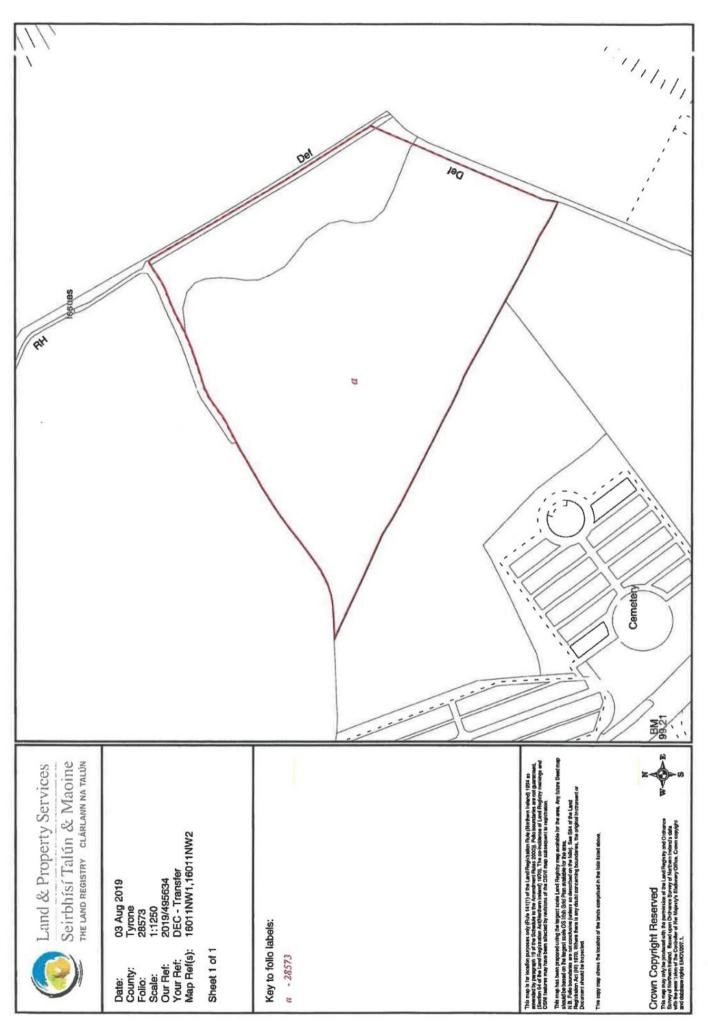
4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial:

Legal costs and outlays are within existing budgets.

	The purchase monies will be funded out of Capital reserves.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: The land would be considered as part of the Council's Estates Strategy and Asset Management Strategy.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	N/A
	Rural Needs Implications:
	N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Members approve the purchase of the Lands adjacent to Drumcoo Playing Fields for £190,000 from DEC, subject to the usual due diligence and up to date LPS valuation.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Map indicating approximate areas of land to be purchased from Dungannon Enterprise Centre (Map to follow)

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Report on	Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property – 2022
Date of Meeting	3 March 2022
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Assistant Director Organisational Development Strategy & Performance
Contact Officer	As above

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 consider requests received to illuminate/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark;
	Action for Brain Injury Week
	Details on request received are set out below
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council has a policy and procedural arrangements in place to facilitate the illuminating/lighting-up of its designated properties from requests made by charitable organisations for charitable causes. The designated properties are the Bridewell, the Burnavon and Ranfurly.
2.2	The policy confirms that requests are considered by the Council's Policy & Resources Committee. Should the scheduling of the committee not permit requests being considered within the timeframes to make a determination they can be presented to monthly Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Requests for consideration and recommendation by Committee:
	To illuminate the three designated properties on
	Monday 16 May 2022 to mark the commencement of Action for Brain Injury Week the designated colours to be green/blue
	The policy scope extends to requests made by charitable organisations for the promotion of its charitable cause on a given date or set of dates.
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 the Committee considers making recommendation to light up the designated properties on the dates specified to mark:
	Monday 16 May 2022 to mark the commencement of Action for Brain Injury Week the designated colours to be green/blue
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Not Applicable

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 3 February 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present Councillor Kearney, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar, Gildernew*, S McAleer*, S McGuigan*, McKinney*, S

McPeake*, Molloy*, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation
Development, Strategy and Performance
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications

Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development,

Strategy and Performance

Ms McNally**, Assistant Director of Finance, Legal, Governance and Transformation

Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT

Mr Scullion**, Assistant Director of Property Services Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and

Finance

Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Brown

- * 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 Kearney welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Kearney 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.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor McKinney at tonight's meeting, the Vice Chair, Councillor Kearney took the Chair. The Chair advised that Councillor McKinney would be in attendance by remote means.

Councillor Forde, McLean and Quinn.

PR023/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

PR024/22 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR025/22

MUDC Response to the Department of Communities Consultation on the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022

The AD: ODSP presented previously circulated report to inform members on Council's response to the consultation that covers proposals by the Department for the Economy (DfE) to amend the current (DfE) performance indicator and standards included within the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 to include the Department for the Economy's (DfE) proposed revised performance indicator and standards in respect of economic development).

Proposed by Councillor Elattar Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved

That it be recommended to Council to adopt the Council's draft response to the consultation to amend the current (DfE) performance indicator and standards included within the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (NI) 2015 to include the Department for the Economy's (DfE) proposed revised performance indicator and standards for economic development specific to Mid Ulster district.

PR026/22 Request to Illuminate Council Properties

The AD: ODSP presented previously circulated report which considered requests received to illuminated/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark:

Elhers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS)

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy Seconded by Councillor Totten and

Resolved

That it be recommended to Council to light up the three designated Council properties on Thursday 20 May 2022 to mark Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS) – the colour to be red.

PR027/22 Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Consultation

The Director of Public Health & Infrastructure presented previously circulated report to update Members on the recent consultation launched by Department for Infrastructure on 29th November 2021 in regards to the Implementation of the Reservoirs Act (NI) 2015 and the additional controls which will be applied.

He made reference to paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 and the wider impact of the legislation which was placing new responsibilities on Council. He indicated the consultation referenced possible financial support however no detail was provided. The two bodies of water identified for Council control were designated as high impacts. In the consultation response Council were suggesting that any support should be prioritised to those bodies of water which had been designated as high and medium impact. In regards to the risk assessment process that was referenced as part of that process ,it was advised that there was already good practice in place in the UK mainlands where the legislation had been derived from and it was proposed that that this rationale should also be applied in N Ireland . The Council response referenced that the Department should undertake a structured risk assessment process on all bodies of water to determine the appropriate classification.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the two reservoirs in Dungannon, one in Dungannon Park which was the old Moygashel Mills Park Lake and hadn't been used as a reservoir for nearly 100 years. The other one was another supply lake to Moygashel Textiles and basically another redundant reservoir. He said the question would be why there was more responsibility to maintain them than any other lake or lough in the District and could understand a current reservoir that was being used which needed to be kept up to a high standard but felt that all our lakes and loughs should be kept up to the same standards.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council and approve the draft Consultation

response on Implementation of the Reservoirs Act (NI) 2015 as outlined in

Appendix 2.

PR028/22 Member Services

None.

Matters for Information

PR029/22 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 12 January 2022

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 12 January 2022.

PR030/22 Performance Improvement Update Qtr. 1 - Qtr. 3 (2021- 2022)

Members noted previously circulated report which provided members with monitoring information on the review of Council's performance against our seven statutory and three corporate performance improvement indicators and standards, along with an overview of the Corporate Health Indicators for the first nine months of 2021/22. The report also provides a performance progress summary against the Council's four corporate improvement objectives and their associated project plans. The indicators and standards, the 4 improvement projects and corporate health indicators are contained within our Two Year Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for 2021/22 to 2022/23.

Councillor Ashton referred to page 168, item 5 – "Increase of Council's technological hardware i.e. it is recycled and re-used" and apologised in advance in case she missed it previously and asked that any information relating to that be issued to her. She enquired what community groups availed of this and how was the programme advertised.

The AD: ODSP advised that he would certainly take this on board and issue the relevant information sought.

The Head of ICT advised the officers were currently in the process of wiping those computers with a secure wipe software. The determination of who the recipients of those devices has still yet to be determined but would be used in community services to reference some worthy recipients.

Councillor Cuddy stated that it was a very comprehensive document with a lot of good and excellence but enquired if there was anything regarding this that could be deemed worrying in the future.

The Chief Executive advised that it was an excellent report but it wasn't perfect, in most parts it's good and above average and wherever there is a deficiency or red area, this would be focused upon and brought to the attention of SMT. Those areas of concern would be then considered by SMT where it is felt the Council were underperforming and the reasons why i.e. issues, internal circumstances and in some cases external circumstances. He said that Covid cannot be blamed for everything but it was a very disruptive period which had impacted on performance. Overall in relation to performance, job creation, our actions to achieve our performance targets, officers were satisfied, although not perfect, would strive for perfection and those areas which may be falling short would not be ignored and would be addressed at SMT.

The Chair stated that the page he was always interested in was Corporate Health Indicators which was on page 206 and stated that there was a lot of good work put into that one page alone.

Councillor McKinney referred to attendance and enquired if officers were satisfied with the result for the year or was there room for improvement.

The SD: ODSP stated at the minute she was satisfied with the percentage giving the current climate and difficulties which was being worked through including post-covid issues. Given the year which we had she was satisfied with the percentage outlined and hoped that this could be maintained at this level and hopefully within the next few years there may be room for improvement, but was content with the current percentages.

Live broadcast ended at 7.16 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan 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 Member consider items PR031/22 to PR042/22.

Matters for Decision

	200.0.0
PR031/22	Staffing Matters for Decision
PR032/22	Staffing Matters for Information
PR033/22	Land and Property Update
PR034/22	Lands at Lisnahull, Dungannon – Lease
PR035/22	Peace IV Shared Spaces
PR036/22	Environmental Improvement Works
PR037/22	Procurement and Supply Fleet Replacements

Matters for Information

PR038/22	Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held
	on Wednesday 12 January 2022
PR039/22	2022/23 Rate Estimates
PR040/22	Full Fibre NI (FFNI) Project Update Report February 2022
PR041/22	Financial Report for 9 months ended 31 December 2021
PR042/22	Contracts and DAC

PR043/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.17 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	National Association of Councillors and Local Government Staff Commission - 2022-2023 Annual Subscriptions
Date of Meeting	Thursday 3 March 2022
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Assistant Director: ODSP
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Members Support Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the committee on correspondence received from the National Association for Councillors (NAC) on annual contribution payable for 2022-23 and the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC). This report is for information. The council is a member of the National Association of Councillors until such times as it should opt not to be.
2.0	Background
2.1	Local Government Staff Commission The Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) is an Executive Non-Departmental
	Public Body established under the Local Government (NI) Act 1972. Members will be familiar that it exercises general oversight and makes recommendations on matters connected to recruitment, training and terms and conditions of employment of officers of council and the Housing Executive. Councils are obliged to make annual payment for services provided.
2.2	The NI Executive in June 2014 agreed that the Commission be wound up on 31st March 2017 (2 years after the establishment of the new Councils i.e. Local Government Reform). Pending the outcome of the review on this by the Minister which to be communicated to the Commission, the Council continues to be subject to Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972. It confirms that the budget for the operation of the Staff Commission is to be apportioned between all Councils and the NI Housing Executive
	National Association of Councillors
2.3	The Council is a member of the National Association of Councillors (NAC) to which it has elected member representation. The current representation extends to 8 members.
	 Cllr McFlynn, SDLP Cllr Cuthbertson, DUP Cllr Black, DUP
	 Cllr McKinney, UUP Cllr Molloy, SF Cllr ONeill, SF

- Cllr Doris. SF
- Cllr Clarke, SF

The National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region was established 25 years ago, after local councillors decided they needed a strong local body as well as belonging to the UK National Association of Councillors. The NAC is the only organisation directly run by councillors and represents elected members across all Councils. The NAC works to lobby on the behalf of Councillors. Information on the NAC is accessible from

http://www.nationalassociationofcouncillorsni.org.uk/index.htm

The council has received a request for payment for the incoming 2022-23 membership.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The Council has received an invoice for payment to the LGSC for the period 2022-23. The Council is required by statute under the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 to make this payment.
- The Minister for Communities recently invited all councils to comment on whether it felt there were any reasons that the Executive decision to dissolve the Commission should be reconsidered. The outcome of the Minister's final decision on this has not yet been informed/notified to the Department for Communities. The Council did respond to this request from the Minister indicating that it did not have any reason to offer as to why the Staff Commission should not dissolve, as previously agreed.
- The Council has received an invoice for payment to the National Association for Councillors (NAC) relating to the period 2022-23 to which it is currently a member council. The fee for membership has not increased since the inception of Mid Ulster Council in 2015.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial: NAC £3,200 and LGSC £23,787. To be met from within council existing budgetary provision

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)

That the committee notes request for subscription payment requests for the National Association of Councillors and the Local Government Staff Commission for the period 2022-23.

6.0 Documents Attached & References

	Not Applicable	
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