

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 12 November 2020 in the Council Offices Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor McNamee

Councillors Ashton\*, Black, Burton\*, Clarke\*, Corry\*, Cuddy\*, Doris, Elattar\*, Kerr, Hughes\*, Kearney\*, Milne\*, Molloy\*, Monteith, Wilson\*

**Officers in Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Mr M Browne, Head of Tourism\*\*  
Mr Gordon, Head of Leisure\*\*  
Mr Hill, Head of Parks  
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development\*\*  
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts  
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development \*\*  
Mr Greer, ICT Support  
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Deputation - Tyrone Ladies GAA

Councillor McFlynn\*  
Councillor Gildernew\*

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers 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. Cllr 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.*

**D168/20 Apologies**

None.

**D169/20 Declarations of Interest**

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

*Councillor Kearney declared an interest in ICBAN and Lough Neagh Partnership.*

*Councillor Elattar declared an interest in Northern Ireland Housing Executive.*

## **D170/20      Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that there would be a change to the agenda proceedings tonight as item 17 - Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group would be taken immediately after item 10 – Economic Report.

Councillor Elattar said that she wanted to welcome the announcement from Minister for Communities Carál Ní Chuilín about the future of social housing in the North as it was apparent for some time there has been housing stress as the number of new build houses hadn't been keeping up with demand either for social or affordable housing. The reclassification of the Housing Executive would enable it to grow and provide citizens with the help with building new homes again and can look forward to more promising times ahead especially for the Housing Executive to be able to build new homes again. In Mid Ulster there was a shortage of affordable housing in smaller rural areas and continue to look at ways in which this can be resolved so local people may be able to live in areas they grew up in rather having to move to neighbouring towns. The existence of smaller local schools, sporting clubs and local communities depend on young people and their families being able to live there. New protection for tenants is also an important factor in the transformation going forward and due to the shortage of social and affordable housing at the moment, a number of families would continue to rely on private rental sector for quite some time to come and they deserve to have the same standard of accommodation and protection as those living in social housing. She said people were looking forward to the largest housing project in decades and being able to provide stable security and affordable homes for those who need them and commended the Minister for her commitment to this project and the innovative ideas for social housing in the North being made more accessible for people in the future.

Councillor Monteith also welcomed the launch and discussions around the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as it was a great step forward as many years ago the Housing Executive had lost the ability to build new houses, but would have some concerns about ideas talked about and when the opportunity arises this would be fed into once the consultation once it happens.

He said that he would be slightly concerned about separating the section of the Housing Executive to allow it to borrow money which sounds very like a large housing association as this was the rationale given away at the beginning that the only way of doing social housing was in this way and whilst a lot of good work had been done by many Housing Associations down through the years, the simple fact was that Housing Association property was not affordable for some people. He would be concerned if this was the direction of plan which the Housing Executive was guided down and where private finance has an influence with rent setting and this would be a major issue for himself and was vital that affordable means affordable and what may be affordable for one family may not be for another. He advised that there was a need to go down the route if a family needs a home then they should be eligible for one and rents set accordingly on the ability to pay and this should be the radical approach compared to one size fits all attitude. He said that he would have a concern around the potential for privatisation around social housing but would welcome the fact that we were moving towards a more robust public sector intervention into social housing programme for the future.

He said that he attended a meeting during the week primarily about Dungannon and felt that it would be beneficial to run a workshop before the consultation was launched to gather up the experience from the people which were stuck on private rent, substandard accommodation or waiting lists and have this evidence ready for the consultation. He felt that this was something Mid Ulster Council have uniquely placed at the forefront on perspectives and was a great opportunity to put forward the experience of the urban setting and the major housing crisis which was in Dungannon along with other urban settings in Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera. He said that there was a need to put forward a very strong case for social housing in rural areas which has always thought was a very flawed system as they would say there was no need for housing in particular rural areas and then developers come in and build 40 – 50 houses in villages and they are snapped up very quickly. He advised that there was a need for this particular argument to be shouted high and loud that there was a need for social housing in rural areas just as much as urban areas as the rationale in the past had failed miserably.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That officers draw up a few of these issues and arrange a workshop to take this forward on behalf of our citizens to get social housing right once and for all.

Seconded by Councillor Kerr

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that before the consultation, Officers from the Development Department arrange a workshop on issues so this can be brought forward on behalf of local citizens to get social housing right once and for all.

The Chair stated that at the beginning of the New Year people should be sitting down and looking at all of this and said that Councillor S McPeake had done a lot of work around this when he was Chair of Council. He said that there was no housing for the ordinary person like a single person who may wish to leave home and maybe on a list for the next 10 to 20 years and young couples having no choice but going into the private sector as there was physically no houses for the people and there was a requirement for a massive build project going forward.

Councillor Elattar said she wished to come in on Councillor Monteith's point and that no one wished to see the Housing Executive being privatised and would be certain that this wasn't the way it was going as people fought against that for a long, long time. She agreed with Councillor Monteith's comment 'one model does not fit everyone' so it would be a good idea to sit down and consider all the challenges that may be faced in Mid Ulster with social and affordable housing which needs to be affordable for all and doesn't think in the briefing that the Minister gave emphasised that need for rents remaining low for people. She felt that in the New Year as the Chair previously stated it would be a good idea to sit down and go through all these issues and issue a good response from Mid Ulster District Council.

The Chair advised that a report was being brought tonight on Cross-Departmental Actions for Vulnerable Children and Young People during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period.

The Director for Business and Communities advised that members may recall that at a previous Council meeting, a member asked that a policy response be drawn up and he sought approval from the Development Committee for submission and stated that a draft response was in front of members tonight for consideration. This response focused around four areas and deals with: Increased temporary accommodation places for victims of domestic violence; Families facing financial hardship and/or in food poverty; Children facing educational disadvantage due to school closures and Children/families unable to access services due to reduced service provision and/or social distancing requirement. Also addressed was the educational disadvantages of children through school closures and school meals. He said that a key area which has been raised in the Community Plan was the issue of reduced service provision for children with special needs pre Covid but in particular during Covid where many of them felt abandoned from mainstream support.

He said if members were relatively content that approval would be sought to submit the response and if members had anything to add that this could be done by tomorrow before submission.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to submit response on Cross-Departmental Actions for Vulnerable Children and Young People during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period. Any additional comments to be forwarded tomorrow before submission.

#### **D171/20 Deputation - Tyrone Ladies GAA**

The Chair welcomed representatives from Tyrone Ladies GAA - Ms Rita Hannigan, Ms Donna McCrory and Mr Paddy Hunter and invited them to address the committee.

Mr Hunter advised that Tyrone Ladies Football was formed in 1991 in association with the LGFA, with the first season commencing in 1992 with 8 clubs. The club were All Ireland champs at several levels and continue to progress. Today there are 41 clubs, 39 competitions and almost 4000 registered members, with 38 clubs being one club models.

The group provides:

- Football-coaching-fun-activities
- Young female leadership
- Positive way of life
- Health & Wellbeing
- Direction
- Academies
- Positive pathway

The future of Tyrone Ladies GAA:

- Progression of All Teams
- Development of our Clubs
- Increase in Registration/Numbers
- Academies

- Full Time Coaches
- Cairde Tír Eoghan
- Own Facilities
- All Under One Banner

The Chair said that he was disappointed to hear that the Ladies Football didn't receive any money from Club Tyrone and was sure that the ladies were involved in selling the pixels at the time to generate the funding for Garvaghey.

Mr Hunter agreed that this was the case and were involved in the marketing as was evident to see when you look over all the old brochures with a lot senior players being involved and then all of a sudden this ceased.

The Chair referred to the sponsors of Club Tyrone and their perception that their funding was going towards the Ladies football also.

Mr Hunter said that at least 95% of sponsors believe that was the case and also a lot of clubs and individuals believe that and a lot have pulled out because of this.

Councillor Doris thanked the representatives for such an informative presentation and said that there was a lot she didn't know and was quite shocked. She said that Mr Hunter hit the nail on the head as this was not just about sport and not just about physical wellbeing, but about their mental wellbeing also and that was where the GAA really stood out. She said that she had read an article a few years ago and said if you really wanted to look at the heart of the GAA which was also in countries like Australia and Dubai promoting that sense of community and purpose and through this pandemic it was evident to see how important the group was as it was the heart of the community.

She said that going forward officers may be able to provide direction on possible funding but asked if there was any merit in the Council writing a letter to Club Tyrone on trying to lobby on behalf of the Ladies Football to see if there was any funding they could provide or whether there was any suggestion the group could provide in this regards.

Mr Hunter advised that Club Tyrone were a funding body but they didn't own Garvaghey but would welcome any guidance the Council could provide as they were a major contributor to the Garvaghey project. He said that Garvaghey was an issue which raised its head several times and was discussed at a high level last year with a sub-committee formed but due to the pandemic this never went any further and were stuck between a rock and a hard place and still have to come up with the money. From a perspective of handing over money, the HMRC appears to be the major stumbling block because they were a separate organisation, but does note that Club Tyrone were able to claim back £12k tax aid. He said that if his group had £12k reduction in their bill it would be a massive help.

He said that it would be up to the members to see what the plan of action was and certainly a letter to the Garvaghey Management Committee making them aware of the current situation would be a step in the right direction.

Councillor Doris advised that this would be discussed amongst Councillors and was good to get Mr Hunter's input.

Councillor Kerr thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and some fantastic work was being carried out and commended the group. He said that the senior Ladies had reached the All-Ireland Senior Final in 2018 and hoped that there would be similar achievements in the future. He said that overall sport had been a great distraction for people and their mental health and was aware of ladies within his own club helping to develop talent and with the féile to sustain its future and felt that equality should be shown. He wished the group well in the future endeavors and hoped that the progression of work continues.

He proposed that officers meet with representatives from Tyrone Ladies County Board and look at financial support to help enhance and publicise Tyrone.

Councillor Monteith thanked the group for their presentation and said that he was aware of a number of these issues and concerns which were highlighted over the last six months. He said that Dungannon ladies were very vocal in around the town and made representations to him and would encourage anyone who was a member of a club as it was coming towards the AGM season and to make sure that county reps raise this at the County Board Convention as this was vitally important that this blatant inequality stops. He said that it was vitally important that Ladies sport was recognised within the Gaelic family and resources to succeed as we see the resources that it takes to put the team on the field and their achievements that the Ladies Football has reached with pittance in comparison to men's football. He stressed the need for people involved in local GAA clubs to say that this had been going on long enough and everybody deserved the same crack of the whip and the same resources to put the County to the maximum as each sport costs money and resources and was in no doubt the elite level that many of our female footballers and camogs reached in the past could only be much better if they properly resourced. He concurred with Councillor Kerr and Councillor Doris and said we need to do what we need to do and would second the their idea of writing to Club Tyrone and the County Board as there was a need for this Council to express disappointment regarding some of these issues but also say that the Council wished to work with them. He said that the Council had a member of staff who was a whizz kid when it came to VAT and HMRC and he may be able to advise how to overcome some and felt that if there was a will there was a way. As a Council there was a need to back ladies football and camogie to endeavor to make sure that there was a level playing field.

Councillor Molloy thanked the group for their impressive presentation and said that he was an Armagh Clubman and his daughters play ladies football and referred to what Mr Hunter said Armagh Football and their facilities and that this was born out of a similar situation in relation to level access to facilities and had to go it alone and get their facilities put up. He said that a lot of the clubs were now under the one banner but with two distinct organisations within that which makes things very difficult, but was also an opportunity because they were a distinct organisation on their own this may be more beneficial. He agreed with members comments around officers sitting down with the group to see what assistance and support can be provided to the group going forward.

Councillor Ashton thanked the representatives and said it was very informative and said what she picked up on was that the group were looking at acquiring their own site and asked was it a case of Garvaghey being unable to accommodate the Ladies Football or was it just an issue over the funding and payment for the facilities.

Mr Hunter thanked Councillor Ashton for her interest and said that the situation currently was that the ladies were to go back to Garvaghey in August of this year as planned when the teams were allowed to go back and previously booking were through email and no issue with it, but there was no information received at all until he happened to be covering a game at Garvaghey and he happened to meet the County Chairman and asked him what the situation was and was given a load of excuses on why they weren't allowed to use it, ranging from rabbits and the lack of toilets etc. The decision was taken that they couldn't wait any longer despite the fact that the Tyrone men and under 20's were both there that same week. He said that Garvaghey was still very much on the agenda and do hope to go back but wanted to thank some of the clubs Clog, Galbally, Omagh and Errigal Ciaran who were fantastic for helping the group out but as Councillors recognise, there needs to be one base to operate the facility from. He advised that there was a longing to go back to Garvaghey next year and just to clarify that this wasn't a case of not being granted permission or funding, but more the fact that the group couldn't wait any longer this year to use the facility but come December there would be another application made to use the grounds again for the various programmes in January. He stated that the future plan would be to have a pitch of their own if they could get one.

Councillor Clarke thanked the representatives from Tyrone Ladies Football and stated that he was a proud member of an integrated club known as An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg which had an integrated club for over 10 years now, where everyone is equal and no male or female dominance and whoever was elected to a position within the committee was elected. He said Mr Hunter had enlightened him on some things but advised that some of these issues had been raised with the County Board by some of his clubs delegates. He said that in his opinion they didn't need extra ground but there was a need for Garvaghey to be open to everybody because there are five playing pitches available and should be sufficient and felt that the Council should have some input as financial supporters of the facility and some common sense on how it was allowed to be used. There was a lot of funding being raised from within the GAA in Tyrone for GAA but as it turns out it was going towards the male sector and this needed to be addressed and on the overall scheme of things support needed to be provided as it wasn't a massive amount of funding as they are doing a fantastic job which he could vouch for within his own club as they play both play at intermediate and senior level and this year they were in the Senior Semi Final and the League Semi Final. He concluded by saying that the ladies should receive the same recognition within the clubs as men and wished them well in the years ahead.

Councillor Kearney said that Garvaghey was always flagged up as the Centre of Excellence and was disappointed to hear that such inequality existed and wanted to support Tyrone GAA Ladies in their quest and asked that Council investigate ways in which support can be provided to the group. He advised that he was a GAA man himself and was surprised and disappointed that this was the case within Tyrone and wished the ladies well in their endeavors.

The Chair thanked the group for their presentation and as they could see there had been great support for themselves going forward in tackling this injustice. He said that there were suggestions about writing to the County Board and Club Tyrone, but felt the best way forward would be to sit down with Officers to seek a way forward with a meeting being followed up on how to proceed and looking at funding opportunities so equality is there for everyone.

Mr Hunter issued a massive thank you to the committee on behalf of himself, Ms McCrory, Ms Hannigan and the Tyrone Ladies on taking time to listen to them tonight and wished them the best of luck going forward.

Representatives of Tyrone Ladies GAA left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D172/20 Mountain Bike NI Consortium**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought permission to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2020-21.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to propose the recommendation but would like Council Officers to explore the potential for mountain biking in Drumcairn Forest. It was already used by some bikers locally as there was no other facilities like it around that area within Mid Ulster. She said that she was aware of work being done with some local groups like the Island Wheelers, the Council and a Consortium who have realised the potential of the forest and asked that this be given consideration.

Councillor Kerr said that he would second the proposal and enquired if there was any update on Drumcairn and Altmore projects and whether there was any further progress on the licensing issues with the Forestry Service or Water Services in regards to the reservoirs.

The Head of Parks advised that as indicated at the previous meeting, the Council were making progress on their master-planning which was approved by Council and since that, discussions had taken place with the Altmore community this week in relation to Terms of Reference before proceeding. He referred to the Altmore facility and stated that discussions had been taking place with Forest Service, he had also spoken to the legal team regarding Water Service this week with things progressing, but it was a process and does take time to move forward.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to Mid Ulster District Council being a participant partner in the Mountain Bike NI Consortium for 2020/21 at a cost of £6,666.00.

### **D173/20 Conway Close, Cookstown - Lease Agreement**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought permission to formalise the current arrangement relating to land adjacent to 17 Conway Close Dunamore, Cookstown from Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the purpose of play provision.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and



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

- a) To accept the valuation from NIHE of £1,000 to purchase the Freehold of the parcel of land at Conway Close, Dunamore.
- b) sought to purchase the Freehold of the land valued at £1,000 from Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) as out lined in Red (Appendix). Endorsement is sought to present Lease Agreements and associated LPS valuations on receipt, for P&R Committee approval.

**D174/20 DAERA: Environmental Challenge Fund 2020/2021**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought permission to accept the Funding Offer from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs: Environment Challenge Competition 2020/21 successful application for the redevelopment of Ballyronan Wood.

Councillor Elattar proposed to proceed with the recommendation and said that she welcomed the work which was carried out at Ballyronan as it was very well used throughout the district.

Councillor Clarke agreed that it was a good piece of work which would enhance the area.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

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

- a) Accept the DAERA Environmental Challenge Fund 2020/2021 funding opportunity as per the Letter of Offer.
- b) Approve allocation of match funding £40,500 to the Ballyronan Wood redevelopment from the Councils Outdoor Recreation Five year Strategic Plan capital programme allocation.
- c) Appoint a suitably qualified ICT and IST for the delivery of associated consultancy and contract works services.

**D175/20 Financial Assistance Offer from TNI for a New Tourism Website**

The Head of Tourism presented previously report and sought permission to avail of 100% financial assistance from Tourism NI for a dedicated Mid Ulster Council tourism website and to seek permission to avail of 75% funding from The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the development of experience tourism and product development clusters to align to the Tourism NI 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' brand.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

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

- a) To progress with the development of a new destination tourism website.
- b) If successful Council development two experiential tourism and product

development clusters with a maximum match funding contribution of £16,666. Opportunities to develop a collaborative project with Antrim & Newtownabbey under the themes of 'Living Loughs' and 'Mid Ulster's history and heritage'.

Councillor Doris said that this was very useful and praised the Tourism team as they had provided exceptional work throughout the whole pandemic and recognised the fact that working online was very challenging for the tourism industry. She stated that this would be a great lift to the industry after COVID and very welcome and again thanked the Tourism team working behind the schemes during this difficult time.

The Head of Tourism in response to Chair's query advised that he anticipated that the website would should be ready by end the March and ready for the new season given that staycation was the buzz word at the moment and would want it active by that stage.

Councillor Cuddy said it was good to see anything which could help the industry as it had been flat this last few years and enquired if there was a business plan to target the amount of people using the site so there was something to measure against it in years to come.

The Head of Tourism advised that certainly that all the data and analysis would be measured as the details relating to where the visitors were from and what they were doing, data from that would be collated and submitted to committee if required.

Councillor Molloy said that he welcomed the website as maintenance and freshness was always a major concern around websites. He stated that the Comms team was doing an excellent job around social media and other things but seen there was an inbuilt cost around the maintenance annually for someone to maintain it and felt that this would be good going forward to keep it updated and refreshed.

The Chair stated that it was very important to keep the website fresh and to see a new dimension each month.

## **D176/20      Community Development Report**

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to update members on the following:

- Grants – to agree the rolling good relations grants & Decade of Anniversaries Grant
- Peace IV – to agree the Peace IV Proposal
- Community Development – to note the update report

*Councillor Doris declared an interest in Peace IV as she sat on the panel.*

Councillor Doris sought clarification on Canal Walkway in Coalisland and said that although she welcomed what was proposed within the report, there had been a report presented previously which was being addressed later within Confidential Business, but said that it was her thinking that this Peace IV funding wasn't going to be used for lighting in terms of the Canal Walkway.

The Head of Community Development agreed with the Councillor that this was the case as this was based on before the opening up before going into the Canal.

Councillor Doris felt that this was a disappointment for some the Torrent Councillors and asked if there was meant to be funding allocated from the Heritage Lottery in terms of the Canal Walkway and was wondering if there was any update on this. She advised that she would seek clarification from the Head of Community Development after tonight's meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve:
- (i) Grant award recommendation for Good Relations (£1,629) & Decade of Anniversaries (£625).
  - (ii) Peace IV Proposal for delivery of the projects. The project will also go to the next Peace IV Partnership. The total project cost is £377,438 and the confirmed underspend currently is £330,000. Final underspend to be known following the tender for the shared space projects.
  - (iii) Community Development – to note the update report

Councillor Monteith raised the issue of Community Planning and stated that before COVID had come into play, members had been told during the presentation from the Southern Trust that there would be engagement with the Council's Community Planning department in relation to the medical hub for Dungannon and the work they would have to carry out in order to have it implemented into their projections for their 3 to 4 year plan. He said that it was his understanding that it was in the 4/5 year plan which was in place and would propose that a meeting was sought with the Trust by DEA or any Councillor that was interested to see where this was at and like Officers to investigate so progress can be made as fast as possible. He said that there had been a number of issues recently or for a number of years regarding GP provision and the lack of GP's in the Dungannon area and other parts of the area also which accumulated severe pressure being put on GP's who were already under severe pressure to elevate pressures within Armagh and other places.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Officers set up an update meeting to see where this issue was currently at and bring it forward as a job of work

The Head of Community Development advised that an update had been sought from the Trust at the beginning of the week on matters which were previously agreed and they came back with an email response to say that their Capital was still under review. She advised that there were a number of Capital projects for Mid Ulster i.e. Dungannon, Cookstown medical hubs and Oakridge and this was something that can't be brought forward until Officers see the lists and what was available.

## **D177/20 Economic Development – OBFD**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

**i) TEDx (Mid Ulster) 2020**

At the Development Committee on 12 March 2020, Members recommended to Council to approve Gold Level sponsorship of £2,000 towards the event which had been scheduled for June 2020. However, due to Covid, the event will now take place virtually (but filmed in the Tullylagan Hotel) on 27 November 2020. It is the first time that a TEDx event will take place in outside Belfast.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business & Communities/Chief Executive to manage the allocation of the 4 TEDx tickets in line with Council procedures, ahead of Council Meeting on 26 November 2020.

**ii) Women in Business ‘Yes You Can’ Collaboration Programme – Year 3**

In March 2018, Council approved a proposal from Women in Business to all 11 Councils for the delivery of a three-year collaborative regional programme entitled ‘Yes You Can’ between Women in Business, Invest NI and the 11 Councils to increase and support levels of female entrepreneurship. The initiative is a collaboration resulting from a unique situation: An American entrepreneur originally from NI, impressed with the efforts of Women in Business to encourage new female entrepreneurs, made a financial commitment (£200,000) towards the development of other support initiatives, the 11 Councils and Invest NI are each contributing £200,000 (Mid Ulster District Council’s contribution is approximately £6,060 for each of the 3 years). Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council are acting as Lead Council on behalf of the 11 Councils.

Councillor Doris advised that this was very beneficial for the Mid Ulster area.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve provision of up to £6,060 towards the third and final year of delivery of the ‘Yes You Can’ Programme, subject to Women in Business providing Council with an Activity Plan for 2021 outlining how they propose to promote the Initiative to achieve a higher level of participant engagement.

**(iii) DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020**

The Rural Business Development Grant Scheme is funded by DAERA through the TRPSI (Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation) Programme. It focuses on existing rural micro businesses employing less than 10 employees, offering 50% in grant aid against eligible costs up to £4,999 to support actions aimed at improving business sustainability and growth.

The Scheme opened for applications on 3rd August 2020 and closed on 11th September 2020 at 12 noon. A total of 315 complete applications were received by the closing date. A further 15 were received after the closing deadline and deemed ineligible. The value of applications received far exceeds the level of grant aid allocated to Mid Ulster District Council of £62,000. DAERA has indicated but not confirmed that additional funding may be provided following completion of assessments. The Contract for delivery of this Scheme sets out specific progress milestones with 30th November 2020 identified as the date by which applications are to be assessed and letters of offer issued to successful applicants.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

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

- a) Note update on the Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2020 and pressure on delivery timescales.
- b) Approve delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business & Communities/Chief Executive that once project applications are assessed, scored and ranked, the Director/Chief Executive can approve letters of offer in ranked order, up to the maximum grant funding available for issue by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. A report will be brought to the Development Committee immediately afterwards to update Members on the outcome of assessment and scoring to note approved projects.

**iv) LEADER Contract Variations**

DAERA has issued variations to both the Contract for administration support between Council and LAG and the SLA between Council and DAERA to extend the original term of both to 31st March 2022. These extensions are necessary to complete the delivery of the NI LEADER Programme. Signed variations are to be returned to DAERA by 30th November 2020.

Councillor Clarke said that he would be happy to propose as there had been a tremendous amount of work put into this by Officers and the LAG team on getting the large amount of projects of the ground and would be confident that the vast majority of these projects would be completed by 31 March 2021. He said that he would be aware that there could be overruns but was delighted to be able to propose it.

He advised that there was an item which didn't appear and was very important in the rural areas which was the Project Stratum.

The Director of Business and Communities said that today he had received an email from the Department from the Economy inviting himself and Alison McCullagh to a virtual meeting with DfE officials next Wednesday or Thursday for Fermanagh & Omagh and Mid Ulster Councils for an the update on the management of the tender and the proposed roll out of the tender and specific implications for these two Council areas, which he accepted

and would brief Council with immediate effect once he became better informed on what the numbers were; number of houses, number of contacts etc. right across Mid Ulster

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

- a) Contract variation for signature between Council and the LAG for administration support provided by Council to 31 March 2022.
  - b) Service Level Agreement variation for signature between DAERA and Council outlining the administration services to be provided by Council to the LAG to 31 March 2022.
- v) ICBAN Framework of Regional Priorities 2021-2027**

The key ambitions of ICBAN's Framework of Regional Priorities reflect the current and evolving challenges and opportunities at local, regional, national and international levels. They are:

- To develop as a sustainable region, characterised by increased employment, improved economic activity, social progress and ecological sustainability;
- To redress economic and social inequalities between the Central Border Region and other areas of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the inequalities which persist within the region itself;
- To influence and work with the Governments of Ireland and Northern Ireland on their investment priorities for the region, by providing an evidence base to justify investments; and
- To identify opportunities for local authorities and other stakeholders to work together to realise opportunities and to respond to the challenges facing the region.

The strategic priorities and deliverables detailed in the Framework are presented under five interlocking and complementary pillars namely:

- Economic development;
- Infrastructure and connectivity;
- Human capital – education and training;
- Liveable communities; and
- Greening the region.

In completing the final version of the Framework, the pandemic's developing impacts have been incorporated, as well as the challenges of Brexit and climate change on our border region. As the Framework has now been finalised, ICBAN seeks support for the document from each Member Council by 18 November 2020, in advance of moving towards implementation stage. Mr Shane Campbell, CEO of ICBAN indicated he is happy to meet with Council Members and/or Officers at any stage to discuss the Framework in more detail, if required.

Councillor Molloy proposed the recommendation and stated that it was a fantastic in-depth report and would advise anyone to read it on ongoing issues relating to COVID, Brexit and all the challenges faced with on the border corridor. He referred to page 42 of the report in

relation to Blueways and Greenways and was aware that some work had been done around the Ulster Canal Blueway/Greenway and the link to Caledon. He said he noticed what other Councils were now achieving as there was now a Greenway from Sligo to Enniskillen and a proposed Greenway from Enniskillen to Clones and a number of Greenways around Clones and an extension into Monaghan resulting in Mid Ulster being the poor relation even though this was beyond Council control but felt that something needed to be done to get more work done around it.

He referred to Brexit and stated that although it was a side issue, there had been a presentation made to the Assembly's Executive Committee last week with himself and the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure and out of that meeting one of the things which had been discussed was the cost of Brexit to the Mid Ulster area, not only to Council in terms of the loss of programmes and various funding streams, but to the entire region. He was aware of the fantastic work which the Head of Economic Development carried out on pulling figures together at the last minute but would like the Council to put together a ballpark figure on what it was going to cost to both the Council and wider economy in terms of Brexit in January and was aware that things were not fully straightened out in terms of trade deals and tariffs on these kind of issues. A major impact was going to hit immediately, besides COVID, Brexit was happening in January and no getting away from that, but it was going to have a financial impact in the Mid Ulster area and this includes South West College, Industry and Manufacturing, Rural Development programme and other funded schemes and would like to see calculations brought back to Council within the next few meetings to evaluate that.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to write to ICBAN to offer support towards the Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region of Ireland / Northern Ireland 2021/2027.

Councillor Kearney wanted to commend Councillor Molloy on reading up on this so intensely and for his suggestions as there were 3 or 4 of the committee which sat on ICBAN. He drew attention to page 55 where the ICBAN Chief Executive, Shane Campbell was happy to meet with the Council and Council officials, whether this committee or the main committee just to discuss these type of issues as there was a lot of work gone into the strategy. He wanted to take the opportunity to say that Councillor Burton and himself had met over 31 times each Tuesday since April on following up matters and he was getting to the Brexit debate this week as the only Councillor in Northern Ireland with the English Councils. He advised that he was also following up on the Shared Prosperity Fund and had been keeping a very close eye on that as there had been very little movement on that.

He said if the Chair was mindful it would be an excellent opportunity for the Council to hear from Mr Shane Campbell himself in person.

The Chair suggested that it may be more beneficial that this request go to full Council as it was more appropriate for all members to have an opportunity to hear Mr Campbell's update.

He advised members that the issue of the Greenway was very important and felt that this was an opportunity for Mid Ulster Council to get involved.

**D178/20 Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group  
Minutes of Meeting of 5th October 2020**

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report and sought approval for:

- 1) Minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at Council offices, Dungannon and by remote link
- 2) Revised Irish Language Action Plan for the remainder of 2020/21, including the delivery of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to:

- i) Note the Minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- ii) Revised Irish Language Action Plan for the remainder of 2020/21 including the delivery of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme as detailed and as discussed at the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Councillor Ashton said she wished to record the DUPs objection to the Irish Signage rollout.

**Matters for Information**

**D179/20 Minutes of Special Development Committee held on 1 October 2020**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 1 October 2020.

Councillor Monteith referred to item raised at the Special Development Committee meeting on 29 October 2020 and asked that the issue of All Ireland Healthcare Service be an item on the Agenda for the next Development Committee meeting.

**D180/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 October 2020**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 October 2020.

Councillor Monteith referred to the Covid response to the community on the various foodbanks and said that last week a further request had been approved for support, amongst others the Vineyard Church and St Vincent De Paul in Dungannon were included. He said that it was also important to highlight the fact that the premises St Vincent de Paul used to store donations from the community had once again been attacked this week by vandals, St Patrick's Hall was an extremely historic and iconic



building in the history of Dungannon and had sadly been the victim of a number of attacks and vandalism over this last 7 to 9 months with a fire being started on two different episodes within the last number days. He said that previously the fire had been more external but the fire last week had completely destroyed large parts of the building and on previous attacks donations which the local community had put forward for those most in need were destroyed, vandalised and stolen. He was aware of ongoing issues in Union Place and a lot of the community within that area felt very much that they have been left behind and when Greer's Road was built it was very much against the wishes of the community as this was built potentially to accommodate the Ann Street Development at the time, with the community being very opposed and adamant that the main road put through their community had led to a lot of the rundown within the community.

He suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Council to St Vincent de Paul expressing their solidarity with them on their hard work and advising them of their value within the community. He said it was just sad to see in this day and age with all the good work which has been done that there were still a small number of individuals amongst us who wished to attack the very best which was going on within our community.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Monteith and said that he was very disappointed to hear this especially for an organisation which does so much for the local community.

Councillor referred to D151/20 – Halloween festivities and wanted to congratulate Ogras Youth Club & Fianna Oileán an Ghuail CLG on the really successful work that they done in the run up to Halloween in Coalisland. She said that a number of meetings had taken place in the run up to Halloween and funding secured to provide pizza's and help towards a FIFA tournament which seen over 50 participants taking part.

She suggested that a letter be issued on behalf of the Chair of this committee to the groups involved on their commendable work on their innovative thinking during this difficult period of time.

The Chair advised that this could be looked into.

Councillor Corry enquired if there was any update in relation to the workshop for the Decade of Anniversaries – Centenaries.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised a tentative date had been suggested for Monday 14 December commencing at 6 pm but was awaiting confirmation on availability.

The Director for Business and Communities advised that once confirmation was received an email would be issued to members.

### **D181/20 DfC Strategy for Sport Consultation**

Members noted update in relation to DfC Strategy for Sport Consultation advising that Officers have issued a return for the Department for Communities (DfC) Strategy for Sport Consultation.

Councillor Monteith said that this was a good piece of work carried out in relation to Sport Consultation but the issue of lifelong sport needed to be supported as statistics show the

vast amount of people which are involved in lifelong sport are involved from a very young age. He said that it was important to move forward with this initiative as there was a need to target people of different ages, especially people who were never involved with sport at schools, late teens, early twenties, thirties, forties and right up through the age brackets and should encourage the funding bodies to encourage some of our sporting clubs to attract non-elite participation. He was aware of a lot of this work being carried out in Dublin city like non-competitive football, non-competitive hurling, walking and those type of activities so there was a need to try and encourage the same kind of initiative here and just because people don't start out young at sport doesn't mean that they cannot start later in life and this needs to be highlighted. This has to be encouraged within the next number of years due to mental health and physical health aspects and felt that this Council was able to manage it with the help of sporting clubs in the area.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Monteith and said that this should be encouraged throughout the district and was sure that officers would follow up suggestions made.

Councillor Burton in referring to previous comments, enquired about rural areas and asked how often officers engaged with the rural communities like Caledon, Augher, Clogher, Fivemiletown and some of the more rural villages who do try and get smaller groups together within their area like football and also activities for inclusion of girls. She said that this should be a two-way stream as it was so important to get young people involved in sport as it helps their mental and physical help and a deterrent towards anti-social behavior.

The Chair advised that figures may not be in front of officers tonight, but assured the member that these would be issued as soon as possible.

Councillor Burton said that she was sure that officers knew whether or not if they engage outwardly or was it for each area to contact the officers and this was also her query.

The Head of Leisure advised that officers would be happy to investigate this and get back to Councillor Burton, but just to advise that officers would be happy to have a discussion with any group and had been doing so over COVID. Though virtual means and social media websites officers make themselves available and if Councillors had any groups in mind, officers would be happy to engage with them.

#### **D182/20      Potential Restructure of Intermediate Football**

Members noted update in relation to Potential Restructure of Intermediate Football and correspondence issued by the Irish Football Association (IFA) to the Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) indicating that the planned restructure of Intermediate Football is discontinued at this time.

#### **D183/20      Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding Progress Report**

Members noted update in relation to Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding Progress.

## **D184/20      Ulster-Scots Funding, PHASE 2, US Grant Ancestral Homestead**

Members noted update in relation to Ulster-Scots Funding, PHASE 2, US Grant Ancestral Homestead.

## **D185/20      Economic Development – OBFi**

Members noted updates on the following matters:

- Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2020
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (16-20 November 2020)
- Mid Ulster Careers Attractiveness Initiative
- Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme– Phase 1 Evaluation (2019/2020)
- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 7.9.20
- Business Eye Magazine : Mid Ulster Feature
- ICBAN Update – October 2020

Councillor Kerr referred to item 3.4 – Spruce up Scheme and said that he was fully aware that the grant itself was firmly shut for new applications, but everytime he sees this on the Agenda he was reminded about the issue around boundaries. He said that unfortunately with the boundaries which currently exist some businesses throughout Mid Ulster area are left out for any opportunity to apply for a grant and said that he looked forward to a review in the future so that all businesses are eligible and avail of it.

The Chair agreed with Councillor Kerr and said that he was aware of some businesses not receiving any funding the first time around within the Tranche but hoped going forward more funding may be made available for all types of businesses at some stage.

*Live broadcast ended at 8.30 pm.*

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

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Milne 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 D186/20 to D192/20.

### **Matters for Decision**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| D186/20 | Village Extension Programme – Maghera Leisure Centre                        |
| D187/20 | Update on Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21 |
| D188/20 | Economic Development – CBFd   |
| D189/20 | DFI Active Travel Options for Mid Ulster                                    |

### **Matters for Information**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| D190/20 | Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 October 2020 |
|---------|---|

D191/20 Leisure Month 6 Review – 2020/21  
D192/20 Economic Development - CBF

**D193/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.05 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.