

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

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Bell, W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke, Corry*, McLernon*, McQuade*, Molloy, Monteith*, Milne*, Quinn, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director Communities & Place (SD: C&P)
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)
Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)**
Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) **
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 5 – T:BUC Funding Streams

Mr Gardner – Head of Good Relations***

Councillor Robinson***

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

D101/23 Notice of Recording

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

D102/23 Apologies

Councillors Black, Forde and Gildernew.

D103/23 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor W Buchanan declared an interest in agenda item 6 – Development Report – Community Festival Grants – Crossdernott Parish Church.

D104/23 Chair's Business

Councillor Wilson advised that a new Squash Club had been formed in Mid Ulster and the Deputy Chair had attended the launch on Saturday where it was raised about the possibility of using sponsorship signage within or around the courts. The member stated that there was currently no policy in Council to allow them to do that but a policy was in place for outdoor sports at MUSA and various other places. The member asked if it would be possible for Officers to investigate to see if this type of sponsorship could be permitted which would allow the Squash Club or any other type of club to raise funds for themselves.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place advised the member that this would be investigated.

D105/23 Deputation: T:BUC Funding Streams

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Mr Gardner from T:BUC to the committee and invited him to address the committee.

Mr Gardner advised members that he was aware that this was a new Council and wished to update members on the Review of the T:BUC Strategy. He stated that T:BUC stood for 'Together: Building a United Community' which was the Executive's wider supported strategy to improve good relations and eradicate sectarianism. It had seven headline actions which is delivered across key nomadic areas including education, housing, engaging young people and interfaces which was approved by Ministers before they left their posts, although it was 10 years old. Mr Gardner stated that out of the seven headline actions, five had successfully been delivered and significant progress had been made in other complex areas including the reduction and removal of interface barriers and the building of shared education campuses. He advised that the approach to good relations was the same as 10 years ago but the issues that society is facing is considerably different within the last 3 years with communities dealing with covid, impact of brexit and the cost of living amongst other things. He stated that the fabric of society has also changed considerably with Northern Ireland becoming a more diverse place with diversity only going to increase moving forward, with age old sectarianism still remaining. Stakeholders have been asked what they would like to see done differently with a number of key themes emerging in the review including: Social Economic Issues, Funding and More Social Inclusion.

The Chair thanked Mr Gardner for his presentation and enquired if T:BUC were planning a review of the current strategy should Stormont Ministers return or just a refresh on what was currently there already.

Mr Gardner advised that potentially there could be a new approach to Good Relations more broadly. He stated that the review has not been finalised yet and should be concluded over the summer months.

Councillor Monteith said that although the presentation alluded to top level things he was curious to know if any of the T:BUC money has been sent to the Mid Ulster area. The member stated that another concern he would have is that it seemed to be very urban based and not a lot of opportunities for rural communities.

Mr Gardner in referring to the Member's queries advised that T:BUC have been working with Rural Community Network to ensure a better spread of areas moving forward. One of the issues within rural areas is that sometimes they are largely single identity and because T:BUC has to fund cross-community work there is often a lack of infrastructure to support that in terms of transport to a venue or a venue to host good relations activities. Mr Gardner agreed that there was a piece of work to do in terms of the wrap-around support to make sure that people in the rural areas can also access and improve the services that are there.

In terms of the breakdown in Mid Ulster, Mr Gardner advised that there was significant delivery across the programmes for central good relations funds including Councils based programmes, T:BUC camps, shared housing which all has aspects of delivery. He advised that their work is mapped and one of the things that T:BUC faces is that some of the larger organisations were based in or around Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, with a lot of the funding streams being merit based and often came down to whoever has the resources to spend the time writing hi-tech application forms which can sometimes put some rural applicants off and being a step behind. He hoped that funding can be targetted more effectively and a place based effect essentially to make sure that each area gets what it needs.

The Chair thanked Mr Gardner for attending the meeting tonight.

Mr Gardner withdrew from the meeting at 7.18 pm.

Matters for Decision

D106/23 Development Report

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

- Community Grants Rolling Programme
- Irish Language Bursary and Activity Grants
- Development Update

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as it was good to see money being distributed through community groups, sports organisations and anything else which do such good work for everyone.

Councillor Corry referred to the Community Wealth Building plan with DTNI and DfC and sought clarification on whether a timeframe has been decided yet and when the next working group meeting will be.

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) advised that quite a bit of detailed work had taken place with DTNI in relation to setting parameters and background work on how it was going to be brought forward. The AD: Dev said it was planned to hold a meeting, with SD: C&P, Social Inclusion Manager and herself to discuss the test and learn plan and getting the working group meeting organised in September. She stated that there had been a recent presentation with SMT.

The AD: Dev stated that Officers would like to see a draft action plan for the Autumn because we are conscious of getting a number of testing pilots in place so to inform the full plan going forward which she anticipated to be the Autumn and the working group up and running again in early September in terms of discussing the next stages.

The SD: C&P agreed that it was hoped to get the working group back together by September. The Test and Learn Action Plan will be pulled together over the summer and its delivery will be used to shape and the full Community Wealth Building framework and action plan for the Council going forward. The SD: C&P said that it was hoped to bring to the meeting in September the completed Test and Learn Action Plan as we see it, based on the engagement which is to be hosted over the summer.

Councillor Molloy said that it was great to see the rolling, community and sports grants all rolled out for the fantastic work which is going on. The member said to see such a broad spectrum of successful applicants was great to see and a good news story for this Council and the Officers which put it together.

Councillor Monteith said he would like to raise two issues.

Firstly, he wished to raise the issue of Social Inclusion – Housing Conference and the key outcomes. The member said that it was not clear how these key outcomes were going to be taken forward and asked if an update could be provided to him within the next week or two. The member advised that there was a lot work to be done and may be unrealistic to think that it may be all done but was conscious that there did not seem to be anything to say who was taking which bit forward. He felt that the bit that was missing from this whole concept of dealing with housing was that there needed to be discussions with people who are living this, there needs to be a way of speaking to the people affected by the housing crisis, people on waiting lists for houses, people in rented accommodation that they cannot afford, people in houses of multiple Occupation (HMO) where there were unacceptable standards. The member said that there needs to be a mechanism put in place but was unsure how this can be achieved here tonight. He said that the conference was great and very enjoyable but there were very few people in that room sitting on a waiting list for a house, the room on the day felt very bureaucratic. The member asked that some thought process be put into how we talk to people who are at the coalface of this, people who were affected on a day to day basis as they needed help now and listened to as there was no-one taking on board what they were saying and our role should be to facilitate them to get their voices heard at these events.

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) advised that the Housing Report was currently being drawn up and would be shared with all Councillors along with the Housing presentation so all members are kept up to date. The AD: Dev advised that a follow up would be taking place with the Housing Working Group and one of the things which would be looked at is putting an action plan in place for who is responsible and there will be things we can potentially look at in the short term and other things which would still be policy based areas. The AD: Dev advised that she was aware that new policies were being investigated at the moment or had started in the last administration and hopefully will be looked at again to take forward. An action plan will be looked at with the Working Group and engagement with the wider Councillor group also which will be built in with doing a session with people with regard to where they are at. The AD: Dev said that she appreciated that everyone was talking from a point of view of Government, Policy and Developer prospective but would try and get the voice of the people who were not represented.

Councillor Monteith referred to his second matter which related to the Hill of The O'Neill over the next couple of years. The Member stated that now the election was over it was time to raise the issue of the British Military mast on the site where the strategic community plan cannot be developed on the site to its full potential whilst the mast is still present.

Councillor Monteith said that it would be beneficial to reignite the meeting which was ongoing a few months back as there was some progress made and although all the answers may not have been acquired that was sought, there were conversations with the people responsible for getting the mast removed.

Councillor Monteith proposed to reignite the meetings with DfI and NI Water regarding the removal of the mast.

The AD: Dev apologised as this was something she should have updated members on. She said the conversation which was proposed by members was brought forward and Officers had met with NI Water and a study started and will arrange to get an update to members on the study. She advised that the study was looking at a range of options such as relocation, potential reduction in size, potential camouflage amongst a range of other things. The AD: Dev advised that NI Water had employed specialist consultants to look at it as there were a lot of issues to take in terms of the range of users which will take a few months to do but will keep members up to date.

Councillor Quinn welcomed the report and looking at the grants and the sheer variety of groups i.e. arts, sports, community groups etc. felt that this should be something the Council should be praised for especially relating to the arts. The member advised that he had been speaking to someone today who stated that Northern Ireland does not invest in the arts compared to the Republic of Ireland and his simple answer was to look at Mid Ulster Council because we actually prioritise which was fantastic to see and commended everyone involved.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Quinn and said that this was always a good news story every year for our Community Grants and a lot of groups out in the community were very happy to avail of this funding every year.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- Agree the rolling community grant allocations
- Approve the annual Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards and Irish Language Activity Funding.
- Note the Development Update

D107/23 Extension of the Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The Assistant of Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to seek continued approval for the renewal of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABC) for the provision of Tobacco Control and Health Inequalities work for the period April 2023 – March 2024.

Proposed by Councillor W Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the signing of the renewal Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the provision of Tobacco Control and Health Inequalities work for the period April 2023 – March 2024.

D108/23 Health and Wellbeing Programmes

The Assistant of Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to provide an update to Members on the current programmes available to residents within our District through Council's Health, Leisure and Wellbeing service and to seek approval to sign the proposed MUDC/NIFRS Partnership Agreement in relation to the Home Safety Programme Referral pathway.

Councillor Corry said she was happy to propose the recommendation as there were a lot of good programmes which the AD: HL&W alluded to and doing brilliant work throughout the Mid Ulster area and commended the Council team also.

Councillor Corry referred to Macmillan Move More and advised that she engages quite a bit with the users of that programme who find it very beneficial going through their life living with cancer and was aware of the funding last year as being 50/50 between Council and Macmillan up to March 2024. The Member advised that it has been raised with her and was also conscious that the contract ends in 9 month's time and asked if there was any update on that or can any further information can be sought on the engagement with Macmillan to see if the programme would be continuing going forward.

The AD: HL&W said that this was previously 100% funded programme by Macmillan and then the funding mechanism changed last year for all Councils as we contribute on

a 50% basis. The AD: HL&W said that this was something which has been raised with Macmillan right from the outset of last year, there is a steering group meeting with the partnership in August with Macmillan and all the Councils to see what the plans and the approach was going to be after March 2024. He said that after the meeting in August he hoped that he would be in a position to bring back an update around what the programme may look like.

Councillor F Burton declared an interest in Agewell as sits on the Partnership.

Councillor F Burton referred to Home Safety – supported with funding via the Public Health Agency. The Member said that she was aware of the Officers doing a lot of front face work as a lot of people quite often live on their own. She stated that she was speaking to someone quite recently at a Community Transport meeting and one of the things that the Health Trusts were saying is that someone living on their own in isolated areas was that loneliness is having a detrimental affect on their lives and anything that we can do to partner with other agencies to ensure that referrals are made to guarantee people are supported in their own homes. The member referred to Make a Change to encourage people to eat healthier and changing their lifestyle to be more active with 1-2-1 support available and felt that anything that can be done to support this is very worthwhile.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to signing the proposed Partnership Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service in relation to the Home Safety Programme Referral pathway.

D109/23 Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan

The Assistant of Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update Members on the progress of the Ageing Well Initiative and to seek approval for the formal adoption of the Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the formal adoption of the enclosed Mid Ulster Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.

D110/23 Funding Offer from Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 2023-2024

The Assistant of Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to inform Council of a potential funding opportunity for the Environmental Health service area from the OPSS for 'The Capacity & Capability

Building Programme in Northern Ireland: Non-Food Products 2023/24'. Funding is for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024.

Councillor Wilson enquired if there was an Officer in place.

The AD: HL&W advised that currently there is recruitment ongoing for vacancy at the moment with interviews due to take place between now and the end of July. It was hoped if Council were able to avail of this funding that a temporary job offer could be made as part of this recruitment to tie Council over to March 2024.

Councillor Wilson said that the reason he raised the issue was because funding was in place last year with an Officer in place and obviously their contract has run out.

The AD: HL&W stated that there was the capacity a number of months ago with a number of changes within the team and Officers moving on meaning that the team were down a resource but was hopeful that this vacancy can now be filled.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to accept the offer of funding from OPPS (up to a maximum of £55,000) in relation to activities undertaken in 2023/2024, and if accepted, that it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to sign and return the funding agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

D111/23 Economic Development – July 2023 - OBFD

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

- **Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023**

Councillor Molloy said he was aware that the expected start was in September and enquired what was the closing timescale for spend was which he felt could be seen as a tight turnaround. The member enquired if there would be a database available which was previously used as it may not have been relevant at that stage but could provide a heads up in preparation for it.

The AD: EDT&SP referred to the timeline for spend and said that this had to be worked through with the funder (DAERA). She indicated it is expected the application process may be open for approximately one month, however this would be finalised in the coming weeks, as would the timeframe when businesses that were awarded fundings had to submit their final claims. She noted that Council staff require a period of time, prior to the end of March 2024, to complete actions related to programme closure.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that the Programme would be promoted widely using Council's business directory database which includes over 1000 businesses and via Council's social media platforms as well through AD: Dev's team to reach rural communities. She also advised that Members will be notified when the scheme opens to enable them to promote their network to contacts also.

Councillor Burton enquired if this scheme was the one which quite often was oversubscribed and asked if funding was provided last year to an applicant would new applicants this year get first preference. The Member referred to small businesses within the Dungannon Local Farmers Market and enquired if they could apply for this funding.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that Officers had been speaking to businesses involved with the Farmers Market to make them aware of potential funding opportunities, including this scheme. She stated that Council is awaiting a letter of offer from DAERA and when in receipt of such, the scheme criteria will be finalised. She said that her team are familiar with the issues likely to arise and are in regular liaison with DAERA. She advised her staff would enquire whether it was feasible to give preference to new business applicants who hadn't been awarded TRPSI funding before and would report back to the member.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's participation in the 2023 Rural Business Development Grants Scheme and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign any forthcoming letter of offer from DAERA related to the Scheme.

- **Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme**

Proposed by Councillor F Burton
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve authority for the Chief Executive to sign the Covid-19 Recovery Programme Letter of Variance on Appendix 1, dated 21 June 2023 which grants an extension to the period of funding to 31 March 2024, and to return the signed letter to the Department for Communities immediately following the Development Committee to meet the Department's response timeframe.

- **Great Days Out**

Proposed by Councillor F Burton
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve delivery of the Great Days Out event 2023 in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on 18 October 2023 at the cost of £2,500.

- **Sperrins Walking Programme**

Councillor F Burton welcomed the fact that this was about publicity and would be important to try and ensure that all the other walking places gets a heads up at that particular time.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve delivery of the Sperrins Walking Programme with the four Councils involved in Sperrins Partnership at a cost of £3,000 within Tourism budget constraints.

D112/23 10X Place Based Approach: Call for Evidence

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on 10X Place Based Approach: Call for Evidence.

Councillor Wilson said that this was a vitally important document and stated that the response was excellent. The Member said that for a number of years this area seemed to be disadvantaged by the fact that everything revolved around Belfast or Londonderry and now we have an opportunity for local input in this and have a key role in developing a strategy has to be welcomed. His concern would be what the Department would make of this as it takes away power from them.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's draft response to the 10X - Call for Evidence which is to be submitted by Friday 7 July 2023 (deadline is Sunday 9 July 2023). If any Member has further comments they wish to add, these should be forwarded to the Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes by **12noon on Friday 28 July 2023**.

Matters for Information

D113/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 June 2023

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 June 2023.

D114/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 19 June 2023

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 19 June 2023.

D115/23 Update on Gambling Reform/Legislation

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the reform of gambling legislation within Northern Ireland.

Councillor Monteith advised that Council were very restricted in the remit of gambling and what we have responsibility for and what we are looking at but felt it would be remiss of us as a Council not to take this opportunity to raise the very real problems that are going on within our communities with the issue of online gambling and the legislation that is proposed. He said that he would accept that it is very hard to keep up but the reality is that the vast majority of betting which takes place does so online. It is impossible to watch any major sporting event, particularly the large soccer matches without being bombarded with advertising for ingame gambling and whilst there are rules around advertising for alcohol where it cannot be advertised at a time where young people will be watching, this is the similar sort of approach that is needed for gambling advertising as well. The member said that this was a very real issue and any youth organisations will state that young people at very young ages are becoming involved in online gambling, more so than betting in bookie shops and amusements, as normally the first point of entry for young people gambling is online and in order to deal with that we need to look and promote those issues otherwise it's a huge elephant in the room which is ignored.

The Chair said that he totally agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments and hoped one day to see gambling being treated the same as alcohol misuse and the message is out there on how dangerous it can be.

D116/23 Economic Development and Tourism Achievements 2022 – 2023

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on key activities relating to Economic Development and Tourism Achievements 2022 – 2023 as detailed below:

- Levelling Up Fund
- Business Start Programme
- ESF Programme
- Four Business Programmes
- Village Projects
- Public Realm Scheme
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (14-17 November 2022)
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)
- DAERA Rural Tourism Scheme
- Tourism NI (TNI) Market Led Programme
- Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund
- Summer/Winter Marketing Campaign 2022
- Spring Marketing Campaign 2023
- Business Engagement

Councillor Wilson said that whilst reading this report, staff need to be congratulated on the vast amount of hard work and effort they have put into delivering these programmes.

Councillor Burton concurred with previous comments as Chair of Tourism group as staff really punch above their weight here and all the hard work they carry out behind the scenes.

D117/23 Sliabh Beagh Engagement Consultation

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Sliabh Beagh Engagement Consultation.

Councillor F Burton advised that she had attended the Sliabh Beagh Partnership meeting on the 20th June which is a partnership between 3 different Councils Fermanagh & Omagh, Monaghan County Council and Mid Ulster. The member stated that the partnership had been taking part in a feasibility study and wished to pay tribute to our staff who try and engage to get the best for Mid Ulster out of this partnership working. She referred to Lumfords Glen which was currently sitting at RIBA stage 2 as part of the feasibility study and quite a bit of discussion on the night taking place and in order to reach RIBA stage 3 where it needs to be as a Council, there will need to be additional studies such as ecology and further engineering studies taking place also. The Member said that this was a beautiful place in the Clogher Valley area and this was an ideal opportunity to get something done as part of this partnership, our staff has worked really hard to ensure the map went out wide enough to ensure that this was included in it and considerable lobbying done in the past. During Covid people who lived beside it were in walking through it and as it is an open glen, there is a requirement to have it as safe as possible and it's right on the doorstep of Knockmany where Council public toilets are.

Councillor F Burton proposed that Officers proceed in trying to get the additional studies in order to get it onto RIBA stage 3. Would encourage Officers to advertise on Council's social media platforms this consultation to try and ensure that Knockmany Runners and people in that area feed into it.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) in response to Member's query advised that the piece of work which is currently being carried out is a feasibility study, funded by the Shared Island Initiative. She advised the feasibility study when complete will provide a comprehensive document and will provide opportunities for the Sliabh Beagh Partnership to make future bids for capital funding. She said that moving projects beyond the scope of the currently feasibility study would require a conversation with Council's SMT and Communities & Place team in terms of Council's future recreation plans and suggested a separate meeting with the respective teams involved in the first instance.

Councillor Burton said that she was well aware that this was part of the feasibility study as it was stated on the night that Mid Ulster was going to have to put money into this and would be confident that there was funding within Tourism or elsewhere to get these studies done and stood by her original proposal to look at this and try and progress it if at all possible.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) agreed with what what the AD: EDT&SP alluded to and felt that it would be more useful for Officers to have a more detailed conversation offline and if necessary and appropriate a further report would be brought back to committee. The SD: C&P said that he was aware of the aspirations around other projects in the area.

Councillor W Buchanan seconded Councillor F Burton's proposal.

The Chair referred to what SD: C&P alluded to stating that a paper with substance was needed in order to progress this matter forward as this was only on tonight for information and we need a paper with a recommendation.

Councillor F Burton advised that she had no issue with that but what she was proposing was to look at it and that we try and progress it because if we don't progress it as part of Mid Ulster Tourism, it's not going to be progressed and sit at RIBA stage 2. The Member referred back to the minutes where Lumfords Glen was first mentioned it was probably before the SD: C&P commenced employment in Mid Ulster District Council and was really adamant that this needs to be pushed on. She commended staff who have tried to do everything to get it included in the feasibility study and look forward to that report coming back.

The SD: C&P stated that he was comfortable with the proposal that we progress this further in terms of the conversation and report back to committee.

The Chair said that he would be happy to see this progressed but that a paper was needed with some substance to bring this forward.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Officers engage around the projects identified as part of the Sliabh Beagh feasibility study, specifically in relation to Lumfords Glen, and consider options available to progress this project. Consultation to be advertised on Council's social media platforms to try and ensure that Knockmany Runners and people in that area feed into it.

The AD: EDT&SP referred to page 312 where it refers to the Sliabh Beagh consultation event on 27th July 2023 and stated that she had just been notified yesterday that the date has changed to Tuesday 1st August from 6pm - 9pm, same venue as listed. She advised that this is a public event, and all elected members will be invited and anyone who wishes to attend is encouraged to do so. There will also be an online survey for those who cannot attend and details of this will be issued to Members also.

D118/23 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-24 Funding

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-24 funding.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that at a previous meeting Members were made aware that as a result of DfC funding cuts, funding for Mid Ulster LMP for 2023/24 had been reduced from £368K to £92K (a funding reduction of 75%). She said that further to this, DfC carried out an equality impact assessment consultation on their reduced budget

proposals and had received 185 responses, including a significant number on the impact of the pause in LMP funding. As a result of this, she updated Members that DfC had written to the Chair of Mid Ulster LMP on 21 June 2023, to advise that LMP funding for 2023/24 will be sustained as per the original offer, i.e. £368K.

Councillor Molloy said it was good news but was in similar vein to other programmes which has happened to Department for Education and Department for Economy and different things that has financed projects. At the bottom of all this, people are employed in jobs where people and programmes are set out and these groups are trying to set budgets for incoming years to protect employees and when people do not have that security of employment they do go and look elsewhere because they have to put bread on the table. We have seen through the budgetary cuts which have been imposed by the Secretary of State and down through the departments because of a non functioning executive that people are being forced away and programmes being lost and then comes back to say 'here is the money now' and felt that there needed to be security for people with some sort of tenure for the employed.

The live broadcast ended at 8.04 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D119/23 to D120/23.

Matters for Decision

Matters for Information

D119/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 19 June 2023

D120/23 SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Literary Residential Proposal

D121/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.10 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