

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 5 October 2023 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Corry, Chair

Councillors Bell* (7.03 pm), Brown, J Burton, Cahoon, Gildernew, Johnston*, McAleer, McFlynn*, McLean* (7.07 pm), McLernon, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive**
Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)
Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)**
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP)
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT (HoIT)
Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Corporate Service and Finance (AD: CS&F)**
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Services & Finance (SD: CS&F)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

PR161/23 Notice of Recording

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

PR162/23 Apologies

Councillors F Burton and Totten.

PR163/23 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillors Brown and Gildernew declared an interest in agenda item 5 – Community Festivals Grant.

PR164/23 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR165/23 Community Festivals Grant

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for additional resourcing to support the current applications to the Community Festival Grant.

Councillor Bell joined the meeting at 7.03 pm during presentation of above report.

Councillor Gildernew proposed the recommendation stating she was acutely aware of how important funding is particularly to community groups in rural areas.

Councillor McLernon seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in this item.

Councillor Wilson stated that when the financial contribution is drawn down from Council reserves it will deal with those applications received at present. The Councillor stated that the grant still has a number of months to run and asked if it would now have to close.

The AD: Dev advised that the draw down of monies deals with applications received up until the end of August and stated that whilst applications to the fund have not been stopped there is a notice on the website advising potential applicants that the grant budget has been expended and applications cannot be processed. The AD: Dev stated that groups would not have been aware of this position until recently and referred to the concerns that if they had been aware they could have prepared their application earlier and would not have been disadvantaged now. The AD: Dev stated that this is a risk of a rolling grant programme such as Community Festival Grant and Good Relations Grant which is also a rolling grant programme. The AD: Dev advised that officers have been looking into additional funding sources but stated that if no further funding can be found the grant will have to close. The AD:

Dev stated that she could make no recommendations for the future at the moment but highlighted that no further funding sources have been found at this stage.

Councillor McLean joined the meeting at 7.07 pm.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve a financial contribution of £5,443 from Council reserves to the Community Festivals Fund to support applications as detailed in the September Development report.

PR166/23 Model Complaints Handling Procedures: Implementation

The Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report which advised of the background to and arrangements to implement the requirements of the Model Complaints Handling Procedures, as published by the Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsman (NIPSO) on complaints management across local government in Northern Ireland and gave consideration to adopting the Model Complaints Handling Procedure (MCHP).

Councillor Wilson proposed the recommendation. Councillor Wilson referred to a recent High Court ruling on holiday pay and asked if this would have an effect on Council staff.

The Strategic Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) updated the meeting on when Council had previously considered such matters.

Councillor Brown seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to adopt the Model Complaints Handling Procedure (MCHP) as set out at appendix to report, to be developed and personalised to Council.

PR167/23 Request to Illuminate Council Property

The Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report to seek members approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- Global: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH)
- Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

The AD: ODSP also sought Members approval to include an additional request to light up the three buildings for Child Brain Injury Trust GloWeek on 3 November 2023 which was received since the report was circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –
- Global: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH), 19 April 2024. Colours: Blue, Pink and Yellow
 - Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, 27 January 2024. Colour: Purple
 - Child Brain Injury Trust GloWeek, 3 November 2023. Colour: Purple, Blue, Yellow

PR168/23 Member Services

Councillor Wilson paid tribute to all involved in the works to Cookstown Chamber. The Councillor stated that the technology has brought the Chamber into the 21st century and felt it also gave a boost to staff in the Cookstown offices as it let them see they have not been forgot about.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred with Councillor Wilson’s comments and thanked officers for the good work in bringing the Chamber up to date.

Matters for Information

PR169/23 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 September 2023

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 7 September 2023.

Live broadcast ended at 7.12 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McLernon 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 PR170/23 to PR177/23.

Matters for Decision

- PR170/23 Land and Property Matters
PR171/23 Staffing Matters for Decision

Matters for Information

- PR172/23 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 7 September 2023
PR173/23 Staff Matters for Information
PR174/23 Contracts and DAC Registers – Update
PR175/23 Financial report for 5 months ended 31 August 2023

PR176/23 Treasury Management – Update
PR177/23 2024/25 Rate Estimates

PR178/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.35 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.