

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 February 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present	Councillor Molloy, Chair Councillors Ashton*, Black*, Burton, Clarke*, Corry*, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar*, Hughes*, Kerr*, McNamee, Milne*, Monteith*, Quinn* and Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh**, Chief Executive Ms Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing Ms Linney**, Assistant Director of Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture & Arts Ms McKeown**, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Mr McGinley, ICT Support Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Mrs Maria Curran***, MEGA Councillor McFlynn***

* 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 Molloy welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr Molloy 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.

D020/22 Apologies

None.

D021/22 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Development Report – Strategic Grants – Cookstown AOH.

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Development Report – DFC Emergency Funding– Coalisland Community Food Bank.

D022/22 Chair's Business

Councillor Corry said that it was a while from there was an update on the project relating to Women's Aid to provide accommodation and enquired if there was recent update on progress.

The AD: Development advised that presently there was a paper with SMT which was proposed to go to Policy & Resources Committee this month; discussions have been continuing with APEX, the partner proposed by Women's Aid, looking at the process for Council to engage with them re the provision of the housing for Women's Aid.

D023/22 Deputation: MEGA

The Chair welcomed Mrs Maria Curran, Project Director from MEGA and invited her to make her presentation (appendix 1).

Mrs Curran advised members that the MEGA Network's vision was to advance and grow world-class manufacturing and engineering by attracting, developing and retaining our people.

MEGA's mission was:

- To promote the manufacturing and engineering sector as a source of high-value, long term employment
- To create transformational career opportunities that deliver skills for life
- To support our manufacturing and engineering sector with education and skills development aligned to industry needs.

Mrs Curran updated members on MEGA 2025 Strategy which included its strategic aim, key themes, strategic objectives, key projects and measured results.

The Chair thanked Mrs Curran for her impressive presentation and congratulated the group on the work done to date and wished them well for going forward going from strength to strength. He said that he heard the piece on Radio Ulster about MEGA this evening which was very good and sells what young people were getting out of it, being able to go through a degree course and come out at the other side without any debt and actually be paid for their training and their education as they go along. He said that it was a massive thing for young people to come out of their education without the burden of huge debt for most of their working life.

The Chair asked members if they had any comments to make.

Councillor Black thanked Mrs Curran for her attendance tonight as he had proposed a number of months ago that she would be invited to provide an update to members on the project. He said that it was obvious that the organisation was doing some great work and

putting in place a real attractive alternative career path for the young people in the Mid Ulster area. With the area having such a strong reliance on the manufacturing and engineering sectors, this is bible for the future of these companies and for the local economy. He thanked Mrs Curran for all the work the organisation was doing and looked forward to supporting them the best we can as a Council and wished the organisation well for the future.

Councillor Kerr thanked Mrs Curran for her report and to take this opportunity to congratulate and offer support to all the new and existing companies within MEGA in the Mid Ulster region. He stated that we had experienced an economical crisis which helped create employment opportunities and stability through the most difficult of times. He advised that successful companies could not operate on a vacuum and also paid tribute to the employees of these companies who had worked through the most difficult of times also and felt that this may be the time for employers and employees to start forging a new era in local industry. He suggested the employers and employees have a great opportunity to lay down the foundations for long-term relationships and for long term growth and sustainability in a post Covid world of industry. He said that there was a demand from many workers he had spoken to in relation to job security and stability and he would ask all industry representatives on MEGA to explore the potential for greater representation in what we all hope will be a thriving industry and industrial culture within Mid Ulster. He stated that this would be a perfect period for our Council to initiate a forum where representatives of industry, workers and communities could meet on a regular basis to firm up ideas on pursuing wealth creation, long term stable employment, workers protection and community development. It was his belief that a successful and thriving industrial region will work much better working with trade unions, employer federations and representatives from Council and trade councils.

Councillor Monteith said that it was off a similar line to previous comments and had raised this issue before in relation to funding. He said that it was slightly disappointing to see that there wasn't much input from workers and trade unions and asked what the plans were from MEGA to integrate workers views at a strategic level and not just at a consultative level. He said that it was imperative that trade unions were involved at a strategic level regarding this project as rightly or wrongly there was a perception out in the public domain that the engineering sector was not that welcoming to trade union organisations or for workers who seek trade union representation and a message needs to go out clearly to workers that they are free to and welcome to trade union representation throughout this sector and indeed throughout all other sectors.

Mrs Curran stated that this may not be within her remit to answer Councillor Monteith's question as she represented industry and this needed to be the industry voice themselves that would need to answer this on trade unions. She said that this hadn't been a huge topic of discussion within the MEGA network.

Councillor Cuddy advised that it was a very good presentation but enquired if there was any part for the three local enterprise centres within MEGA's future plans.

Mrs Curran said that she couldn't confirm as she had only dealings with Dungannon Enterprise Centre and enquired of Councillor Cuddy how he would see the organisation partner with enterprise centres.

Councillor Cuddy advised this was working towards the manufacturing and engineering sector and the presentation talked about existing members and new businesses starting up all the time with the enterprise centres doing their best and felt they should be part of the bigger process and something that we should be thinking about in the future.

The Chair thanked Mrs Curran for her attendance at the committee tonight and she withdrew from the meeting at 7.26 pm.

Matters for Decision

D024/22 Development Report

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

- Community Grants - to agree the rolling grant awards – Local Community Festivals, Good Relations and the Strategic Events
- DFC Emergency funding – to approve the additional DFC emergency funding for the provision of the social supermarket concept
- Seamus Heaney HomePlace – to approve the new pricing plan for Seamus Heaney HomePlace and Open Ground
- Good Relations Plan 2022-2023 – to approve the plan for submission for funding under The Executive Office TBUC strategy
- Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support – to agree the awards for accessible benches to community facilities
- DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift for the Welfare Reform Support Project – to approve the direct transfer of finance through the community support programme
- Generalist Advice Contract – approval sought for the tender award for the advice service
- Development - to update on Development.

Councillor Black said although this may be unrelated he wished to raise the issue of funding for Cookstown 100. He said that it had come to his attention that this year marked 100 years of this event being in operation and the organisers were quite keen to try and mark the event. He said that he was aware that the Council do support it financially, however with these further events would like this tied into the event this year and asked if it would be possible for officers to go away and have a look to see if there was any further funding which could be tapped into or potentially redirected to try and assist with this request.

The Chair said that he was confident that officers would investigate this.

The AD: Development said that in relation to the grant funding, this would be via the grants process but in relation to the additional receptions, these can be looked at.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

Resolved To propose the Development Report as detailed below:

- **Community Grants**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the rolling grant awards from rolling programme for Local Community Festivals (1 application £720), Good Relations (2 applications totalling £1920) and Strategic Grants (1 application £3,000). Total amount awarded £5,640 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

- **DfC Emergency Funding**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve additional DFC emergency funding of £74,580.89 for the provision of the social supermarket concept.

The Chair referred to the social supermarket concept and said that he was aware of some social housing associations delivering social supermarkets, with a particular one in Derry which some people had visited previously. He said that foodbanks do some excellent work, but they were exclusive to those which are referred largely to them and enquired if there was anything that this Council could look into to experience some of the social supermarkets which were out there in the different areas.

The AD: Development advised that the Derry City model had been looked at and was aware that a number of local social housing associations had went down to investigate and were liaising with DfC in relation to the potential to provide a similar structure here; but with the funding which was to be allocated this year it was too early for them and not well enough developed. When Council spoke to the foodbank network i.e. the foodbanks and St Vincent de Paul, they felt they weren't at the stage to move to the social supermarket element because they were still getting quite a number of referrals in relation to the actual people experiencing emergency and food poverty. She advised that a few organisations were currently looking at the model but for them it was still a very early concept, although still on the agenda.

- **Seamus Heaney HomePlace**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the new pricing plan for Seamus Heaney HomePlace and Open Ground.

- **Good Relations Plan 2022-2023**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the plan for submission for funding under The Executive Office TBUC strategy.

Councillor Monteith advised that the Council fund and help contribute to Mid Ulster Voice and previously they had raised the issue of democratic rights and voting for young people at the age of 16 and 17. He was aware of members receiving an email a few weeks ago from Students Deserve Better Campaign and was also aware of the group being in attendance previously regarding some welfare and poverty issues of students which they were experiencing.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to invite Students Deserve Better Campaign back to speak to members on their campaign to extend the democratic franchise to 16 and 17 year old. Mid Ulster Voice be also tied into that meeting and be given the opportunity to attend.

- **Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support**

Councillor Doris said that this was greatly welcomed as there was a few places within her area of Brocagh, Donaghmore and Stewartstown which all have a disability friendly piece equipment in all of the parks. She said that this was a good addition and nice to see that we are being more conscious and going that extra mile to accommodate people so that they can be included. She thanked DfC and Minister Deirdre Hargey for the funding to implement this.

Councillor Corry declared an interest in Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support as a member of Moneyneena & District Development Association.

Councillor Corry said that it was great to see these benches being implemented as it was a wide ranging area which would make a massive difference to people's lives.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support – family link to Bawn Silver Band.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the awards for accessible benches to community facilities

- **DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift for the Welfare Reform Support Project**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the direct transfer of finance through the community support programme

- **Generalist Advice Contract**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the tender award for the advice service

Councillor Monteith referred to the generalist advice and asked if the Council could get involved to get answers for a section of our community; as he knew from speaking to different agencies and advice workers there is an issue around women's pensions and money they are entitled to and struggling with the process, this includes backdated pensions some of which go back decades. He said that he had been speaking to those who may or may not be applicable for backdated money and it was impossible to get any adequate information. He said that it was imperative that this is dealt with and that accurate information needed to be provided to get a resolution.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended that Council write to DfC and the Head of the Pension Service requesting that a dedicated helpline be made available for people to obtain accurate information to make sure it was being dealt with appropriately.

- **Development Report**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the update on Development.

D025/22 Sports Representative Grants

The AD: HL&W presented previously circulated report to present to Members the proposed community grant allocations for the Sports Representative Grant – Teams and Individuals (January 2022).

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval for the sports grant allocations as recommended to the value of two individuals £475.

D026/22 Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2022/23

The AD: HL&W presented previously circulated report to provide information to members on the proposed Scale of Charges April 2022 – March 2023 for the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing service area and to seek approval to implement from 1st April 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

- Appendix A: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2022/23
- The adoption of the proposals outlined in section 3.4 for the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification
- Discretionary pricing flexibility to continue to be considered as and when required under the Scheme of Delegation to allow scope for sales promotions, official Council supported events, member service issues, site specific usage trends, etc.

D027/22 Corporate Events 2022

The AD: HL&W drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide information on the proposed Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Events Programme for April 2022 – March 2023 and sought approval to proceed at risk in light of the changing circumstances with the Covid-19 pandemic.

In light of the Covid pandemic and due to the corporate events programme being “on hold” since March 2020, an opportunity exists to review the current portfolio of council corporate events within the wider tourism and economic context along with their capacity to deliver against key corporate objectives. Approval is sought to procure and engage specialist support to conduct a review and make recommendations for future consideration by Members.

Councillor McNamee wanted to thank the AD: HL&W for bringing this report tonight and would be happy to propose it. He said if the committee recalls at the last meeting in January, he had proposed that officers go away and look at this, particularly the Continental Market in Cookstown and then other members weighed in with events in their own areas. The whole thing behind this was we had to prepare ourselves like other organisations which were planning for events to take place this year and hoped with road closures and things like that, we would be well placed and was looking forward to a good few events this year.

Councillor Doris said that she would be delighted to second the report as the events had been a massive miss over the last two years and was looking forward to going to a lot of them particularly the Newell Stores 10k in Coalisland and great to have everyone back together again.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval for officers to:

- (a) Proceed “at risk” with the enclosed schedule of Corporate Events for 2022
- (b) Procure and engage specialist support to conduct a review on the current portfolio of Corporate Events and make recommendations for future consideration by Members.

In response to Councillor Cuddy’s query, the AD: HL&W advised that it was proposed that a specification be put together, there were bespoke events management companies which a number of Councils having gone through this process in the recent months. He felt that this could be an opportunity coming into the year end as we haven’t accrued a significant amount of expenditure this year towards the corporate events. It is proposed that a quick procurement process take place within the next few weeks, relatively short process, come in look at the viability, look at demographics and members suggestion to do a workshop also and then bring back a report. He said that the aim this year was to get back to work where we were pre 2020 and this was really about looking ahead to 2023 and any opportunities which may be available to council and also what funding mechanisms which may be available also.

Councillor Burton said that Councillor McNamee reminded her of the wider community which were trying to get involved in big events and probably was like starting all over again and a lot of things can change very quickly regarding Covid. She said that it was her belief that Clogher Valley Show was planning to go ahead in July of this year and felt that it would be very important if staff could engage early with the group to provide support to the show, especially with Covid, as it has been a huge loss to the rural towns and villages as it accumulated a large gathering of people to the area. She said that it was really good to

see some of these events coming back again and important to provide the best support we can.

D028/22 Extension to the Partnership Liaison Officer Post Shared between Councils and HSENI

The AD: HL&W drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with information on the extension of the Partnership Liaison Officer post between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and Councils and to seek approval to continue with the Mid Ulster District Council's financial contribution until 31st March 2024.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval to continue with the provision of annual funding towards the Partnership Liaison Officer until 31st March 2024.

D029/22 Additional Funding from the Office of Product Safety and Standards

The AD: HL&W drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with information on additional funding that is available to Council from the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) to undertake a project on Construction Products and to seek approval to accept the funding letter of offer.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval for Council to accept the letter of offer and funding up to £9,999 from the OPSS to complete the identified project, and that previously attached award letter between Mid Ulster District Council and the OPSS is signed and returned to OPSS.

D030/22 Economic Development Report – OBFD

The AD: EDT&SP presented previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities and sought approval for the items listed below.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the key activities as listed below in the Economic Development Report – OBFD.

- **Promotions and Shows 2022-2023:** The tourism team despite Covid continue to work in association with Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland and other strategic partners

to maximise tourism promotion of our key attractions, experiences and businesses targeting core ROI, UK & US markets.

These promotions are now delivered in a hybrid format with in some cases a virtual only platform while in others there may be a period of time in market and a virtual option for those not attending in person. In some cases the format of these events are yet to be finalised for 2022 – 2023, however, it is hoped with the lifting of Covid restrictions we will be back in market in the latter part of this year.

The key shows and events the tourism team plan to attend are listed as follows:

- European Tourism Association Britain & Ireland Marketplace, 1st February 2022 (online)
- Meet the Buyer, 31st March 2022
- Explore GB, 22nd March 2022 (format tbc)
- Clogher Valley Show, July 2022 (format tbc)
- Great Days Out, Autumn 2022, targeting the domestic market group business (format tbc)
- Irish Tour Operators Association workshop, November 2022 (format tbc)
- World Travel Market, London, November 2022 (format tbc)
- Holiday World, Dublin, January 2023 (in show)
- Celtic Connections, Glasgow, January 2023 (format tbc)
- Meet the Industry, networking across domestic tourism operators, January 2023

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- (a) Note the contents of the report
 - (b) Approve permission for staff to attend all the aforementioned promotions and shows in 2022/2023.
- **ATCM Membership Renewal 2022-2023:** ATCM is a respected voice for town and city management at both a European and wider global level. They are a not-for-profit organisation with members across the public, private and third sectors. They include key stakeholders and thought leaders who develop and implement shared visions, strategies and action plans for town and city centres throughout the UK and Ireland.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's renewal membership with ATCM for 2022-2023 at a cost of £570 (excluding Vat).

- **Consultation: Statutory Performance Improvement Indicators/Standards:** Under the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards Order (Northern Ireland) 2015), statutory performance indicators and standards have been set as part of the performance improvement arrangements for district Councils. Performance measures have been specified for the functions of: Economic Development (specifically, in this case, Business Start), Planning and Waste management, on which to report annually, as part of the performance improvement arrangements for district Councils. The aim of the performance measures is to promote the improvement of service delivery for the functions

specified. As detailed on **Appendix 2**, Consultation Responses are to be submitted by 28 February 2022.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's draft response to the Consultation, subject to any comments from the Policy & Resources Committee (3 February 2022) and seek permission to submit to Department for Communities by 28 February 2022.

By way of update the AD: EDT&SP advised Members that Council's Policy & Resources Committee on 3 February 2022 recommended the report be approved and made no further comments.

- **Town Centres Cleansing:** At the Development Committee in December 2021, it was approved that a company be appointed to deep cleanse the 5 towns within Mid Ulster.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that since the report was circulated to Members there are four additional areas to be included in the Dungannon cleansing maps, these are Northland Row, Church Lane, Shambles Lane and Babe's Entry.

Councillor Doris said that she appreciated that the hand over from the contractor of the Coalisland public realm scheme to Council has yet to take place and that she understood that they should still be doing the cleansing at this moment in time but the dog dirt on some of the pavements were just clean rotten and was looking to see if the officers could put a push on them to address this huge problem.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that Fox Contracts has been requested to do the full clean of the public realm.

Councillor Monteith said that he was glad to see Babe's Entry and Shambles Lane included to the project. He referred to the top of Donaghmore Road which was a thriving retail area which consistently gets ignored despite the fact it was one of the few areas which has been a success story in the town in relation to open retail.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That Donaghmore Road be included in the programme of works.

Councillor Kerr said although again we were concentrating on the 5 larger settlements across Mid Ulster, he felt that the Council should be fighting for the larger villages hamlets in the area. In the Torrent area itself we have Donaghmore, Stewartstown and the Loughshore areas, there were also legacy issues there with the likes of the Cappagh Public Realm with the Council still maintaining a bit of ownership and maintenance and would like comments brought back if there were any further funding available for street cleansing can it be considered for larger villages and settlements.

Councillor Kerr advised that he had met the SD: Environment last year regarding the Cappagh Public Realm scheme and it was agreed that a report would be brought back to Environment Committee and asked that an update be provided. He said that he was

aware that powers were handed over from Environment to Development Committee and was unsure where it fell within the remit, but asked if this could be followed up.

The SD: Environment agreed to follow this matter up.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said that he would be happy to second the recommendation as long as there was agreeability there.

Councillor McNamee said that he would like to add in other areas within Cookstown also and asked if this was an option or just the recommendation which was in front of members tonight.

The SD: Environment advised that the options outlined tonight was a specific piece of work, however it was something which has been highlighted in her role within Environment and some Councillors sitting on the Environment Committee in that. Currently, we just essentially pick up litter in the town centres and villages and not very much else. She said that now the public realms have gone in, one of the tasks she had asked her Assistant Director to look at was to put in a more proactive programme rather than reacting to issues which were raised by the public or by members. With some of the maintenance budget which was now available, a programme can be put together as part of this process to look at the main towns to see what needed to be done and how regular, as there was an onus on Council to keep these places well and a piece of work which will be engaging members views.

Councillor Wilson in following up from Councillor McNamee's comments referred to specifically Cookstown where there were a number of areas which could be added on but stated that some of these actually belonged to Road Service and was wondering if there was any piece of work which could be done in conjunction with Roads Service to try and tidy up various areas. He suggested that this should also include the Housing Executive to make it a multi-agency approach to it, due to the fact that the rates being put up by quite a bit, there might be more money available now.

The SD: Environment said that this would be followed up.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- (a) Note the contents of the report
- (b) Approve the deep cleansing of paved areas in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt as defined on the maps on Appendix 4.
- (c) Approve that Council proceed to procure the services required immediately to allow the works to be completed in this financial year at a cost in the region of £15,000. Subject to existing economic development budgets in 2021/22 being available, permission is sought to have the flexibility to increase the budget, if needed, should the said works cost in excess of the estimates, taking due care not to exceed tender threshold limits.
- (d) Northland Row, Church Lane, Shambles Lane, Babe's Entry and Donaghmore Road, Dungannon to be included on the programme of works for street cleansing.

- **Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP):** Council previously agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme led by the Department for Communities. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. It is the Council's intention that the Mid Ulster LMP will be industry-led; developing and delivering activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in the local area.

Councillor Monteith referred to LMP and said that within the document plan it talked about the membership and he did appreciate that this document wasn't written by ourselves. He said that within the document there was no mention of any worker or trade union membership on the project at this stage and sought clarification if this was correct.

The AD: EDT&SP advised there was a trade union representative sitting on the LMP.

Councillor Monteith said that when he went through the document all he seen was 'employer, employer, employer' and seen nothing about employees, work place safety, terms and conditions amongst other things and most certainly a document in his mind that has been written by employers with very little workers input and not a document that accurately reflects the needs of the working population in this area.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and referred to the welding academy and comments made by himself and said this was to be very welcomed. Whilst going through individual points as Councillor Monteith alluded to, it seemed to be very employer focused upon i.e. annual employer survey, improve employer participant knowledge, existing employability and key messages. He remembered taking part in the Food for Thought session and his issues were predominately trying for workers retention was to improve workers' rights, but there seemed to be very little mention of workers' representation, trade unions or even trade union councils. He said that he would like his comments brought back as he felt there was a significant amount of public money going into this investment and at the end of the day the masses needed to be asked the question on how we were going to improve the working conditions for the ordinary working class individual. He stated that there was a need to encourage trade union representation in all sectors and there was also the need to encourage employers collectivism and when workers' rights were compared to those in mainland Europe or Scandinavian countries, we are very far behind and there is a need to have a greater focus on what we can do to help the ordinary worker instead of it being directed towards bosses and Directors.

The Chair referred to 3.5 where it did list the members of LMP, with trade union being listed there. He said that he was unsure where it featured within the group itself but it was listed on the group of members.

The AD: EDT&SP stated that the critical point this evening was that agreement was needed on the plan to draw down the money, in the event that we don't get it submitted, then we are at risk of losing the funding. She said that elected representatives sit on the LMP board as well as all the other sectors that serve on the partnership and had fed into the consultations. She advised that the nature of the funding is to develop initiatives to assist the creation of jobs, training opportunities etc to improve opportunities in the local labour

market. She acknowledged members views on worker's rights but indicated this would not be eligible for funding under the scheme.

The Chair felt that as these conversations evolve, these would come out as part and parcel of it for employability of the area and the improvement of workers' rights and would be confident that this would sit hand in hand and would be disappointed if it didn't.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- (a) Approve the draft Interim Mid Ulster Employability Action Plan 2022-23 for submission to the Department for Communities (DfC).
- (b) In the event Council receives a funding offer from DfC to support LMP activity in 2022-23 to approve delegated authority be awarded to the Chief Executive to accept the Letter of Offer and proceed immediately to procure external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives outlined in the draft Interim Mid Ulster Employability Action Plan 2022-23.
- (c) Approve a Letter of Offer for £50,471.40 from the Department for DfC for Administration costs 2021-22 and authorise the Chief Executive to sign and return the form.
- (d) Approve an allocation of £16k within Administration and set-up costs in 2021-22 to immediately procure professional technical to support the development of specifications for the range of initiatives outlined in the draft Interim Mid Ulster Employability Action Plan 2022-23.
- (e) Approve retrospectively a Letter of Offer for £50k from the Department for the Economy (DfE) and authorise the Chief Executive to sign and return the form by 8th February 2022.

Matters for Information

D031/22 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 January 2022

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 January 2022.

Councillor McNamee referred matter which was raised at Environment Committee regarding the new team which was brought in to monitor littering and dog fouling and was advised that this issue would be brought to this committee now. He asked that a report be brought to a future meeting on progress to date.

Agreed that an update be brought to a future meeting.

Councillor Monteith referred to discussion raised at the last meeting regarding the railways. He advised that there was quite a good response to the ongoing consultation, but there had been quite a number of the public which had been in touch with him since the closing date who were keen to get their views brought forward.

Councillor Monteith said that as it was agreed before that we would work with ABC Council who seemed to be leading the way for this. He proposed that there should be an opportunity to carry out our own consultation to feed this through as this had captured the public imagination.

He said that it would be beneficial to build up a bit of steam on this, it would be a very worthwhile project and something the vast majority of our community and others would welcome back and something worth doing.

He said that it would be important to investigate if there were opportunities to allow the public to still feed into the process and for us as a Council to open up something on our website for a time especially when the public were so enthused on the issue and important to capitalise on that. He said that there were plenty consultations out there which was like pulling teeth to try and get people involved in them, but the railway initiative was one which has captured peoples thoughts.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That the Council investigate opportunities for still allowing the public to feed into the process and the possibility of this Council opening up an avenue on our website for a time to allow this.

The Chair said that it was his understanding that this Council would open the process up to the public to allow for submission with creating those responses.

Councillor Monteith agreed and said that the Council would need to liaise with the organisers first to see if it was possible and if not possible then so be it.

Councillor Cuddy advised that he had proposed this the last time and said that no-one knew whether there was any success in it or not, but there were clever people out there and may not be talking about the path which was originally there. He said that when there was a bit of a push and a feel out there, especially when there was so much work being carried out by ABC Council, it was important that this Council carries out a certain amount of groundwork. He stated that this was not going to cost an absolute fortune and would be beneficial if we could get our case in behind ABC Council which would do no harm. He said that he would have pleasure in seconding Councillor Monteith's proposal and hoped that a quality paper could be brought forward to help ABC Council.

Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to investigate opportunities for still allowing the public to feed into the process of the railways consultation and the possibility of this Council opening up an avenue on our website for a time to allow for this.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and said that she had heard in Aughnacloy the previous day from a local man who gives historical talks, that there had been a meeting with the young people. She felt if we were ever going to move ahead with better railway infrastructure we needed to push forward the best we can when there was some mention and support for it. She said that it was her understanding that ABC Council were trying to get the railway extended from Portadown to Armagh which was their main focus, which may not be the original route which may be the way of it, but by the same token she still believed that we need to try and get less people travelling in cars, as she was aware of some people saying that if it was impossible to keep the roads how were they going to bring the railways back. She said if there was ever a better

system, there was definitely more people would use it and the best way to pursue this is to have a good connection where people, good connectivity right across the board would be amazing to have the railways back and a crime that they were ever taken away in the first instance. She referred to a previous meeting regarding tourism which ICBAN attended, she had enquired if they had fed into the consultation to try to ensure that everybody's singing of the one hymn sheet. She said that this wouldn't just be beneficial to tourism but also great for families and businesses right across the board.

The Chief Executive advised that the railway discussion was prominent within the Growth Deal membership across the three Councils and said that Councillor Wilson who was a member, would be aware that it was talked at length at the last governance reference group by the members. It was agreed that we would lobby hard as a sub-regional through Councils – ABC, Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & Omagh in relation to the response to that and hoped that our voices would be heard at a more strategic level also.

He stated that the current proposal for the lines through Dungannon, even though they are reasonable, they did exclude pretty much the rest of Mid Ulster which cannot be accepted. We want a railway line which serves the A29, Mid Ulster, Dungannon, Coalisland, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coleraine as it used to be. He referred to the group who have been lobbying hard for this in West Tyrone and suggested that it may be worthwhile if they could be invited to the next Development Committee to try and get a response in. It might generate more media air time if we get the group into the Chamber and let them pitch to the members, who will then express through this committee their views and aspirations for the railway line and traction more publicity.

Councillor Clarke agreed with what the Chief Executive had said and should be pursued. He suggested bringing up which was proposed and agreed regarding the railway line from Cookstown to Gortin which never materialised. He said that it would be useful to include this on the agenda also.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to support the Chief Executive's suggestion. She said that she had also commented on the reasoning as to why a lot of Mid Ulster wasn't covered on any railway checks which was a missed opportunity and felt that this Council should be having a say as loud as we possibly can.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council invite Into the West to the next Development Committee to update the committee on their future plans in trying to bring the railway to the north-west, where rail links are largely absent, particularly in counties Tyrone, Fermanagh and Donegal.

D032/22 Update on Master Plan for Lands at Mullagh Road, Maghera

Members noted update following the appointment of Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) to develop a Master Plan for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road/Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.

Councillor Corry wished to thank the team for taking the paper forward and was great to see this getting to this stage. She said that she was aware of the public survey online at the minute with a public engagement and would encourage people to participate as it was a great opportunity for the opening up of green space and recreation areas in the Maghera region.

D033/22 Economic Development - OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
- ICBAN Report (2021/22)
- NI Apprenticeship Week (NIAW 2022)
- International Women’s Events

Live broadcast ended at 8.15 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved 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 D034/22

Matters for Decision

- D034/22 Tender for Children’s Play Park Facilities
- D035/22 Appointment of an Additional Public Analyst
- D036/22 Economic Development Report – CBF

Matters for Information

- D037/22 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 January 2022.

D038/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.35 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 please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- 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.