



25 February 2021

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 25 February 2021 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

In accordance with the current COVID-19 restrictions, Members are strongly encouraged to join virtually as the preferred option. Should you need to attend in person then provision will be made at the Council Offices, Dungannon. Please notify Democratic Services in advance if this is the case so arrangements can be made.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
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| 4. | Council minutes of meeting held on 28 January 2021 | 5 - 34 |
| 5. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 2 February 2021 | 35 - 50 |
| 6. | Policy and Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 4 February 2021 | 51 - 56 |
| 7. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 9 February 2021 | 57 - 68 |
| 8. | Development Committee Minutes of meeting held on 11 February 2021 | 69 - 94 |
| 9. | Civic Recognition Nominations | 95 - 98 |

Matters for Information

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Notice of Motions

- 12 Councillor McLean to move -
That this council as soon as practically possible enters into meaningful discussions with the traders of the MUDC area, to agree and implement suitable reduced car parking charges as soon as the Covid restrictions are lifted, whereby re-engaging and encouraging footfall to our local towns and in so doing assisting to sustain our business's, shops & restaurants etc.
- 13 Councillor N McAleer to move -
That this Council welcomes the recent announcement of a £500 Covid Disruption payment for students studying full-time Higher Education courses; notes the exclusion of full-time students studying Further Education courses and students studying Higher Education courses in the south of Ireland or in Britain is unfair; acknowledges the difficulty of part time students facing financial hardship also needs to be addressed; and calls on the Minister for the Economy to address the inequalities and ensure that all students who are currently excluded from the Covid Disruption Payment receive the £500 payment.
- 14 Councillor Cuthbertson to move -
That Mid Ulster District Council acknowledges the grave situation our Town Centres are enduring, resulting in many small retail units having lost and others facing losing tenants in the coming months. That Council writes to the Minister of Finance in relation to vacant rates on retail premises in Town Centres, urging him to provide further assistance on top of the current 50% vacant rates for the next financial year, in order to help stop the trend of converting small retail units into domestic accommodation. This will help preserve retail space for future businesses.
- 15 Councillor Hughes to move -
This council condemns the recent threats made against local Journalists and recognises the importance of trustworthy, relevant, impartial news as an important bulwark of democracy, particularly during a health crisis. This council notes with alarm the unprecedented strain placed on the News industry following the lockdown period, with wide scale cuts and redundancies proposed across the sector. This council supports the NUJ's News Recovery Plan aims at tackling the existing fault-lines in the

sector with a series of measures intended to reconfigure the news industry and ensure it is firmly rooted in the public good. That we support the proposal to increase government investment in public interest news; through arms-length funding mechanisms, with the condition that no public funding is given to any company making redundancies, paying out dividends or resisting trade union recognition. Other measures include:

Tax breaks for news subscriptions
Support for new media start-ups
A wide scale media literacy campaign to tackle disinformation and fake news

We also extend our support to public service broadcasting in UK/Ireland and the principle of independent oversight, free from government interference.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

16. Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 28 January 2021
17. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 2 February 2021
18. Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 4 February 2021
19. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 February 2021
20. Development Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 11 February 2021
21. Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement relating to lands at Ballydermot Road, Bellaghy, Magherafelt
22. Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement relating to lands situated at Blackrock Road, Beaghmore, Cookstown, in connection with the Davagh Solar Walk (1)
23. Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement relating to lands situated at Blackrock Road, Beaghmore, Cookstown, in connection with the Davagh Solar Walk(2)
24. Document for Sealing: Conveyance and Transfer Deed in relation to lands situated at Loughbeg Wood at Longpoint between DAERA and Mid Ulster District Council in connection with the OpenGround Project

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 28 January 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell*, Black*, Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Clarke*, Colvin*, Corry*, Cuddy*, Cuthbertson, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Glasgow*, Graham, Hughes*, Kearney*, Kerr*, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn*, B McGuigan*, S McGuigan*, McKinney*, McLean*, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Oneill*, Quinn, Robinson*, Totten* and Wilson*

Officers in Attendance Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Canavan**, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Cassells**, Director of Environment & Property
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill**, Director of Finance
Mr Kennedy**, ICT Officer
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

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

C001/21 Apologies

Councillor Mullen

C002/21 Declarations of Interest

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

C003/21 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan acknowledged the death toll due to COVID and extended sympathy to all who lost loved ones and reiterated the call for the public to

follow Public Health Agency Guidelines. He expressed appreciation to those Members who had chosen to work from home by connecting to the meeting virtually.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan further advised that he had visited Meadowbank Centre which was currently being used by combined GP practices for vaccine clinics. He advised that clinics were also operating from MUSA and Dungannon Leisure Centre and speaking to the doctors there was a shortage in supply of vaccine as they had hoped to vaccinate up to 1200 people per day but currently it was in the lower hundreds. He assured the meeting that health professionals were eager to do as much as they could to get the vaccine rolled out.

Councillor J Oneill commended amenity centre operatives at Coalisland who had went beyond the call of duty assisting the public when the bins had not been operational in recent weeks.

Councillor Doris spoke of recent announcements regarding payments to student nurses and health care workers. She spoke of first-hand experience of care workers who had cared for her granny who had been in hospital for 29 days during which time her family could not go to see her. Councillor Doris told of how they held the phone up to her to allow her to communicate with her family. She also took the opportunity to extend sympathy to those families whose loved ones hadn't made it and that care worker payment was but a small token. Councillor Doris stated that the Sinn Féin party would continue to work to ensure these payments to health care workers and student nurses were exempt from tax.

Councillor Wilson paid tribute to all NHS workers and care workers who work in the community and stated it was but a small token of appreciation but it was to be welcomed.

Councillor Wilson raised the issue of traffic wardens who were still working even though non-essential retail was closed. He said people in Cookstown would park in the town and do the 'town walk' and were coming back to find they had received parking tickets. He stated that during this time of pandemic he would propose that Council write to the Minister and request that within town centres parking time be extended to two hours and only tickets issued for unsafe parking.

In response the Chief Executive stated that the issue would have financial implications and may impact budgets and asked if the matter could be referred initially to committee for discussion.

Resolved That a report to Environment Committee with regard to impact of extending parking in town centre from one hour to two hours and consideration of tickets only issued for unsafe parking during pandemic.

Councillor Cuthbertson highlighted that during the recent cold spell paths in Dungannon Park had been frozen badly causing falls. He paid tribute to Council staff who addressed the issues and he acknowledged that during the lockdown the park was a life line for many and a walk the only opportunity to leave home. Councillor

Cuthbertson stated that Council needed to have a policy with regard to gritting all parks when necessary across Mid Ulster in particular those with a high footfall. He further advised that during the first lockdown Dungannon Park had implemented a one way system around the lake and that he had been lobbied earlier in the day for this to be reinstated and signage displayed highlighting this.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said that he would anticipate a financial burden regarding the gritting and stated the matter should be referred to environment committee for consideration.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if in the interim if there is bad weather that gritting is carried out.

The Chief Executive stated it was a valid issue and both the Director of Environment and Property and Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation were undertaking a piece of work in relation to Council owned walkways across the district noting that there were different surfaces and a maintenance schedule would be brought to committee in due course. He acknowledged that parks at present were very much a 'go to' place.

Councillor McNamee concurred with Councillor Cuthbertson and also acknowledged the various surfaces highlighting the walk at Lough Fea and stated as Council creates parks and walking spaces this needed to go hand in hand with a strategy to have them gritted when required.

Councillor Monteith stressed that any policy brought forward needed to include all Council parks and pathways as only gritting selected parks was not the type of service people expected from Council.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to Drum Manor Forest in Cookstown and acknowledged that although it was not Council owned he had visited it recently and the carpark had been not been gritted in the ice and was in a disgraceful state. He proposed that Council write to the Forestry Service to request they grit the carpark in inclement weather.

Councillor Quinn also raised the matter of gritting at Kingsisland Primary School on the Annaghmore Road and highlighted the school was paying for this service and that it was pathetic that Department for Infrastructure (DfI) was not doing so. He proposed a meeting for Torrent DEA and DfI to discuss the matter as two buses had veered off the road in icy weather last year.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referring to Councillor Quinn's comments regarding Drum Manor advised that the NI Forest Service had closed Drum Manor car park following complaints.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal for a meeting with DfI highlighting that he had been contacted about gritting of the pathway at Coalisland Canal and also roads and un-adopted housing estates which are not gritted and do not have grit boxes. He

spoke of one incident with Dfl when he had been advised that it was not their job to liaise with the public regarding grit piles. Councillor Kerr stated that Dfl could be more proactive in their approach.

Councillor Doris referred to earlier comments regarding the payment to nurses stating that it was but a drop in the ocean given that there was a misconception with regard to the pay-rise as due to back pay they had to pay back money as they had moved up a pay bracket.

Councillor McNamee referred to Councillor Quinn's comments with regard to Drum Manor and reflected there was many ways to enter the forest even if the car park was closed. He also referred to the £4 charges and proposed that a DEA meeting be organised with the Forestry Service to discuss the matters of both gritting and charges.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with Forestry Service to discuss issues regarding Drum Manor Forest Park, Cookstown

Councillor Burton highlighted the walk at Brantry Lough area and advised that the back path was completely flooded. She acknowledged that the area was well used, often by people on mobility scooters and asked if the flooding issue could be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that an item should be included on the agenda for Environment Committee with regard to Council owned paths. He requested that any Members with issues regarding paths raise them at Environment Committee highlighting that all Councillors have the opportunity to attend they do not need to be assigned to the committee.

Resolved That an item be placed on Environment Committee Agenda regarding issues with Council owned paths/walkways throughout the district.

Councillor Elattar raised the issue of cars parked at local forests and walks along small country roads. She referred to parking at Iniscarn Forest in particular and stated that perhaps via Policing and Community Safety Partnership a publicity Campaign be organised regarding safe parking.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan suggested that this perhaps could be organised via social media.

Resolved That Council undertake Publicity Campaign with regard to parking safely at access paths to local walking routes such as Iniscarn Forest.

Councillor Gildernew referred to earlier discussion with regard to paths at Brantry Lough and advised that work had commenced on this.

Councillor McLean requested that Council pass condolences to the McCartney family on the death of Sam McCartney who was a former Councillor in the legacy Council between the 1985 – 1993, 2005 – 2014. Councillor McLean advised he had been a good Christian man, with a good ethos, had been highly respected and a man of determination. Councillor McLean requested that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the family.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan agreed.

Resolved Council to send letter of Condolence to the McCartney family on the passing of former councillor Sam McCartney (served in former Cookstown District Council 1985-1993 & 2005-2014)

Councillor McLean requested that as had been done in previous years the Chair send a letter of congratulations to those named in the New Year's Honours list.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan agreed.

Resolved Chair to send letter of congratulations to residents named in 2021 New Year's Queen's Honours List

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Ashton declared an interest in the New Year's Honours.

Councillor N McAleer referred to the notice of motion passed at the November meeting of Council in relation to support for students and proposed that Council write to Minister Dodds to request that the Department makes a bid for additional funding to support students at this time.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council to write to Minister for the Economy to request that a bid be made for additional funding to support students

In response to Councillor Monteith the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan confirmed that the NI Students Union were scheduled to make a presentation in March 2021.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the report issued with regard to the horrors that took place in mother and baby homes both in the six counties and across Ireland. He spoke of the torture and punishment endured borne out of a perverse sense of

superiority. Councillor Monteith proposed to invite a local campaigner Fiona Boyle who was also a survivor of the homes. He advised that Ms Boyle worked in the community sector and was involved in the campaign seeking justice for her twin brother who had passed away in the home. Councillor Monteith stated it was important that Council hear of the experiences in order to learn how they can support these people involved in these horrors. He stated that the report did not just focus on the Magdalene laundries but also work houses and acknowledged he was aware of workhouses having been operational in Clogher, Dungannon, Cookstown and possibly South Derry. Councillor Monteith included in his proposal that Council request again that the South Tyrone Hospital Trust be asked to erect a memorial to acknowledge the unmarked graves of those who had perished at the workhouse site between 1850- 1940.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan highlighted the responses of the churches and the state which had been highlighted in the media in recent weeks which saw them whitewashing over the issues and passing the buck to society. He stated that they should take courage, accept and acknowledge the wrongdoing.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposals.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council

- (i) write to Southern Health and Social Care Trust seeking a memorial for the unmarked graves of those who perished in the Workhouse on The site of the South Tyrone Hospital; and
- (ii) that Fionnuala Boyle asked to present to council in the context of Mother and Baby Home Inquiry.

Councillor D McPeake highlighted the deaths of two men in his community Harry Gribbin who had won an Ulster Minor medal in 1950 and later led Derry to its under 21 title in 1997. The second was Paul Devlin (Big Red) who had passed away at the age of 50 but had done great work in the community.

Matters for Decision

C004/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in Open Business at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to *C249/20 Council minutes* and stated that to date no response had been received from the Department of Finance and asked that the two letters be circulated to members.

Councillor Kerr spoke of the lack of support being given to Lough Neagh Fishermen and highlighted their importance to the local economy.

Councillor Kerr also spoke of being lobbied by someone who required medical attention but as there was currently no National Health clinics had endeavoured to go private but still could not get an appointment. Councillor Kerr proposed that Council lobby the Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs) to request that all appointment clinics are up and running again.

Councillor Molloy following on from the comments requested that Council seek assurance from the Southern HSCT that both theatres at the South Tyrone Hospital site are being utilised at this time.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That Council to write to

- (i) Northern HSCT to lobby that appointments for all clinics be running again;
- (ii) Southern HSCT to lobby that appointments for all clinics be running again and seek assurance that operating theatres at South Tyrone Hospital are being fully utilised.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 17 December 2020 (C2246/20 – C262/20 and C273/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C005/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 11 January 2021

Councillor Colvin said he had no issue with the minutes but advised that recently items discussed at planning in confidential business had appeared on social media and this should not be the case.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan acknowledged this.

Councillor McKinney requested that the matter be looked into as this had started to happen on a regular basis that confidential business from planning was appearing in the public domain and this needed to be investigated.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the matter be referred to Policy and Resources under Member Services and ways of eradicating such instances be explored.

Councillor Colvin concurred.

Resolved That a report to be brought to Policy & Resources under Members services regarding the processing and treatment of confidential business/papers.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 11 January 2021 (P001/21 – P116P005/21 and P015/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C006/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2021

Councillor Cuddy drew attention to *E018/21 Dual Language Signage* surveys and stated that English language was used universally. He stated if Council wants to promote a modern and diverse society that English as a common language, is understood by more people in the world and used by the European Parliament. He spoke of the 1995 legislation with regard to dual language street signage to protect all languages. Councillor Cuddy proposed that Council review the Dual Language Street Signage Policy and give English its place as it was the default language in a modern society.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated he was ‘drawing a line’ under the discussion as it was now a monthly session in both Environment Committee and Council and stated that once a decision was voted on democratically it remained for a six month period.

Councillor McNamee concurred with the Chair stating that the policy would be reviewed when due.

Councillor Cuthbertson seconded Councillor Cuddy’s proposal

Councillor Doris stated that the reason people speak English is because the English invaded all around the world and took over colonies and enforced the use of their own language.

Councillor Graham advised that she had indicated to speak to second Councillor Cuddy’s proposal. She stated that the aforementioned matter is brought up continually because they believed that English is the universal language and the

policy says a secondary language thus any other language on signage should be secondary to English.

Councillor Monteith stated that the point is loud and clear that the Irish language and its culture is not acceptable to some. He stated that more people in the world speak Mandarin than English. Councillor Monteith stated that Council had a policy and should stick to it and Members should refrain from grand standing.

Councillor Colvin referred to Councillor Monteith's remarks and stated that the Ulster Unionist Members were not against the Irish language nor the Irish culture and highlighted that it had been the Presbyterians who had preserved the Irish language for many years. He stated that they had concerns that English was being treated as a secondary language on signage.

Councillor Kerr stated that to speak of respect all should like many across Ulster respect the Irish language.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 12 January 2021 (E001/21 – E0020/21 and E031/15) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C007/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2021

Councillor McKinney posed the question was the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan ignoring the previous proposal because it had come from a minority party.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated he was working within the standing orders.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *PR006/21 Policy on Room Hire* and asked why if a document goes to committee and amendments are discussed it is not included in the final document for all Members to view. He sought clarity as to whether the comments recorded were incorporated in the final document that controversial applications be referred to the Party Leaders. He stated that Independents and Aontú were excluded from the party leaders' discussions, which was not within the governance structure of Council and did not have a decision-making role. Councillor Monteith proposed that the policy be referred back to committee.

In response, Councillor Ashton advised that the aforementioned comment had been made to ensure there was trust as the Chair of Committee was from a different political party each year thus more Members would be consulted.

Resolved That the final Room Hire Policy to be bought to Policy & Resources Committee for information

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 (PR001/21 – PR010/21 and PR024/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C008/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 14 January 2021

Councillor Kerr requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr Leo Quinn

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved Chair to send letter commending Leo Quinn who done a sponsored ‘Walk not Talk’ and raised thousands of pounds for local charitable organisations

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 14 January 2021 (D001/21 – D015/21 and D019/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C009/21 Conferences, Seminars and Training

Approval was sought for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

The meeting adjourned for a short time due to technical issues

C010/21 Requests for Civic Recognition

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That subject to the foregoing approval be given to remaining submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report and be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate

C011/21 Community Development

The Head of Community Development drew Members attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the undernoted proposal.

Councillor Monteith in proposing the recommendation stated it had not been an easy task and the proposal was a reasonable reflection of discussion at the committee.

Councillor McNamee seconded the proposal and commended officers on the work undertaken.

Councillor Molloy concurred on the work completed to reach an equitable settlement stating that they should continue to signpost families to support.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred also but expressed concern in relation to those who miss out on school meals or fuel poverty payments by a marginal amount and thus be continually overlooked. He referred to heating payments and some missing out by 50p per week and that perhaps if Council is allocated future funding families such as aforementioned could be identified and supported.

Councillor Cuthbertson also highlighted that some people were still not in receipt of their £200 fuel payment and proposed that Council write to Minister for Communities to seek clarification as to how many people in Mid Ulster District are still to be paid the £200 heating payment allocated prior to Christmas.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That Council write to Minister for Communities to seek clarification as to how many people in Mid Ulster District are still to be paid the £200 heating payment allocated prior to Christmas

Councillor Kerr welcomed the report and concurred with previous comments.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Foodbank.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That Approval granted to the Department for Communities - Emergency Support Funding to tackle fuel poverty as outlined in the report

Matters for Information

C012/21 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered the previously circulated report.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to Department for Infrastructure: Consultation on NI Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-27 and proposed that a Council departments progress a response.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council submit a response to Department for Infrastructure: Consultation on NI Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-27, Collective Departmental Response to be compiled

Councillor Corry drew attention to Department of Health: Introduction of Statutory Soft Opt-Out System for Organ Donation and advised that one organ donor can save nine lives and it was most important that the Council make a response. Councillor Corry proposed that Council make a response.

Councillor McNamee drew attention to NIHE: Draft Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan and proposed that a draft response be brought to the Environment Committee for approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Members were inundated with calls from Northern Ireland Housing Executive with complaints regarding damp and mould on walls due to faults in insulation.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That Council prepare a response to NIHE: Draft Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan - Draft response to be brought to Environment Committee for approval

Councillor Monteith referred to Councillor Corry's proposal and seconded same.

In response, the Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the motion previously passed by Council in relation to Soft Opt-Out Organ Donation arrangements and if Council were minded, the response could be formed around points made during this discussion.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council submit a response to Department of Health: Introduction of Statutory Soft Opt-Out System for Organ Donation and based around the motion passed at Council 28 November 2019 (C240/19 minute refers)

Councillor Elattar drew attention to the Department of Health: Draft Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031 and proposed that Council submit a response. Councillor Elattar stated it was imperative that the response reflected the sharp rise in the need for support and advised that in speaking to local support networks they all are saying that support does not go far enough to address the issues for example deprivation, new benefit system. She further advised that a support group in Ballinascreen from 2016-2020 had 392 people seeking help and this is just one group of many in Mid Ulster and there was no funding from the Department of Health to support them. Councillor Elattar highlighted that throughout the pandemic people are being signposted to smaller groups for help and are not receiving a proper referral which is a major issue especially in rural areas. Councillor Elattar suggested that Council liaise with local groups to feed into Council's response.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal.

Resolved That Council respond to the Department of Health: Draft Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031: Council to host workshop with elected representatives and community organisations dealing with mental health issues to draft response

Declaration of interest

Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in the Department of Health: Introduction of Statutory Soft Opt-Out System for Organ Donation as the company he is employed by moves organs for the Health Service

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Colvin declared an interest in the Southern Local Commissioning Group.

Councillor Colvin welcomed the response to the Department of Health: Introduction of Statutory Soft Opt-Out System for Organ Donation and stated the UUP supported this. Councillor Colvin spoke of the Council delegation meeting the Chief Medical

Officer early in 2020 at which time good plans had been laid down in relation to mental health but unfortunately COVID 19 had overtook but it was vitally important to get back on agenda.

Councillor Kerr concurred stating that post COVID the mental health crisis would deepen and supported the proposal for liaison with local organisations to prepare the response as they were daily dealing with the issues.

Councillor McLean concurred with Councillor Elattar's comments and subsequent proposal but asked if given the closing date there was sufficient time to have a workshop and collaborate a response.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan sought assurance from the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure who advised a virtual workshop could be organised and a draft response prepared for the Environment Committee in March.

Councillor Ashton concurred with previous speakers and the motion brought by former councillor Ronan McGinley which led to the meeting with the Chief Medical Officer. She stated however that another strategy did not instil confidence and proposed that Council seek a meeting with the Mental Health Champion

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with the Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland.

Councillor Monteith stated he shared Councillor Ashton's frustrations and said Council must take any opportunity it could as the mental health crisis is now going to be exacerbated with COVID and proposed that there should be training for Members in dealing with such issues highlighting that he was aware the Samaritans delivered excellent training.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan welcomed the proposal for Member training as it was vital Members looked after their own wellbeing to be in a position to help others especially given the situation faced over the past year and human nature is to 'kick the politician'.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council to organise mental health training for Elected Representatives

Councillor Colvin reiterated it was difficult to believe a year had passed since Council had made met with the Chief Medical Officer and made the presentation on mental health crisis in the district and sought ways forward.

Councillor McKinney stated the issue was close to his heart and spoke of the struggle people have 24/7 trying to support people suffering from mental health issues. He welcomed the announcement from the Minister for Health and concurred that people do 'kick the politicians' and all were aware of people who had reached the end of the line and life's journey had come to an end. He stated that Council needed to do all it could as with COVID issues and constant changes people were under greater stress and Members may be the only link in the chain to wellness especially given the isolation many are enduring at this time.

C013/21 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to the response from the Department for the Economy regarding Project Stratum. He referred to a meeting of the Broadband Working Group and acknowledged the newly appointed Chair, Councillor Ashton. He highlighted that there was major issues with people accessing the hyperlink to know if there property is included, then one house could be included and a neighbour not. He reflected on the white and grey lists and highlighted that Council was going to have a mammoth amount of work in relation to the project, compiling the anomalies and responding to queries and that although he had not spoken to the head of service, Council would need to ensure there was adequate resources in place to cope with the workload and stressed the importance of this particular stage of the project and the planned meeting with the Department.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stressed the importance of encouraging people to come forward with the information.

Councillor Clarke highlighted that from his findings it was difficult to ascertain where the project begins and ends and he anticipated there could be gaps between current infrastructure providing fibre optic broadband and the project stratum. He seconded the proposal for a dedicated officer to cope with the impending workload. He reflected that Fibrus had commenced work in Coalisland on 17 November and were scheduled to complete in the spring but then there appeared to be no work programmed until works commenced in Maghera and Magherafelt in the Autumn. He stated that Cookstown only appeared on the scheme in 2022 -2023 with maybe one part of a road programmed for autumn 2022 and the rest of it autumn 2023. He stressed the need of an officer to be solely engaged in this work as it was a major opportunity to deliver across many statutory services.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Quinn declared an interest as his house was one of the properties not included in Project Stratum as it was built post 2018.

Councillor Quinn stated that as his house was not built until post 2018 it was not included for Project Stratum thus his neighbours would have fibre optic broadband and he would have to pay to have the infrastructure in place to his home. He stated this was an equality issue and spoke of students living in these areas who cannot access adequate broadband and it was imperative that Council was proactive at this stage to get properties left out included in the scheme. He stated his party was raising this at Stormont level for additional funding to be allocated.

Councillor S McAleer spoke of new build properties in her area which had fallen through the list and the issues needed to be addressed. She stated that Clogher Valley area would be very hard hit and it was a reality that some people did not have mains water supply and much work was needed to ensure this did not happen with broadband.

Councillor Kerr concurred with previous speakers and emphasised the importance of broadband especially with home schooling/home working and it was a fact that COVID situation would last for some time to come. He stressed the need to lobby to have the project widened to include missed properties and concurred with the proposal for adequate resources to be allocated to the project.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That in relation to the Project Stratum consideration be given to allocating officer resource to deal with the extensive project issues such as boundaries of project; inequalities for those eliminated from inclusion due to houses/developments not being built until post 2018.

Councillor Molloy drew attention to correspondence received from Department for Infrastructure (DfI) dated 7 January and expressed disappointment that the draft Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan would not be published until the end of the year. He stated he did not know if the glass for the Dungannon Bypass was half full or half empty and proposed Council must press on in its quest.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal and included that Council should write to the Department of Finance and request that adequate funding be allocated to the progress of a Dungannon Bypass.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved Council write to Department of Finance to seek funding to progress Dungannon bypass.

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C014/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor Cuddy speaking on the motion said that as a party the UUP foresees difficulties ahead especially with the amount of food processing in the area. He stated issues needed to be addressed and resolved as Brexit had brought difficulties. He stated that the United Kingdom had left the EU and moving forward people needed to make the most of the new rules presented. He reflected that it was new and daunting and many wondered would we get through. He stated that the barriers to trade should have been sorted long before as there has been at least 16 months lead in yet on 1 January it had become a massive issue. Councillor Cuddy continued that the Northern Ireland Executive needed to step up and the MPs want to press article 16 and stressed the importance of the need for high profile leaders to work together as the N Ireland protocol let the EU off the hook. Councillor Cuddy said he challenged the First Minister to get it sorted and more time was required to iron out the difficulties and stressed the importance of the matter to industry.

Councillor Cuddy moved the undernoted motion:

“This Council notes with concern the hugely detrimental impact that the trade border in the Irish Sea has had on supply chains between Great Britain and Northern Ireland; creating obstacles to trade where previously there were none; removing products from our supermarket shelves; putting extra pressure on struggling businesses and creating a trade imbalance between Northern Ireland and its biggest export market Great Britain; and notes with further concern that the free movement of pets between Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been restricted by the agreement reached between the EU and the UK Government. This council regrets that the UK Government’s proposals of 2 October 2019, which included a border in the Irish Sea and border inspection posts, have led us to where we are today. The current situation is totally unacceptable and this Council should be sending a clear message to the EU and the UK Government that derogations should be in place for a period of at least one year to protect Northern Ireland’s economy.

In view of the very serious impediments to the Northern Ireland economy being created by the Trade and Co-operation Agreement and the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, this Council will write to the Secretary of State Brandon Lewis MP calling on him to recommend that the United Kingdom Government applies safeguard measures for a period of at least one year; and for the EU and UK Government to urgently engage to remove the barriers that are disrupting trade and could lead to further problems in the future.”

Councillor Glasgow seconding the motion stated

“Since the Northern Ireland Protocol has been implemented it has done nothing but bring bureaucracy, obstacles and disruption to the flow of produces from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. This protocol will always be remembered as the biggest betrayal to the people of Northern Ireland and one of the biggest barriers to unfettered access for products to Northern Ireland. In 2018 Boris Johnston

made the comment at the DUP Conference “No British Government could or should sign up to putting a border in the Irish Sea between mainland UK and Northern Ireland” was anyone surprised only a few months later he did do what he said he wouldn’t. On the 10th December 2019 the co-chairs of the Withdrawal agreement joint committee reached the agreement in principle in what we are seeing today the Northern Ireland Protocol, it was clearly evident that the once influence in Westminster was let go and Boris Johnson was setting sail from Liverpool heading up the Irish Sea to Cairnryan to then heading back home leaving behind the Irish Sea border along with its disruption, obstacles and its bureaucracy. In Tuesday’s News Letter Nisa had written to 100 small shops to inform them that they will be losing at least 400 items from their shelves due to the added bureaucracy between GB and NI and just this morning Sam McBride tweeted Sainsbury’s has reduced its Honey selection from 30 to 4. Quotes have been thrown out into the public that the Protocol is the “best of both worlds” well to date I’m not seeing it when it comes to unfettered access from GB to NI. The most realistic, effective and quick action to be taken is the UK Government urgently engaging with the EU through the already set up committee that is supposed to be dealing with these issues as after all it is their responsibility to look at implementation issues raised by the UK Government. The Northern Ireland Ministers in the relevant departments must step up and be very clear to the Secretary of State and say listen this isn’t working and it’s about time the denial of the protocol by the Secretary of State ends and get with reality this is happening, it’s not working so do your job.

This motion voices the concerns and experiences of traders, lorry drivers and farmers and referencing the ongoing issues with the protocol and the detrimental impact this is having on trade between GB and NI. These past few days have provided clear evidence that the situation is now beyond a dust pan a brush clean up it’s at the point that Northern Ireland, Westminster and EU officials checked their job description and see their part in the formation and implementation of the Irish Sea Border. Evidence recently has been the movement of pets from GB to NI, the movement of eels from GB to and NI to GB and the movement of pedigree cattle and sheep from GB to NI. These are things that have and will continue to be obstacles and disruption to the unfettered access from GB to NI and we need to take action. I therefore second this proposal.”

Councillor McLean commenting on the motion said,

“The proposer of this motion had a choice their focus could be on the Northern Ireland Protocol, those who championed it, voted for it and demanded its “rigorous implementation”. Instead the real focus of the motion is on attacking our party something that the UUP has continually focused on this term trying to reflect away from their poor performance in recent elections. They never seem to learn, from the past that attacking their fellow unionist doesn’t sit well within the unionist sector. The reference to proposals on the 2nd October 2019 is disingenuous and unfortunately demonstrates that petty politics is more important to some than the economic and constitutional future of Northern Ireland. Rather than allow my Party’s position to be misrepresented by others,

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let me quote from the statement released by the DUP on 2nd October 2019.

"The DUP has always indicated that the United Kingdom must leave the EU as one nation and in doing so that no barriers to trade are erected within the UK. "In December 2017 we insisted that democratic consent was required in circumstances where Northern Ireland would align alongside specific sectors of the EU Single Market. They (the proposals) ensure democratic consent to the specific alignment proposals before they enter into force and thereafter on an ongoing basis.

The DUP has consistently opposed the Northern Ireland Protocol indeed we warned both the current and previous Prime Minister against going down this path. DUP MPs voted against the Protocol in Parliament, contributing to its defeat, before the Prime Minister then called a General Election with the specific aim on getting his "oven ready deal" through Parliament. What the DUP was prepared to support were proposals that would have seen the Northern Ireland Assembly give specific consent to anything being introduced and that consent would have ensured both unionists and nationalists were content. Similar cross-community consent would have been required on an ongoing basis for those arrangements to continue. The European Union had already agreed to consent from the Northern Ireland Assembly being necessary. All that we were asking for was that paragraph 50 of the Joint Report between the UK and EU, published in December 2017 be implemented. None of that is present within the Northern Ireland Protocol which has been imposed upon Northern Ireland without the consent of either the Assembly or the Executive.

The focus of this motion should have been on those who describe significant economic damage as "teething problems" some of which are second-hand car dealers were hit with a 20% price increase because of VAT imposed on them (resolved only as a result of DUP action); businesses importing steel to Northern Ireland were faced with 25% tariffs (resolved only as a result of DUP action); one haulage company that sent 285 lorries to Great Britain reported that only 100 were able to return - with the others restricted due to problems with paperwork and red-tape; Marks & Spencer have removed product lines from their shelves due to the NI Protocol and legal disputes have arisen in relation to commercial contracts based mainly on who pays for additional costs caused by checks & delays resulting from the Protocol.

Future problems have also been identified at the end of the three month grace period including potential food shortages in our schools and hospitals and Amazon have already outlined a range of goods that will be withdrawn from sale to Northern Ireland at that point. The Northern Ireland Protocol is harming businesses and customers' right across Northern Ireland. We are focused on finding solutions and resolving the economic and constitutional damage created by this agreement between the UK and EU. It's a shame others can't join with us in that. "

Councillor McLean proposed the undernoted amendment:

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“This Council notes with concern the hugely detrimental impact that the trade border in the Irish Sea has had on supply chains between Great Britain and Northern Ireland; creating obstacles to trade where previously there were none; removing products from our supermarket shelves; putting extra pressure on struggling businesses and creating a trade imbalance between Northern Ireland and its biggest export market Great Britain; and notes with further concern that the free movement of pets between Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been restricted by the agreement reached between the EU and the UK Government.

This Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland requesting the government take steps to comprehensively and permanently deal with the economic and societal problems caused by the Northern Ireland Protocol, including if necessary through the use of Article 16 of the Protocol.”

Councillor Ashton seconded the amendment saying that the aforementioned were major issues for businesses and consumers and this was not a time to play party politics but everyone needed to join together and find a way forward. In closing Councillor Ashton commended Council’s economic development team who would have a lot of work on their plate dealing with issues.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked Councillor Cuddy if he accepted the amendment.

Councillor Cuddy stated he did not accept the amendment. He stated that the Ulster Unionist Party promoted business and would propose the original motion.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan put the amendment to vote

For	9
Against	29

Councillor Molloy stated that Sinn Féin led by the Member of the European Parliament had worked to instil numerous mitigations to ensure there was no custom controls in relation to the six counties. He stated that the NI Assembly would have the vote on protocol but for four and half years some had procrastinated but now at the eleventh hour we are hearing all about business. Councillor Molloy said as an island Ireland could produce more than it needed to eat and times were becoming reminiscent of the famine when millions had to go hungry. He stated that many had championed Brexit as the chance of a lifetime but their silence was now deafening, yet at the time they had drawn many along by sweeping promises of the money all boosting the NHS and once they had got what they needed they showed their true loyalty. He stated that despite misgivings it would have been better to remain in the EU than be out of it.

Councillor Quinn advised that the SDLP would not vote for the motion stating that

“Brexit was always about creating trade borders. By nature Brexit creates obstacles to trade where previously there were none – this was the entire point of the Brexit project, one which was opposed by the majority of people in Northern Ireland, but supported and cheered on by the DUP, TUV and PBP. All the disruptions mentioned by the motion were created by Brexit. While we will certainly work to mitigate negative consequences, we must be clear that the origins of the problem are Brexit itself and those who were led blindly into it by Farage, Boris and the DUP. It was a project that our party and the majority of people in Northern Ireland opposed. The SDLP is the only party who registered to campaign against Brexit. It has created trade barriers, extra pressure and increased prices across the UK and further afield. That is the very unfortunate reality of the Brexit project and one that we now have to deal with today. Rather than calling for the premature and reckless removal of the Protocol that protects us from some of the worst consequences of Brexit, we should be calling for the Executive and the Department of Economy to proactively work with Invest NI and Intertrade Ireland to promote the benefits of the Protocol in terms of EU-UK market access for businesses choosing to locate in NI. Access to both the EU single market and the UK market afforded by the Protocol gives us an advantage – it is critical that the DUP Economy Minister is not too blinded by ideological opposition to the Protocol to maximise the benefits of our unique position. At the weekend it was reported that UK small businesses are being told by advisers working for the Department for International Trade that the best way to circumvent border issues and VAT problems is to register new firms within the EU single market. These businesses should be advised to set up in Northern Ireland. The Protocol, as has been said time and again, is not perfect but it is necessary to protect our economy and society here from the worst of Brexit. Fixes to specific problems should be worked on collectively by parties here, and they should collectively push the UK Government and EU where necessary. Issues like pet passports are a direct consequence of Brexit. The UK Government could have negotiated with the EU. It chose not to, it made a decision that pet passports should be necessary for pets crossing the Irish Sea or the English Channel. It is an unfortunate consequence. However, the choice of the UK Government to pursue the hardest possible Brexit has produced results that cause significant disruption to the lives of people across NI and the UK. Much has been made about the detrimental impact of new checks at the Irish Sea on garden and horticulture businesses here. There are understandably concerns about barriers to importing plants that contain British soil. Again, this is a direct result of the UK’s decision to diverge from EU rules on plant and animal health. The island of Ireland has long been a single zone for plant and animal health. Based on the simple facts of agriculture and ecology that exist on an island it has to continue to be a single zone.

The loss of EU funds - not being matched by the UK government - is seriously concerning for people and businesses here. Brexit itself -not the Protocol- is the source of disruption and harm. Despite the earlier promises from the UK Government, in 2021/22 the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will not be equivalent in value to EU structural funds. There is anticipated shortfall of around £69m

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across the Executive. £45m of this shortfall is understood to sit with the Department for the Economy. We do not know what specific programmes will be impacted or stopped due to the lack of funds. Minister Dodds' performance has been poor on both the COVID and Brexit crises. The DUP Economy Minister needs to take some responsibility for this shortfall, push the UK Government to match funds and provide clarity for people and businesses here on what the practical implications of any loss will be. Going forward, Department of Economy initiatives are critical to both the COVID recovery for example the anticipated voucher scheme worth £92 million and promoting the benefits of the Protocol in terms of EU-UK market access for businesses choosing to locate in NI. The loss of such a large amount of funding in this Department will have significant consequences for business survival, our COVID recovery and the wider economy. The discontinuation of EU structural funding will have considerable impact on both European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund projects involving district councils. If a UK Shared Prosperity Fund was properly resourced and allowed for strategies to be determined at both the NI and sub-regional level it could create positive and regionally balanced outcomes for local government. But it will certainly not be positive if it is administered from Westminster with reduced funds for NI."

Councillor Cuthbertson said like 17.5 million others he voted for Brexit not the protocol. He said while the DUP Ministers are working hard that article 16 is triggered Sinn Féin, the Alliance and the Green party signed a joint letter for full implementation of the protocol and then they say they are friends of industry. He stated that the DUP are seeking to make a difference and it will be clear to the people of Mid Ulster who is harming their businesses.

Councillor Colvin said he thought he had fell into a time warp listening to the old arguments that the DUP had lost the opportunity and that there is a time to be supportive and clever but they are trying to catch up. He said the UUP were their favourite target and that he believed Brexit would work as Britain is the fifth largest economy in the world. He said people would be better off living in Northern Ireland than the south and noted that it was England that was supplying the money. He said he would support his colleague.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said he would go back to the 5 December 2017 when Tony Connolly from RTE tweeted comments about the Irish backstop. He said the Prime Minister then Theresa May was at lunch to sign off on this which if agreed would have made the north a power house. The DUP leader interrupted the meeting and halted it. He said it marked the beginning of the end of the union, the Tories would stop sending money to the north and there will be an exit out of Ireland. He said unionist parties repeatedly trust the Tories and it always end in tears.

Councillor Cuddy said the motion was on day-to-day issues everyone was looking at different angles and the UUP were asking was to try and talk to the UK government. He said at the end of the day everyone was stuck with each other and had to make the best of it. Councillor Cuddy said they needed to get the best deal for all the citizens of Mid Ulster as looking to the future the area would not get £10 million and

Dublin would not be paying. He stated that all the UUP was asking was to go to the Minister and ask rather than waiting until the next accident happens then do something. He concluded that Dungannon was the engine room of Northern Ireland and all they were asking for was a bit of slack to deal with issues that Brexit was done and everyone had to deal with the here and now.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan put the motion to the vote

For	6
Against	23
Abstained	9

Councillor Cuddy stated it had been a good debate and it was important to talk.

Councillor Ashton left the meeting 9.12 pm

C015/21 Notice of Motion

Cllr S McAleer moved the motion undernoted:

“This Council recognises that hospice care is a vitally important part of our care system; considers it necessary that people approaching the end of life, their families and carers get the right care and support where and when they need it; notes that hospice staff deserve recognition for the world-class medical care and emotional support they provide not just to patients but also to their families; and looks forward to the hospice movement going from strength to strength in years to come

Accordingly, this council agrees to write to the Minister of Health, Robin Swann MLA, calling upon him to ensure fair and transparent funding in line with demand, and continued high quality palliative and end-of-life care.”

Councillor S McAleer moved the motion stating:

“If the subject palliative or end-of-life care hasn’t already touched you, it is almost guaranteed that it will one day and in a profound way. It is probably only when one goes through that process personally that they then fully understand just how wide and deep provision is in the hospice movement. In Northern Ireland we have four Hospices, Marie Curie Hospice: Southern Area Hospice Services, Foyle Hospice and the Northern Ireland Hospice, Adult & Children’s: Hospices are not add-ons; they provide core services. They provide structured outpatient day services, holistic respite care for people living with any terminal illness including all Cancers, COPD, Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and Dementia amongst other illnesses meeting individual patient needs and providing holistic family support.

Children's hospice provides palliative care to children with life-limiting conditions including conditions such as neurological and genetic disorders and life-threatening conditions such as cancer type diagnosis.

We are so lucky to have hospices that provide high-quality, innovative, world-class care. They also play a significant advisory role for other health professionals on palliative care and provide bereavement care for those who have been left behind and need help to see a way forward. The demands on hospices are increasing all the time as people are living longer. Since April last year, Northern Ireland Hospice alone has seen a 20% increase in referrals from Health and Social Care and Primary Care for community specialist services and in-patient unit, which in real terms is approximately 800 additional new patients and their families.

The hospice service is growing, but the percentage of annual expenditure funded from Government sources is falling. Funding for these vital services is in no way keeping pace with increasing demand. The present funding methodology is flawed and devoid of evidence base or up-to-date benchmarks. We need to find urgent sustainable solutions. Without urgent support, the additional cost of appropriately supported palliative care can only be found by either increasing the call on already hard-pressed communities to give more support to their hospices, and/or by hospices reducing the services they provide. Hospices have faced unprecedented financial challenges while caring for greater numbers of people than ever before and waiting lists and bed closures are simply not acceptable, especially at the end of life.

This week the Health Minister Robin Swann announced additional COVID funding of £1.65m for our hospices. This funding will be very welcome. As Covid has impacted on every facet of our hospices, not least of all fundraising capacity. The funding will help hospices to survive this difficult time during the Pandemic but it doesn't resolve the gap between present funding and the cost of care which is growing year on year. Hospices need more long term recurrent funding. Years of chronic underfunding must end. What our Hospices need is a fair funding system based on patient need. Demand for our Hospices is rising at a surprising and steady rate but annual expenditure from Government sources is falling.

We must never forget that hospices are lifting the burden from the NHS, which is why core funding is so important. If independent hospice services ceased to exist, the NHS would have no option but to pick up the slack. The Executive should be acutely aware of that fact and address the funding shortfall while there is still time.

We must ensure that future funding arrangements are flexible enough to enable hospices to continue to provide high-quality sustainable services, whether in a hospice building or in the patient's home to ensure services are not reduced. Hospices are not asking the Government to meet all their costs, but just to give fair payment for services that the NHS would otherwise have to provide.

Members, I urge you to support the motion so that we can ensure that the most vulnerable in our society get the help and support that they need.”

Councillor Ashton returned to the meeting at 9.17pm

Councillor Kearney seconding the motion stated that care either in the home or wherever played a vital part of the care system. He stated that it delivered world class care to patient and families bringing end of life as pain free and dignified as possible. He reflected that COVID has brought great uncertainty to many households which has led to operating on a much reduced budget which left little to donate in turn leading to the most vulnerable people missing out on vital care. He spoke of the high quality care hospice services provided and stressed the need for them to have freedom in planning for the future.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that hospices are a vital sector of the health care system caring for people at their weakest.

Councillor Wilson stated he was happy to support the motion commenting that £1.65 million was a small recognition for what hospice staff and volunteers were providing. He proposed that Council also write to the Minister for Health to make a bid for available funding at Stormont to support the Hospice sector.

Councillor S McAleer stated she was happy to accept the proposal.

Councillor Doris stated that she was happy to support the motion and highlighted the support hospice staff provide and highlighted that no price could be put on the compassion they bring. She too supported Councillor Wilson’s proposal.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Cuddy declared an interest as he had a family member working for the Southern Hospice.

Councillor Cuddy said that he supported the motion and spoke of the recent death of his mother and the circumstances at present which only allows one person to be with a loved one when they die. He advised that hospices have to generate much of their own funding and that it was a good motion and Councillor Wilson was right a bid should be made for additional funding.

Councillor Monteith concurred with previous speakers and said he too would support the motion. He commended Councillor S McAleer on the palliative care work that she carries out and how the community is extremely appreciative of the services given. He spoke of how the local community rallied around during the pandemic to ensure they had adequate PPE and stated the local community holds palliative care and the hospice close to its heart. He said everyone had experienced its need and Council should do all it could to support. He also spoke of the tree in the Council grounds which was lit up at Christmas time to support hospice services.

Councillor Ashton said the DUP would support the motion and commends the great work of the hospice and welcomed Councillor Wilson's proposal. She stated however that a move was needed that services did not need to bid for money and the NI Executive needed to get around the table and agree funding for hospices as they should not have to rely on the community. She reiterated bids should not have to be made for funding it should be streamline funded.

Councillor Kerr concurred with the motion and the praise to Councillor S McAleer and spoke of the importance of the service which had been overwhelmed due to the pandemic.

Councillor Colvin reflected that Councillor Ashton has championed the fact this idea of the assembly paying for services which at present rely on community donations. He spoke of many organisations relying on community funding such as Marie Curie, Hospices and that money should not be handed back to the treasury but should be spent on funding such services which currently depend on voluntary workers and have to source their own funding.

Councillor Cuthbertson commended Councillor S McAleer and whilst he welcomed the £1.65 million allocated to hospices for COVID he was shocked that the Minister ad discovered £90m not spent in the budget.

Councillor S McAleer thanked everyone for their support of the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the motion as undernoted was carried.

This Council recognises that hospice care is a vitally important part of our care system; considers it necessary that people approaching the end of life, their families and carers get the right care and support where and when they need it; notes that hospice staff deserve recognition for the world-class medical care and emotional support they provide not just to patients but also to their families; and looks forward to the hospice movement going from strength to strength in years to come

Accordingly, this council agrees to write to the Minister of Health, Robin Swann MLA, calling upon him to ensure fair and transparent funding in line with demand, and continued high quality palliative and end-of-life care.

Council also to request that the Minister for Health bids for additional funding.

C016/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor Quinn speaking on the motion said,

"I done a play last year, in which to save an argument between a priest and a drunk my character exclaimed that Poverty is a worldwide problem, even the richest country in the world have people living in abject poverty. That play was

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comedy, sadly poverty in our own country is anything but. Council this motion tonight is something I know we are passionate about. There is not a Councillor in this Council, nor a Council staff member that has been untouched by the realities of poverty in our communities. Last Thursday I was representing SVP Clonoe at a meeting along with other members from Foodbanks and SVP conferences right across Mid-Ulster. Each one telling the same story, about those desperately in need, not just for food, but for heat, for fuel. I want to take a minute to pay tribute to all those in Mid-Ulster, such as SVdP in Clonoe/Coalisland, the Coalisland Foodbank, , as well as many other community groups, GAA clubs and services, who have done their utmost since the outbreak of coronavirus to help those in need. I'm sure council will agree they have shown the best of us during extremely hard times.

It goes without saying that this last year has been extremely difficult. The outbreak of the pandemic has firmly stacked the deck against families who were already on the verges of mounting financial pressures. Covid-19, along with archaic welfare reforms introduced in 2016 such as the two-child tax rule and the benefit cap, have sadly pushed many families over the financial cliff edge leaving many children living in poverty. The Department of Communities Family Resources Survey 2018/2019 shows that 122,000 children in the North live in relative poverty (that's 24% of children) with 109,000 of those living in absolute poverty, it also indicated that 81,000 children living in relative poverty live in a household with at least one adult in employment. That is nearly 2/3 of all children living in poverty:

I have quoted Dr Julie-Ann Maney before in this chamber, but her words still haunt me, she said that Poverty effects children from the moment on conception. It effects their development in the womb, it effects their care when they are born, the food they will eat, which has knock on effects on their development in early years (as a new father I know how important that period is), it then spirals, as poverty not only has a detrimental effect on children's educational and health outcomes, the experience itself is traumatic: studies suggest the mental strain of stigma, shame and stress associated with poverty and social exclusion can have a neurological impact on a child. But Council, poverty is not inevitable nor is it inescapable; through delivering person-centred legislation, removing barriers to accessing welfare, ending the structural problems of Universal Credit and introducing affordable childcare we have the potential to create a space where families become less and less likely to fall into poverty.

You will have all been familiar with recent photographs on social media of families in England receiving inadequate - and quite frankly shameful - food packages as a replacement for free school meals. These photos included pictures of peppers cut in half, a few spoonful's of tuna heaped into used coin bags, and one or two rounds of dry bread. It was like something from another century. But here we chose a better way. We chose to put money straight in to the bank accounts of families eligible for free school meals. We trusted families to budget. We give them choice. And ultimately left their dignity intact. To me this says that we in Northern Ireland are a compassionate people, who want to do well by the least well off in our society.

Council that is why we must act where and when we can. A child poverty taskforce, though not a panacea, has the potential to put us on the right footing. Any strategy must include social security and labour market policies, things like maintaining the £20 Universal Credit uplift, like SDLP MPs voted to do, we need primary legislation for the next package of welfare mitigations when it comes to bedroom tax, two-child rule and benefit cap. We need to be looking at increasing overall wages, increasing number of hours parents can work, availability of affordable childcare etc.

Far be it from me to quote Manchester United player but Mr Marcus Rashford said - *"This is not about politics; this is about humanity. Looking at ourselves in the mirror and feeling like we did everything we could to protect those who can't, for whatever reason or circumstance, protect themselves. Political affiliations aside, can we not all agree that no child should be going to bed hungry?"*

Councillor M Quinn moved the motion having agreed to a modification received.

This Council acknowledges the response by the Minister and the department to the COVID crisis. Notes with alarm the Department of Communities Family Resources Survey 2018/2019 which show that 122,000 children in Northern Ireland live in relative poverty (24% of children) with 109,000 of those living in absolute poverty and expresses deep concern that these figures have increased significantly since the previous year and have not improved at all in the last five years. The rise of the Universal Credit claimant count and expected end of the furlough scheme could see a further increase in these numbers, with the two-child tax credit rule and benefit cap only adding to the pressure on families with children.

This Council calls on the Minister for Communities to immediately convene a child poverty task force as part of her anti-poverty strategy, as set out in New Decade New Approach.

Councillor McFlynn seconded the motion stating that all were aware of the cruelty of poverty across the world and the food banks which had experienced massive increase in use. She stated that it was a shame when we enjoy success in many ways that children are going hungry and this fact needs to be eradicated.

Councillor Monteith stated he was content with the motion and had no difficulty raising the plight of people living in poverty. He spoke of a recent report that highlighted that due to the pandemic it would take the 1000 richest billionaires 9 months to recover whilst it would take the worst off ten years. He stated that some promote the phrase 'we are all in this together' he stressed this was not the case, if you are poor and experiencing poverty you will incur ill health earlier. He said that an economic system where people run out of necessities is wrong, that what was needed was proper work, proper pay and benefits and stressed that people should not be forced into poverty because they are sick. He emphasised the need for affordable housing stating that no one should have to make a decision to pay rent,

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eat or have heat, the need for a health service that works on the ground not one where you have to wait 3-5 years for an appointment. He further spoke of student poverty, the need for a welfare system that supports the vulnerable and how universal credit had been fashioned in London and enforced through Stormont. He said he supported the motion but also proposed that it include that Council convene a local Anti-Poverty working group to address issues and look for a strategic line. He said fuel stamps were but a sticking plaster over a gaping wound and stated that an antipoverty task force across the district was required.

Councillor Quinn agreed to the addition that Council lead a local Anti-Poverty Working Group.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith and commended Councillor Quinn on the motion. He spoke of the foodbank in Coalisland and the regular users who were simply trying to feed their children. He stated that capitalism is repugnant and ugly and it was not for the many but for few, meaning the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Councillor Kerr stated Council should do all it could to combat poverty and enhance the lives of working class people. He seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal for a local Anti-Poverty Working Group.

Councillor Colvin stated it was a worthwhile motion with a proposed way forward. He said he was not happy with the comments about the rich as the rich was needed to distribute wealth or the country would be like Venezuela.

Councillor Ashton stated the DUP would support the motion as poverty was an issue that impacts all communities. She stated she saw no benefit in the amendment but they would support.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that they were extremely concerned about poverty and the pandemic was not the cause of it. He stated the Department for Communities (DfC) Minister 'New Decade New Approach' aimed to identify issues and barriers to people and many organisations such as trade unions had fed into it. He spoke of the support received from DfC highlighting the example of the food box scheme and stressed the commitment for systematic change.

Councillor Quinn thanked Members for their support, he spoke of the forthcoming Anti-Poverty Strategy and how it had come to his attention that in his community a person who had died from COVID had prior to his illness visited an individual and brought groceries up to three times a week but this had been unknown. He said eventually it had been brought to the attention of local organisations and the need had been addressed but highlighted that it was depressing such situations existed and as a Council everyone must do their best to eliminate poverty in Mid Ulster.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared the motion as undenoted carried.

- (i) This Council acknowledges the response by the Minister and the department to the COVID crisis. Notes with alarm the Department of Communities Family Resources Survey 2018/2019 which show that 122,000 children in Northern

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Ireland live in relative poverty (24% of children) with 109,000 of those living in absolute poverty and expresses deep concern that these figures have increased significantly since the previous year and have not improved at all in the last five years. The rise of the Universal Credit claimant count and expected end of the furlough scheme could see a further increase in these numbers, with the two-child tax credit rule and benefit cap only adding to the pressure on families with children. This Council calls on the Minister for Communities to immediately convene a child poverty task force as part of her anti-poverty strategy, as set out in New Decade New Approach.

- (ii) Council lead a local Anti-Poverty Working Group

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

The live broad cast concluded at 9.52 pm

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That items C017/21 to C021/21 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2020
- (ii) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2021
- (iii) Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2021
- (iv) Policy and Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 January 2021
- (v) Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 January 2021

C022/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 10.11 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 2 February 2021 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present	Councillor S McPeake, Chair
	Councillors Bell, Black*, Brown*, Clarke*, Colvin*, Cuthbertson*, Gildernew*, Glasgow, Kearney*, Mallaghan*, McFlynn*, McKinney, D McPeake*, Quinn* (7.04 pm), Robinson*
Officers in Attendance	Dr Boomer, Planning Manager Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor** Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer** Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer** Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer** Ms McKearney, Senior Planning Officer** Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Applicant Speakers LA09/2020/1027/F Mr Kearney* Mrs Mellon* Mr Cassidy*

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm

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

The Chair also referred to addendum which had been circulated earlier in the day and asked if those joining remotely had seen this document and had time to read it.

Members joining remotely confirmed that they had seen the addendum and had time to read it.

P016/21 Apologies

None.

P017/21 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake referred to agenda items 4.8 (LA09/2020/0705/F) and 4.21 (LA09/2020/1523/F) and that as these items are Council applications all Members should declare an interest when the item is taken.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in agenda items 4.14 (LA09/2020/1030/F), 5.1 (LA09/2016/1693/O) and 5.6 (LA09/2020/0862/F).

P018/21 Chair's Business

The Planning Manager advised that agreement had now been reached in relation to the procurement of a new planning computer system. The Planning Manager advised that some of the capabilities of this new system are that it will be able to accept planning applications online and also issue decisions online and should be more user friendly.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake stated that this was good news as the new planning computer system has been talked about since RPA and is long awaited. The Chair stated he hoped the implementation of the new system would come to fruition shortly.

The Planning Manager referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting –

Agenda item 4.1 – LA09/2017/0319/F – Relocation of 2 chimney stacks (approved. M/2011/0126/F) and the retention of 4 further chimney stacks to facilitate spraying within existing approved building.(Amended description) (Revised Odour Impact Assessment received) at 70m S of 177 Annagher Road, Dungannon, for DMAC Engineering.

Agenda item 4.3 – LA09/2019/1546/F - Site for a farm dwelling and double garage at 70m W of 25a Corrycroar Road, Pomeroy, for Mr Connor Carberry.

Agenda item 4.9 – LA09/2020/0707/F - Infill dwelling and garage 20m E of 15 Lisgorgan Lane, Maghera, for William Drennan.

Agenda item 4.13 – LA09/2020/0899/O - Site for a dwelling & domestic garage at pprox 15m N of 69 Anneeter Road, Coagh, for Mr Charles Mallon.

Agenda item 4.15 – LA09/2020/1119/O - Dwelling and garage in a cluster 10m W of 44 Ballyscullion Road, Bellaghy, for Mr Brian Milne.

Agenda item 4.18 – LA09/2020/1192/O - Dwelling on a farm at 70m NW of 90 Moneysharvan Road, Maghera, for Ronan Bradley.

Agenda item 4.19 – LA09/2020/1225/O - Infill dwelling at lands adjacent to 214 Hillhead Road, Castledawson, for Jim McPherson.

Agenda item 4.20 – LA09/2020/1317/O - Site for dwelling and garage at lands between 17-19a Drumrot Road, Moneymore for Miss Z McClintock.

Agenda item 5.3 – LA09/2019/1008/F - Retention of dwelling under construction at 7 Tobermesson Road, Dungannon, for Mr Conor Curran.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above for deferral be deferred for an office meeting.

Matters for Decision

P019/21 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2017/0319/F **Relocation of 2 chimney stacks (approved. M/2011/0126/F) and the retention of 4 further chimney stacks to facilitate spraying within existing approved building. (Amended description) (Revised Odour Impact Assessment received) at 70m S of 177 Annagher Road, Dungannon for DMAC Engineering**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2018/0594/F **Demolition of existing abattoir and erection of new local neighbourhood shop, workshops, forecourt, canopy and crèche at 1 Coalisland Road, Dungannon for BDJ Management Ltd**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2018/0594/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in this item.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/0594/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1105/O **Site for a farm dwelling and double garage at 70m W of 25a Corrycroar Road, Pomeroy, for Mr Connor Carberry**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2019/1546/F **No1 pullet rearing poultry shed with feed bin, storage shed and associated site works at land approximately 250m SW of 1 Grillagh Road, Maghera for Glenshane Eggs**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1546/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1546/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0263/F **1 detached dwelling and 4 semi-detached dwellings with detached garages, Estate Road and Footpaths. 1 dwelling and change of use of existing listed outbuilding from farm building to domestic garage and stores with renovations for domestic purposes ancillary to the proposed dwelling on the former site of 1 Gortagammon Road and lands adjacent to Berkley Mews, Tullyhogue, Cookstown for Mr David Mc Aleece & Shani Flint**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0263/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0263/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0639/O **2 storey dwelling and garage at site approximately 90m SW of 81 Cullenrammer Road, Dungannon for Miss Natasha Murray**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0639/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0639/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2020/0695/F Detached dwelling at lands to the rear of 39-41
Ranfurly Road, Dungannon, (accessed from
Gortmerron Avenue) for Mr Patrick McEvoy**

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had a number of concerns in relation to this application and that approving the application could set a precedent that every garden could be built on along that road. The Councillor stated that Gortmerron Avenue is a single width lane and there is insufficient infrastructure to service any more houses.

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented report on planning application LA09/2020/0695/F advising that it was recommended for approval. Mr Marrion also showed the block plan and siting of the proposal and advised that Roads Service did not have any concerns in relation to the application.

Councillor Bell stated he was happy to propose the officer recommendation based on the report and explanation provided tonight.

Councillor Gildernew seconded Councillor Bell's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he would like to see the site plan showing the red line which gives a better layout of the area and would provide a better indication of the number of houses in the area and that the road gets narrower. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that if this application is approved there could end up being a house in every garden.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake stated that a block plan had been shown which indicated that curtilages decrease going North. The Chair also referred to the officer's comments in that any other applications would be treated on their own merit.

Members were shown the site plan which indicated the red line and layout.

The Planning Manager stated that this application runs across two back gardens and that this site is different to the others as it has the tennis courts to one side and is also the longest of the gardens. The Planning Manager stated he did not feel this proposal could be replicated along the road unless several gardens were combined.

Members voted on Councillor Bell's proposal –

For – 9
Against – 6
Abstained – 1

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0695/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0705/F

Upgrade to an existing household waste recycling centre to include new split level design, site office, weighbridges, concrete yard and vehicle parking sheds and upgrading non-hazardous waste transfer station, including reinforced concrete internal push walls and reconfiguration of roller doors at Magherafelt Depot and Recycling Centre, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt for Mid Ulster District Council

All Members present at the Committee both in the room and virtually (Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson) declared an interest in this item.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0705/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0705/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0707/F

Infill dwelling and garage 20m E of 15 Lisgorgan Lane, Maghera for William Drennan

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2020/0798/F

2 No. two storey dwellings at site immediately E and adjacent to 5 Frenchmans Lane Castlecaulfield for Miss Kathy Robinson

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0798/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0798/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0840/F

Dwelling and garage (infill site) adjacent to 55 and opposite 59 Coole Road, Aughamullan Coalisland for Fionntan Cullen and Niamh Carberry

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2020/0840/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor Mallaghan felt that the applicant should be given the opportunity to reflect and consider if they want to amend the design of the property and proposed that the application be deferred to March to allow time for this.

Councillor Bell seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal.

Councillor Bell stated that the proposal does look out of character and asked if it would be more acceptable if the dwelling was lower at the front and higher at the back.

The Planning Manager stated that the only issue in relation to this application was design and if plans for an appropriately designed dwelling are submitted then these will be considered.

Councillor Quinn stated that although the proposal may be out of character within that particular stretch of houses it would not be out of character for the area in general and supported Councillor Mallaghan's proposal.

The Planning Manager stated that he did not feel an office meeting would be appropriate in this case. The Planning Manager stated that officers have been in contact with the applicant and explained the situation and that the applicant wanted the proposal brought before the Committee as is. The Planning Manager stated that he was content that the application be deferred and that officers will go back to the applicant again.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0840/F be deferred to March Planning Committee to allow time for applicant to consider if they want to submit amended plans.

**LA09/2020/0879/O Dwelling and garage on a farm at 45m NE of No 7
Glenviggan Road, Draperstown for Mr Cathal Doyle**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0879/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0879/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2020/0899/O Site for a dwelling & domestic garage at
approximately 15m N of 69 Anneeter Road, Coagh for
Mr Charles Mallon**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in the following application, vacated the Chair and withdrew to the public gallery.

Councillor Glasgow took the Chair.

LA09/2020/1030/F Replacement dwelling and garage at 55 Mullaghboy Road, Bellaghy for Miss Clodagh McPeake

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1030/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1030/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor S McPeake rejoined the meeting and took the Chair.

LA09/2020/1119/O Dwelling and garage in a cluster 10m W of 44 Ballyscullion Road, Bellaghy for Mr Brian Milne

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2020/1169/F Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling including new access gates, pillars & walls at 81a Glen Road, Maghera for Mr and Mrs Gareth Campbell

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1169/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1169/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1191/F New access to existing dwelling at 28 Ballymaguigan Road, Magherafelt for Martin McIvor

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1191/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1191/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1192/O Dwelling on a farm at 70m NW of 90 Moneysharvan Road, Maghera for Ronan Bradley

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2020/1225/O Infill dwelling at lands adjacent to 214 Hillhead Road, Castledawson for Jim McPherson

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2020/1317/O Site for dwelling and garage at lands between 17-19a Drumrot Road, Moneymore for Miss Z McClintock

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2020/1523/F Installation of Floodlights to MUGA a Maghera Leisure Centre, Coleraine Road, Maghera for Mid Ulster District Council

All Members present at the Committee both in the room and virtually (Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson) declared an interest in this item.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1523/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1523/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in the following application, vacated the Chair and withdrew to the public gallery.

Councillor Glasgow took the Chair.

LA09/2016/1693/O Farm dwelling and garage, 195m SW of 146 Gulladuff Road, Bellaghy for Seamus McCorry

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2016/1693/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2016/1693/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor S McPeake rejoined the meeting and took the Chair.

**LA09/2019/0050/O Site for a dwelling and garage at 37m NE of 9
Annaghmore Lane, Annaghmore, Cookstown for Mr
Noel Devlin**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application
LA09/2019/0050/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0050/O be approved subject to
conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1008/F Retention of dwelling under construction at 7
Tobermesson Road, Dungannon for Mr Conor Curran**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1157/F Retrospective domestic storage shed with extension of
curtilage 5 Jacksons Drive, Gulladuff for Paul McGarvey**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application
LA09/2019/1157/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1157/F be approved subject to
conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2020/0315/O 2 storey dwelling and garage on a farm adjacent to
182 Mountjoy Road, Brockagh, Dungannon for Mr
Paul Mulholland**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application
LA09/2020/0315/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0315/O be approved subject to
conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in the following application, vacated the
Chair and withdrew to the public gallery.

Councillor Glasgow took the Chair.

LA09/2020/0862/F

**Replacement dwelling and garage at site 400m E of
Fairview, 221 Hillhead Road, Castledawson for Jason
Thompson and Julie Espie**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0862/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0862/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor S McPeake rejoined the meeting and took the Chair.

LA09/2020/1027/F

**Infill site for 2 dwellings and garages between 11B
and 11E Hillside Road, Upperlands for Mr Danny
McMaster**

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2020/1027/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Kearney to address the committee in the first instance.

Mr Kearney stated he wanted to support the three reasons for refusal as per the officer recommendation. Mr Kearney stated that the proposal is against planning policy and asked that the Committee refuse the application.

Mrs Mellon stated that she was speaking on behalf of herself and her husband and that they resided at 11B Hillside Road. Mrs Mellon stated she stood over previous objections to the proposal and stated that the proposal was not an infill site but rather an agricultural field. Mrs Mellon stated that the laneway was private and did not have the infrastructure to take more traffic.

Mr Cassidy stated that policy has been met in that the site has frontage and there are three buildings. Mr Cassidy advised the two proposed frontages will be approximately 70m and that other frontages in the vicinity are a lot more. Mr Cassidy stated that the proposal is for two detached houses and allowing for separation distances he felt that a third house would not fit into the site. Mr Cassidy stated that Roads Service have no issue with the proposal and that sightlines on the road would be improved should the proposal be approved.

Councillor Colvin asked what the distance is across the front of the field.

Ms McCullagh advised that the site frontage is approximately 140m.

The Planning Manager stated that Members have to assess the character of what is already there which is dispersed dwellings. The Planning Manager stated that there is ribboning in the area and questioned if this site is actually an important break in

the ribboning and build up as opposed to whether it is a gap in which to put more houses. The Planning Manager stated that one of the proposed dwellings will be going up the back of one house and in front of another house and that these are also factors to consider.

Councillor McKinney asked if there was an opportunity for a site meeting.

The Planning Manager stated it was reasonable to request a site meeting to allow Members to see the site however he stated the site meeting should not be organised during the current restrictions and such a meeting would be deferred until March at the earliest.

Councillor Gildernew stated that the Planning Manager mentioned build up and that he did not think this had been previously mentioned in the officer report. Councillor Gildernew asked if build up had not been previously mentioned could it be taken into consideration now.

Ms McCullagh advised that build up is included in the refusal reasons.

Councillor McFlynn referred to previous comments in relation to the private lane and asked if there is a right of way on the lane to allow the applicant to use the site.

Ms McCullagh advised that there is no right of way on the lane.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1027/F be deferred for a site meeting to be held at such times as current restrictions are lifted.

Matters for Information

P020/21 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 11 January 2021

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 11 January 2021.

P021/21 Receive report on lodgement of a Non-determination Appeal

The Planning Manager presented previously circulated report which advised that an appeal has been lodged for the non-determination of planning application LA09/2019/0951/F.

Members noted the content of the report.

Live broadcast ended at 8.04 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McKinney 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 P022/21 to P026/21.

Matters for Decision

P022/21 Receive Updated Planning Office Authorisation List
P023/21 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

P024/21 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on
11 January 2021
P025/21 Enforcement Cases Opened
P026/21 Enforcement Cases Closed

P027/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.36 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the meeting of Mid Ulster District Council's Planning Committee in the Chamber, Magherafelt and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast feed. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will 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 you are for or against the proposal or abstaining from voting
- For members attending remotely, note that by voting on any application, you are confirming that you were in attendance for the duration of, and that you heard and saw all relevant information in connection with the application you vote on
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting. When finished please put your audio to mute
- 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
- An Addendum was emailed to all Committee Members at 5pm today. There is also a hard copy on each desk in the Chamber. Can all members attending remotely please confirm that they received the Addendum and that have had sufficient time to review it?
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to so everyone has a clear understanding
- For members of the public that are exercising a right to speak by remote means, please ensure that you are able to hear and be heard by councillors, officers and any others requesting speaking rights on the particular application. If this isn't the case you must advise the Chair immediately. Please note that once your application has been decided, you will be removed from the meeting. If you wish to view the rest of the meeting, please join the live link.

- Can I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or the use of any other means to enable persons not present to see or hear any proceedings (whether now or later), or making a contemporaneous oral report of any of the proceedings are all prohibited acts.

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.



ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 2nd February 2021

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
4.1	Letter from applicant	Members to note
4.20	Late objection received	Members to note

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 4 February 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Quinn, Chair

Councillors Ashton*, Buchanan*, Cuddy*, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde*, Hughes*, McFlynn*, S McGuigan*, McKinney, McLean*, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing
Mr Browne**, Head of Tourism
Mr Moffett**, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr JJ Tohill**, Director of Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic 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 pm.

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

PR025/21 Apologies

Councillor Gildernew.

PR026/21 Declarations of Interest

None.

PR027/21 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that report on Tender report for Microsoft Licensing Tender Award Revision would be raised in Confidential Business.

Matters for Decision

PR028/21 Localised Introduction Procedures & Probationary Policy for Mid Ulster District Council

The Head of Organisational Development presented previously circulated report and sought Members approval of new standardised procedures re: Localised Induction & new Probationary Policy developed for Mid Ulster District Council. This Policy is to provide a standardised approach across Council for inducting new employees and carrying out reviews during their initial six month probationary period.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Localised Induction Procedures & Probationary Policy for Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor McLean welcomed the agreement and said that it was a very good set up for either people who were off for a longer term period or for new staff to be made welcome and was au fait with the workings of the system and should be something for businesses to embrace.

PR029/21 Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property – February 2021

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which sought permission to illuminate/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness and mark:

- National Heart Month (NI Chest Heart & Stroke) - the week commencing Monday 15th February to Sunday 21st February for National Heart Month – the colour red.

Councillor McLean said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation as it was for a good cause and extremely important to a lot of people and good to see the Council being supportive of it.

Councillor McKinney stated that he would be happy to support the recommendation as it was a very worthwhile charity. He said that charities were under much need at present and hoped that the Council could highlight what was taking place within the district.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to illuminate/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of National Heart Month (NI Chest Heart & Stroke) - week commencing Monday 15th February to Sunday 21st February for National Heart Month – the colour red.

PR030/21 Sperrins Sculpture Trail Update

Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on progress in relation to the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project. Approval was sought to accept a Letter of Offer from DAERA through its Rural Tourism Scheme for funding towards Phase 2 of the Sculpture Trail project, i.e. capital delivery, together with approval of the Council's financial contribution.

Councillor Doris said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as a lot of work had been put into it.

Councillor McFlynn said that it was important to support the initiative and would be happy to second the proposal.

Councillor McLean stated that as it had already been clarified previously that the funding was already ring-fenced within our Capital budget and set aside, he would be happy to support the officer recommendation.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was good to see external funding coming through for such projects and enquired if this was just for one sculpture at Davagh Forest or were there any other sculptures being considered for other areas.

The Head of Tourism advised that there was one sculpture being installed at Davagh Forest and as the report detailed there were two other sculptures in two other district Council areas all of which will make a collective sculpture trail within the Sperrins.

Councillor Cuddy felt that it would be a significant sculpture for the amount of funding and would be looking forward to seeing it as art does cost.

The Chair advised that art may cost but it always gave money back.

Councillor McKinney said that when he read the report he was wondering why it was only for one sculpture under this capital spend at Davagh Forest and being at the location within the last few weeks it would be hard to see how this amount of money could be drawn back as getting to Davagh Forest was an expedition on its own. He said that he would like to see other areas being investigated for future projects as there was quite a lot of things happening in the Sperrins, but the network of getting to Davagh was still a major problem and felt that it was a lot of money for just one sculpture and may be hard to see the financial benefit at this stage.

The Chief Executive agreed that it was a lot of money and as the Head of Tourism outlined it was a three Council programme that was funded and developed principally through DAERA for a one sculpture in each area but in this instance because of the work that occurred in Davagh, it was the logical place in that part of the Sperrins, Omagh would be focussing on the Gortin Glens and Derry City would be looking at another located site.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that the Sperrins was a great asset and with Councillor McKinney's comments regarding access which may be a challenge in the future especially the more popular the site gets. He raised concern regarding other areas

within Mid Ulster district especially the Clogher Valley from the Ballygawley roundabout to Fivemiletown, a valley which has so much history and disappointing to see that this area hadn't availed from any investment from this Council apart from Blessingbourne Estate. In said that in the former Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council members were embarrassed of it being overlooked time and time again which was a shame due to the natural beauty of the area and agreed that the Sperrins had easy access and a good road through it, but Clogher Valley carries a lot of tourists coming from airports and ferries heading down to areas like Donegal and it was a shame that this new Council never tapped into it either.

Councillor Elattar advised that Davagh was close to where she lived and was very happy to see the whole project going ahead including the new sculpture and took on board what other members had said about the difficulty around access at Davagh, but felt that projects cannot be turned down in a specular area because of inadequate infrastructure and it may be worthwhile lobbying to get better infrastructure in the Sperrins areas. She felt that it was a very exciting project as there were lots of people going up to Davagh, especially when the weather gets a lot better people will be going up to use the facilities and would welcome it.

Councillor McFlynn felt that the whole beauty of the Sperrins were the narrow and backward roads and wouldn't want to see large roads being enhanced too much as it would take away its natural beauty.

The Chair advised that Mid Ulster District Council were fortunate that it had a huge rural area and would be exciting to see the forthcoming development over the next few years and commended Officers for sourcing and bringing forward investment to develop certain areas.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the report and, subject to the Development Committee adopting the recommendations at its next meet on 11/2/2021, recommends that the Council:

- (1) Authorise the release of the match funding required, being £142,234.34 (25% of the tender cost of the Mid Ulster District Council element of the project) to be expended between the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years in accordance with the progression of the project works, the funds having been previously included within the Council's Capital Programme.
- (2) Authorise the officers to fund the relevant professional fees amounting to £13,050 from the Tourism & Culture and Arts 2020/21 budgets.

- (3) Instructs its officers to review the current capital budget and implement such steps as are necessary to ensure that all capital costs associated with capital projects, including legal and other associated costs, are properly incurred and funded from the relevant capital project budget.

PR031/21 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR032/20 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 January 2021

Members noted Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 13 January 2021.

PR033/20 Performance Improvement: Nine Month Update (Q1-Q3) 2020-2021

Members noted update which provided Members with monitoring information on the review of performance against our seven statutory and three corporate performance improvement indicators and standards, along with an overview of the Corporate Health Indicators for the first nine months of 2020/21.

Live broadcast ended at 7.16 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Member consider items PR034/21 to PR042/21.

Matters for Decision

PR034/21 Rate Estimates 2021/22
PR035/21 Staff Matters for Decision

Matters for Information

PR027/21 Chair's Business (Continued)
PR036/21 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 January 2021
PR037/21 Managing Attendance
PR038/21 Staff Matters for Information
PR039/21 Staff Issues – Furlough

PR040/21 Contracts and DAC
PR041/21 Financial Report for 9 months ended 31 December 2020
PR042/21 Miscellaneous Matters

PR042/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.40 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 in Council Offices, Circular Road,
Dungannon and by virtual means**

Members Present

Councillor S McGuigan, Chair

Councillors Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Cuthbertson,
Glasgow*, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn*,
B McGuigan*, McNamee*, Milne*, Totten*, Wilson*

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services**
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services**
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health**
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services**
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control**
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

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

E032/21 Apologies

Councillors Graham and O'Neill.

E033/21 Declarations of Interest

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

E034/21 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

E035/21 Dfl Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed No Waiting at Any Time – Castle Villas, Cookstown

The Director of Environment and Property presented previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed No Waiting at Any Time at Castle Villas, Cookstown.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed No Waiting at Any Time at Castle Villas, Cookstown.

E036/21 Winter Maintenance of the Council Estate

The Director of Environment and Property presented previously circulated report which considered the issues regarding winter maintenance of the Council Estate.

Councillor Cuthbertson thanked the Director for the report however he stated it was not dealing specifically with the issue he had raised at the Council meeting which was in relation to the treatment of Council owned pathways and parks. The Councillor stated he had received complaints in relation to Dungannon Park which is seeing increased footfall at the moment due to other leisure facilities being closed and that there are sections of the Park which are steep, have steps and are affected by ice. Councillor Cuthbertson stated his concerns related to the clearance of ice at such locations which is a safety issue and whilst he appreciated there will be further reports in relation to winter maintenance he asked what would happen if there were icy footpaths at Dungannon Park tomorrow morning.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that Dungannon Park have their own staff managed through Leisure and Outdoor Recreation who undertake a level of winter maintenance and whilst this may not be extensive, there would be a reaction to weather conditions. The Director advised that Railway Park and the Canal walkway at Coalisland have been treated upon request since Christmas.

Councillor B McGuigan stated he would like to see a policy coming forward and further detail on the cost of equipment for this type of activity. The Councillor stated that in instances of snow or ice everyone wants their area cleared at the same time and referred to the appendix of the report which states that Property Services can provide salt bins and pedestrian spreaders and asked how many of these Council have. Councillor B McGuigan stated all these issues needed further consideration and that he looked forward to a policy coming forward on how best to address these.

The Director of Environment and Property stated he would revert to the Councillor on what equipment Council have as he would not have the detail tonight. The Director stated it is the intention that, as soon as practicable, a policy would be brought forward for Members attention.

Councillor McNamee stated he looked forward to seeing the policy as he felt Council needs to expand on what it is currently doing. The Councillor stated that there are so many people currently using facilities and that these people should be able to continue to use these facilities irrespective of the weather.

Councillor Wilson stated that he felt Council needs to be careful in that if paths are gritted and a section is missed and someone then falls is the Council then liable for claims. The Councillor stated that there are a number of walkways which Council shares with Forestry, Water Service etc and that there could be a multiagency approach to treatment of footpaths.

Councillor S McAleer referred to the increased use of facilities and specifically Knockmany in which she was aware of a few people falling. The Councillor referred to the car park at Knockmany and the toilets which are adjacent which includes a disabled changing places toilet and that she would like to see such areas included in the policy.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that further reports would be brought forward in due course.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the content of the report and to receive further reports and policy on winter maintenance in due course.

E037/21 Food Standards Agency - Memorandum of Understanding in relation to potential food fraud activities

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which advised of a request from the Food Standards Agency for a Memorandum of Understanding to be established and agreed in relation to food fraud activities between Local Authority teams in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Food Standards Agency's National Food Crime Unit.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the draft Memorandum of Understanding between Local Authority food teams in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the National Food Crime Unit, part of the Food Standards Agency.

E038/21 Community Resuscitation Update

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the work of the Mid Ulster Community Resus Group including an update on the roll out of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) across Mid Ulster Council owned properties.

Councillor McNamee commended the good work of the Resus Group and referred to the report which states that the lack of an electricity supply makes the provision of an AED difficult at locations such as Drum Manor Forest Park, Lough Fea and Portglenone Walkway and that these areas would be further considered if it is found

a gap exists following a further review. The Councillor stated that he felt a gap already exists at these locations and referred to a man who died at Drum Manor Forest Park. Councillor McNamee stated that at Drum Manor there are numerous buildings and he felt there was the opportunity of working in partnership with Forestry with a view to siting an AED at that location. Councillor McNamee also stated there was a shed at Lough Fea for storing boats which he understood had an electricity supply. The Councillor stated at the Council meeting he called for a DEA meeting in relation to Drum Manor Forest Park and that this issue could be raised at that meeting. Councillor McNamee stated that with the volume of people using the likes of Drum Manor and Lough Fea at the moment it is important that defibrillators are placed at those locations as soon as possible.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that as the Councillor has outlined that electricity supply may not be as much of an issue as first thought the three locations at Drum Manor, Lough Fea and Portglenone Walkway can be looked at again.

Councillor Cuthbertson thanked officers for the report and proposed the recommendations therein. The Councillor stated that the majority of the recommendations were approved by Council last October and it was a bit disappointing that a number of defibrillators which were recommended to go ahead at that time are still 6-8 weeks away from being sited. Councillor Cuthbertson stated he was aware that there had been a defibrillator at Drumcoo Playing Fields but that this was removed due to vandalism and asked where the next closest defibrillator is and if it is available outside of office hours.

The Head of Environmental Health stated she would get back to the Councillor with the detail on the availability of other defibrillators.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that if a defibrillator at Drumcoo Civic Amenity Site is not being progressed and the defibrillator at Drumcoo Playing Fields has been removed then the only other defibrillator in the vicinity is at the Council depot on Oaks Road which may not be available when the civic amenity site is open therefore he felt further consideration was needed on siting a defibrillator at Drumcoo Civic Amenity Site.

The Head of Environmental Health stated she would look into the matter being raised and that further consideration can be given to siting a defibrillator at Drumcoo Civic Amenity Site along with Drum Manor Forest Park, Lough Fea and Portglenone walkway.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that monies have been identified for the purchase of the six AEDs for the Civic Amenity Sites as listed in the report and these can be moved forward and that additional monies will be identified if that is what is required at the other locations being mentioned.

Councillor Glasgow seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal and stated he would support Councillor McNamee's comments in relation to electricity supply and referred to the toilets and caravan site at Drum Manor and that an electricity supply at this location should not be an issue. Councillor Glasgow stated that due to current restrictions a lot of activities are outside and that this will continue in the future therefore Council should be planning ahead to ensure the people using the facilities are provided for should the need arise.

Councillor B McGuigan referred to unregistered AEDs outside of Council ownership and asked who makes contact with community groups, shops etc in relation to the maintenance of these defibrillators.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that NI Ambulance Service want AEDs registered as it provides contact details against the device and that these details can then be used to follow up on issues such as maintenance. In relation to AEDs at Council facilities the officer advised that building managers maintain devices at the location they manage and that corporate health and safety also have a role. The Head of Environmental Health advised that NI Ambulance Service are the main body in respect of AEDs although she was unsure of how often they would check up on devices however this was the purpose of registration so that follow up could be done more efficiently.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that some AEDs are in place a considerable amount of time and asked if Council can check how often the Ambulance Service follow up on the maintenance of units.

The Head of Environmental Health stated she would investigate this and come back to the Councillor.

Councillor McFlynn stated this is an important piece of work and referred to the number of defibrillators located at GAA clubs whose rooms have not been used very often in the last year and maintenance may therefore not be up to date. The Councillor stated it is vital that the Ambulance Service know the condition of AEDs.

Councillor S McAleer stated she was aware of an AED located in Ballygawley and that the electricity supply is required for a heated cabinet so that the defibrillator is not affected by cold weather. The Councillor stated that that particular defibrillator was registered with NI Ambulance Service so that when someone rings 999 the person can be provided with a code to open the door of the cabinet and the device can be used. The Councillor stated that the Chairperson of Ballygawley Community Initiative is responsible for maintaining the unit on a monthly basis.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that everyone would hope that the AED in their location would be maintained in the same way but it is a matter of identifying if this is being done.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- (I) To proceed with the installation of AEDs at Council sites as outlined at section 3.8 of report and that further consideration be given to the provision of an AED at Drum Manor Forest Park and Lough Fea and Portglenone walkways, subject to electricity supply being secured and additional monies being identified. Further consideration to also be given to siting an AED at Drumcoo Civic Amenity Site.
- (II) To support the British Heart Foundation to make CPR training mandatory in the school setting and assist local businesses and organisations with AEDs throughout the District to register them with NIAS.

E039/21 Bus Shelters Procedural Guide

The Head of Technical Services presented previously circulated report which considered Council's Procedural Guide for the installation of Bus Shelters within the District.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that flyposting can be an issue on bus shelters and leaves them very untidy. The Councillor asked if something can be put on bus shelters stating that Council does not allow flyposting on same.

The Head of Technical Services stated that officers can look at adding a notice to bus shelters which includes a contact number if anyone has any issue and that this can be added to the procedural guide.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- (I) Approve the revised Bus Shelter Procedural Guide as set out at appendix 1 of report.
 - (II) Include additional item in Procedural Guide in relation to flyposting on bus shelters.

E040/21 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services presented previously circulated report which provided an update on current bus shelter status.

Councillor N McAleer referred to the bus shelter scheduled for Stewartstown and that there had been another delay at this location due to planned works by DfI. Councillor N McAleer stated he had been advised that DfI were no longer going ahead with these works and asked that in light of this if the bus shelter could be installed as soon as possible as it has been an ongoing issue for a number of years.

The Head of Technical Services advised he would follow this up with DfI.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to put "On Hold" the following applications for Bus Shelter provision until the new Bus Shelter Procedures have been agreed:
- Main Street, Benburb
 - Tullyhogue village
 - St Colmans Park, Moortown
 - Cappagh village
 - Whitebridge, Ballygawley

E041/21 Environmental Plans, Principles and Governance for NI - Discussion Document

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure presented previously circulated report which advised on the consultation document entitled 'Environmental Plans, Principles and Governance for Northern Ireland' Public Discussion Document and associated draft response.

Councillor Glasgow referred to precautionary principles and that this can sometimes lead to over caution and stall progress and stifle development and research. The Councillor felt that something should be included within the response which allows development and innovation to contribute positively towards climate change. Councillor Glasgow referred to the new structure and that it should have its own independent role but that its strategies and targets should not be different from other departments as this only causes confusion and duplication. Councillor Glasgow also stated that whilst the OEP will have public accountability it should not be allowed to evolve into another SES which brought planning applications for farmers to a halt. The Councillor stated that a degree of caution is needed and whilst it is good that Northern Ireland is going on its own everyone from all sectors needs to buy in.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure concurred with the Member's comments and referred to question 4 of the response it which it was commented that the OEP should report directly to the office of the First and Deputy First Minister and the NI Assembly on its work and operational arrangements

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that given tonight's commentary Council should probably be answering yes to question 3.

Councillor Wilson asked if these arrangements are harmonising what is already in place to bring both England and Northern Ireland in line with each other. The Councillor also referred to the OEP which will be able to report to the EU Commission on things relating to Northern Ireland but not England and that there could be pieces of EU legislation which will remain in place and that he felt that this could become a quango which has detrimental effect on the environment. Councillor Wilson referred to the response which states this is an issue but that he felt Council should be a lot stronger as there will be legislation that Northern Ireland has no say over.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that the OEP arrangements were still being finalised and that Northern Ireland was being linked to processes in England. The Director advised that the consultation was now allowing Councils to comment and in the draft response Council were recognising the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland and that it should have its own processes so as to be able to deal with issues locally and allow locally Elected Members and the Assembly to address the issues relevant to Northern Ireland.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that the response was largely reflective of discussion tonight and that additional comments could be incorporated into the response.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to submit the response as outlined at appendix 2 of report including additional comments as raised above.

Matters for Information

E042/21 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 12 January 2021

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 12 January 2021.

E043/21 Correspondence with the Department for Infrastructure

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence between the Council and Minister for Infrastructure in relation to Tree and Hedge Cutting – Roads (NI) Order 1993.

E044/21 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for July to September 2020

The Director of Environment and Property presented previously circulated report which provided update on the Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Quarter 2 of 2020/21 from July to September 2021 and highlighted that during the quarter Mid Ulster had the highest recycling rate and lowest landfill rate of the eleven Councils. The Director advised that Council is providing a wide range of good facilities to enable recycling and landfill diversion and the public are supporting this and whilst recycling overall in Northern Ireland was marginally down compared to the same quarter in 2019 this is understandable due to facilities being closed and services disrupted during COVID restrictions from July to September 2020.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated it was good to report another success for Mid Ulster District Council.

E045/21 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

Councillor McFlynn stated it was good to see that the Building Control department still seemed to be very busy during these times and that construction was continuing throughout Mid Ulster.

E046/21 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E047/21 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

Councillor Glasgow asked if staff were still going to the Electoral Office in Belfast to verify information.

The Head of Building Control advised that officers have been unable to access the Electoral Office since before Christmas due to restrictions and that requests are on hold until such times as officers can resume obtaining information from the Electoral Office.

E048/21 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests.

Live broadcast ended at 8.04 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E049/21 to E058/21.

Matters for Decision

- E049/21 Contract for the Collection, Treatment and Recycling / Recovery of Residual Waste from 5 No. Recycling Centres
- E050/21 Report for the appointment of Vehicle Suppliers
- E051/21 Planting Sponsorship
- E052/21 Installation of Memorial Benches on Council Property
- E053/21 To seek approval of Service Level Agreement for Affordable Warmth
- E054/21 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) survey

Matters for Information

- E055/21 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 12 January 2021
- E056/21 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E057/21 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E058/21 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E059/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.25 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.

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 11 February 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road,
Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee

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

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr McCreesh**, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Browne**, Head of Tourism
Mr Gordon**, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill**, Head of Parks
Ms Linney**, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance**, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown**, Head of Economic Development
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillor S McGuigan***

Agenda Item 4 – Deputation – Parkanaur College

Mr Bernard Cullen, Chair
Ms Maureen Crawford, Vice Chair
Mr Patrick Graham

* 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. Cllr McNamee in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee wished everyone a Happy New Year, he stated that last year was difficult but that there was now a vaccine and the infection rate was coming down and that he hoped the situation would improve in the coming months.

D020/21 Apologies

Councillor Hughes.

D021/21 Declarations of Interest

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

D022/21 Chair's Business

The Chair said that he was saddened to hear of the passing of former Councillor Bob Mulligan yesterday. He stated that Bob had served in the first term of this Council and was also a Councillor with the former Dungannon Council from 1993 and wanted to pass on condolences to Bob's immediate family on behalf of this committee.

Councillor Cuddy said that he had worked with Bob for most of his Council employment up until the last term and found him a gentlemen who treated everyone the same with a great knowledge and he had certainly missed him the last four years and was a pleasure to work with him especially in Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council. He said that Bob was an asset to the former Council and they were very lucky to have him and passed on his condolences to his family.

Councillor Ashton passed on her sympathy to Mrs Mulligan and his family and stated that she had worked with Bob during the former DSTBC and also in Mid Ulster Council and was saddened to hear the announcement of his passing today and also passed on her condolences to his former colleagues within the Ulster Unionist Party.

Councillor Kearney said that on behalf of his party they were sad to hear of the death of Bob. He recalled that Bob give his working life to public service and for 20 years a hard working Councillor. He said that he had last met him at the Clogher Valley Show in 2019 and was still his jovial self and passed his condolences to his family and to the Unionist party.

Councillor S McGuigan concurred with all previous members' sentiments regarding former Councillor Bob Mulligan and passed on his condolences on behalf himself and his party to Mrs Mulligan, his family and the Ulster Unionist Party.

Councillor Kerr passed on his condolences to Councillor Mulligan's family.

Councillor Monteith concurred with previous comments regarding Councillor Mulligan and said that although they both had very different perspectives on life, they always got on well and remembered him carrying out a lot of work for the Clogher Valley area and passed his condolences to Councillor Mulligan's family.

Councillor Burton passed on her deepest sympathy to Bob's family at this difficult time. She said that she had first worked with him from when she was first elected in 2005 to Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council and had always found him to be very passionate about the area he represented and no matter what they were pushing for he was very supportive and treated her with total respect, as she did towards him. She was saddened to hear that he had been ill for a little time and passed on her condolences to Councillor Mulligan's wife and family.

The Chair advised that item 23 Gearing for Growth would now be taken under item 21 under Confidential Matters for Decision.

Councillor Kerr advised that he wished to raise an issue which was raising some concern within his area. He said that some local residents have had major problems over ambulance response times due to new houses/housing developments not being on the ambulance navigation system. He said that recently within Coalisland, two neighbours had experienced this with their newborns waiting close to an hour before the ambulance had responded to their 999 call. Thankfully, in both cases after receiving medical treatment both newborns made a good recovery.

He stressed that importance of ambulance response times to emergency calls being critical as any delay could mean the difference between life and death. He said that the navigation system problem could not continue and must be resolved with immediate effect with all new housing/housing developments being added routinely to the Ambulance Service navigation system. He asked that Council liaise with Ambulance Service as closely as possible to ensure this takes place.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Kerr

Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Resolved That instead of waiting to full Council, that the Senior Management Team contact the local Trust or Ambulance Service to lobby to resolve this. Building Control Department to also contact the Trust or Ambulance Service and update them on newly developed housing developments or houses and make sure they appear on the navigation system.

Councillor Clarke said that there was a slow response and an inability to reach people in a serious situation cross the Ambulance Service at the minute with the pandemic possibly being blamed for a certain extent, but it needed to be resourced properly. He said that within his part of the country, residents were on the edge of Northern Trust, Southern Trust and Western Trust and about 40 miles from the nearest acute hospitals, so it would be vital that there was proper resources put into the Ambulance Service. As the public witnessed a few weeks ago, a fleet of ambulances were all parked in a line outside hospitals because they could not take any more admissions inside to deal with the casualties and whilst those ambulances were all parked outside that hospital, they couldn't be utilised where there was a general need. He felt that it was incumbent on the authorities to make sure that the Ambulance Service was properly resourced to reach all needs in all parts of the constituency and all parts of the Council area.

The Chair said that he had also seen issues within his own area regarding the Ambulance Service with delays up to 2 and 3 hours and witnessed patients laying outside that length of time. He said that sadly it was a case of not being ill enough but in Councillor Kerr's case it was locating the actual address where they have been called too and this was a serious issue. He felt there was a need to connect the breakdown and make sure that when the Ambulance Service was going out to an address they know exactly where they were going.

Councillor Wilson said that he had received a number of complaints from delivery drivers and numerous other people about locating an address and was previously aware of the Council encouraging townlands but we should also be encouraging people to put a house number on their properties or at the end of their lanes in the instance of an ambulance being required. He said that there was a need to take into consideration Councillor Kerr's comments as people were living in unprecedented times, with the National Health Services being at full stretch and in some cases overstretched, and it was imperative to help those we can who were most in need. He stated that there was a meeting some time before Covid where it was discussed about the Ambulance Service being reformed and a great discussion about updating the service in Cookstown and suggested writing to Ambulance Service to see where they were with that report.

Councillor Doris raised the ongoing issue of land DMAC Engineering and said that she had attended a meeting today which was proposed for a Men's Shed going forward. She said that members would be aware of ongoing historical issues relating to that piece of ground and the current issue doesn't seem to be with the Planners but with Environmental Health.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that an urgent meeting be arranged with Environmental Health Officers and all relevant Stakeholders to get the Men's Shed project (DMAC site) of the ground and explore issues not relevant to Environmental Health like the carpark not being done.

Also that a report be brought forward to the next Development committee regarding land at the Old Railway in Coalisland which has been set aside for community allotments.

Councillor Burton said that she and possibly the rest of the Clogher Valley Councillors had received a letter in relation to issues regarding the roads in, out and around Granville Industrial Estate which were like a patchwork quilt. She said that it was previously agreed that work would be carried out before the end of the financial year and had forwarded on the correspondence from Westland's only to be told that this was now being put back until 2021/22. She said that anyone who had attended the Granville Resident's meeting (unfortunately she had to leave early to join another zoom meeting) could clearly see the frustration of the people living within that vicinity and was nothing short of shocking and felt it would be important for this Council to do something about it before people and businesses start thinking of pulling out of the Industrial Estate as they were struggling at present. She sought guidance from Senior Officers on whether it would be best to go to Transport NI/Infrastructure Minister or for our Senior Officers to meet with Senior Officers of DfI because this work was needed for such a long time but yet it was put back again and the residents have very strong concerns. She enquired whether it would be more beneficial to liaise with the Infrastructure Minister or go to the local Infrastructure top tier.

Councillor Molloy advised members that he works in Granville and was all too aware of the problems regarding access for emergency vehicles, for workers, non-parking for workers and all the issues which has went along with this Estate and its neighbour in

Dungannon Business Park and lack of investment to link the two Industrial Estates together which beggars belief sometimes. He said that he would welcome Councillor Burton's suggestion to seek guidance from Senior Officers on what the best approach was for both the Estate, businesses, residents and workers on the Estate as it needs sorted out as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Clarke advised that he had visited the site and seen firsthand the far end of it from the main road, he understood the amount of traffic which was there, the size of the traffic, the size of the vehicles which use it and felt that the biggest part of the problem was the design of it as it was all turns and the damage those large vehicles with their double and treble wheels in a place like that was enormous. He felt that this was more of a structural problem, with a main road entering into it and branches of it. He agreed with Councillor Molloy's comments regarding link up between the two business parks and felt that there was no reason why this shouldn't be the case which provided access back out onto the main road. He said that he would support any measures that Officers wished to take but felt that responsibility lay with DfI and was up to them to sort it.

Councillor Monteith advised that Dungannon Town Councillors had also received the email the same as the Clogher Valley Councillors. He said that the whole Granville issue was down to an example of terrible planning, total lack of joined up thinking, between planners, housing and Industrial Estate and was just a mitigated disaster which was coming to a head now where residents were up in arms about their rights and their rights to live in a peaceful environment, businesses no room to expand, workers nowhere to park and these issues have been ongoing since he has been a Councillor.

He stressed the need to get on top of this dilemma because sooner or later some businesses were going to pull out and we would all be "could've, should've, would've" and it would be too late. He said that this wasn't the first time businesses in Granville had sought the help of Councillors previously from Dungannon and now Mid Ulster, MLAs and MPs and whatever emerges from this, we cannot leave it just to deal with this particular issue raised by this company as an overall plan was needed on what the future was so that the people who live out there, who reared their families there for generations, have the ability and the self-security knowing that they will be able to do this going forward, but also for businesses having security to know that they were being listened to. He said that there should be a situation where everyone can work together to sustain a better community in Granville because no-one was getting what they need currently and no-one has any long term security and was aware that the issue of roads needed to be dealt with but there was a need for a long term plan for access onto the main road and more security for peace of mind for residents as to what the long term future was. He stated that he would support any efforts to deal with this but felt there was a need to sit down at a more strategic level on an ongoing basis to try and resolve this matter.

Councillor Cuddy said that all Councillors were aware of Granville Industrial Estate being too successful and wasn't designed for the large amount of employees in the first instance. He stated that Granville Estate was on private lands which was another issue with the private company getting their rent regardless and were not interested in joining up with another Industrial Estate. He said that group leaders held a meeting with InvestNI not so long ago on this issue and asked why there wasn't opportunities to get a larger one as businesses can outgrow smaller sizes and hold these large companies

within the area. He agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments around the issue being strategic as this was something this Council needed to get their heads around as we don't want to lose these successful businesses to other Council areas as these businesses started off in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt areas and we want to keep them. He said that this needed to be reinvestigated again to get it resolved.

Councillor Kerr concurred with previous comments and said that there were a lot of workers using this site and said that it was important that roads were in a reasonable condition as a huge initiative for Engineering companies was good roads for large HGVs and this definitely needed to be looked at.

The Chief Executive said that 3000 workers utilise Granville each day and competing forces in a sense that although this complaint was from a business and as much as we wish to grow and develop the business ethic there was also the need to recognise the plight of residents. He advised that Officers had arranged to meet the residents again as there were odour and noise complaints.

He advised that Economic Development Officers and himself had held previous meetings relating to the road issues and with every business in Granville. He said that it was Officers hope that the road was going to be upgraded two years ago with the possible implementation of a roundabout or turn in, but it was reported that no resources were available. He stated that this was not just a DfI problem but also an InvestNI problem as they created the Industrial Estate and the Business Park beside it so perhaps there was a shared responsibility.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Burton

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to seek an urgent meeting with Nichola Mallon, Minister for Infrastructure regarding issues affecting residents, workers and businesses in Granville.

D023/21 Deputation – Parkanaur College

The Chair welcomed the representatives from Parkanaur College to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Ms Crawford thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak to them tonight and provide update on work carried out by Parkanaur College.

Ms Crawford and Mr Graham provided presentation (appendix 1) and advised that Parkanaur College's ethos was to provide a safe place for learning and living; for students and residents to enjoy learning important life skills that would assist them in their future employment/independency; to provide a 'home away from home' for students and residents; to provide the highest level of care and support for residents and students.

Mr Graham advised Parkanaur Manor House was located in Parkanaur Forest Park for over 50 years which was donated to local population. It's currently managed by Thomas

Doran Parkanaur Trust, a charity which provided training towards employment for young adults with disabilities. Increasingly used by those with multiple disabilities, often including autism and housed a residential care home for 14 residents. He said that Parkanaur was a shared site with Forestry Service and Speedwell Trust and the felt that Mid Ulster Council could help them achieve their vision through:

- Council having significant experience in planning, for example Connecting Pomeroy.
- Co-ordinating potential partners such as Forestry and Speedwell Trust.
- Assisting in accessing funding for improvements to estate.
- Seeing Parkanaur as a delivery partner in achieving objectives of the Community Plan.
- Helping shape our future/providing fresh eyes.
- Greater use of Parkanaur facilities by the local population.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and invited Members to come forward with any questions/comments they may have.

Councillor Molloy thanked the representatives on providing their impressive presentation and advised that he was aware of the work which was carried out by the Thomas Doran Trust and Parkanaur and the sites overall which may be cumbersome regarding the different things which go on at the site. He said that the presentation provided a good insight into future plans on what potential there was for the site and working with different departments and agencies to try and get the best possible outcome for the site and the school and enquired if there was any funding available from the Department of Health.

Ms Crawford advised that the residential site was funded by Health Trusts, with four out of the five Trusts placing residents with them with the fifth Trust about to place another resident. She said that the funding received from Health Trusts was very important as there was very little amounts of income coming from elsewhere at the moment and any which was received had to be developed i.e. social enterprise or a donor left in a will. Approximately 2/3 of funding received came from Health Trusts residential side and 1/3 came from DfC for training side.

Councillor Cuddy said that he knew the area well as his father had grew up within the vicinity of Parkanaur and spent a great deal of his childhood years around the forest. He stated that he had the pleasure of meeting Thomas Doran and found him a real gentleman. Mr Doran had returned from America and purchased the college as he had a disabled child himself and turned it into this magnificent site which had great potential but felt the Trust needed help and expertise to make it into something great and be linked up as it was beside the East/West corridor. He said that going forward outdoor pursuits would be the big thing and hoped that the Council could link up with the staff of Parkanaur to enhance it.

Councillor S McGuigan said that he lived very close to Parkanaur College and knew only too well the great work that takes place and would be very supportive of their plea here tonight. He felt that the group were trying to arrange a cocktail of funding and when it comes to it being assessed they were possibly not meeting the criteria as they were doing things which they may not feel comfortable doing and doing things which

they may not be paid to do. He stated that the group were asking for assistance and guidance to progress their plans to present to Departments and felt that the Council should help them to progress to the next stage.

Councillor Black commended the group for all the great work they were carrying out and felt what they were proposing could be mutually beneficial to the wider community as a whole and proposed that the group meet with Council Officers to have a look at these issues to try and move the project forward.

The Chair agreed that he would be happy to second the proposal as it had the potential of being tremendous and this may be achieved by Officers linking in their expertise with the group.

Ms Crawford thanked the committee and said that the group couldn't be anymore delighted or any more grateful to members tonight as this was exactly what they needed.

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That Officers liaise with representatives from Parkanaur College to provide expertise on funding streams for future plans of the College.

The representatives from Parkanaur College left the meeting at 7.56 pm.

Matters for Decision

D024/21 Sports Representative Grants

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to present to members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of:

- Sports Representative Grant – Team and Individuals (February 2020 – March 2020 and also April 2020 to January 2021)

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the recommendation for sports grant allocations that have been awarded but could not be claimed due to Covid-19 to transfer to 2021/22.

D025/21 Leisure Pricing 2021/22

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to provide information to Members on the proposed April 2021 – March 2022 Leisure pricing and sought approval to implement from 1st April 2021.

Councillor Molloy said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation but sought clarity on reduced Corporate all-inclusive membership for employees for more than 10 people enrolled and enquired how many local businesses would sign up to the programme and what kind of PR was carried out.

The Head of Leisure advised that this was a new pricing point which commenced in December 2019 and so far the uptake had been quite poor with the Covid pandemic possibly having an impact but when Officers looked at the previous price point of £27 per month compared to standard adult rate of £29.95 and household membership of £31.67 per month, this may not have seemed good value. He said that this new pricing point was benchmarked against other Councils and was brought to committee tonight to reduce the cost down from £27 to £22.50. It was the intention to go out with a new membership package with increased PR and marketing with this reduced pricing and engagement with businesses throughout the district which may upsell the benefits of the discounted package to encourage people to use the facilities.

Councillor Corry thanked the Officer for the report but referred to the matter of match bookings for the 3G/4G pitches. She referred to Rugby and Soccer match cost per adult was £51.50 and for Gaelic match for adult was £72.10 and enquired what the difference was which also included the Training Bookings. She also sought clarity on Adult Gym Induction with Greenvale being £50 and the rest of the other facilities being £25.

The Head of Leisure advised that back in 2018 members gave approval for increment price increases or decreases as there was differences between the three legacy Councils and previously Greenvale Leisure Centre under Pulse would have charged £50 for casual gym inductions where Cookstown and Dungannon would have charged £25 and under that approval it was felt appropriate to adopt the legacy Cookstown and Dungannon price point therefore reducing that. He said that the uptake of £50 gym induction at Greenvale had been historically very low but hoped that this would now stimulate business moving forward.

The Head of Leisure referred to query regarding price points for pitches and said that in terms of Soccer/Rugby and GAA, this was consistent on what was adopted in 2018, but felt that the costs reflected more to do with timing and size in terms of pitch requirements but would certainly investigate the issue if need be.

Councillor Black referred to percentages on 3.4 of the report 'Commercial Rates' *where it stated that currently there is an inconsistent approach to the percentage pricing uplift for commercial rates for certain pricing products and this can vary between 42% to 328% additional compared to non-commercial rates* – and sought clarification where these percentages came from. He also referred to the grid and whilst very good in appendix felt it may be more beneficial to have the old price added to it to see comparisons with the old prices.

The Head of Leisure in response to query regarding the grid advised that prices hadn't deviated from where they originally were in the 2018 report, except for those with approved incremental increases or decreases and these were noted within the Notes column, but after this meeting he could circulate the report if members' so wish.

He referred to query on Commercial Rates and said that this was an outworking of the three legacy Councils coming together with Pulse coming back in-house a few years ago and focused mainly on issues like room hire and hall hire. These were areas where it may take a lot for a group to be considered 'commercial' if they were profit making and this was a more consistent and considered approach across all the centres with a proposal to uplift a 50% on the standard adult rate. He said the criteria on how a group would be considered as 'non-commercial' was included within the appendix also.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve:

- (i) Appendix A: Leisure Pricing April 2021 – March 2022
- (ii) The adoption of the proposals outlined in section 3.4 for commercial rates, birthday parties, swim lessons, pool hire, additional child discounts and corporate memberships
- (iii) 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.

D026/21 Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to provide information to Members on correspondence from Draperstown Celtic Football Club and sought approval for Officers to investigate options for Members future consideration.

Councillor Elattar referred to Draperstown Celtic which are a community based club, who were helping to promote both good physical and mental health across all age groups, working along with local group Steps. The club has been flourishing in recent years, but it needed the pitches upgraded in order to progress on in the league and they would like to be able to lease the land so that they could apply for funding to make the necessary changes. There is some work that needed done before they could lease, and this needs to be explored and costed by Council as they hope to join with the GAA to develop this proposal and turn it into a more user friendly sports facility for local residents. She said that the Council would benefit from it being leased as they currently have to maintain the facilities and pay rent to the landowner and proposed that Officers proceed to explore all options available.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to support the proposal going forward and concurred with Councillor Elattar as the club were an integral part of the community as they cover all age groups, abilities, male and female and were very much involved in Covid support and mental health matters.

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in the above item as he had a playing family member there.

He felt that the scheme was well worth supporting as it was an excellent idea with the Council working towards the development of a Leisure policy in other areas at other times and felt that this was very good work to go along side this.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and approve that:

- (i) Officers carry out a survey of Cahore Playing Fields and ascertain costs for potential works to the grass pitches.
- (ii) Officers engage with Council legal services and the landlord of Cahore Playing Fields to ascertain conditions associated with leasing and if permissible, engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain market value for rental/leasing options.
- (iii) The above be presented to a future Development Committee for consideration when available.
- (iv) Officers proceed to explore all options available.

D027/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21 Additional Leisure Projects

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to:

- Provide members with an update on the 2020/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme
- Provide members with a list of additional projects approved for funding by Department for Communities
- Seek approval from Council to accept the letter of offer from Department of Communities for projects identified under section 3 of the report.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

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

- (i) To accept the additional funding allocation (£16,828) from Department of Communities to deliver the additional project (as detailed under section 3 of the report).
- (ii) As with previous applications taken to Council in November and December 2020, set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for the project and to utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required to deliver the project identified.

D028/21 Update on Forest Schools within Council area for 2020/21

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to update Members on the current position of Forest Schools for 2020-2021 within the Council area and to seek approval for the reallocation and distribution of project resources for the current programme.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

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

- (i) Note the postponement of the Forest School Programme for 2020/21 year due to the Covid pandemic.
- (ii) Funding received from NHLP being distributed across nine registered schools, who expressed an interest in the 2020-21 Forest School Programme to enable them to deliver the Forest School programme on their own sites/virtually, with support and guidance from Council staff.

D029/21 Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report and sought Members approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the call for Expressions of Interest to be issued inviting submissions from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver online/virtual activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.

Councillor Cuddy felt that this was very short notice, with most festivals being postponed until next year in response to Covid and was interesting to see that this festival was still going ahead, but would have no issue as long as Covid regulations were covered. He said that this international festival was anticipated to run from 1st to 17th March and asked if there was ample time to get it into the papers as this was very short notice.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that although Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 runs from the 1st to 17th March, however doesn't necessarily mean that activities would commence on the 1st March and could well commence in the second week. The reality of the situation is that all activities would be delivered online and virtually, as has been the case with the activities currently being within Culture and Arts. He advised that the fact that it is under the umbrella of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 festival does not mean that there was actual activities being delivered in person in the form of a festival but more the case of buying into a virtual online offering of celebration of the Irish language in the lead up to St. Patrick's Day.

D030/21 Sperrins Sculpture Trail Update

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on progress in relation to the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project. Approval is sought to accept the Letter of Offer from DAERA through its Rural Tourism Scheme for funding towards Phase 2 of the Sculpture Trail project, i.e. capital delivery, together with approval of the Council's financial contribution.

Councillor Clarke said that he was delighted to see the project moving ahead and within Mid Ulster part of AONB, Davagh was an appropriate site and enquired if there were any details and drawings to see what the project was.

The Head of Tourism stated that once the Artist was appointed after being considered by all Councils, there would be consultation with details and graphics on what the project would look thereafter.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was good to see the funding being received and working with other Council but asked why other areas within the Sperrins were not being considered as the sculpture was a considerable size. He felt that the gateway into the Sperrins should have been considered as an alternative site as it was on the edge of a busy road to encourage people into the Sperrins and may not have been an appropriate site to put a sculpture right in the middle of it like the site in Davagh. He advised that he had no issue with the initiative as it was good to see funding coming through for an area of outstanding beauty.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to:
- (i) Authorise the match funding required, being £142,234.34 (25% of the tender costs of the Mid Ulster District Council element of the project) to be expended between the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years in accordance with the progression of the project works, the funds having been previously included within the Council's Capital Programme.
 - (ii) Authorise the Officers to fund the relevant professional fees amounting to £13,050 from the Tourism & Culture and Arts 2020/21 budgets.
 - (iii) Instructs its Officers to review the current Capital budget and implement such steps as are necessary to ensure that all capital costs associated with Capital Projects, including legal and other associated costs, are properly incurred and funded from the relevant Capital Project budget.

D031/21 Economic Development Report - OBFD

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

(a) ATCM Membership Renewal

Councillor Molloy raised the issue around Town Centre Management especially around Dungannon and the existence of DRP. He said that the high street in the last 8 to 10 weeks had resulted in major changes in how business was done and how business will be done going forward and proposed that the Head of Economic Development and the

Chief Executive carry out some exploratory negotiations around the Town Centre Forum for Dungannon, to re-engage and relook at how as a deliverable Forum proceeds in the future as it wasn't currently working and not viable as there was no interest to pursue it. He concluded by saying that a fresh look was needed going forward.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second Councillor Molloy's proposal. He concurred with Councillor Molloy's comments 100% as there was different general interests around the town and there was a need to focus thoughts and minds to come up with a solution for a way forward for traders, people and users of the town, customers and the general public so everyone can move forward with some sort of positivity. He said that he would whole-heartedly support Councillor Molloy in asking the Head of Economic Development and Chief Executive to re-engage to start discussions with previous people involved and ideally new people on their thoughts also.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the Head of Economic Development and Chief Executive carrying out some exploratory negotiations around the Town Centre Forum for Dungannon, to re-engage and relook at how as a deliverable Forum it proceeds in the future.

The Head of Economic Development said that she would be happy to pursue this. She added that historically Dungannon had used DRP as the vehicle to progress town centre initiatives. She noted this was a different approach to the structures used in Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera, who have adopted the Town Centre Forum partnership model to progress the development of their retrospective towns which have worked very well.

Councillor Burton stated that she had been approached by Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce regarding a number of businesses closing down and felt that it would be important to try and help the Chamber of Commerce in trying to promote the area and work with businesses on the different issues. She said that Click & Collect was causing problems in rural towns and villages and was aware that there wasn't a lot the Council could do about that but felt that it would be very important to keep the communications line open and asked that the smaller rural towns be kept updated.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Economic Development team had recently met with representatives from Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce to update them on all the current Council initiatives available to assist the business community. The Chamber appreciated the update provided and officers encouraged them to avail of the free business support, which included Council's large suite of business programmes. She added that one of these programmes, 'Digital First', could assist businesses by providing bespoke mentoring support to implement 'Click & Collect' services, and hoped to see some applications coming through from them.

Councillor Cuddy referred to a perfect example relating to the Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House being utilised by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister from the two main parties nearly every night on Castlehill. He said that we all knew where they were but very few outside Dungannon probably knew where they were and felt that this should be an opportunity to show one of the Council's main sites in Mid Ulster. He said that it would be beneficial for SMT to place a sign somewhere in the background to get the Hill of The O'Neill recognised for the fantastic site it was and felt that the Council were missing a trick.

He also referred to Economic Industry in Northern Ireland and stated that Mid Ulster was within the centre of it and felt it would be useful for a report to be circulated to see how Northern Ireland protocol was affecting businesses in Mid Ulster.

The Head of Economic Development advised if a comprehensive report was needed on how the NI Protocol was affecting businesses in Mid Ulster, then external support would be needed, as it is a large piece of work and currently the economic team is working at full capacity. She added that Council keeps in weekly contact with businesses across Mid Ulster advising and updating them on a variety of support measures, including EU exit.

The Chief Executive concurred with the Head of Economic Development's comments that the Council didn't have any direct data as there was no resources to carry out the collation of data but Officers were working closely with Manufacturing NI and many of their members came from Mid Ulster. He said that Manufacturing NI had recently released data on surveys they had carried out and advised that our Officers would tap in and go back to them to re-engage and try and determine the element of Mid Ulster companies which was made up with their data, with an update being brought back to members.

In response to query regarding advertising behind the First and Deputy First Ministers, the Chief Executive advised that Officers would try again to see if there was an opportunity for brand identity.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that anytime the site was used for the announcements, it was highlighted that they were doing so from Dungannon and most people would know that it was the Hill of The O'Neill.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

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

ATCM Membership Renewal

Renewal of membership with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) for the calendar year, 1 January to 31 December 2021 at a costs of £545 (excluding Vat).

(b) Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

Councillor Monteith advised that he would agree in principle but sought clarity on some issues regarding a baseline for workers as the reality was that there was too much

work, badly paid jobs and bad working conditions. He said that although he had no particular issue with organisations like the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, they are what they are, industry led with no involvement with trade unions and felt that moving forward this organisation needs to have a more strategic link with trade unions in relation to workers' rights and moving forward on that and would be of the opinion that if the Council was setting up any labour market partnership that trade unions and workers needs to be an integral part of that. He stated that too often economic strategies were taken forward by employers and workers which were a secondary thought at best, with reality being that there wouldn't be a quality labour market when there were people in very badly paid jobs and poor working conditions. Although he accepted people learning new skills and trying to get jobs with better wages which was natural, the reality was that there was a system here where people accepted that there were jobs that needed done and also accepted the fact that people would have to live in poverty to do these jobs which was not acceptable any longer and should never be unacceptable. He said that if there was going to be any sort of labour market in the Mid Ulster area, then there was a need to make it to reflect the needs of our community which was one of many areas sadly with very bad pay and poor working conditions. He stated that he had no difficulty with this recommendation and proposed going forward as long as it was an integral issue within Mid Ulster as other Councils would do what they seen fit, but if a new partnership was to be set up it needed a very strong worker focus and a strategic input from the trade union movement.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and said he also had no problem agreeing to the report as it was a good initiative but said it was vital that trade unions and workers be involved in the process. He advised that trade unions uptake was particular low across employment sectors, especially engineering sectors and in some cases employees being treated very unfairly during these unprecedented times during Covid. He said that he was aware of some employees being told that their jobs were on the line on a Monday and then being laid off the next day and felt that lessons needed to be learnt from this and make this initiative a focus for the working person and trade unions along with voluntary bodies and employers.

The Head of Economic Development advised that a further report would be brought back in due course.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

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

(i) Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

Mid Ulster Council participates as a key stakeholder in the planning and development of Labour Market Partnerships, which will coordinate activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in Mid Ulster. Going forward that an integral part of the proposal be that when the new partnership is set up that a very strong worker focus be included with a strategic input from the trade union movement.

D032/21 Community Development

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

(i) Community Grants – To agree the rolling grants for Good Relations

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Good Relations Grant (£3,480.00) as appendix 1.

(lii) Mid Ulster Community Planning Poverty Plan

Councillor Doris wanted to recognise the invaluable work carried out by Neighbourhood Renewal team in relation to poverty as it was really important to have that mix of stakeholders and a great example of a Council led initiative which had made a huge difference within her area of Coalisland being able to fund a number of huge projects like the Fianna Club, Brackaville Pitch and going forward plans for Gortgonis Leisure Centre which was an important thing going forward. In working with a number of groups, it has been indicated within the report that there was a real issue with long term funding cycles as a lot of the funding cycles was on an annual basis and asked if it would be possible for the Council to lobby DfC to look at this differently.

Councillor Monteith said that it was good to see the strategy getting to this stage and paid tribute to Officers for their collaboration and to all Councillors for their contribution in taking part as this was a living plan and it wasn't essential that it covered every aspect, but it needed to cover the important issues. He said that he was very content with the beginning of the plan where it states categorically that poverty was not a natural thing, it was not inevitable which has to be recognised and for far too long there was a general acceptance that this was the case and the bottom line was we were living in a system where people were running out of money for the basics like food, shelter and heat on a regular basis, with any system like that being wrong and being dismantled. He said that he had a few issues as this was going to be Mid Ulster District Council's Strategy with a lot of lobbying and liaising with other organisations and building partnerships but there were issues that our Council has to do as well as an organisation also, we need to look at our procedures and on page 25 it talked about social clauses and things like that and procedures, but the reality was that this Council had the authority to look at the legalities and how we would do it. He stated that the Council had the authority to write into tenders that any firm getting businesses from us should be paying the livable wage, no zero hours contract and all those type of issues, but we need to start with our own house as well as trying to encourage outside bodies and this needed strengthening up. He advised that one of the issues in our town centres was the lack of childcare provision for people working in the town centre and this would be a perfect opportunity to encourage enterprise for implementing childcare in the middle of the town. He said that enhancing the livable wage and strengthening workers' rights has to be at the very core of this plan as we have to make work pay, a situation where people can provide for their families which were core issues and must take legislative change, but said that this wouldn't be solved with the best will of the world with partnerships and working within the current framework as we need

enforceable legislation especially around housing which was highlighted on page 26. Issues around housing needed to be mandatory, controlled and enforced rigorously as housing was one of the biggest factors to poverty within Dungannon town if not further afield and heard consistently on a daily basis about the cost of housing. Another issue was the fitness of housing and was aware that Environment Health were working on matters in trying to get the fitness standards and legislation enhanced as the current legislation and guidelines were for houses which were 60 – 70 years old and not fit for purpose in the 21st century.

He referred to page 27 and highlighted his dismay at this being industry led and felt that this needed to change as it has been industry led for far too long and if talking about poverty, workers needed to be to the forefront in bringing this forward, workers needed to be at the forefront on any initiative with trade union membership being promoted and trade union consultations being strategic as there was no reason why our Procurement department could not insist that any company which secures a tender from the Council must recognise the trade union within it, as there was too much trade union bursting and discouraging people from being involved.

In conclusion Councillor Monteith stated that there were things within this plan which needed beefed up, but was a decent starting point but that was all that it was a starting point as there was a need for legislative change which needed to be lobbied heavily. He said that the pandemic took to the fore the inadequacy of statutory sick pay within the private sector, with the reality being that there was absolutely no excuse for statutory sick pay being wholly inadequate within the private sector in relation to the public sector and this needs equalised and made equivalent of a person's normal wage.

Councillor Milne enquired if the Council was tying in with Department for Communities within all of this.

The Head of Community Development confirmed that the Council was tying in with the Department for Communities and hoping to get to meeting with them quite soon in relation to this. She advised that DfC had set up a working group at the moment and had identified four specialist advisors and allowed them the time to identify the key concepts which would be shared out, but currently the working group does not have council representation, but this has been brought to the attention of NILGA who were going to put it forward to make sure that they are going to represent Council as there was an issue of having every council rep on. She stated that Council were working directly with DfC officials directly and sharing our plan. She did not it was important to stress that the plan was under the 'community planning' and is still in draft form at this stage, until all the community planning partners agree it as this will be important in successful delivery, as many areas are delivery for other partners and there are lobbying issues which are an ongoing process, but would keep members updated going forward.

Councillor Milne said that he was happy with response as legislation had to go through DfC committee.

Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Monteith's comment about the document being a start, but as people had to live by it, it needed to be expanded, developed and acted upon and not left sitting on the shelf like some other government documents. He said that a lot of Councillors through the pandemic were proactive in helping people

with food banks, fuel etc., which was soul destroying when you see the effects of poverty on young families and elderly people and didn't only effect their physical health but also their mental health and there was an onus on the Council to make poverty a thing of the past in this district and beyond otherwise this Council has failed. He concluded by saying that if Council continued to provide foodbanks and fuel banks then society had also failed and this must change.

Councillor Kerr thanked Officers for bring forward the comprehensive report and wanted to highlight some issues within it. He said that Mid Ulster had generated some of the most poverty in the North of Ireland which also featured children, high rental costs, cost of living, pupils from deprived backgrounds not succeeding as well as others, free school meals and academics, university enrolment, better qualifications, better wages, mental health issues, people coming from deprived areas, life expectancy etc. with much more, indicating the large scope of reasons behind poverty in Mid Ulster. He said that the report also referred to one of the most deprived towns within Mid Ulster which was his own home town of Coalisland which was a daunting fact and was very important that the Council do everything they can to lobby the associated agencies to try and get as much support as possible.

He said that he was glad to see Councillor Monteith referencing the regulating of rent. He also referred to wages within different regions with different settings and felt that people needed to live in a comfortable lifestyle with bills being paid and families not having to choose between heating their home and feeding their family.

He referred to homeless and said although it wasn't as widespread within Mid Ulster compared to other areas within the North of Ireland, homeless can take on many forms because of different reasons. He recalled after the Grenfell Tower fire in London there was a great deal of homelessness, with one of the Council's deciding to take over derelict buildings in the region and provide housing for the affected residents and said that it would be beneficial for this Council to identify similar measures relating to derelict buildings which could be utilised for temporary accommodation for homeless people within Mid Ulster district.

Councillor Kerr referred to provision of free provision of ATM's which was a difficult subject, especially in rural areas and within Coalisland town there were no machines which were free and charged a fee and felt that this was the most basic example of capitalism asking people to withdraw their own money and be charged for it. He said that free access to cash in rural towns and areas would be very beneficial.

He stated that mental health was a major issue within Mid Ulster area and had been discussed at length at previous meetings. He stressed the need for greater access to Psychiatrists, services and trained Counselors in Mid Ulster as this was a major issue and would only get worse after the Covid pandemic.

The Head of Community Development took all comments on board and said that she would share the final document with members and would be engaging with DfC, but document still very much in draft form until it was sent to all partners in relation to sign off and buy in, but would update members accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Mid Ulster Community Planning Poverty Plan.

(iii) Timorese Association Inclusive Group Engagement

Councillor Monteith suggested that it would be beneficial to have another engagement with the East Timorese to see how they were progressing due to a lot of fear around concerns they had entering the New Year. He asked that the engagement be set up to include East Timorese groups and elected representatives.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommend to Council that a follow up engagement be held with East Timorese group, elected members and officers.

(iv) Community Development Report

Note update.

Matters for Information

D033/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 January 2021

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 14 January 2021.

Councillor Doris asked if there was any update from the last meeting on the Council taking over the land from ABC at the Ferry Bridge on the Derrylaughan side so that it could be better maintained.

The Chief Executive advised that a request has been made but this would be a long process transferring land from one Council area to another with significant cost implications. He said that when calculations were known, they would be brought to Environment Committee for consideration.

Councillor Clarke referred to item D005/21 - Mobile Catering Concessions and referred to a previous discussion around tender for providing food service in Council areas and various recreational points. He advised that last weekend there was a catering van operating at Davagh Forest selling refreshments which wasn't on the circulated list provided at a previous meeting.

The Head of Parks advised that the tendering exercise hadn't been released yet to the public for services but would be going out by the end of this month and advised that there was a similar situation at another Council site where a catering vendor was operating without permission and this would be the same in this instance. He said that this incident would be investigated and if the vendor was in-situ this week, then staff would have a word with them to make them aware of the pending tender exercise and provide them with any information they need as trading shouldn't be taken place at Davagh without Council authority.

Councillor Monteith referred to D006/21 – food stamp scheme which was agreed at last month's Council meeting. He advised that a few parents had been in contact with him regarding a number of schools not passing information on to parents on the availability of the scheme which was previously agreed by Council. He said that there was an onus on this Council to get this scheme correct and it shouldn't be the case of parents ringing schools and begging and asked Officers how communications could be enhanced so parents are treated with respect and provided with the appropriate communication. He felt if schools were not going to provide adequate communication to parents, the Council must set a mechanism and publicity in place to do so but would agree that it was a good initiative if it was managed properly, but must be an initiative to treat with respect and dignity.

The Head of Community Development advised that a generic email could be issued and liaise with the member in terms of the school. She advised that nearly all the primary schools were engaged, with still 30 out of hundred schools still being engaged by email and telephone as there is difficulties finding a link, which was still be worked though and now being done through the Department of Education and could potentially be one of those schools, but she would check it out. She advised that currently all schools have been engaged with at the minute and providing details on their families but understandably the schools haven't sent on any communications as yet until they have the full vouchers in their hand, but this is being worked through as it was difficult to provide some schools without the full allocation at the moment. She agreed that a generic email be issued to schools to share with all families.

Councillor Burton referred to D005/21- Mobile Catering Concessions trading at Forestry Parks and advised that she had been approached by a number of traders at Edfield carpark, Fivemiletown and asked if Officers could liaise with the Chamber of Commerce in relation to that either virtually or face-to-face meetings with social distancing being adhered to.

Councillor Burton also referred to page 165 regarding issues relating to closure of National Insurance Office from last March. She said that this was raised at NILGA with the Chief Executive doing everything in his power to try and get a response without any success and found it torturous for people living outside this country to reside here and pay their taxes. She felt that this was ridiculous and unprofessional for the office to be closed for almost a year and asked that the Chief Executive revisit this as there had been no response back from Officers to the previous request.

The Chief Executive advised that unfortunately he had no further update as he was under the impression that progress had been made this would be chased up as a matter of priority and come back to member. He stated that he was unaware that the Chief Executive of NILGA was having the same difficulties in trying to make contact.

D034/21 Master Plans/Scoping Studies for Altmore/Cappagh, Drumcairne and Dunmoyle Forests

Members noted update on the recently appointed consultancy team in respect of developing scoping studies for the potential development of Altmore/Cappagh Drumcairn, and Dunmoyle Forests as multi-activity hubs.

Councillor Elattar enquired if there was any progress with setting up a meeting the Forestry Service regarding carparking at Iniscarn.

The Head of Parks advised that officers had met representatives from Forestry Service out on site at their request to identify locations for the actual proposal and have asked the Council to work those proposals up into a formal request which Officers were currently doing. He said that the options currently would be to extend the roadside parking which was the most popular option that Forest Service would be keen to progress on. He stated that there had been movement of this issue, with site meetings and discussions with both Roads Service and Forest Service and hoped that this could be progressed as quickly as possible, pending funding being secured to carry out the works which was currently being investigated.

Councillor Burton referred to anticipated upgrading at Lumford's Glen and felt that this needed to be kept on the radar.

The Head of Parks advised that this was still on the agenda with Forest Service but they advised that a clear filing had to take place before upgrading of the pathways takes place. He said that Officers would be happy to assist in any way they possibly could and would keep members updated on progress.

Councillor Burton said that this was a long slow process, especially for the people of the area as forests were now a lifeline in these difficult times around mental health issues. She felt that Lumford's Glen was continuously being overlooked as it was now sitting untouched for this last couple of years and needed progressed.

Councillor Doris welcomed the report and particularly welcomed the work done at Drumcairne Forest as she had been contacted by many residents complimenting the work carried out especially now as forests were seen as a lifeline during this pandemic. She said she was aware of complications around Cappagh/Altmore Forest but would like Officers to explore the best steps forward in getting the tiny islands removed in Cappagh Village which were causing a nuisance. She also asked that Officers address the bus shelter at Cappagh as a matter of urgency as it was hazardous.

The Chair said that Officers would investigate this and provide members with an update.

Councillor Clarke referred to Iniscarn Forest and asked that he be involved in any discussions taking place with the landowners.

Councillor Kerr wished to reflect Councillor Doris' comments and said that this was a step in the right direction as Cappagh was waiting a long time. He felt that Roads Service had responsibility for the islands within the village and thanked the Council for getting the streets cleaned but asked that immediate attention be given to the bus shelter as it was an eyesore. He said that after the bus shelter was acquired for Beechline and Kildrum and wanted to thanked the Council for progressing this and said that it would be important to also get Cappagh Bus Shelter addressed as it reflected badly on Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Kearney referred to concerns around land ownership at Portglenone Forest where there were two incidents of people breaking limbs. He said that there was a

need for Forestry Service identifying their grounds as this happened on their lands but could be seen as happening on Council owned lands by the people who fell.

The Chair advised member that in the past when he had issues relating to Drum Manor Forest and asked that a DEA meeting be held regarding a way forward and suggested that this may be a better way forward.

The Head of Parks said that he was aware of the two incidents and agreed that although that part of the forest wasn't in the Council's remit it may be difficult for the public to see that. He said that there was a need for discussion with the Forestry Service and if Council were agreeable, the issue of signage on Forestry owned land be implemented and that Council would be happy to proceed this way regarding Portglenone Forest or any other place which doesn't fall into the Council remit.

The Chair advised that there were many forests which could fall into this criteria and suggested that if any member had a concern regarding a particular forest similar to Portglenone then they should consider having a DEA meeting as a way forward.

D035/21 Interim Update on Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan

Members noted Interim update in relation to Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.

Councillor Doris thanked Council Officers on their great work and said that she had been approached by representatives from the Disability Forum and people from Brackaville GAA club enquiring if there was any possibility of implementing a ramp at Brackaville Park as it was completely inaccessible for prams etc.

The Head of Parks said that he was aware of the location of Brackaville Playpark and would be something that Officers would wish to discuss further with the neighbouring sports club as to a possible relocation or at least an improved public access as he appreciated that the current access was less than perfect and may be more beneficial to investigate an alternative route via the club grounds if that was possible. He said that this would be something that would be taken forward and would keep members informed of any progress.

D036/21 Interim Update Ballysaggart Lough Development Project

Members noted Interim update on Ballysaggart Lough Development Project.

Councillor Molloy welcomed the update and said that he was aware of ongoing discussions around developments at Railway Park and was good to see that this was still on the agenda. He said that a proposal was made at the last Neighbourhood Renewal meeting to do a presentation on the projects and hoped to get an update and look at extra funding measures around helping out.

D037/21 Outdoor Recreation Strategy Update

Members noted Interim update in relation to Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.

Councillor Kerr advised that Ballyronan Bluetits Chill Swimmers had been in contact with him who were a group of swimmers for physical and mental health well-being all year round based in Ballyronan. He said that Council had contacted the group advising them that they were not permitted to be swimming in a certain area due to health & safety issues. This group was very proactive in their work in supporting people with mental, physical and limited mobilities in the area. He asked if Officers could engage and formulate dialogue with the group to try and identify a different location.

He also referred to Washingbay Walkway close to shoreline of the Lough which was a problem along the path as eastern winds and strong current escaping onto the grass verge and walkway resulted in major flooding and erosion damage. He said that Council had spent a lot of money on the area and would be useful for Officers to organise a Torrent DEA meeting on-site, with social distancing being adhered. Due to the current restrictions it may be more beneficial to do this virtually to discuss with Technical Analysts from Council, Officers, representatives from the community group in more detail and develop a strategy to deal with the problem, look at costs and help elevate the problems.

The Head of Parks referred to Ballyronan Bluetits Chill Swimmers and said that the Council was certainly aware the group's needs and had engaged with them and was currently looking at safe alternatives for the club in relation to resolving any of their issues. He assured the Councillor that dialogue had already commenced with the group with the reason for their activities being brought to a halt was due to health & safety as swimming was not permitted within the walls of the Marina and that was the only reason, but advised that alternative locations was being sourced to provide safe access to the Lough and would keep the member updated on any progress.

The Chair advised that Officers would follow up both issues raised by Councillor Kerr.

The Chief Executive advised that a lot of members had made reference to DEA meetings and wanted to remind them that at the last meeting a discussion ensued regarding the concept of reinvigorating meetings which was currently in progress. He stated that there would be a roundall of all the DEA meetings with the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure, Director of Leisure & Outdoor Recreation and himself. He would be asking members for agenda items in advance to make meetings as productive as possible. He said that Officers found DEA meetings as useful as members did.

Councillor Molloy wanted to acknowledge projects outlined in the Outdoor Recreation report and commended Officers on some fantastic projects with some already being delivered as it greatly improved the facilities worked on.

D038/21 Lower Bann Blueway

Members noted update on the Blueway Feasibility Study carried out for the proposed development of a Blueway along the Lower Bann from Newferry (West) to Toomebridge.

D039/21 Economic Development Report – OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 09.11.20
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 Evaluation Report
- Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment

Live broadcast ended at 9.20 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy

Seconded by Councillor Clarke 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 D040/21 to D042/21.

Matters for Decision

D040/21 Facility Management and Internal Directional Signage and District Road Name Signage Tender Report

D041/21 Gearing for Growth Programme

Matters for Information

D042/21 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 January 2021

D043/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.30 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Report on	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
Date of Meeting	Thursday 25 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	E Forde, Member Support Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report					
1.1	To consider approval of request(s) for civic recognition from members, in line with council's current <i>Civic Honour and Receptions Policy</i> .					
1.2	In the context of the Coronavirus outbreak in March 2020, the Council has been transacting essential business only from this period. Reports on civic recognition have not been considered over this period					
2.0	Background					
2.1	All requests for recognition are to be submitted with Democratic Services using the pro-forma, <i>Request for Civic Recognition: Civic Honour & Civic Reception</i> . Requests for recognition are reviewed against the categories and associated criteria contained within the policy as detailed at 2.2.					
2.2	<u>Recognition</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Civic Honour: recognition will be permissible when the following has been achieved at an All-Ireland, European, International, or National level:<table><tr><td>Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table>Civic Reception: will be permissible for individual, groups or organisations when:<table><tr><td>Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level</td></tr><tr><td>Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table>	Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition	Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition	Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level	Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition	Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition
Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition						
Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition						
Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level						
Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition						
Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition						

2.3	<p><u>Processing the Request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed against the policy/criteria • Reviewed to identify if recognition provided for similar achievement within 3 years prior to this • Requests meeting criteria will be recommended to Council for Civic Honour or Civic Reception • Requests not meeting criteria will be recommended to receive letter from Council Chair
2.4	Appendix A details those requests received for recommendation to and approval by council. The request have been categorised in line with the revised policy.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Implementation of the policy allows the Council in acknowledging the achievements of organisations and persons from the district, as put forward by members. Recognition requests received from Members since the meeting of Council in February 2020 have been categorised, details of which are set out within appendix A to this report.
3.2	Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Council has been transacting essential business only and reports/requests for same have not been brought to Council since the outbreak. It is proposed that requests as detailed in Appendix A, where agreed, should be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council that is, recipients will receive a letter together with award as appropriate.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members give consideration to approving civic recognition requests as presented and be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Civic Recognitions Recommended for Approval

Appendix A: February 2021 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Category: Civic Honour

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
None				

Category: Civic Reception

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
Mark Kearney (Dungannon Thomas Clarkes GFC)	Ulster All Star 2020	Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Letter received for Tyrone All Star Award Date: Jan 21
Grainne Rafferty (Naomh Treasa, Dún Geannainn)	Ulster All Star Camogie	Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement Provincial level 	For: Letter received for Tyrone All Star Award Date: Jan 21
Tiarnan Quinn	Selected on the 2020 Erigal All Ireland U20 Championship Team of the Year	Cllr Monteith Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at All Ireland Level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Ethan Jordan	Selected on the 2020 Erigal All Ireland U20 Championship Team of the Year	Cllr Monteith Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at All Ireland Level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Darragh Canavan	Selected on the 2020 Erigal All Ireland U20 Championship Team of the Year	Cllr Monteith Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Country at All Ireland Level 	For: N/A Date: N/A
Michael McMullan: Sports Editor Co Derry Post	Mick Dunne Memorial Award Camogie Association Media Awards	Cllr B McGuigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement All Ireland Level 	For: N/A Date: N/A

Other: Letter from Council Chair

Where it is deemed that conditions/criteria have not been met for a civic reception, civic award or chair & deputy chair reception a letter from the Council Chair is recommended. This may also be in instances where recipients have previously received a reception or award for the same or similar achievement.

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by
Aoibhe Ni Chroisti	One 10 Irish Global Amabassards for Aisling Events Ltd Global Spar Craic 10k	Cllr Kerr

Report on	Correspondence to Council – February 2021
Date of Meeting	Thurs 25 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from Advice NI</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Advice NI has corresponded with the Council setting out its views and considerations on the Department for Communities Equality Impact Assessment on the draft DfC Budget 2021-2022. Refer to appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from NI Veterans Commissioner</p> <p>The NI Veterans Commissioner has corresponded with the Council introducing his role and that of his Office in supporting and acting as an advocate for veterans in Northern Ireland. Refer to appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Antrim & Newtownabbey BC</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council has copied a letter sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs on a motion passed by that Council on animal cruelty and need for a register for those convicted of offences. Refer to appendix C.</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from Minister for the Economy</p> <p>Minister for the Economy's Private Office has corresponded to confirm that they will schedule a meeting with a delegation of Councillors to discuss a recovery strategy for town centre businesses following request on discussion at January Council. A meeting is being scheduled. Refer to appendix D</p>

3.5	<p>Correspondence from Local Government Boundaries Commissioner</p> <p>The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner has corresponded with the council to give notification that she will publish provisional recommendations to hold a public consultation in June 2021. Members may consider that initial responses to same, may be done so directly by parties and members. Refer to appendix E</p>
3.6	<p>Correspondence from Southern Health and Social Care Trust</p> <p>The Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust has corresponded with the Council Chair on issues raised at January Council meeting on appointments for clinics, use of theatre suites at South Tyrone Hospital and Unmarked Graves at South Tyrone Hospital site. Refer to appendix F.</p>
3.7	<p>Correspondence from Department for the Economy</p> <p>Minister for the Economy has corresponded with the Chair on the issues raised at January Council meeting on making a bid for funds to support students experiencing financial difficulties. Refer to appendix G.</p>
3.8	<p>Correspondence from Northern Health & Social Care Trust</p> <p>The Chief Executive of the Northern Health & Social Care Trust has corresponded with Chair of Council on the Reinstatement of outpatient clinics at its sites. This matter was referenced at January Council meeting. Refer to appendix H</p>
3.9	<p>Correspondence from Department for Communities</p> <p>The Deputy Secretary, Strategic Policy & Professional services has corresponded with the Chair of Council clarifying arrangements for the payment of the recent Winter Fuel Payment. This matter was raised at January Council meeting. Refer to appendix I.</p>
3.10	<p>Correspondence from Department for Communities</p> <p>The Deputy Secretary, Strategic Policy & Professional Services has corresponded with the Chair of Council in response the council's request that a child poverty task force is established in Northern Ireland. Refer to appendix J.</p>
3.11	<p>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>The Minister for Infrastructure and has corresponded with the Chair of Council on progress with Dungannon Bypass as part of the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP). Refer to appendix K</p>

3.12	Correspondence from Newry, Mourne & Down District Council The Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne & Down DC has corresponded with the Chief Executive to give notification of 2 no. motions carried by the Council on 11 th January and 1 st February on (i) Nearly Zero Energy Building and (ii) Universal Credit Payments. Refer to appendix L.
3.13	Correspondence from Department for Finance, NI Executive The Minister for Finance has corresponded with the Chair of the Council in response to a letter sent to him following January Council meeting on making funding provision for Dungannon bypass. Refer to appendix M.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Advice NI Appendix B: NI Veterans Commissioner Appendix C: Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Appendix D: Department for the Economy Appendix E: Local Government Boundaries Commissioner Appendix F: Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT) Appendix G: Department for the Economy Appendix H: Northern Health & Social Care Trust (NHSCT) Appendix I: Department for the Communities Appendix J: Department for the Communities Appendix K: Department for Infrastructure Appendix L: Newry, Mourne & Down District Council x 2 letters Appendix M: Department of Finance

29th January 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re Department for Communities Equality Impact Assessment Draft DfC Budget 2021-2022

I am writing to express the deep shock and concern felt across the independent advice network about this proposed £1.5m reduction in funding to the independent advice sector. First and foremost, our main concern is for the thousands of vulnerable people who will suffer as a result. The Welfare Reform Support Project deals with some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people and last year dealt with 126,616 enquires both via the Helpline and via local advice services which included:

- Providing benefit entitlement checks and income maximisation for clients
- Identifying, prioritising and explaining to clients their options
- Providing evidence-based support to decision making
- Providing quality-assured, jargon-free advice and support
- Facilitating form completion on behalf of vulnerable clients
- Advocating on behalf of our clients
- Providing relevant onward referrals (including crisis intervention)
- Providing a holistic approach to clients' needs
- Positively impacting clients and their families' overall health and financial well-being

This proposed cut will mean 45 job losses in the independent advice network – these are skilled trained and experienced advisers with the knowledge to deliver successful client outcomes.

The independent advice network is already working at maximum capacity and has stepped up to the plate to help DfC with its Covid19 response, including running the Covid19 Community Helpline and local frontline providers are working closely with Councils and local representatives to support those most in need. Advisers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and are already exhausted and stressed out and now feel like they have been completely devalued; especially as there was no prior consultation and they had to learn about this proposal from an EQIA released late Wednesday afternoon (27th January) by DfC.

It is the clear view of Advice NI that the proposal not to prioritise this funding is very short-sighted and will undoubtedly differentially impact on the most vulnerable at a time when they need all the independent advice they can get. Indeed the EQIA itself states that advisers “help and support some of the most vulnerable in our society, including young people, older people and people with disabilities. Lack of funding for the advice sector is also likely to impact on a number of Section 75 categories.”

And in terms of the year ahead, the demand is likely to increase further:

- Increased job loss (The number of people on the NI claimant count was 58,400 in December 2020, almost double the number recorded in March 2020);
- Furlough ending at the end of April 2021 (98,499 on furlough in NI in December 2020);
- Increase in Universal Credit applications (114,000 households on Universal Credit in August 2020);
- Future migration of benefit claimants on to Universal Credit & Planned cuts to the UC £20 per week 'Covid19 uplift';
- Social security benefit appeals (5,958 PIP appeals pending);

All in all, we believe this proposal to cut independent advice funding must be reversed.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss these concerns and would ask for your support in terms of responding to this consultation in the strongest possible terms,

Best regards,



Bob Stronge
(Chief Executive, Advice NI)



Mr Danny Kinahan, NI Veterans Commissioner

Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SH

E: commissioner@nivco.co.uk W: www.nivco.co.uk

29 January 2021

Dear fellow Veteran,

It is a huge honour to have been appointed as Northern Ireland's first Veterans Commissioner and to have the opportunity to represent and advocate on behalf of you all. With your help, I want to ensure that those who have given so much in the service of their country receive the support, help and assistance they rightly deserve.

Since my appointment, I have travelled throughout Northern Ireland listening to veterans and hearing first-hand their experiences during military service and also how they have found the transition back to civilian life.

I am acutely aware that many of you have left the armed services and are perfectly content with your lives as civilians and do not require help. However, there are many of you who require help and support across a range of issues, including **health**, **housing**, **retraining**, and **educational** needs for your families.

As Veterans Commissioner I need to engage with as many of you as I can in order that you can receive the help you require and know how to access that help in an efficient and timely manner. You can contact my office or keep up to date with my work in the following ways:

- Telephone - 028 90527734
- Email - commissioner@nivco.co.uk
- Website - www.nivco.co.uk and
- Twitter - [@niveteranscomm](https://twitter.com/niveteranscomm)

Going forward, it is absolutely critical that we firmly establish in Northern Ireland all that is promised in the **Armed Forces Covenant** and I warmly welcome the recent

introduction of the Armed Forces Bill that will enhance support for service personnel, veterans and their families.

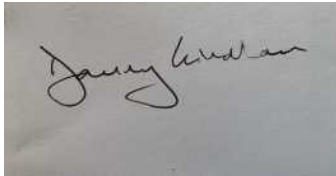
I would like to thank the various charities, regimental associations and community groups who are assisting in getting this letter out to as many of you as possible. My team works closely with all service providers and with the RFCA's Veterans' Support Office (VSO), the statutory body that provides oversight of the delivery of veterans' services across NI.

In these difficult times, particularly given the impact that COVID-19 has had on us all, can I ask that you contact your former military colleagues and make sure they are doing okay? If you have any concerns about any of them, or need help yourself, please make contact with my office or with the team in the VSO - contact details can be found at www.nivso.org.uk.

My role is part-time and is initially for three years. However, my team, which is now complete, is made up of two full-time members of staff, and we are here to help you as best we can.

I relish the task I have been given and will do everything I can to be a strong voice for every veteran in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read 'Danny Kinahan' in a cursive script.

Danny Kinahan
NI Veterans Commissioner



ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE
 50 Stiles Way Antrim BT41 2UB
 T 028 9446 3113 F 028 9448 1324

MOSSLEY MILL
 Carnmoney Road North Newtownabbey BT36 5QA
 T 028 9034 0000 F 028 9034 0200

E info@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
 @ANBorough

1 February 2021

Mr Edwin Poots MLA
 Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
 Dundonald House
 Upper Newtownards Road
 Ballymiscaw
 Belfast BT4 3SB

Dear Minister Poots

At a meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on 25 January 2021, a Motion was presented to Members regarding animal cruelty. The Motion was declared unanimously carried and reads as follows:

"This Council condemns animal cruelty in all its forms and acknowledges the work of numerous animal welfare organisations and of local councils, including ours, in tackling cruelty towards animals.

This Council notes that there is currently no register of those convicted of offences against animals and there is no public register of licensed dog breeders, allowing unlicensed puppy farms to proliferate.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to ask for the introduction of:

(a) a Register of Banned Animal Welfare Offenders for those convicted of animal cruelty; and,

(b) a publicly accessible list of licensed dog breeders.

Finally, Council resolves to copy in each of the other ten councils to these requests."

I trust you will consider this request at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqui Dixon'.

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive

cc Chief Executives of NI Councils

From: DfE Private Office <Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 February 2021 21:35
To: Eileen Forde <Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org>
Cc: DfE Private Office <Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: INV-0090-2021. From the Office of the Minister for the Economy.

Dear Ms Forde,

Thank you for Mr Mallaghan's letter requesting that the Minister receive a delegation from Mid-Ulster District Council in order to discuss the Department's recovery strategy for town centre businesses.

The Minister's Private Office will endeavour to get back to you with the Minister's response as soon as possible.

Please note your unique reference code, which appears in the subject line of this email.

This email does not require a response.

Yours sincerely,

Sean

Sean Cummings
Minister's Private Office
Department for the Economy
Netherleigh House
Massey Avenue
Belfast BT4 2JP
Tel: 02890 529 427 (ext: 29427)
TextRelay: 18001 02890 529 427
Web: www.economy-ni.gov.uk

**Office of the Local Government
Boundaries Commissioner**
info@lgbc-ni.org.uk

By email:

3 February 2021

Local Government Boundaries Review in Northern Ireland

Dear Sir/Madam,

Today I am writing to inform you that in my role as Local Government Boundaries Commissioner I have taken the first statutory step in my review of the 11 district council areas in Northern Ireland. The statutory basis for my appointment, the procedure that applies to the Review and my recommendations is the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

The independence of this review is paramount and its scope is to review the boundaries and names of the 11 local government districts, which are specified in the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, and number, boundaries and names of the wards into which each district is divided.

The Review is facilitated by a tripartite agreement between my office, the Electoral Office NI, and Ordnance Survey NI, a division of Land & Property Services in the Department of Finance. By June 2021 I plan to publish provisional recommendations and hold a public consultation.

I now invite proposals from councils, political parties, associations, organisations and individual members of the public in relation to the boundary and name of the 11 districts: and the number, boundaries and names of the wards within the 11 districts.

If you would like to submit a proposal or discuss any aspect of this please contact
Info@lgbc-ni.org.uk

More information about the Review will be accessed through the website available at:
www.lgbc-ni.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Havlin

Local Government Boundaries Commissioner

cc Jenny McGuigan, LGBC Office.



Southern Health
and Social Care Trust

Quality Care - for you, with you

Chair
Eileen Mullan

Chief Executive
Shane Devlin

Our ref: SD/jmck/ew
Your ref: C003/21

8 February 2021

BY EMAIL: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Cllr Mallaghan

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 February 2021. You will be aware that the geographical area primarily served by the Southern Trust has experienced high levels of community transmission over the last few months. This directly correlates to high levels of pressure across all areas of health and social care. In the Mid-Ulster area particularly, the current 7 day rate of infections is the highest in NI (at 07/02/21). ABC and NMD Councils sit alongside Mid Ulster as the top three highest levels of community transmission in NI.

Our hospital activity in Surge 3, compared to Surge 1 is almost four times higher – which has put increased and sustained pressure on our hospital system and has required us to consolidate staff into areas of high demand to manage the high numbers of patients who are COVID-19 positive.

This has the inevitable consequence of limiting our capacity to provide usual levels of service. We are also managing high levels of staff absence related to COVID-19, which impacts on our ability to sustain services.

In response to the specific issues raised in your letter:

1. Appointments for Clinics

We are working to continue face to face clinics for the most urgent patients. Over the last year, we have developed enhanced remote access to our services, which has resulted in over 260,000 virtual contacts. This has significantly reduced footfall on our sites, and encouraged the public to stay at home where possible. We have learned to adapt our services and make the best of our available resources, and this will be an area we seek to build on going forward.

2. Use of Theatre Suites at South Tyrone Hospital Site

The Trust has had to take the very difficult decision to stand down all but the most urgent elective surgery, including some red-flag cancer surgery and to redeploy staff from South Tyrone Hospital theatres (along with staff in other Trust Hospitals) to Craigavon Area Hospital to meet the urgent and immediate needs of extremely ill patients, especially both COVID and non-COVID patients needing ICU care. South Tyrone Hospital theatres continue to provide some procedures such as endoscopy services and some services on a regional basis.

3. Unmarked graves at South Tyrone Hospital Site

The Trust is currently developing plans to provide a Garden of Reflection on the South Tyrone site. Initial consultation is underway. Plans will consider how those who have been buried on the site and are connected to the workhouse may be remembered.

I trust this has helped to address the issues raised, but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely



SHANE DEVLIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

From the Office of the Minister
Diane Dodds MLA



Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Mail to: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast BT4 2JP
02890 529202
email: private.office@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: CORR-0334-2021

08 February 2021

Dear Cathal,

Financial support for students

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 February 2021 in which you ask that I consider making a bid for funds to support students experiencing financial difficulties.

From the outset, let me just say that I genuinely appreciate how difficult the situation must be for all university students. These are unprecedented times for all of us, and the situation with regard to the spread of Covid-19 is changing on an almost daily basis.

I am nevertheless happy to advise that I recently bid for and secured an additional £37.7m from the Executive to fund a financial support package for higher education. This package includes:

- £22m to fund a one-off discretionary payment of £500 to all students from the UK and EU who are in full-time higher education in Northern Ireland, whether that is in a university or further education college setting;
- £8.5m to address student financial hardship, digital poverty and to support student unions with mental health provision;
- £4.1m for the provision of a safe working, learning and research environment; and
- £3.1m to compensate universities for lost income arising from rental pauses and releasing students from accommodation contracts.

These additional resources will help universities target financial support at those students who are most in need. Many students do not have adequate access to devices or the connectivity they need in order to participate in online learning. Digital poverty must not be a barrier to learning and this additional support will help address that.

Also included in this package is funding specifically for student unions to help them increase the mental health support they provide to students.

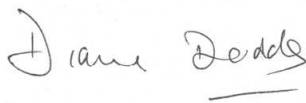
Furthermore, the institutions will receive funding to help them carry out modifications and invest in PPE and other equipment to ensure they can deliver teaching and learning in a Covid-compliant way.

Any Northern Ireland students experiencing financial hardship should first of all ensure that they have applied online at www.studentfinancenir.co.uk for all the financial assistance to which they may be entitled. The Department delivers financial support to eligible Northern Ireland students through Student Finance NI, and by the end of November 2020 had provided £84m in maintenance loans and a further £37m in maintenance grants as a contribution towards students' living costs during the academic year, including the cost of accommodation.

Students at Northern Ireland's universities who find themselves in financial hardship may be eligible to receive an award from the Support Funds made available by the Department, and managed by the higher education institutions. Earlier this financial year, I secured £1.4m from the Executive along with a further £1.4m from the Department's own budget for these Support Funds, making a total of £5.6m available to support students facing genuine financial hardship. This is even before I secured the additional hardship funds under the most recent support package.

I trust that you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Diane Dodds', with a horizontal line underneath.

DIANE DODDS MLA
Minister for the Economy

Chief Executive

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

APPENDIX H

9 February 2021

Dear Councillor Mallaghan

Reinstatement of outpatient clinics

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 Feb 2021 in which you expressed your appreciation of our staff, who as you say are facing unprecedented challenges.

The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has been significantly higher than previous waves. The highest number of COVID-positive inpatients in Antrim and Causeway Hospitals in the first wave was 73, in wave 2 this rose to 108 and in the current wave, the peak grew in mid-January to over 200 patients. Our response has demanded extraordinary effort and flexibility. Many staff have been redeployed to support key services such as critical care and respiratory medicine. You will appreciate that this has an inevitable impact on our ability to deliver some other services to the same level, for example in planned surgery, endoscopy and outpatients.

As we have taken these difficult decisions, we have been very mindful of the impact on service users and have tried where possible to maintain a level of red flag capacity for the most clinically urgent cases. For example, although we have had to stand down planned surgery in Antrim Hospital, we have maintained some capacity in Causeway Hospital and have been able to redirect patients there from Antrim to receive their treatment. Similarly, while our non-red flag outpatient activity has reduced by 40% compared to last January, red flag activity has dropped by only 26%, due to the unflagging efforts of our staff to maintain this urgent assessment pathway.

While we have now passed the peak of the third wave of COVID-19, we expect there to be a significant number of COVID-positive patients in our medical and critical care beds for some time to come. As a result, we are unlikely to be able to stand up all our services again in the short term. You will also appreciate that our staff are exhausted after almost a year of dealing with successive waves of the pandemic, with many not having had the opportunity to take annual leave, and that this will also affect our ability to restart services. Nevertheless you can be assured that I and my colleagues in the Northern Trust have in no way lost our focus on the need to deliver non-COVID activity, and that we will be reinstating our regular clinics and other assessment, diagnostic and treatment pathways as soon as circumstances permit.

Bretten Hall, Antrim Area Hospital Site, Bush Road, ANTRIM, BT41 2RL
Tel: 028 94426273
jennifer.welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net



I am confident that I can count on your continuing support as we continue to tackle the COVID pandemic, and look forward to better days ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Welsh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Welsh
Chief Executive



APPENDIX I

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG**

**Telephone: 028 90 515171
E-mail: beverley.wall@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our Ref: CORR-0243-2021
Date: 9 February 2021**

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Mid-Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Via email: Eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Councillor Mallaghan,

WINTER FUEL PAYMENT ENQUIRY

Thank you for your letter of 3 February to Minister Hargey with regard to Council's request for clarification around outstanding Winter Fuel Payments and when these payments might be made. Minister has asked me to reply to your query.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) administer the Winter Fuel Payment on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC) for customers in Northern Ireland and have done so since the scheme was established in 1998.

DWP recently developed a new Seasonal Payments Service digital solution to handle Winter Fuel Payments. All Winter Fuel Payments for 2020-21 are being paid through this new Digital system and unfortunately there have been issues with the system that have delayed payments to some customers throughout the UK.

DWP has deployed additional resources to ensure that the small numbers of customers who have not received a payment are reviewed as a matter of urgency and payments issued and apologise for any inconvenience caused.



DfC officials are in regular contract with their DWP counterparts and have raised Minister's concerns in relation to the delayed payments at a senior level. DfC staff are also engaging directly with staff in DWP on those Northern Ireland cases which are brought to our attention.

If residents within your District have any queries in relation to their Winter Fuel Payment they can contact DWP's Winter Fuel Payment Centre on 0800 731 0160 (Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 3.30pm) and should have their National Insurance Number ready when they call.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Wall
Deputy Secretary
Strategic Policy and Professional Services



APPENDIX J

From: Beverley Wall
Deputy Secretary

Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

Telephone: (028) 9051 5171
e-mail: beverley.wall@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref: CORR-0243 2021
Date: 15 February 2021

Your ref C016/21

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
DUNGANNON
BT71 6DT

Via email: Eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Councillor Mallaghan,

CHILD POVERTY TASK FORCE

Thank you for your letter dated 3 February 2021 regarding the above. Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The Department for Communities (DfC) is responsible for taking forward poverty policy on behalf of the Executive. On 24 September 2020, Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, former Minister for Communities, announced the commencement of work on the development of a suite of Social Inclusion Strategies, including an Anti-Poverty Strategy, as part of the commitments under New Decade, New Approach.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy will be developed using a co-design approach with meaningful involvement from stakeholders at all stages of the process. In October 2020, an Expert Advisory Panel was appointed and tasked with producing recommendations on the key themes, priorities and headline actions that the strategies should address; a Co-design Group with representatives from 27 voluntary and community sector organisations is helping to shape the development of the strategy; and a Cross-departmental Working Group will be responsible for developing the strategy action plan.

In September 2020 the Executive agreed to extend the 2016-2019 Child Poverty Strategy to May 2022. The purpose of this extension is to allow time for key



stakeholders to be consulted on whether the Anti-Poverty Strategy covering all age groups is sufficient, or whether the development of a Child Poverty Strategy is also required.

The most recent Child Poverty Annual Report, for 2019/20, was published on the Department for Communities website in September 2020. It reports on the measures which departments are taking to ensure, as far as possible, that children do not suffer socio-economic disadvantage. The areas of focus and actions fall under four high level outcomes – health, education, safe/secure stable living environments and economic well-being.

With this work currently in hand, the Department would not propose convening an additional body such as a Child Poverty Taskforce at this time.

In the course of the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Department will of course continue to engage with, and listen to, the views and ideas of those impacted by poverty and their representative organisations, and will continue to work collaboratively across departments to address their needs.

The Co-Design Group will be conducting a number of focus sessions in the coming months where they will be actively seeking the views of stakeholders to inform their decisions on a range of specific areas of the recommendations. Please advise if Council would like to meet with the Co-Design Group at one of the proposed focus sessions.

There will also be a public consultation in the latter half of this year and we would welcome comments from the Council when this is published.

Subject to Executive approval, it is planned that the Child Poverty Annual Report for 2020/21 will be published in March 2021 and that an Anti-Poverty Strategy will be published in December 2021.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Wall
Deputy Secretary
Strategic Policy and Professional Services



From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA

Cllr Cathal Mallaghan
Mid-Ulster District Council

cathalmallaghan@hotmail.com

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C013/21
Our reference: CORR 0252/21
15 February 2021

Dear Cllr Mallaghan,

INCLUSION OF DUNGANNON BYPASS IN RSTNTP

You wrote to the Finance Minister, Conor Murphy MLA, on 3 February regarding funding for the construction of a bypass for Dungannon. Minister Murphy has passed your letter to me for response as the Minister responsible for developing the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP).

My officials are currently developing the draft Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP) which will set out future investment and improvement for our strategic transport networks, by road, rail and bus, to 2035. This Transport Plan will reflect the Department's commitment to improving connectivity for the benefit of our economy and communities across Northern Ireland. It will also help to inform the priorities for future development of the main road networks, including the A28/A29 Link Corridor running from Newry to Coleraine.

My Department recognises the congestion that occurs as a result of the volume of traffic passing through the towns/city along this corridor, in particular Armagh, Dungannon and Cookstown. We are keen to investigate ways to create more livable places that are not adversely impacted by heavy traffic.

All of these issues will be carefully considered as part of the RSTNTP proposals and I intend to publish my draft plan for public consultation later this year. The Council's views on this draft will be welcome. Following the consultation and publication of the finalised RSTNTP, funding will be sought through future budgets for the priority projects outlined within it.

My officials will continue to meet with the Council in the coming months as part of our wider engagement under the Roads Order and will be happy to provide updates on the draft plan. In the meantime, and particularly in the context of our work on the Mid

South West Growth Deal, we will continue to keep in touch to ensure a fully integrated approach to land-use and transport planning.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Mallon'.

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Our ref: ERT/005/2021

15 February 2021

Mr Anthony Tohill CEO
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 DT

Dear Mr Tohill

Re: Notice of Motion – NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building)

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Monday 11 January 2021, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

“This Council calls upon Finance Minister Conor Murphy to immediately implement the NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building Code) that the EU Directive requires the NI Department of Finance to implement by the end of this year. This Directive has is adopted into UK law 13 Council alerts the Minister to the following facts:

1. NI building code is 20 years behind GB. Every private sector house built between now and 2030 will have to be retrofitted to meet the UK's energy efficiency targets at 2030.
2. Every new house built in RoI is now more than £1000pa cheaper to run than an equivalent house in NI because of out of date building standards. All new homes in RoI thus have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or better.
3. RoI in November 2019 signed into law the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) regulation under part L of the Building Code for all domestic homes – not just public buildings as in GB. New Public Buildings in RoI have already been NZEB since 31st December 2018”.

Members of Newry, Mourne and District Council unanimously agreed to this Motion and urge your Council to support same.

Yours sincerely

Conor Mallon
Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
17 FEB 2021
RECEIVED

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0330 137 4000 (Council)
council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

RECEIVED
17 FEB 2021
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

Our ref: C/033/2021

8 February 2021

Mr Anthony Tohill CEO
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 DT

Dear Mr Tohill

Re: Notice of Motion – Universal Credit Payments

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Monday 1 February 2021, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"As part of his Covid-19 response the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak increased Universal Credit payments by £20 per week until March 2021. This was a welcome and timely initiative given increased heating, energy and food costs from the pandemic. It must be noted that not all benefits were increased and so some in need did not get support. We must remember benefit cuts, in real terms took place over the past 10 years. However, this increase for what it is worth, is welcome. The Chancellor of the Exchequer now needs to ensure that the £20 increase extends beyond March of this year. As the economic facts show, this extra amount has helped families and claimants to meet the extra costs due to the pandemic and has supported many local businesses. In this motion we are asking that Newry Mourne and Down District Council to support the campaign to retain this extra payment and extend it to other benefits, the 120,000 children living in poverty in Northern Ireland deserve any assistance available to them".

Members of Newry, Mourne and District Council unanimously agreed to this Motion and urge your Council to support it also by writing to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer outlining your Council's support in extending the existing top up to Universal Credit to remain.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
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Serving Down
and South Armagh

From the Minister of Finance

Cathal Mallaghan
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
info@midulstercouncil.org

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Clare House
303 Airport Road West
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BT3 9ED
Tel: 028 9081 6216
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: CORR-0314-2021

Date: 16 February 2021

Dear Cathal

**CORR-0314-2021 COUNCILLOR CATHAL MALLAGHAN RE:
CORRESPONDENCE FROM MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL- FUNDING
PROPOSED BYPASS DUNGANNON**

Thank you for your letter of 3 February 2021 regarding funding provision for the Dungannon bypass.

Responsibility for road infrastructure including the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan rests with the Infrastructure Minister, as do decisions on how DfI's capital budget is allocated across the various areas for which it is responsible.

The Executive's Budget 2020-21 provided the Department for Infrastructure with a Capital funding envelope of £576 million. This is by far the biggest capital allocation and represents 36% of the Executive's total Capital budget.

I understand that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) allocated £214.5 million of this specifically for roads. With regard to underspends announced as part of the January monitoring Executive colleagues were encouraged to come forward with additional bids but none were received from the Department of Infrastructure for additional roads schemes.

I note that you have also written to the Infrastructure Minister regarding this, and I would encourage Mid Ulster District Council to continue to engage with the Infrastructure Minister with any concerns that it has regarding capital investment on roads within the Mid Ulster area and the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan.

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CONOR MURPHY MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	25 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultations inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members review and note consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

6.0	Documents Attached & References Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations
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Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
NI Assembly (Executive Office)	Launch of the Consultation for the Development of a Strategic Programme for Government	The Programme for Government focuses on achieving wellbeing for all. The new draft Framework sets out nine Outcomes aimed at making a real and positive difference to people's lives.	22 March 2021	
	Link to Consultation	http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/pfg-consultation-documents		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for Communities	Draft Budget 2021-22	The Department for Communities is consulting on its Draft Budget Spending Proposals for the 2021-22 Financial Year.	25 February 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/equality-impact-assessment-draft-dfc-budget-2021-2022		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Note: This closes on day of Council meeting	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for the Economy	Consultation on Non-Domestic RHI Scheme – Future of the Scheme	This consultation is seeking views on the closure of the RHI Scheme.	9 April 2021	

	Link to Consultation	https://www.economy.ni.gov.uk/consultations/northern-ireland-non-domestic-renewable-heat-incentivescheme-future-scheme		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Dept. of the Taoiseach, Shared Island Unit, ROI Government	NESC Consultation Paper on Climate and Biodiversity Challenges and Opportunities	Through consultation, this work seeks to incorporate the understandings of key stakeholders and form part of wider dialogue and engagement on the all-island dimensions of climate and biodiversity.	5 March 2021	
	Link to Consultation	http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_secretariat_papers/No_21_C&BD_consultation.pdf		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?			