

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 4 April 2019 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Gildernew, Kearney, S McGuigan, McLean, S McPeake, Molloy, M Quinn (7.02 pm)

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism
Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Hall, Head of Parks
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney stated this was the last Policy and Resources meeting of the Council term and thanked the Chief Executive and Officers for the presentation of papers and guidance and Members for their attendance and participation. The Chair wished everyone well for the future.

PR065/19 Apologies

Councillors Forde, D McPeake and Totten.

PR066/19 Declaration of Interest

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

Councillors Kearney and S McPeake declared an interest in agenda item 4 – Path and Angling Stands at Glenone and Newferry as they both sat on a working group for same.

PR067/19 Chair's Business

None.

Councillor M Quinn entered the meeting at 7.02 pm.

Matters for Decision

PR068/19 Path and Angling Stands at Glenone and Newferry

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval to allocate capital budget resources in relation to the development of public path access and extension of public angling amenity at Glenone to Newferry.

Councillor McLean stated that a potential saving of £40k was significant and asked how this could be achieved.

The Head of Parks advised that savings could be made on some of the furniture, ie. seating, for the scheme. Further savings could also be achieved by reducing the number of laybys and deferring some of the access works.

Councillor McLean again stated that £40k savings was considerable however he felt that if £315,883 was what was required the project should not be shortchanged now and there then being a need to spend additional monies further down the line and asked officers to take this into consideration.

Councillor Kearney stated that this was a great project and also a great opportunity, the Councillor stated he appreciated Councillor McLean's comments and also spoke of the potential for Council to work with Mid and East Antrim Council as they were also benefitting from the work being done.

Councillor S McGuigan proposed the recommendation on the basis that the project is completed to as good a standard as possible.

Councillor McLean seconded Councillor S McGuigan's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to allocate £315,883 funding from the 2019-20 Council Capital Programme Fund for the development of public path access and extension of public angling amenity at Glenone to Newferry. This figure does not include 10% contingency or professional fees. Works to be completed to as good a standard as possible.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation and the Head of Parks left the meeting at 7.08 pm.

PR069/19 Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience (Phase II) DAERA funding applications

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought permission to release an additional £16,855 from Council's Capital Fund to support the development of the Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience Phase II Project.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to release £16,855 from Council Capital Programme Fund for Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience Phase II Scheme.

The Head of Tourism left the meeting at 7.11 pm.

PR070/19 Consultation findings on proposed Corporate Improvement Objectives for period 2019-2020

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which provided update on the findings and outcome of the consultation undertaken on the proposed performance improvement objectives for 2019-2020.

Councillor Cuddy asked if there were clear and independent ways of measuring the progress of achieving the proposed Corporate Improvement Objectives.

The Chief Executive stated that there would be a rigorous regime of monitoring of the objectives put in place and that the objectives would also be subject to external audit.

Councillor Cuddy asked how increasing the number of visitors to the District would be measured.

The Chief Executive advised that Council relies on the tourism industry providing figures in relation to number of visitors to the District.

In response to Councillor S McGuigan's comments the Chief Executive stated that the feedback provided a resounding endorsement of the proposed objectives and that officers would take into consideration the additional comments made going forward.

Councillor S McGuigan referred to one of the comments made in relation to having a leisure centre membership which can be used at all leisure centres.

The Chief Executive stated that this was something officers have been working on for some time and will continue to work on and will be brought through the leisure services review.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the following Corporate Improvement Objectives for 2019-2020 –

1. To assist in the growth of the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to our district.
2. To improve the average processing time for Local Planning Applications.

3. To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online.
4. To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing the usage of Council recreational facilities.

PR071/19 Elected Member Development Working Group Update

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which considered the report of a meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on 28 February 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the recommendations for Induction and future training made by the Elected Member Development Steering Group as follows -

- Directors to deliver one hour session as undernoted prior to each of the committees in June outlining the terms of reference of the committee

Committee	Training Date
Policy & Resources	6 June 2019
Environment Committee	11 June 2019
Development Committee	13 June 2019

- Planning Training for Members to be scheduled for 2pm on Friday 24 May 2019
- Drop in Clinics to be organised at each site to accommodate Receipt of Councillor Induction pack, signing of relevant documentation ie Declaration of Councillor, finance forms confirmation of details for website.
- Standing Order Training as previous to be delivered early in the new Council term.
- Declaration of Interest training, to include declaring interests with regard to planning matters.
- Code of Conduct training to be organised early in new Council term.
- Avail of awareness training opportunities with offered by the NI Strategic Migration Partnership

Matters for Information

PR072/19 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 March 2019

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 March 2019.

PR073/19 Arrangements for Annual Meeting of Council – May 2019

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which advised on arrangements for the Annual Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council following the Local Election scheduled for 2 May.

Members noted the content of the report.

Councillor M Quinn referred to list of representation on outside bodies as appended to report and highlighted that he was not a member of Maghera Town Centre Forum.

PR074/19 Council & Committee Governance Arrangements 2019-2023

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of existing Council and Committee governance arrangements and those to be applied during the new Council term 2019-2023.

PR075/19 Mid Ulster District Council's First Term 2015-2019: Review Report

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which documented the achievements of the Council in its first four year term.

Members noted the content of the report.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney asked if it was felt that Council was moving in the right direction and in spending money if this was going to the right places/people.

The Chief Executive stated that the first four years had seen fantastic achievements for Council and that everyone should be proud of what has been done over the term and what is planned to be done in the years ahead.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney asked how the review report would be delivered to the public.

The Head of Marketing and Communications advised that the document would be published and also put on the Council website. The officer also advised that highlights from the document would be included in the Insight residents magazine and on social media.

PR076/19 Data Protection Legislative Update for Members

The Head of IT presented previously circulated report which advised on recent legislative changes to Personal Data Protection Legislation.

Members noted the content of the report.

Councillor S McGuigan referred to commentary within report which advised that those with CCTV on their premises are not exempt from the Data Protection registration fee.

The Head of IT stated that any business which has CCTV is not exempt and should continue to pay the Data Protection registration fee.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan 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 PR077/19 to PR091/19.

Matters for Decision

PR077/19 NetworkNI Connection (PSSN) Contract Migration
PR078/19 Davagh Dark Skies Connectivity Solution Tender
PR079/19 Appointment and Rates of Pay for Election Staff
PR080/19 Request for consent to undertake additional employment outside of hours of duty
PR081/19 Staff Matters for Decision
PR082/19 Fleet Safety Policy
PR083/19 Council Estate Capital Refurbishment Funding
PR084/19 Land Acquisitions and Disposals
PR085/19 Dungannon Leisure Centre – Renovation/Refurbishment
PR086/19 Increased ICT fees – Dungannon Leisure Centre Refurbishment
PR087/19 Members Allowances Update

Matters for Information

PR088/19 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 March 2019
PR089/19 Contracts and DAC
PR090/19 Financial Report for 11 months ended 28 February 2019
PR091/19 Staff Matters for Information

PR092/19 Duration of Meeting

The commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.05 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____