



24 November 2022

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, 24 November 2022 at 19:00 to transact the
business noted below.

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. Notice of Recording
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the
Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in
the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item
and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 5. | Council minutes of meeting held on 27 October 2022 | 5 - 26 |
| 6. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 1
November 2022 | 27 - 50 |
| 7. | Policy & Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on
3 November 2022 | 51 - 60 |
| 8. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 8
November 2022 | 61 - 66 |
| 9. | Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 10
November 2022 | 67 - 86 |

10.	Civic Recognition Report	87 - 98
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Matters for Information

11	Consultations	99 - 110
12	Correspondence	111 - 120

Notice of Motions

- 13 Councillor Colvin to move -
 Statistics shared by our Planning Department demonstrate that Mid Ulster District Council is in the top three in Northern Ireland for development applications received. However, this growth has not been matched by investment by NIW in our district in appropriate sewerage infrastructure resulting in many developments relying on 'temporary treatment plants' which in some cases have been in place for several years. In our modern world we should not be relying on such systems which only 'kick the can down the road' until a sustainable system is installed. This Council calls for NIW to make funding available and install appropriate sewerage infrastructure in our district. Moreover, this Council seeks an urgent meeting with NIW to discuss specifically its sewerage infrastructure plans to speedily address this issue.

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

14. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 27 October 2022
15. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 1 November 2022
16. Policy & Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 November 2022
17. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 November 2022
18. Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 November 2022
19. Document for Sealing - Greenvale Leisure Centre Improvement Works
20. Document for Sealing - Appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Services associated with Ballysaggart Lough Reservoir Repairs
21. Document for Sealing - Financial Contribution Deed of Supplemental Agreement – Connecting Pomeroy Project

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 October 2022 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair

Councillor Corry

Members Present

Councillors, Bell*, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin*, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, Glasgow, Graham, Kearney, Kerr, Mallaghan, Martin, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn, B McGuigan*, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith, Mullen*, Oneill*, Quinn, and Wilson*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment**
Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P)
Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (SD:ODSP)**
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)
Ms Keys, Marketing and Communications**
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (AD:ODSP)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD:CSF)
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 Corry 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.

C197/22 Notice of Recording

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

C198/22 Apologies

Councillors Ashton and Robinson

C199/22 Declarations of Interest

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

C200/22 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Corry said it was the first meeting of the Council since the heart-breaking tragedy that befell the community of Creeslough in Donegal, a place that has many connections in Mid Ulster. She spoke of how she was struck by the outpouring of sadness and grief in the Mid Ulster community, as all watched the victim's families and the wider community there navigating through this incredibly difficult time. The Chair, said all continue to hold Creeslough in thought and prayer, especially now in the run up to, and during the Christmas season.

Reflecting on the past month the Chair, Councillor Corry said it had been a busy one and drew attention to some events such as the tenth anniversary of The Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House the doors of which were officially opened on October 24th 2012 by the then First and Deputy First Ministers, Peter Robinson and the late Martin McGuinness. She commented that it is the local people of Dungannon and Mid Ulster as a whole, who have made Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House such a success. The Chair said it is clear the people of the town feel pride in 'The Hill' as they would say! That much has been obvious over the past decade with the support they have shown to the programme there.

The Chair, Councillor Corry spoke of the civic receptions earlier in the month, at which a total of 45 local teams and individuals were recognised for their achievements in fields such as sport, traditional music, drama and volunteering. The stories told and achievements that were highlighted each evening really do the district proud. She also shared her delight in attending a number of events during the month that focused on one of her priorities for her year in office, that being inclusion. Loneliness does seem to be on the increase, especially in rural communities. The Chatty Café launched in Stewartstown this month by the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network is a way of helping people of the district from feeling invisible to visible and at the same time, feeling more connected to their local community. The Chair also advised she had attended a meeting of the Mid Ulster Disability Forum, at which she had recognised the work that the Forum do by its contribution to making the District more inclusive in so many ways and had the opportunity to thank the Forum for their contribution to the Council's goal of improving physical accessibility across the district and looked forward to the continuation of the partnership approach in the future.

The Chair, Councillor Corry highlighted that as businesses move out of the pandemic and look to the future, Council had given support to 31 Mid Ulster businesses who learned how to grow through change at a seminar held at CDE Global's premises in Cookstown. The Chair also encouraged all businesses in the district to join in with the forthcoming Enterprise Week, returning this year from Monday 14 to Friday 18 November. She advised that throughout the week 13 events for local businesses, both online and in person, will take place under this year's timely theme - Adapt, Evolve, Overcome, reflecting this year's focus on continuing the journey to economic recovery. She further highlighted that the capital investment programme continues

to bear fruit. The completion of the latest impressive and highly anticipated Shared Space works in Coalisland is further confirmation of the Council's commitment to investing in town revitalisation, not for only their residents but for their businesses, shoppers and visitors.

The Chair, Councillor Corry offered congratulations to the Ireland Women's Football/Soccer team, who have qualified for the World Cup, which has been a tremendous achievement.

Councillor Kerr concurred and said the team's achievements were an inspiration that dreams do come true.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Chair send a letter of congratulations to the Republic of Ireland Ladies Football team on their success in qualifying for the World Cup

Councillor Mallaghan expressed concern regarding the difficulty in making direct contact with officials in the Education Authority who deal with access to school transport issues. He said he had emailed on 31 August 2022 and was still awaiting an outcome despite numerous phone calls and follow up emails. He said it was ridiculous that issues with access to school transport were still unresolved when it was almost November. He concluded that the Dfl contact sheet recently issued to Councillors was a good template for how such information should be made available.

Councillor Mallaghan proposed that Council send a letter to the Department of Education and to the Education Authority expressing concern on the difficulty in speaking directly to officials in the Education Authority in relation to school transport issues and to request a list of contact details for District Electoral Areas to include mobile telephone numbers were applicable.

The Chair, Councillor Corry seconded the proposal and concurred with comments saying she too had been telephoning repeatedly and said there was also health and safety concerns in relation to school transport.

Councillor Kearney supported the proposal and said he too had issues and spoke of the frustration not just for Members but also for school principals.

Councillor Colvin also agreed and spoke of one situation whereby on the same road some children qualify for free school transport whilst others didn't. He said Council needed to ask questions as the criteria appeared to be shrouded in mystery.

Councillor Burton in relation to Dfl said that response times needed to improve as delayed responses not only reflects on Dfl but also public representatives.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Corry and

Resolved That Council send a letter to the Department of Education and to the Education Authority expressing concern on the difficulty in speaking directly to officials in the Education Authority in relation to school transport issues; request a list of contact details for District Electoral Areas to include mobile telephone numbers were applicable.

Councillor Cuthbertson highlighted that Greiner Packaging were celebrating 50 years of work in Dungannon. He reflected on the history of how Wilsanco Plastics had run the site until 2006 having initially started the company in a small shed in Tamnamore. He said the factory now employs over 300 people and how he had been invited to an event recently at which he had met the Greiner family. Councillor Cuthbertson spoke of the work in that the plant make all types of food packaging for Tesco, Dale Farm and how every Quality Street tub was made in Dungannon. Councillor Cuthbertson also commended Greiner in how they put back into the community in that their waste hot water heats Dungannon Integrated School on the Gortmerron Link Road.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred with the comments and agreed to forward a letter to congratulate the company on the anniversary.

Councillor Cuddy expressed disappointment in that the UUP had not been invited to the recent event.

Resolved That the Chair send a letter of congratulations to Greiner Packaging celebrating 50 years of business.

Councillor McLean expressed sympathy to the family of former Cookstown councillor Maureen Lees who had recently passed away.

Resolved That the Chair send a letter of sympathy to the Lees family on the death of Maureen Lees.

Councillor N McAleer drew attention to the ongoing payment delays experienced by substitute teachers due to payroll issues caused by introduction of the new NISTR register. He highlighted that many substitute teachers had not received payment since August and proposed that Council send a letter to the Education Authority seeking clarity as to when the payroll issues caused by the introduction of the new NISTR register will be resolved and that all substitute teachers are paid up to date with expediency.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That the Council send a letter to the Education Authority seeking clarity as to when the payroll issues caused by the introduction of the new NISTR register will be resolved and that all substitute teachers paid up to date with expediency.

Councillor D McPeake thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak. He stated that he was recently contacted by a constituent regarding an issue he had previously raised regards Council's role in General Power of Competence at a DEA meeting in Autumn 2019. Councillor D McPeake said he had received no feedback and assumed that he had been unsuccessful as his understanding was that in the region of 200 cases had been raised by all councillors. He said having followed up with enquiries he had realised that possibly due to Covid nothing had progressed on this issue. Councillor D McPeake proposed that a report be brought back to council on the status of General Power of Competence as like himself all Members would be interested in an update.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That a report be brought to Council providing an update on the current status of potential projects considered within the scope of General Power of Competence.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to the fact that daily workers are declaring that they are unable to cope with the ongoing cost of living crisis. He drew attention to the postal workers who were now taking strike action for better pay and conditions and to secure a wage which will allow them to cope with the cost of living. Councillor Kerr highlighted that postal workers like many others had worked throughout the covid 19 pandemic. He highlighted that the Chief Executive of Royal Mail earns a salary in excess of £500k plus a pension of 13% together with enhancements yet in comparison redundancies were being announced for 2023 and strike action being pin pointed as one of the reasons for them. He stated that the whole situation was immoral and proposed that Council invite the Communications Workers Union to give a presentation together with representatives of the local branch who are taking strike action.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal expressing solidarity for ordinary working people and emphasised the need to hear from the local branch of CWU.
The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That the Communications Workers Union be invited to give a presentation to Council regarding the current Postal Workers strike to include representatives from local branches of the CWU and to express solidarity to those taking strike action.

Councillor Wilson said poor responses appeared to be a hot topic and drew attention to the serious consequences which would occur given the delays in Department for Infrastructure and Northern Ireland Environment Agency in issuing responses to planning applications. He said there was a major developer who had applied for planning approval in Cookstown which would bring a large number of jobs to the

district but the application was held up due to DfI Roads and NIEA not responding. He said earlier in the month the NIEA in particular had followed up with an email that they would not be responding until further notice. Councillor Wilson said the developer could go elsewhere but they wanted to locate to Cookstown but could not wait indefinitely. In relation to DfI Roads he said the division office would respond but the hierarchy of the organisation were not signing off the recommendations.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with the Department for Infrastructure and Northern Ireland Environment Agency to discuss delays to response times which are delaying major planning applications leading to detrimental impact to the District.

Councillor S McGuigan advised that he had recently been contacted by the Board of Governors of St Mary's Primary School, Fivemiletown requesting that Council join Churches, MP's and MLA's in the campaign to counteract the argument made within the document 'Case for Change'. He said whilst the school met much of the criteria the focus was mainly on numbers and despite strong enrolment and steady growth the required number would not be met. It was highlighted that some 200 other schools were in a similar situation with 20% of them having lower number's than St Mary's. He highlighted that it had been acknowledged the school delivered high quality education but still faced closure. Councillor S McGuigan highlighted that closing the school would not only adversely impact existing pupils but would negatively impact the village economically, remove what was a shared space but also deem the village as single identity which was something Council had strived against in the Shared Future projects. Councillor S McGuigan proposed that Council send a letter to the Department of Education and to the Education Authority in support of St Mary's Primary School in Fivemiletown who in meeting the criteria for Sustainable Schools fall short of the specified number of students.

Councillor S McAleer seconded the proposal saying she too had been contacted by the school and said the school provided a community hub, the area did not have a GAA club, the chapel was closed for renovation and the removal of the school would impact the minority population in the area.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McAleer and

Resolved That Council send a letter to the Department of Education and to the Education Authority in support of St Mary's Primary School in Fivemiletown who in meeting the criteria for Sustainable Schools fall short of the specified number of students.

Matters for Decision

C201/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Reconvened Policy & Resources Committee held on 20 September 2022

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Quinn

Resolved That the Minutes of Reconvened Policy & Resources Committee held on Tuesday 20 September 2022 (PR159/22 - PR181/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C202/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on 22 September 2022

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to the deputation from Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the email received advising that contractors had been released due to the rise in cost of materials. He proposed that Council write to the NIHE to seek assurance that those projects ready to commence will not be allowed to slip and that works will commence as soon as possible. He spoke of one family home at which work was due to commence in November.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal adding that there was a lack of information for tenants that Councillors had been advised but tenants had not. He said Council should not have to defend NIHE decisions.

Councillor Elattar said that it is a difficult situation and as the NI Housing Council representative for Council she concurred that communication should be key and would bring forward the comments to both the NIHE board and the Housing Council itself. She said that the Housing Council had been assured that the money would still be there but projects may be delayed for six to nine months.

Councillor Wilson stated that clarity should be sought not only that projects would go ahead, that money would be ring fenced but also that future projects would not be impacted or delayed.

Councillor Elattar concurred and said that the Housing Council had been assured that money would be ring fenced and that due to the rise in construction costs the contractors had to be released for they could not meet the terms of the contract.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council send a letter to the NIHE

- (i) expressing concern on the impact the release of contractors has had on scheduled projects and request that tenants are informed as a matter of urgency;

- (ii) seek assurances that the funding previously allocated will be ringfenced for the original projects which are now to be delayed 6-9 months;
- (iii) that the projects will still be completed; and
- (iv) that projects set to commence in the future will not be impacted by current delays.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 22 September 2022 (C164/22 - C178/22 and C190/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C203/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on 29 September 2022

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Brown

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 29 September 2022 (C191/22 - C196/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C204/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2022

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Quinn

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 October 2022 (P121/22 - P127/22 and P132/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C205/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 6 October 2022

Councillor Doris drew attention to PR192/22 Gortgonis Health & Wellbeing Hub and said whilst it was included in confidential business she would propose that it is brought into open business.

In response the Chief Executive advised that it should at present remain in confidential business for contractual reasons and that the item remain on the agenda.

Councillor Doris said that the information was already in the public domain.

In response the Chief Executive said the matter should be discussed in confidential business.

Councillor McKinney said the debate had already taken place in confidential business at the Policy & Resources Committee and he would propose that confidential status remains.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor McKinney

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 October 2022 (PR182/22 - PR191/22 and P203/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C206/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2022

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E231/22 Waste Collection and requested that the new bin collection schedules be communicated again to residents of Coalisland and Clonoe who are impacted by the change.

Resolved That the new bin collection schedules be communicated again to residents of Coalisland and Clonoe who are impacted by the change.

Proposed by Councillor Graham
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11 October 2022 (E227/22 - E243/22 and E253/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C207/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2022

The SD: Communities and Place drew attention to the resolve detailed at D158/22 Air Quality Report 2022 . He advised that detailed legal advice had been sought and the view was that Council complied with its legal duties in making the report available online and should not write to residents as outlined in the recommendation to Council. He said that for Council to write to the residents as recommended would not be advisable and could be subject to legal challenge. He said that a meeting would be set up to discuss and review potential short or long term actions regarding the air quality issue.

Councillor Monteith said he had been speaking to the SD: C&P and he was disappointed that Council could not be more proactive. He said that speaking to representatives of some of the nationalities there should be a meeting with

Environmental Health representatives. He said many in the areas did not speak English as a first language, the issue in question impacted their health and if Council are aware of rats or mice infestation residents were alerted and this situation should not be any different. He concluded that he would continue conversations locally as would Councillor Molloy who had liaised with the Moy group, that Council had a moral responsibility and to say the report was on the website and in papers was simply not good enough.

Councillor Molloy said he too had spoken with the SD: C&P and whilst Council had fulfilled obligations that Council needed to broaden the issue out for example with DfI Roads who could influence or seek alternatives. He concluded that the areas could not continue with substandard air quality.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 13 October 2022 (D150/22 - D161/22 and D165/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing regarding D158/22, were considered and adopted.

C208/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2022

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 20 October 2022 (D166/22 and D173/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C209/22 Festive Lights Funding – Delegated Authority

The SD: C&P sought delegated authority for the Policy and Resources Committee to consider a recommendation from the Development Committee, in regards to a ‘one-off’ allocation from the Councils capital fund under the Festive Lights Fund 2022-2023.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn

Resolved That approval be granted to provide delegated authority to the Policy and Resources Committee to consider and make the final decision in respect of the Council Festive Lights Fund.

C210/22 Conferences, Seminars & Training

The AD: ODSP sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, seminars and training as outlined in the appendix 1 and 2 of the report.

Councillor Kearney reflected on the National Association of Councillors annual general meeting which had recently been held in Cookstown. He said many councillors from England and Republic of Ireland had visited the district and had been very impressed by the 'gift bags' Council had contributed for the guests. He said both the NAC and recipients of the bags had been very complimentary. Councillor Kearney paid tribute to staff involved as their efforts had set the Council in a good light.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Kearney

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined in the Appendix 1 and 2 to the report.

C211/22 Civic Recognition Requests

The AD: ODSP sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, and as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Councillor Mallaghan proposed that Philomena Begley nomination be upgraded to Civic Honour. He commented that the singer had celebrated her 80th birthday and had a career spanning 60 years during which she had played across the world, released 30 albums and was the greatest singer from the area of all time.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred stating that she was a great ambassador for the district.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by the Chair, Councillor Corry and

Resolved That the nomination for Philomena Begley be upgraded to Civic Honour.

Councillor Quinn also concurred with this and asked that his name be added to the proposal saying when he had enquired about a similar proposal he had been advised it couldn't happen. He advised that the singer had played at his in-laws wedding.

Councillor Kerr advised he had submitted a request which had been omitted from the current list. He requested that civic recognition be considered for Viber Optix on winning the Rapid Riser accolade at the British Chambers of Commerce's annual business awards after it increased sales by more than eight-fold in just two years.

Resolved That Viber Optix be granted civic recognition reception category.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Molloy declared an interest as an employee of Linden Foods

Councillor Molloy requested that his name be added to the nomination for civic recognition for Linden Foods.

Councillor Molloy also drew attention to the nomination for Damian Casey and said although he had received previous recognition, given his achievements and in light of his life being so tragically cut short if the Chair would consider hosting an event.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said she would consider a separate event.

Councillor Monteith advised he had submitted a nomination for Damian Casey the previous weekend and thus would like to be included. He urged caution in timing as there was potential for further accolades to be granted posthumously to Damian given he has been the greatest hurler Tyrone have ever produced and deserved the highest honour.

Councillor Oneill requested that his name be added to Coalisland Credit Union nomination

Councillor Doris requested that her name be added to a number of nominations submitted to Democratic Services.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to the nomination for Ethan Doherty and proposed that it be upgraded from letter to reception. He stated he was aware he had been recognised previously within the three year criteria but in his opinion the Ulster All Star surpassed previous achievements and if not upgraded he was the only one of nine players nominated for recognition not receiving an award.

Councillor B McGuigan seconded the proposal.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said as a way forward that she would consider a Chair's reception for all nine players.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said that a meeting date was now been scheduled to review the civic recognition policy.

Councillor McLean cautioned against moving the goalposts. He said he had hosted a reception for musicians during his term as Chair and Philomena had been in attendance. He concurred with comments that she had a great career and was an ambassador both for the music industry and the district. He spoke of the policy criteria and said if we move for one we are open to move for all. He suggested that Council look at alternative ways as the Chair was in prime position to honour such achievements. Councillor McLean highlighted that the Reverend William McCrea had won gold, platinum and silver discs for his music from Nashville and Council should have discussion and be cautious as to how such matters are considered.

Councillor Mallaghan said he was not trying to move goal posts but was challenging the officers' recommendation as in his view the nomination meets civic honour criteria. He expressed disappointment at the discussion taking place, when it was known that the civic recognition working group was scheduled to meet next month.

Councillor Glasgow stated pre covid he had been in a similar situation and was advised that it was the discretion of the chair to host receptions outside of the criteria. He said that in moving goal posts for one opened the flood gates that all should be moved to the next status. He concluded that the review needed to be sooner rather than later.

The Chief Executive advised that the review meeting was scheduled for 22 November. He said the discussions were not new and it was hoped that in reviewing the criteria Members would assist officers in resolving issues.

In response to Councillor McFlynn's request to upgrade Rainey School from letter to civic reception the Chief Executive advised it would be checked against criteria.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition detailed at appendix A as outlined in the report and the amendments listed in the minute.

Matters for Information

C212/22 Consultations

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust Inpatient Dementia Services Consultation and proposed that Council submit a response especially in light of the implications for Loane House in Dungannon, he said Council must seek clarity as to the Trust intentions. He referred to staffing issues within Loane House whereby for example mental health patients were being placed and staff were not sufficiently trained to deal with their needs. He said distinct care and training needs are required with regard to both mental health and dementia patients and both should not be put in the one bracket. He stressed that Council must pay close attention to the matter as inpatient unit and facilities were long overdue but there was a perception that all services must go to Craigavon Area Hospital site.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council submit a response to Southern Health and Social Care Trust Inpatient Dementia Services Consultation (Closing Date: 23rd Dec 2022. In preparation of the response a workshop for all Members to be convened. Furthermore that Council seek a meeting with the SHSCT to discuss the issue.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed officers prepare a response to the Department of Education: Every Child: The Department of Education's Corporate Plan 2023-28 consultation. He said Council worked with stake holders and it was important to engage in the consultation. The Chief Executive stated that given closing date if an

extension could not be attained that delegated authority would have to be granted to the Policy & Resources Committee to agree the response.

Resolved That Council grant delegated authority to the Policy & Resources Committee for officers to draft and submit a response to the Department of Education: Every Child: The Department of Education's Corporate Plan 2023-28 (Closing Date 15th Nov 2022 endeavour to seek an extension to date until 2nd December).

Councillor S McGuigan concurred with Councillor Monteith with regard to the SHSCT and said that conversations need to take place to ascertain what plans are for Loane House in particular.

Councillor Elatter proposed that Council submit a response to the NI Housing Executive: Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 (Closing Date 14th Dec 2022). She stated there was many levels that Council should comment on.

Resolved That Council submit a response to the NI Housing Executive: Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 (Closing Date 14th Dec 2022)

C213/22 Correspondence

Members noted update on correspondence received for attention of Council.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to the letter from Department for Infrastructure regarding the Verge Management for Environment Benefit scheme and said whilst he was happy to support the scheme some of the cutting at grass verges was not adequate at junctions.

The Chair, Councillor Corry welcomed the scheme and said if done properly the scheme was great for biodiversity.

Councillor Kerr also welcomed the correspondence from the DfI Minister and said he had asked DfI recently about a biodiversity project at the Coalisland Clonoe roundabout and proposed that Councillor officers make contact with relevant counterparts to drive the schemes forward.

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8.05 pm

Councillor Kerr drew attention to correspondence from Derry & Strabane District Council regarding Noah Donohoe and said he would fully support the content of the motion and that Council should write to the British Secretary of State Chris Heaton-Harris to cancel the Public Interest Immunity Certificate and that no information should be withheld from Noah's family. He said he personally had no faith in the Police Service of Northern Ireland or former Royal Ulster Constabulary investigations and he would call for an independent international investigation. He said Noah's family deserved truth and justice especially given the alarming circumstances in which Noah was found and to say foul play is not a serious line of inquiry is disturbing. He concluded that he would send solidarity to the Donohoe family and proposed Council support the motion.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal and welcomed the announcement of a jury trial. He too conveyed solidarity to the family.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council

- (i) support the motion carried by Derry and Strabane District Council concerning the Noah Donohoe Case; and
- (ii) write to the Secretary of State to request the cancellation of the Public Interest Immunity Certificate.

Councillor Quinn concurred with the support to the Donohoe family and said transparency was required as all needed to have faith in the justice system. He concluded that he too supported the motion.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to correspondence aforementioned from the Minister for Infrastructure and seconded the proposal for Council officers to make contact with DfI to drive the Verge Management for Environment Benefit scheme forward.

Councillor Quinn reflected on his comments at the meeting with DfI Roads in September regarding the Mountjoy Road, Coalisland and said there had been more reports of accidents and that something needed to be done at what was an accident black spot on the road before lives were lost.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That Council officers make contact with DfI to determine how best the Verge Management for Environmental Benefit can be implemented in Mid Ulster and also for ideas for Coalisland/Clonoe Roundabout.

Councillor Colvin drew attention to the support for correspondence from Derry & Strabane regarding the motion in relation to Noah Donohoe case. He said some of the remarks made previously he would not support and sought clarity as to what Council was supporting.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Council was supporting the motion carried by Derry & Strabane District Council.

The Chair, Councillor Corry echoed her support for the motion and welcomed the enquiry into the death of Noah.

Councillor Quinn left the meeting at 8.12pm retuning at 8.15pm

C214/22 Notice of Motion

Councillor Clarke drew attention to the motion as undernoted.

This Council recognises the significant investment in rural communities and businesses, and the wider economy derived from the Single Farm Payment under the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); agrees that CAP Single Farm Payments were critical to farm profitability, particularly for small family farms; is concerned with the significant uncertainty facing our farming community with the loss of CAP Single Farm Payments as a result of Brexit and the end of the replacement Basic Payment Scheme worth £300 million a year, beyond 2024; and calls on the British Government and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to set out urgently what replacement funds will be put in place to support our farmers and the wider agricultural sector.

In moving the motion he said, "the loss of direct payments will be felt by over 25,000 farm businesses with over 40,000 farmers and workers. Financial support from Direct payments represents over 80% of farm income a year. Many farms in the North are in Less Favoured Areas and depend on direct payments. Data shows the total amount of Single farm payment a year for our constituency of Mid Ulster is £31.106M. Direct payments have assisted farmers to produce safe, nutritious, healthy, and affordable food and look after the countryside and environment and animal health and welfare. The produce of these farms contribute substantially to the supply of product which contributes to much of our processing industry and the knock on benefits of employment through that sector. Farmers income remains below the average and direct payments are vital to their survival. We are concerned about the negative impact this uncertainty will have on the health and wellbeing of our farming community- they don't deserve this.

A paper produced by Queens University highlighted that "without direct financial support, approximately 30% of farms are likely to cease functioning, leading to unemployment, land abandonment and knock-on effects within the agri-food sector and rural communities in particular". Farmers need clarity and certainty around payments going forward. Agriculture is a key pillar of our economy so the British Government must commit to certainty of farm payment well into the future beyond 2024. Every year approximately £300million of payments comes into the North to our farmers and agricultural sector. The European Union placed a priority on farming and protected it for decades through the Common Agricultural policy. The Common Agricultural Policy Pillars 1&2 have been vital to farmers and farming and rural communities. Since Brexit, farm payments come from Treasury and the Tory Manifesto has committed until the end of their mandate which is probably uncertain at this time. Sinn Fein wants a fair standard of living and a secure future for our farmers."

Councillor Gildernew seconded the motion saying it was timely to bring it before the Council as the majority were connected to the rural community and the loss of the payment will be a massive blow. He stated that 2024 would soon be here and people needed a commitment from government on what the way forward would be.

Councillor Kearney said that the SDLP welcomed the motion and said there had been much debate about the Common Agricultural Policy and that all roads led back to Brexit prior to which it provided over £300m representing 87% of income. He

stated that 70% of farms would fall into the less favoured area that is being less than ten acres. He said that the farming community has met many difficulties and the farm sustainability payment announced by Minister Poots was welcome news but despite such positives many are keen to know what additional support will be given. He concluded that clarity was needed so that farmers could plan beyond the next three years and stated assistance was needed from both DAERA and the British government. He stated the SDLP would support the motion.

Councillor Brown said that the DUP were not against the proposal but that it was somewhat crass of Sinn Féin to bring the motion regarding support for farmers and 'profitability' on farms when they were the party that backed the pie in the sky climate targets brought forward by the Green Party which would have decimated farming and the wider agri-food sector but now were doing a turn around as public opinion was moving against them. He also highlighted that they were the party whose Stormont leader forced other Executive ministers to take legal action in 2013 because of her decision to remove £100m in direct farm payments and move that funding elsewhere without agreement. Councillor Brown stated there is a misconception that in the European Union basic payments are delivered in perpetuity without the need to renew that funding every few years. Brussels works on the basis of multi-year funding cycles and that the delivery of direct support will be renewed after 2024. He stressed that the DUP will be actively seeking to strengthen those processes.

Councillor Brown said that this sudden concern of Sinn Fein about a sunset clause on the Basic Payment Scheme stands in stark contrast to its blissful ignorance of the fact that by the end of 2024 without long-term solutions to the Protocol the supply of medicines to Northern Ireland from GB will be decimated. He asked "Where is their concern for the supply of veterinary medicines caught up in the Protocol?"; "Where is the same concern for certainty for producers and the wider agri-food sector when it comes to barriers on the movement of food and animals East-West?"; "Where is their concern for the reality that rigorous implementation of the Protocol, which Sinn Fein supports, would crash the Northern Ireland supply chain within 48 hours?". Councillor Brown said that the reality is that Sinn Fein are only concerned about certainty for farms when it suits their political agenda but that the DUP on the other hand have demonstrated an ongoing and practical commitment to meeting the needs of all farms and all farm sectors throughout Northern Ireland highlighting that the annual funding for agricultural support in Northern Ireland has been guaranteed by the Treasury until the end of this Parliament. The DUP placed this at the top of the agenda in previous negotiations with the Government while others refused to turn up. He also advised that last month, the Agriculture Minister Edwin Poots issued annual payments to 23,208 farmers six weeks ahead of schedule taking into account the impact of the situation of Ukraine on the markets. This included a 2.04% one-off increase, something which simply would not be possible if Northern Ireland remained in the European Union. In fact we have topped up the basic payment scheme for the last two years. He stressed that the DUP has backed up pledges to farm businesses and rural communities with tangible action whilst Sinn Fein on the other hand use these important sections of the economy and society to score cheap political points around Brexit. In conclusion Councillor Brown said that the DUP has demonstrated a vision for the future of agriculture and we are not afraid to make the tough

decisions. Others should reflect on this when they seek to use Council as an echo chamber to engage in sensationalism and scaremongering whilst offering nothing in the way of actual solutions.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McKinney declared an interest as a farmer.

Councillor McKinney said he was not going to rehearse what had already been said but highlighted that the Common Agricultural Policy had been introduced to support food production in Northern Ireland but money had been allocated to other things noting that Mid Ulster had benefited from DAERA funding. He reiterated that the money was to assist production of food at a cheaper rate and also which was safe. He noted the increase of 75% in the cost of grain and fertiliser of up to 300%. He reflected that under the stewardship of previous Ministers money had been diverted away and this motion was interesting given that it was being moved the night before all Stormont Ministers would have to step down and the conversation would have been more apt perhaps early March. He referred to a draft which had been released and that the motion was misleading in that farmers would be on a cliff edge in 2024 when in fact there was an agenda set out regarding payments.

Councillor McKinney reflected that many in the district work in the agri food sector and said that the motion needed to include the pig, beef and poultry sectors which have been neglected and were greatly impacted by the rising cost of grain. He spoke of a suckler farmer who had advised he was selling his herd as he could no longer sustain the costs. Councillor McKinney pleaded with all to think of those whose livelihoods depended on farming and reminded the meeting that all wanted to eat safe food.

Councillor Mallaghan supported the motion and said it was important to seek clarity on the way forward. He said he did not often quote Shakespeare but "The lady doth protest too much, methinks" appeared to be quite apt. He stated that what was being seen was the impact of supporting brexit and farmers in New Zealand cannot understand how they are getting such a good deal when local farmers were not. He spoke of the Common Agricultural Policy 1962 and stated whilst its purpose was to support farmers it was also about sustaining rural development and communities. He said that he was a farmer and the civil servants and the pot of money referred to had brought great benefits. He emphasised that it was to benefit farming and rural communities. He too declared an interest.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest as a farmer.

The Chief Executive sought clarity as to whether Councillor Clarke was accepting the addition to the motion as Councillor McKinney had outlined.

Councillor Clarke said he was unsure what the addition would be.

Councillor McKinney said to “seek support for poultry, cereal and pig farmers.” He said that no one else appeared to know about the future plan produced by Minister Poots just prior to the last election.

Councillor Mallaghan said as a point of order the last line of the motion covered all sectors.

Councillor Clarke stated all aspects were covered in the motion so the motion would remain as moved.

Councillor McKinney again reiterated the need to seek support for poultry, cereal and pig farmers.

The Chief Executive said the proposal had been clarified.

Councillor Clarke again read out the last line of the motion and reiterated that he wished to leave it as moved.

The Chief Executive asked was Councillor McKinney’s addition an amendment and if so was there a seconder.

Councillor Glasgow said he would second the amendment.

On a point of order Councillor McLean said that no amendment had been issued prior to the meeting.

The Chief Executive said this has been the practise in the past and as no amendment had been notified it would be the Chair’s call.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Gildernew, Kearney, Clarke, McKinney and Mallaghan declared an interest as recipients of the farm payment.

Councillor McKinney said whilst he understood the motion said wider agricultural sectors those aforementioned were receiving no help at all even from the Common Agricultural Policy.

Councillor Kearney proposed that the last line read agricultural and agri food sector.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said the motion remained as moved as there was no written amendment.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said as there was no dissention declared the motion carried.

Councillor Clarke thanked all contributors to the debate all of which was useful. He said that the motion covers all aspects of farming and thanked Members for their support.

The live broadcast concluded at 8.37 pm

Councillor McKinney left the meeting at 8.37pm

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.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved: That items C215/22 to C221/22 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Reconvened Policy & Resources Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 20 September 2022
- (ii) Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 22 September 2022
- (iii) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 4 October 2022
- (iv) Policy & Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 October 2022
- (v) Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 October 2022
- (vi) Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 October 2022
- (vii) Document for Sealing: IST Award – Thomas Clarke’s NEC Document

C222/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.41 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 1 November 2022 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present	Councillor Mallaghan, Chair	
	Councillors Brown, Clarke, Colvin*, Corry, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Martin*, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn*, Robinson*	
Officers in Attendance	Dr Boomer, Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) Mr Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) Ms Doyle, Head of Local Planning (HLP) Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer (SPO) Ms McKinless, Senior Planning Officer (SPO) Ms Scott, Council Solicitor Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer	
Others in Attendance	Councillor Gildernew*** Councillor S McGuigan*** Councillor Molloy***	
	LA09/2022/0280/F	Mr Moran
	LA09/2021/1678/F	Ms Gourley
		Councillor Molloy
	LA09/2022/0186/O	Ms Gourley

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

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

P133/22 Notice of Recording

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

P134/22 Apologies

Councillors Bell and Black.

P135/22 Declarations of Interest

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

P136/22 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to correspondence within addendum from Cork City Council regarding motion adopted by that Council in relation to prospecting licences and supporting the approach taken by this Council, and other Councils, in relation to same. Councillor Mallaghan asked the Chair of Council to respond to Cork City Council thanking them for their comments.

Councillor Corry stated she was delighted that Cork City Council recognised the work this Council is doing and agreed to send correspondence.

The Service Director of Planning referred to addendum and letter from PAC regarding Public Enquiry into A5 Road Scheme. The SD: PI advised that it was not the intention for officers to attend the enquiry but was bringing the matter to the attention of Councillors.

The Service Director of Planning referred to addendum and appeal decision regarding Dungannon Clay Pigeon Club. The SD: PI stated he was not overly concerned regarding the appeal decision itself but more so regarding the award of costs which was given. The SD: PI stated the award of costs was given because an officer hadn't specified every date which the clay pigeon club had stated in their report and missed a document. The SD: PI stated this was concerning in that if this happened again it could give an award of costs against Council.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if there was currently a live application for Dungannon Clay Pigeon Club, if there was how long it had been in the system and if it had of been brought forward sooner would the appeal have happened.

The Head of Local Planning advised there was currently a live application for Ulster Clay Pigeon Association for proposed retention of clay pigeon club facility on Tierlughan Road, Aughnacloy.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if that application was submitted when the CLEUD was refused.

The HLP advised that the live application was received in September 2021.

The SD: PI advised that this would have been after the appeal had been lodged.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the live application was still needed.

The SD: PI stated he was unsure as officers would have to contrast the application against what the CLEUD states to see if they match. The SD: PI stated that the level of detail which needs to be gone through can slow everything down but if it is not done there is a chance of legal challenge.

The Service Director of Planning drew attention to correspondence included in addendum from DAERA which advised that it had published a revised statement of public participation – October 2022 in relation to its Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.

The Service Director of Planning referred to addendum and report therein in relation to consultation regarding amendments to a wind farm approved in Co. Monaghan. The SD: PI advised that the amendments did not give cause for concern and did not feel there was anything to raise objection to and that Council would respond to the consultation in that way.

Matters for Decision

P137/22 Planning Applications for Determination

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

LA09/2019/0643/F Assembly building at Terex, Farlough Road Plant, 32 Farlough Road, Dungannon for Terex

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that a late objection letter had been received as per addendum. Further to this Councillor Mallaghan advised that he had also received correspondence today from another objector who wished to address the committee but was currently unwell and had asked that the application be deferred. The Chair stated he had asked the officer to go back over the points of objection which the person wanted to speak about to ascertain if these concerns had been considered and it had been advised that all objections had been taken into account. The Chair stated it was not within his gift to defer an application on his own and that this needed to be a committee decision. The Chair asked that officer to provide an update on the application.

Ms Doyle (HLP) presented report on planning application LA09/2019/0643/F advising that it was recommended for approval and provided update in relation objections raised.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that a request had been received to speak for the application but that the person was not in attendance tonight.

Councillor Quinn declared an interest in the application as an employee of Terex.

Councillor Colvin referred to report from environmental health which was inconclusive and did not state that there would not be a noise issue. The Councillor stated he would like to see this revisited before proceeding any further and proposed that the application be deferred until a further report is obtained from environmental health regarding noise. Councillor Colvin stated that residents need to be satisfied that there will be no noise nuisance and that he did not think enforcement could be relied on as a means of regulating such an issue.

The Service Director of Planning advised that environmental health are not saying there isn't a noise issue its that the business already exists and already has an impact on amenity and therefore the option of doing nothing keeps the situation as is. The SD: PI advised that environmental health have indicated that if the application was approved the situation would be better than what it is at the moment.

The Head of Local Planning pointed out where the new development will be in conjunction with where objectors live. The HLP advised that the objector living at no.40 has questioned external storage but pointed out that this application does not deal with that issue and there is an ongoing enforcement case into that matter.

Councillor Corry seconded the proposal to defer the application in order to clarify the issues raised in objection.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the application had been submitted in 2019 and asked if deferral would cause any issues.

The Head of Local Planning advised there have been a number of meetings to try to address noise issues and that if the situation were to remain as it is now there would be no improvement. If the application were to be approved it would offer some improvement but still not to the satisfaction of local residents because it has been identified as an adverse impact on residential amenity.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed the officer recommendation to approve the application.

Councillor McKinney seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Councillor Corry stated she would withdraw her seconding of Councillor Colvin's proposal if approving the application offered the best improvement achievable.

Councillor Colvin stated that given the information provided that the application will better the situation for the residents and that there would be ongoing monitoring he would withdraw his proposal to defer.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0643/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan 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 5.3 - LA09/2021/1083/F - Two storey with lower ground floor replacement dwelling and associated courtyard domestic garages and outbuildings at 9 Mackenny Road, Cookstown.

Agenda Item 5.5 – LA09/2021/1615/F - Replacement storage shed at rear of 245 Washingbay Road, Aughamullan, Coalisland.

Agenda Item 5.9 – LA09/2022/0285/O - Dwelling on a farm adjacent and W of 81 Drumflugh Rd, Benburb, Dungannon.

Agenda Item 5.13 – LA09/2022/0541/F - Farm shed at 210m E of 91 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland.

Agenda Item 5.16 – LA09/2022/0641/F - Boundary wall/fence at 29 Glengomna Road, Draperstown.

Agenda Item 5.17 – LA09/2022/0651/F - Change of house type and garage with all associated landscaping and site works (substitution approved M/2013/0341/F & subsequently LA09/2015/0595/F) at lands approx. 70m SW of 6 Goland Road, Ballygawley.

Agenda Item 5.18 – LA09/2022/0686/O - Dwelling at lands immediately W and adjacent to 115 Clonavaddy Road, Galbally, Dungannon.

Agenda Item 5.20 – LA09/2022/1226/O - Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 100m S of 25a, Cloane Road, Draperstown, at the Junction of Cloane Road and Cloane Lane.

Agenda Item 5.21 – LA09/2022/1230/O - Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 155M S of 25a Cloane Road, Draperstown.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

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

LA09/2020/1021/O Site for small business park to include light & general industrial use/assembly/storage/business (20,000sq ft total), with parking, turning, loading, new access, boundary treatments & site works including landscaped buffer. Enterprise to be contained within 4 no. buildings approximately 5000 sq ft each. (Revised description) adjacent to Eurosprings, 127 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland for Eurosprings Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1021/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1021/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1083/F Two storey with lower ground floor replacement dwelling and associated courtyard domestic garages and outbuildings at 9 Mackenny Road, Cookstown for Mrs Wilma Brownlee

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

LA09/2021/1521/F 6 no dwellings (change of house type) from 2 blocks of 3 townhouses to 2 semi-detached & 2 detached house (plot no's 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27) at lands 72m NW of 21 Lurgyroe Glen, Kilmasally Road, Dungannon for Roxborough Plant & Construction Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1521/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1521/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1615/F Replacement storage shed at rear of 245 Washingbay Road, Aughamullan, Coalisland for Mr Colin McCluskey

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

LA09/2021/1694/O Curates two storey dwelling with domestic garage and within curtilage vehicular parking at land adjoining 13 Loy Street, Cookstown for Mr William Stewart

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1694/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1694/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1763/F Garage/workshop/stores with portal frame structure at 100m S of 8 Lurganagoose Road, Knockloghrim for McLean Transport

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1763/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1763/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0280/F 2 infill dwellings & garages between 53B & 55 Ranaghan Road, Maghera for Mr Paddy Corbett

Ms McKinless (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2022/0280/F advising that it was recommended for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Moran to address the committee.

Mr Moran thanked the Committee for the opportunity to raise concerns regarding the proposed development and stated he was confident that the western section required 2.4m by 70m visibility splay does encroach onto his property as identified on land registry title deeds. Mr Moran advised that he had discussed the matter with Land Registry who confirm same and that although the agent for the application has submitted confirmation regarding this matter he did not accept that the agent's letter is factually correct. Mr Moran questioned whether planning can confirm receipt of any revised drawings illustrating that the visibility splay is achievable as they have stated without the involvement of third party lands. Mr Moran asked that DfI review their recommendation and that a detailed site survey be carried out to establish the proposed visibility splays on site and only once this is done should they make their decision on this matter. Mr Moran referred to the case officer report and that access will be conditioned and the onus will be on the applicant to ensure they have relevant ownership to develop the access. Mr Moran asked if the applicant cannot comply to this condition and access cannot be developed did this mean that Council has granted an application without a legally approved access to the public road and does this contravene with planning policies. Mr Moran stated that the application will not help to maintain the rural character of the area and pointed out that at no point along this stretch of road is there a minimum of four dwellings plus a fifth approved but that the case officer has referred to housing at Noonevale which is a line of ten plus houses. Mr Moran advised that Noonevale is 1.9 miles away from the proposed site and 0.25 miles from the settlement boundary of Maghera therefore he could not see the relevance of that area to this case. Mr Moran stated he had no objection to any lawful planning decision which may be granted as long as the proposal does not have any impact on his property or jeopardise his privacy and would ask that this is taken into consideration

The Service Director Planning asked where Mr Moran lived.

Mr Moran advised he lived at 55 Ranaghan Road.

The SD: PI asked if Mr Moran had his visibility splays in place.

Mr Moran stated that the house had been there since 1979 and that visibility splays were in place.

Councillor S McPeake asked if there was any more detail in relation to the visibility splay and referred to the objectors comments that he was confident that he had Land Registry maps which could confirm that a visibility splay cannot be achieved. Councillor S McPeake stated that Land Registry was one thing but that there can be confusion in that a person may think their entitlements reach to the edge of the road but that this may not be the case as Roads Service maintain the verge. The Councillor stated that such issues can be thrashed out at civil proceedings.

The Sd: PI stated that Land Registry can show one thing but that when a boundary is put up, such as a wall, Courts have tended to take the view that a person has given up the land between the boundary and the road. If a fence was then put up which blocked the visibility splay then a person could be liable to enforcement as the

visibility to an access has been disrupted. The SD: PI stated that the objector has indicated that he has adequate visibility therefore it would be reasonable to assume that someone coming out from the junctions of the proposal would have adequate visibility. The SD: PI stated he did not know what the land entitlement is in this case and that planning does not adjudicate over such things. The SD: PI stated that the way around the issue is to put a condition on a permission that development should not commence until access and visibility has been done in accordance with the plans. The SD: PI referred to the concerns raised regarding privacy and asked if there were any windows on the side gable facing the objector and if these windows would result in an impact.

Ms McKinless advised that there was a bedroom window on the upper floor and on the ground floor there were two windows in a sun room along with a kitchen window and living room window.

The Sd: PI asked if there is a defined boundary.

Ms McKinless advised that there is a proposed hedgerow and wire and post fence.

The SD: PI stated that the committee could defer the application to seek that the windows in the gable be removed or that the windows on the upper floor of that side of the house have obscure glass fitted.

The SD: PI referred to the proposal being within an AONB and stated that the design of the house is modest. The SD: PI advised there is a dispersed pattern with gaps along the road and that the Committee have previously accepted gaps of that nature.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked where the third house road frontage was.

Ms McKinless stated that it is three buildings and that the garage to the side of one the dwellings provides the third building.

Councillor Cuthbertson felt it would be difficult to say that building had road frontage.

The SD: PI advised that is the way applications have been determined to date based on a planning appeal decision.

Councillor McFlynn asked if there was a hedge at the front of the site.

The SD: PI advised a hedge was in place.

Councillor McFlynn asked if there was a laneway between the objector and the applicant site.

Ms McKinless advised there is an informal laneway for agricultural use.

Councillor McFlynn asked what ridge height is proposed for the two dwellings.

Ms McKinless advised that a ridge height of 6.4m is proposed.

Councillor McFlynn asked if the proposal could be sited differently so that the windows would not overlook the objectors property.

The SD: PI advised that the houses are sited to keep the properties broadly in line with neighbouring properties. The SD: PI stated he felt the use of obscure glass on upper floor side windows would be adequate.

Councillor McFlynn asked if visibility splays could be remedied if the hedge is stepped back.

The SD: PI stated that in a lot of cases the hedge is requested to be removed and replanted behind visibility splays.

Councillor McFlynn proposed to approve the application.

Councillor S McPeake seconded Councillor McFlynn's proposal.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0280/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report and that upper floor windows on the proposed dwelling neighbouring no.55 should have obscure glass.

LA09/2022/0285/O Dwelling on a farm adjacent and W of 81 Drumflugh Rd, Benburb, Dungannon for Stephen McKenna

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

LA09/2022/0331/F Change of house type (application H/2009/0446/F) at 7C Ballymoghlan Lane, Magherafelt for Camilla Brown

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0331/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0331/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0370/RM Replacement dwelling and detached domestic garage at 120m SE of 47 Annaghmakeown Road, Dungannon for Mr Simon Duggan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0370/RM which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0370/RM be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0450/F Change of use to the first and second floors from storage space to one 3bedroom duplex apartment unit at 47 Market Square, Dungannon for Seamus Quinn

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0450/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0450/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0541/F Farm shed at 210m E of 91 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland for Mr Gavin Quinn

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

LA09/2022/0563/O Two storey dwelling and detached double garage at 60m SE of 148C Washingbay Road, Clonoe, Coalisland for Philip Brady

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2022/0563/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0563/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0592/F Domestic store for the storage and maintenance of fishing boats with extension to curtilage at rear of 77 Back Lower Road, Killycolpy, Dungannon for Oliver Teague

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0592/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0592/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0641/F Boundary wall/fence at 29 Glengomna Road, Draperstown for Barry O'Kane

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

LA09/2022/0651/F Change of house type and garage with all associated landscaping and site works (substitution approved M/2013/0341/F & subsequently LA09/2015/0595/F) at lands approx. 70m SW of 6 Goland Road, Ballygawley for Darragh McAnenly & Caoimhe Glass

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

LA09/2022/0686/O Dwelling at lands immediately W and adjacent to 115 Clonavaddy Road, Galbally, Dungannon for Blaine Nugent

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

LA09/2022/0727/F Change of use from a dwelling to nail bar and beauty parlour with alterations to the front windows and retention of parking to the basement and rear at 45B Coagh Street, Cookstown for Mr Colin Thompson

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0727/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0727/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1226/O Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 100m S of 25a, Cloane Road, Draperstown, at the Junction of Cloane Road and Cloane Lane for Mr Mark Quinn

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

LA09/2022/1230/O Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 155M S of 25a Cloane Road, Draperstown for Mr Mark Quinn

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

LA09/2022/1369/A 2 No Outdoor LED Video Wall at The Burnavon Arts and Culture Centre Burn Rd, Cookstown for Mid Ulster District Council

Councillors Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Mallaghan, Martin, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson declared an interest in the application.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1369/A which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1369/A be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2018/0566/F 6 dwellings and associated access road at approx. 90m E of 96 Davagh Road, Omagh for M Conway

Ms Doyle (HLP) presented a report on planning application LA09/2018/0566/F advising that it was recommended for approval.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked if the focal point has to be that which is identified within the plan or can it be any focal point within the dispersed rural community (DRC).

The SD: PI advised that what the plan says has to be chronologically looked at along with other policies. In this case, the Cookstown Area Plan was adopted in 2004 but PPS21 came out in 2010 and as this was brought in by the Department was given the greatest weight. Magherafelt Area Plan was adopted after 2010. The SD: PI advised that a focal point could be identified if there is a crossroads or facility. The SD: PI advised that the point of a DRC is that the settlement itself is dispersed.

Councillor Colvin stated he felt it would be useful for Members to have some more guidance on focal points in the future. Councillor Colvin stated he would not vote on this application as a member of the Historic Monuments Council. The Councillor asked if there needs to be focal point in relation to the application.

The SD: PI advised that there does need to be a focal point particularly in relation to this DRC. The SD: PI advised that a dispersed rural community sets aside build up but tests of integration still need to be met.

Councillor Clarke stated he would have difficulty with this application and that he is part of the group who campaigned for a DRC. Councillor Clarke stated the DRC was campaigned for because the area is within an AONB and area of significant archaeology and there was no way that farmers sons/daughters could have obtained planning permission for a dwelling in that area and that the DRC was seen as a way of getting planning permission somewhere within the area. Councillor Clarke stated the campaign was successful and has not been used up until now. Councillor Clarke referred to page 181 of the Cookstown Area Plan in which it states that St Marys Church and the post office form a locally significant focal point on Broughderg Road. The Councillor stated at that time, as now, Our Lady of the Wayside Church was there along with the building across the road. Councillor Clarke stated that the site is very prominent at over 700ft and very exposed. Councillor Clarke referred to page 71 of Cookstown Area Plan which states that particular attention will be paid to applications which can be viewed from Beaghmore Stone Circles and other critical viewpoints. The Councillor stated that the application site looks across towards Beaghmore Stone Circles and that there are numerous other critical viewpoints within the area. Councillor Clarke also highlighted that the area is of archaeological significance, some which were not known about when the application was submitted and one which may even be of more significance than Beaghmore Stone Circles. Councillor Clarke stated that this area was too sensitive for such development and that this area was also within the Dark Skies. Councillor Clarke stated that the application will change the whole appearance of the area, that it is not known what

the application is for as there is no demand for more dwellings in the area and indeed there are another three sites within half a mile which have been started but not completed. Councillor Clarke did not feel the application was for tourism purposes as the site is not within a tourism opportunity zone. Councillor Clarke referred to page 22 of Cookstown Area Plan which stated that a Dispersed Rural Community is designated at this location to accommodate the need for limited local housing in recognition of its existing community facilities. Councillor Clarke stated that the application has been in the system for four years and that local people thought it would never get through.

The SD: PI stated that the problem is that the PPS takes the weight above the area plan and it is difficult to say that the focal point identified is not a focal point even if it is not the right focal point. The SD: PI stated that a development needs to integrate and not harm rural character and agreed that the proposed site is exposed however he felt that to refuse the application based on focal point would be a struggle and that there could be a better argument in terms of integration.

Councillor McKinney stated that if the number of houses proposed are built there is an entitlement to street lighting. The Councillor stated that the site is in close proximity to Davagh and the Dark Skies and felt such development in this area would be out of character.

The SD: PI stated that if a view is taken that the application would be harmful to the area it would be a reasonable argument. The SD: PI stated that this DRC is past its sell by date and if the community feel that development should be restricted to the focal point which is where the former St Marys Church and post office are then the most sensible approach going forward for the next plan would be to put a settlement limit around it.

Councillor Glasgow stated he felt the application would tip the balance of the characteristic of the area. The Councillor referred to the consultees on the application and given the close proximity of the Dark Skies and Davagh he asked should Council not have also been consulted. The Councillor recalled previous occasion where a member of Council staff from within the tourism department spoke against a light on top of a wind turbine due to its proximity to the Dark Skies.

The SD: PI stated there was some guidance in relation to Dark Skies but that this only really covered the area within the Dark Skies Park and did not extend to this location. The SD: PI stated he felt it would be difficult to refuse the application on the grounds of Dark Skies but that he believed there was a justified reason that it doesn't meet the requirements of the DRC because the site is open and exposed and would harm the rural area if Members chose to go that way.

Councillor McFlynn stated that she had attended the site meeting and that on driving to the location she found there were no houses on the left hand side of this stretch of road and that houses on the right were few. The Councillor stated that if this was an application for one or two houses it could maybe be found acceptable but not for six houses the size of which are not known nor what the purpose of the dwellings are. Councillor McFlynn stated she felt that application would take away from the character of the area and also take away from the Dark Skies area.

Councillor S McPeake stated he would support what has been said in relation to the inappropriateness of the application but that policy had to be dealt with and that he felt that policy is not met because the site does not integrate. Councillor S McPeake proposed that the application is refused on the basis that it does not integrate.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal, the Councillor stated that the area is very exposed and needs to be protected and that six houses would not integrate and would be out of character.

The SD: PI stated that the application was being refused because of its impact on the rural character and lack of integration. The SD: PI requested that Members allow him to consider and finalise the wording for the refusal.

Agreed.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/0566/F be refused – wording for refusal to be finalised by Service Director of Planning.

LA09/2020/0343/F 2 detached dwellings & 2 semi-detached dwellings at 62 Glen Road, Maghera for Danny McMaster

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0343/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0343/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1046/F Retention of and relocation of partially constructed farm shed and amendments to the design of approved LA09/2017/0977/F at 40m NE of 28A Toomog, Galbally, Dungannon for Noel McElduff

The Service Director of Planning advised that additional information had been submitted and requested that the application be deferred to allow time for officers to consider this information.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1046/F be deferred for one month to allow time to consider additional information submitted.

LA09/2021/0288/O Site for dwelling & garage at 30m S of 174A Ardboe Road, Cookstown for James Devlin

Application withdrawn.

LA09/2021/0739/F Dwelling & Garage/Store at 150m NE of 230 Coalisland Road, Gortin, Dungannon for Mr Cathal Keogh

Ms Doyle (HLP) presented a report on planning application LA09/2021/0739/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor S McPeake stated he felt there is a strong boundary and referred to the laneway. The Councillor stated he did not believe there would be any further development on the laneway as it is shared and given the difficulty of obtaining a mortgage. Councillor S McPeake stated he did not feel the application would make much difference in the area and there would be little harm in extending curtilage of site and referred to the huge cost to the applicant in moving power lines.

Councillor McFlynn asked if there was an application already passed at the site.

The HLP advised that outline planning permission has been obtained for a site within the field and there was no descent from the applicant in relation to the site approved at that stage.

Councillor Colvin stated he was at the site meeting and that there is position within the limit and that it was his understanding that if the application was within the limit it would be ok but that the applicant now wants to take the application outside the limit. The Councillor felt the officer recommendation was reasonable and proposed that the application be refused.

Councillor S McPeake suggested that if the view of the meeting is to refuse an alternative would be to give the applicant the opportunity to revise their plans and move the proposal to the original location rather than to refuse the application. Councillor S McPeake proposed that the application be deferred for one month to allow for submission of amended drawings.

Councillor McFlynn asked if another drawing was required.

The SD: PI stated that the original application was for outline permission which allowed for siting. It was advised that a full application had now been submitted. The SD: PI stated that the proposal to give a month for amended drawings to be submitted was reasonable.

Councillor Colvin stated that the proposal to defer the application for one month to allow the applicant to move the proposal within the settlement boundary is reasonable and would second Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

Councillor McKinney stated that it is not usual for a deferral to be deferred further and that this should be highlighted.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0739/F be deferred for submission of amended drawings.

LA09/2021/1208/O Dwelling & domestic garage on a farm at land approx. 55m S of 60 Annaghilla Road, Augher for Jeff & Laura Fitzsimmons

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1208/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1208/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1283/O Off-site replacement dwelling and garage at 50m NW of 26 Annaginney Road, Dungannon for George McIvor

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1283/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1283/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1598/O Dwelling, garage & associated site works at 80m SW of 129 Benburb Road, Dungannon for Mr Norman McKenzie

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1598/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1598/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1641/F Conversion of existing store to dwelling at approx. 30m N of 6 Ruskey Road, Coagh for Mr Jim McIntyre

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1641/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1641/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/1678/F Two storey dwelling and attached garage at S of 179
Coash Road, Killyman, Dungannon for Stephen McAliskey**

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2021/1678/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 Ms Gourley to address the committee in the first instance.

Ms Gourley advised that there have been several revisions to this proposal since it was first submitted in December 2021. It was advised that the dwelling originally stood at 8.9 metres which everyone acknowledged was out of keeping with neighbouring bungalows and in June 2022 she was asked to assist to bring this application to a favourable conclusion. Ms Gourley stated she advised the applicants to reconsider the height following which plans were submitted with a 7.5m ridge height followed later in July 2022 with plans to reduce the height to 7m with a ground floor level dropped by 0.4m. Ms Gourley stated that an office meeting was held in August but that regrettably the latest 7m ridge height drawings were not available for discussion. It was agreed that an officer would look again at the site and come back and in September it was advised that only a single storey dwelling would be acceptable and as a result the applicants asked that the application be brought to Committee for decision. Ms Gourley stated that the deferred report still refers to a ridge height of 7.5m with no reference to the drawings submitted in July proposing a 7m ridge height. Ms Gourley referred to drawings previously circulated to Members and referred to policy CTY8 which allows for the development of a gap site providing it respects the existing settlement pattern, she stated the policy does not state that the proposal has to duplicate the adjacent properties but rather compliment them. Ms Gourley asked Members if a dwelling with a ridge height of 7m would respect and compliment the properties on either side of the site. Ms Gourley stated that the test was not to replicate but rather respect and felt that a stronger policy test is being implied in this instance than needed and that there was no reason why the proposal should be reduced to a single storey as suggested. Ms Gourley agreed that the original plans were out of keeping with the adjacent bungalows but that the applicants have come a long way in meeting officers concerns. Ms Gourley stated that whilst the latest plans with a 7m ridge height will not replicate the single storey houses which are adjacent it is felt that the application complies with policy.

The SD: PI asked if the dwelling is to be built of retaining structures.

Ms Gourley stated that to the best of her knowledge it would not be.

The SD: PI stated that the drawings show the dwelling dug into the landscape and would therefore require a lot of retaining structure.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan invited Councillor Molloy to speak on the application.

Councillor Molloy stated he would support the application and had been involved in previous office meeting and that the applicant has done significant work to amend their plans from what was originally proposed. The Councillor stated he was aware

of other developments in neighbouring areas where a two storey dwelling has replaced a bungalow and is between two bungalows. Councillor Molloy stated that the applicant is a professional who is returning to the area to settle back into the community and that he felt the proposal will blend into the area.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the principle of development has been met and that the difficulty was in relation to ridge height of the dwelling.

The SD: PI stated that Members can see from the drawing where the land level is and that the proposal is sitting at least 2m below the land level.

Ms Gourley stated she had sought clarity on this from the architect and that he had confirmed the land level would drop 0.4m.

The SD: PI stated he did not accept the drawing was accurate and based on the information provided the application is invalid as the drawing provided is not the house that will be built. The SD: PI suggested Members give the agent the opportunity to sort out the issues raised.

Councillor Clarke proposed that the application be deferred for one month to allow for submission of amended drawings.

Councillor Quinn stated that he knew the area and that the houses on either side are slightly elevated. The Councillor stated that the application passes policy for infill and that from the drawings it does not look like the proposal will come above the neighbouring properties. Councillor Quinn stated he was also aware of bungalows being replaced by two storey dwellings in neighbouring areas and asked if there was a case in which this proposal could be set further back in order to develop it into the area more. Councillor Quinn stated he would be inclined to approve the application but that he would second Councillor Clarke's proposal to defer to allow for amended drawings.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated he felt this would also be a good opportunity for a site visit.

Councillor Glasgow stated he would second a proposal for a site visit.

Ms Gourley stated that figure 1 within the report shows the levels.

The SD: PI stated that the architect has shown a finished floor level on the bungalows in relation to the land level and then has put the proposal about 1.5m below the land level. The architect has advised the agent that the land level would drop by 0.4m but the SD: PI felt that the facts being presented do not add up. The SD: PI advised that the Committee are allowing for the application to be deferred in order for amended drawings to be submitted and that it is important for Members to have before them what the clear position is.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1678/F be deferred for one month for submission of amended drawings. Site visit to also be arranged.

LA09/2022/0186/O Dwelling & garage at 25m SW of 12A Gortnahurk Road, Draperstown for Marie Scullin

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that this application would be taken in confidential business due to medical details being referenced.

LA09/2022/0272/F Dwelling at lands approx. 100m E of 10 Tralee Road, Coagh for Mr Brian Devlin

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0272/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0272/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0442/RM Single storey dwelling with garage between 255 & 259 Orritor Road, Orritor, Cookstown (entering off Church Road) for Mr Serghei & Mrs Tanya Hamchecici

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0442/RM which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0442/RM be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Matters for Information

P138/22 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 October 2022

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 October 2022.

Live broadcast ended at 8.47 pm.

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8.47 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Brown
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 item P137/22 (part of) and items P139/22 to P142/22.

Matters for Decision

P137/22 Planning Applications for Determination
P139/22 Local Development Plan Update

Matters for Information

P140/22 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4
 October 2022
P141/22 Enforcement Cases Opened
P142/22 Enforcement Cases Closed

P143/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 9.27 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: 1 November 2022

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

Chairs Business –

- Letter from PAC - Re Public Enquiry into A5 Road Scheme
- Appeal Decision - Tirlugan Clay Pigeon Facility
- Correspondence from DAERA Marine Plan for Northern Ireland - Revised Statement of Public Participation - October 2022
- Monaghan County Council Consultation on Windfarm
- Letter from Cork City Council

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
5.1	Letter of objection	Members to note
5.16	Structural Report	Members to note
6.1	Archaeological conditions from Historic Environment Division	Members to note
6.3	Additional information submitted for consideration	Members to agree to defer
6.4	Letter to withdraw application	Note withdrawn

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 3 November 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor S McAleer, Chair

Councillors Ashton (7.15 pm), Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, S McGuigan*, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Quinn*, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)**
Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)
Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)
Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources (HoHR)**
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)**
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)
Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP)**
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT (HoICT)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CSF)
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Kerr

* 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 S McAleer welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor S McAleer 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.

PR204/22 Notice of Recording

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

PR205/22 Apologies

Councillor Kearney.

PR206/22 Declarations of Interest

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

PR207/22 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR208/22 Festive Lights Funding

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the use of capital funding and reminded the committee that they had delegated authority from the Council to deal with this matter.

Chair declared an interest in Ballygawley Community Initiative.

Councillor Forde declared an interest in Festive Lights Funding.

The SD: C&P in response to Councillor Gildernew's query regarding funding for Clogher village advised that costings were included in previously circulated development committee report but would confirm with member tomorrow.

Councillor Doris referred to new festive lighting for Coalisland and said that it would be important to consider redistributing the old lighting to other areas like Stewartstown where there was need.

Councillor McLean said that discussions within his party had taken place regarding this issue as it was a sizable amount and asked what happens if people come forward looking financial assistance for something more beneficial. He stated that the six main towns within our district were being afforded new festive lighting and no financial burden put upon them which seemed unfair to other small villages and settlements. He said that small villages look forward to this year on year and they have raised funding themselves to bring some festivities to their areas and felt that this was something we should be helping with and would propose to make this happen.

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Finance (SD: CSF) stated that he would be very comfortable supporting this as there was money in the reserves. He advised that some other Councils had made definitive decisions to cut funding towards these type of things, but it was his opinion that this was not going to impact on us.

The Chair advised that in Ballygawley most of the lights and those on the tree was not functioning and was unthinkable to go out and ask people to contribute due to the cost of living crisis, but would agree that any amount of money offered would go some small way of helping.

Councillor Quinn seconded Councillor Doris' proposal of looking at ways to recycle preowned lighting to other areas. He said that he had been approached by some

residents from Stewartstown asking if it would be possible for preowned lights to be redistributed to other areas like theirs.

The SD: C&P advised that most of the festive lighting was owned by the groups themselves, but would liaise with them to see if they would be willing to redistribute any access stock they may have to other villages.

The Chair advised that within Ballygawley village, it would take approximately £12,000 to fund lighting for small area on the Christmas tree.

Councillor Gildernew said that he would be happy to second Councillor McLean's proposal.

Councillor S McPeake referred to the process and enquired if this was a one-off payment.

The SD: Communities and Place advised that the allocation of funding would be made towards the 60 current recipients across the villages and settlements.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved To approve, under delegated authority, the allocation of up to £108,250 from the Council Capital fund as a one off capital allocation to current recipients of the Festive Lights Fund. Engage with groups to explore redistributing excess preowned lighting to other areas of need.

**PR209/22 Report of Corporate Good Relations Working Group Meeting:
October 2022**

The Head of Strategic Services & Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which provided the outworking's of the most recent Corporate Good Relations Working Group meeting held on Monday 10 October 2022 for approval.

He advised that there was an invitation circulated to all Members for a training session on "What is Good Relations?" due to take place on Monday 7th November and would encourage all members to attend to gain a better understanding of Councils commitments under the Equality scheme.

Councillor McKinney said he would be recommending to disapprove the report as it was his understanding that there was no quorum at the meeting. He recommended to not approve the report as only 2 members out of 10 were in attendance on the day and felt that this was only a tick box exercise. He referred to section 4.2 under Equality and said that the proportion of the working group and those which attended do not add up and that he understood this Council had to go through this protocol.

The HoSS&E advised that the working group wasn't a decision-making body and the matters were now before committee for approval. He reaffirmed that the P&R Committee is the decision-making body. He added that the Group was an outworking of Councils Equality Scheme.

The Chair said that she took on board concerns raised, but felt that it would be important for all Members to attend the meeting on Monday as this would give them an understanding of the workings of the Corporate Good Relations Working Group and Good Relations generally.

Councillor Quinn advised the committee that he had deputised for Councillor Kearney at the meeting and found it to be very constructive. He said that discussions had taken place on the importance of having Unionist colleagues becoming involved in the working group as they were not engaging with the group. He concurred with comment made regarding the working group not being a decision-making body and that any avoidance of the meeting does not make the issue go away and said he was very happy to approve the report.

Councillor Cuddy advised he used to sit on a similar grouping in the legacy Dungannon Council and said that now the Council has to deal with two main issues as he sees it; equality and different minorities. People need representatives and working groups to try and help minorities, though he expressed a view that when he sat on a working group to develop a way forward for bonfires, there appeared to be no help for the minority community. The Travelling Community appeared to receive thousands of pounds to bring their matters forward, but when the bonfire issue arose, the majority parties within Council do not put financial assistance on the table to move this forward. He stated that there were 4 parties within this Council and the largest party appeared to run it and felt that Ireland's Future should not be considered. He said that this was a difficult area and would have an issue with good relations and equality within this Council as nothing is being done for minority groups. He felt that this wasn't working and that was why Unionists do not attend these meetings as the largest party within this Council use it to better their position.

The Chair said that even by listening to this discussion, there appears to be many interpretations of good relations and felt that it would be useful for all members to attend the meeting on Monday night to gain further understanding.

Councillor McKinney said that it would be good to go to the meeting as he along with his party colleagues had a previous party meeting with the Council's appointed facilitator on Good Relations, though felt that it would be important for the Chief Executive and Officers to attend the meeting, as he said there was discrimination taking place.

Councillor Molloy advised that some of the comments made tonight were outrageous and ridiculous and felt that Members needed to be very careful on what they were saying and should not be accepted. He said that he would be happy to second the recommendation to accept the Good Relations Working Group report.

Councillor McLean said that it was his understanding that two members attended the meeting and only one was in attendance here tonight and asked how it was possible to propose and second the report if you weren't there.

The Chief Executive in referring to comments made advised that this was a Corporate Good Relations Working Group where discussions took place only and recommendations brought back to this committee to make a decision. He was satisfied

that legitimate measures were in place. He felt that some of the comments were inaccurate as it was assumed that Officers managed the meeting, which was not the case and could assure members that equality was adhered to, at all times. He added that the role of council officers was to implement decisions agreed upon by members.

Councillor McKinney stated that he did not make any accusations against officers and felt that his remarks had been misinterpreted by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive said that he was happy to accept the Member's comments. He felt that it was very important to have good relations and would advise that Council Officers were not politicians and are here to deliver what was agreed by Members. He said he appreciated there was very sensitive issues involved and would encourage all Members to attend the forthcoming meeting.

Councillor McLean advised there were a number of issues raised tonight. Firstly, he felt that good relations should be continually implemented rather than just being a tick box exercise and is the responsibility of the entire community. He also felt that it was his understanding that this issue had been talked about for some time now, there are two sections of this community with different aspirations and how things should be implemented. He felt that there was now an onus on everyone to sit down and reflect on what it would be like to be in another person's shoes. He said, he understood that democracy has to be at the centre but there also has to be a process of equality and good relations where everyone felt welcome. He felt there was a piece of work which had to be done and unfortunately this was now out in the public arena with everyone going into trench mode with the impact being that good relations suffers. He advised that he had already provided his undertaking to Mr Moffett (AD: ODSP) and has spoken to Councillor Glasgow, UUP Group Leader and that both parties would be represented at Monday night's Good relations meeting to provide a wider perspective within Council as there was a belief that there is better work to be done to make good relations work.

The Chair said she hoped to be in attendance and would welcome all the issues which may be brought.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Members review, comment as appropriate and approve the report of the Corporate Good Relations Working Group meeting held on Monday 10 October 2022.

PR210/22 Requests to Illuminate Council Properties

The HoSS&E presented previously circulated report which sought approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- NSPCC: Walk for Children
- Oesophago-Gastric (OG) Cancer NI: Less Survivable Cancers Awareness

Councillor Ashton entered the meeting at 7.15 pm

Councillor McLean stated that he had no issue with the proposal but wished to raise a matter as a point of issue. He said that on a regular basis Council light up our three main buildings and unless he goes back to the Council website, he doesn't have a clue what the colour represents. He felt that Council was ticking a box and lighting up a building which are all very worthy things, but wonder's if you asked a member of the public if they knew what the colour represented, they wouldn't know. It was his understanding that this was not doing what it was set out to achieve initially and asked that for something to be considered.

The Chair said that Councillor McLean raised a very valid point.

Councillor McKinney concurred with comments made and asked that consideration be given to implementing a small LED sign at the three main sites to inform members of the public what the lighting colour represented. He said that he was also asked what the colours represented and felt that a small LED sign for the three main buildings should be investigated.

The Chair asked that officers take on board suggestions as this was a very valid point.

The Head of ICT (HoICT) advised members that LED lighting on signs can be a bit more complicated due to planning issues and public safety concerns for road users.

Councillor Cuddy said he had raised this issue in the past and would be worth considering utilising the LED sign at the Cenotaph in Dungannon as it is lying idle and planning permission not required.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows: -

- Wednesday 21 December 2022: NSPCC Walk for Children – Green
- Wednesday 11 January 2023: Less Survivable Cancers Awareness – Green

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to investigate options to better inform the public of what the colour of lighting on the three main Council buildings represent.

PR211/22 December Council Meeting – NI Assembly Election

The Chair advised that this paper had now been withdrawn due to NI Assembly Election no longer going ahead in December.

PR212/22 Member Services

None.

Matters for Information

PR213/22 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 October 2022

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 October 2022.

Councillor Doris referred to PR183/22 and advised that she was not in attendance at last month's meeting as she was in South Africa.

She said that she was made aware of statements in which other Councillors had posted on social media indicating that funding had been withdrawn from the Gortgonis Health and Wellbeing hub which also put the Gaelscoil in jeopardy. She refuted those statements and said that they were lies. DfC through Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) never commit money more than a year ahead of time which Councillors who sit on the NR meeting would be aware of. There is doubt that the project is taking too long to be sorted but constituents should be aware that this is due to projects having to be shovel ready. For example the pitches at Brackaville & Dungannon United Youth, the building at the Fianna and more recently the works at Thomas Clarkes have all been funded through NR because they were in a shovel ready state. A large hold up with the Gortgonis project was to do with a right hand turning lane which despite consistent lobbying to the then DfI minister Nichola Mallon, she failed to get it sorted out. The message that went out to the community by some of the Councillors on their social media pages caused unnecessary panic for the service users, some of which have special needs, the local residents and of course the Gaelscoil.

She said that these statements had real life impacts. There is no threat to the Gaelscoil as it will happen and found it funny that there was a big movement on it today. She would encourage the Councillors who did not act with honesty (as outlined in the Councillor Code of Conduct) to apologise for their social media statements.

Councillor Doris said that she took serious offence at the comment about Councillors not being bothered to turn up to a meeting about Gortgonis when she was in a country that has power cuts for hours each day meaning that she had no access to the internet and was out meeting her boyfriend's family who he hadn't seen in 3 years and his young sister was in hospital. She took offence especially when she missed so few Neighbourhood Renewal and Coalisland Town Centre Forums (which others do not) which is where the real work happens on these projects. She said that she had asked if Council Officers had the money from DfC tomorrow morning in their bank account, would the Health and Wellbeing be done and said that she would cut off here.

She felt that it was important for community confidence in the Council that Councillors who made false accusations apologise for them so they can be open and honest with the public.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that a report was brought to tonight's meeting on options for members consideration and would be raised in confidential business.

Live broadcast ended at 7.36 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan 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 PR192/22 to PR202/22.

Matters for Decision

PR214/22	Staffing Matters for Decision
PR215/22	Gortgonis Health and Wellbeing Hub
PR216/22	IST Awards - Connecting Pomeroy, Derrynoyd Forest, Drumcairn Forest
PR217/22	Treasury Management
PR218/22	Staffing Matters - Apprenticeship Opportunity Update
PR219/22	Mid South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal Update
PR220/22	Capital Expenditure Reallocation

Matters for Information

PR221/22	Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 October 2022
PR222/22	Staff Matters for Information
PR223/22	Financial report for 6 months ending 30 September 2022
PR224/22	Contracts & DAC Update

PR225/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.10 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 8 November 2022 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by virtual means**

Members Present

Councillor Graham, Chair

Councillors Brown*, Buchanan, Burton, Cuthbertson,
Glasgow, Kearney, N McAleer*, S McAleer*,
B McGuigan, McNamee*, Milne*, O'Neill*, Totten*, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD:
Env)
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)**
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services
(AD: ES)
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD:
PS)**
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

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

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor S McGuigan, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Graham took the Chair.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

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

E254/22 Notice of Recording

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

E255/22 Apologies

Councillor S McGuigan.

E256/22 Declarations of Interest

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

E257/22 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

E258/22 Bus Shelters Update

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

Councillor Burton referred to request submitted for Primrose Hill, Clogher and enquired where this application was in the process.

The HoTS advised he would check on the status of the request and revert back to the Councillor.

Councillor Milne asked for update in relation to installation of bus shelter at William Street, Bellaghy.

The HoTS advised that all shelters for installation are noted within the report and that it is the Property Services team who take forward the procurement and installation of shelters. The HoTS stated that there has been a delay in the tendering process but that he would follow up on the Councillor's query and come back with update on timings for installation of that particular bus shelter.

The Assistant Director of Property Services advised he had no further update other than what the HoTS had outlined. The AD: PS advised that shelters are currently at the procurement stage and further to this orders will then be placed. The AD: PS agreed to follow up on the query and come back with more up to date details.

Councillor Kearney noted that there is a meeting this week in relation to the Innishrush shelter. The Councillor stated that this shelter has been in the process for a long time and hoped that this week's meeting would bring a breakthrough.

The HoTS advised that a further report would be brought back in relation to the Innishrush shelter.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to progress the shelters listed below –

1. New Shelters

- Churchtown Road, Lissan
- Old Dungannon Road, Ballygawley

2. Move from stage 5 of the application process

- Annaghmore Road, Cookstown
- Churchtown Road, Lissan

E259/22 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential housing developments within Mid Ulster.

Site off Queens Avenue, Magherafelt

Proposed by Councillor Totten
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Queens Avenue, Magherafelt as Fair Green View.

Site off Main Street, Bellaghy, Magherafelt

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Main Street, Bellaghy as Shelling Hill View.

Matters for Information

E260/22 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 11 October 2022

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 October 2022.

E261/22 Best Kept Awards

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the results of the NI Amenity Council Best Kept Awards 2022.

The Chair, Councillor Graham congratulated everyone who took part in the Best Kept Awards for their commitment, dedication and hard work. Councillor Graham offered a special word of congratulations to Donaghmore who won best of the best and was the overall winner across all of the categories.

3 – Environment Committee (08.11.22)

E262/22 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for April to June 2022

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on 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 1 of 2022/23 from April to June 2022.

E263/22 Recycle Week

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the activities carried out for Recycle Week 2022.

E264/22 Tullyvar Joint Committee Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the business of the Tullyvar Joint Committee.

E265/22 Building Control Workload

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

E266/22 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E267/22 Dual Language Signage Surveys

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

E268/22 Dual Language Signage Requests

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

Live broadcast ended at 7.09 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow 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 E269/22 to E275/22.

Matters for Decision

E269/22 Strategic Waste Management Arrangements: Update
E270/22 Extension of 3rd Party Contracts
E271/22 Legionella Tender Report

Matters for Information

E272/22 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 11 October 2022
E273/22 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
E274/22 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
E275/22 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E276/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.44 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.

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- 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

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

Members Present

Councillor Clarke, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Corry, Cuddy, Doris*
Elattar, Kerr*, McNamee*, Martin*, Milne*, Molloy*,
Monteith*, Quinn*, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place
Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and
Wellbeing
Ms Linney**, Assistant Director of Development
Ms McKeown**, Assistant Director of Economic
Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes
Mr Kennedy**, ICT Support
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillors McKinney* and S McGuigan*

Deputation:

Mr Gerry Darby, Lough Neagh Partnership

* 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 Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Clarke 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.

D166/22 Notice of Recording

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

D167/22 Apologies

None.

D168/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Clarke reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest drawing attention in particular to agenda item on grants. He stated that if Members had already declared the interest it did not need reiterated.

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Community Foodbank.

D169/22 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that he had a few requests from members to raise issues under Chair's Business and invited Councillor Elattar to address the committee.

Councillor Elattar referred to the work carried out at the Plantin and Fair Hill Amenity Space in Draperstown and advised that there was still a lot more to do and when the process was started a long time ago and planning for that there was always going to be a second phase. She said that she was aware of no money being available this financial year, but more about getting a process of drawing up a design plan and having it in place to have something there if any funding become available at any time, just so it's ready to go. She said that there was still a lot to do around the paths regarding lighting, not so much around Fair Hill itself, but as part of the work has been done, it would be nice to have the rest of it completed.

Councillor Corry seconded the proposal as there were paths which were quite dangerous and falling into the river. In referring to Fair Hill advised that there was great potential at the Events Space and would agree that it wasn't too bad and more work was needed in the Plantin but would be beneficial to get a plan in place for that.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar

Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to look at drawing up a design and having it in place for the Plantin and Fair Hill, Draperstown in the event of funding becoming available at short notice.

The SD: Communities and Place said that he was aware of a recent site visit made by the Chief Executive and AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing and that this could certainly be added onto the list, but advised members the list is very long at the minute and there was a need to look at this in the context of capacity to take it forward and the resources. He said that Officers at this stage could only commit to adding it onto the list, but could not commit to a timescale in relation to when that work would commence.

Councillor Elattar said that she understood where the SD: Communities and Place was coming from and would be happy to have it on a list somewhere as it has been nearly 8 – 10 years from this was started and just wanted to make sure that the second part of this wasn't lost.

Councillor Elattar referred to the lights at Fair Hill, Draperstown and advised that they were not operational this past few weeks and was aware of work ongoing at the Plantin which possibly is the same connection, but would like to see the lights fixed again in the event of anti-social behaviour and public safety.

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing said that he echoed Councillor Elattar's comments and that officers had been linking in with colleagues in Property Services team over the last few weeks. The lights at the Fair Hill are indeed on the same link as the lights around the walkway at the Plantin and advised that there was work ongoing at the moment to try and isolate the supplies and hopefully get the lights operational again at Fair Hill whilst a longer term solution is being investigated for the lights around the walkway.

Councillor Kerr raised the issue regarding flooding which has happened along Kings Row/Ardnaskea in Coalisland this last few weeks with the heavy rainfall. He raised his concern regarding this being previously promised to be resolved with the recent Public Realm Scheme and input from the Roads Service, Water Service and all the Statutory bodies. He said that unfortunately this problem still lingers and that he along with residents were frustrated that after millions of pounds was spent in Coalisland that flooding is still very problematic to the residents living on this road.

Councillor Kerr proposed to invite all the statutory bodies around the table to try and get a long term solution for the residents of Kings Row and Ardnaskea.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Doris

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that invitation be issued to all the statutory bodies asking them to come together to try and establish a long term solution for the residents of Kings Row and Ardnaskea.

Councillor Doris advised that she had received a number of complaints from parents regarding the online booking system for swimming lessons at our Leisure Centres particularly Dungannon. She said that she really did not know a huge deal about it but there was a certain time in the morning where lessons had to be booked online which caused great disappointment to parents and children. She said that pre-Covid parents queued up at Leisure Centres to make their bookings, but since then parents are complaining that this new system was not working and said that it would be important for Officers to investigate this.

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing said that he would be happy to provide an update to members relating to this. He said that this was reflective across the three wet sites where a significant amount of demand for swimming lessons were far in excess in what we could provide, particularly at the lower levels and entry levels. He felt that this could be a build-up of things especially due to leisure closures last year and children which would ordinarily joined the scheme at that time would probably would have exited by now, so causing the build-up. Officers are looking at ways in which this can be more efficient, as the days of people queuing up are well gone along with different methods which have been tried and tested over many years in leisure. He assured members with the online element it is on a 'first come, first served' basis and whilst there is a time that lessons get released at, it does recognise the time that people have joined the queue at. The challenge within Dungannon specifically is that this month there was only approximately 50 available spaces at the beginner level and those spaces were snapped up in a matter of minutes once they went live. The AD: Health, Leisure &

Wellbeing advised that it was something that Officers were continuously looking at and were aware of the issues and would be looking at possible solutions for future use.

D170/22 Deputation: Lough Neagh Partnership

The Chair welcomed to the committee Mr Darby from Lough Neagh Partnership and invited them to address the committee. (Appendix 1)

Mr Darby outlined the basic needs of Lough Neagh:

- Major loss of habitats and species
- No navigation authority or dredger
- No links with Waterways Ireland and Cross Border Councils to access SEUPB and Shared Island Funding for Blackwater River
- Future Net Carbon Zero and Climate Needs – needs addressed
- No Interdepartmental body to manage Lough

How much additional money and assistance can the Lough Neagh Partnership bring into Lough Neagh and Mid Ulster District Council over the next 5 years (2023-2028):

- Estimated to attract new £17,380,575 of investment in Lough
- Help provide new market system and put dredger on Lough Neagh
- Lobby and co-ordinate for purchase of bed and soil of Lough Neagh
- Support new farming sector to adapt to new farm reforms and net carbon zero requirements
- Protect Lough and redress Habitat and Species loss via new SEUPB funds
- Help create new green economy business opportunities through new Shared Prosperity Fund
- Help develop Navigable rivers such as Blackwater through DFI, SEUPB and RDP
- Promote food development and food experience branding through artisans group
- Help draw up new climate change, biodiversity and carbon capture plans

The way forward: Additional Specific MUDC Services -

- Directly assist with development of MUDC Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Zero Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy and Farm Economic Strategic
- Help MUDC with running events and promoting artisan food and developing tourism experiences
- LNP Identify carbon reserves in MUDC and examine carbon trading opportunities
- Examine opportunities to develop other MUDC Heritage projects at Beaghmore Tentative List and NLHF proposal, place new employees in LNP Offices.

In conclusion, Mr Darby asked members to look at the strategy and was not asking for anything to be approved tonight, but advised that the strategy was written with a bit of thought for the Council to bring value to them whilst also addressing real needs and real future needs. He hoped that within the next five years those needs will hopefully be addressed and value brought to Mid Ulster District Council and more importantly the ratepayers of this Council.

The Chair thanked Mr Darby for his impressive presentation which was very well covered and delivered and asked for members comments.

Councillor Molloy thanked Mr Darby for his presentation and advised that that he had a quick read through the documents which were issued to members yesterday. He referred to the points we all know that the Lough is multifaceted and we can no longer look at in isolation as a body of water when we take into consideration the industry around it i.e. fishing, sand extraction, water extraction, aquaculture and agriculture. There is a need to look at tourism, leisure and how we harness the attraction of the Lough for bedstays in Mid Ulster and how that feeds into our wider tourism and industry offering when people come and use the Lough and go and stay in Beaghmore, Dark Skies and other attractions within our area. He felt that it was important to develop this as it would be paramount criminal not to invest to see the payback. He said that he was aware of interest rates increasing, but when you talk about £29 for every £1 invested, it is a sign of what work has been done by the Partnership. He was aware from different aspects that Councils were always criticised due to the bureaucracy around doing things as it can be seen to be slow and going through the processes and using somebody like the Partnership to deliver on some projects and events i.e. food which was an excellent vehicle to do that and felt that there was more to be done. There is a need to work in partnership with our bordering Councils also as he heard about the Blackwater Dredging and was already aware of our own Council saying that this is not in our area or may not be, he felt that there was an onus to look past this because this unlocks massive potential up and down the Blackwater, in and out of the Lough and what this brings up in terms of river usage also. He commended the work that LNP were doing and continue to do and felt that it was important to continue to work in partnership.

Councillor Doris thanked Mr Darby for this presentation and advised that she hadn't the opportunity to go through the document in detail, but had a quick scan through it today. She referred to the issues around the Peatlands and the restoration of that lands which has been severely damaged over the years and was great to see that it was included in the document and was also absolutely brilliant to see that the school lands were being transferred to LNP. She referred to the milling which was fine, but the devastation that it has caused for the local area and the natural habitat has just been terrible over the last 10 years or so. She referred to the ownership of those lands by the Royal School and felt that this was the biggest issue as it was hard to deal with another person's land that we don't own. She said that it was great to see that the conversation has advanced in terms of acquiring the land from Shaftesbury's Estate and also great to see applications submitted for funding to do that which was very heartening. She concurred with Councillor Molloy in terms of Councils and although she agreed that the bar-mouth of the river may be in Armagh, it was effectively affecting our constituents on that side of the Lough and the potential once that it sorted out would be fantastic. It was heartening to hear that the application was submitted for the dredger and would be great to get that approved as it would make a world of difference and resolve so many issues. She said that great work has been done to places like Ballyronan which was class, also the artisan market and the transfer of school lands too. She felt the only thing which may be missing at the minute and previously there was good momentum through Stormont a little while back with John O'Dowd the last DfI Minister, which is not the case with the new Minister, but there was previously a start of movement in terms of Mr O'Dowd writing to other Ministers to try and get these interdepartmental bodies set

up in terms of the Lough. She felt that in absence of Stormont the only thing that this Council could do at the minute would be to action that the Chief Executives of the Councils surrounding Lough Neagh are contacted to arrange a conference or meet up. She said that there have been many meetings but felt that there would be merit in approaching the Chief Executives and also include any Politicians and Councillors who may want to be involved, but definitely important that Chief Executives around the Lough and representatives of Lough Neagh Partnership due to motions being good and reenergised our efforts but asked if these have been reenergised strategically and felt that this may be the thing that was missing.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that all the Chief Executives surrounding Lough Neagh and Lough Neagh Partnership arrange a meet-up to try and progress a way forward.

Councillor Kerr agreed that it was a good presentation and would fully be supportive of the efforts in which the Partnership were trying to achieve as it as the largest Lough in Ireland. He said that there was great work carried out around the Washingbay Walkway and also great work carried out around the area. In regard to dredging, he advised that a report was brought back to Council a few weeks back and now it has been decided to opt out and asked if he could elaborate why this decision was made from Maghery cut over to the Blackwater mouth for dredging and enquired if there was an options appraisal study carried out to compare both. He asked if it would be possible for Councillors who sit on the Development committee or any member interest to receive a copy of the study. From talking to local fishermen and leisure users they indicated that the Blackwater mouth needs investigated as an option and enquired who decided not to do this. He felt that every area needs to be considered regarding the dredging of the Lough due to a point he raised on a regular basis regarding Lough Neagh Rescue and the debris on the Lough preventing volunteers going as fast to the scene and a few minutes could be life changing, very damaging to health or could even lead to fatalities. He wished to reiterate the fact that dredging of the Lough was hugely important to Mid Ulster and as a strategic point to try and get to the bottom of. He said that it would be appreciated if Mr Darby or Council officials could come back to answer these queries that it would be appreciated.

Mr Darby said that to be fair Council Officials organised the meeting with representatives of ABC Council, which was held in June and was agreed to look at coming back after the summer doing those very first studies. Before anything can be done, two things needs to be looked at: No. 1 – how much sand is actually at the cut of the mouth and also at the river and there is a need to investigate both of them by an engineer to get a topographical analysis. No. 2 - to investigate the chemical analysis. Once these two bits of information is sourced then can look together at putting together a spec for the actual dredging, but unless you know how much sand you have and what is in the sand you are stumped in terms of going forward. In terms of what is on each side of the Council, all he could emphasis is that if the conclusion was to do it at the cut, then that is in ABC Council, but there was a requirement to look at the thing as a whole of the Blackwater Strategy and if anyone asked him where there would be the biggest economic beneficiary of opening up the river, he would feel that this would be Moy village as they have berthing facilities which could be expanded which could be a real tourism economic hub as we would get all the boats on Lough Neagh and River Bann to go up the river and approximately 90% sailing boats going up that river. He felt there

was need to work together and possibly look at the bigger picture and advised that he had a meeting last week with Jonathan Hayes from ABC Council and felt that once legal issues are addressed, there is real opportunities to take this forward.

Councillor Kerr enquired if the study has been carried out yet and whether no decision has been made yet about cutting open the Blackwater mouth.

Mr Darby advised that no study has been carried out yet, but it was previously agreed that a proposal be looked at sharing funding between the two Councils for these studies which didn't involve a lot of money approximately £4,000 - £5,000 at the most compared to economic opportunities it would bring.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was great to see the progress and not a lot of money involved compared to other proposals like the Ulster Canal which could be twenty times the cost. He referred to the overhead map of Lough Neagh and enquired if the blue at the bottom related to the floodplains.

Mr Darby said that these were defined by NIEA as wetlands and that the yellow part represented Peatlands Park, Derrytresk and Derrylaughan with ABC being on the opposite side. He advised that NIEA had allocated a lot of funding towards carrying out a full carbon analysis of the area which was important for the carbon future.

Councillor Clarke agreed that it as a fantastic presentation with a lot of questions being asked. He said that Lough Neagh was a pure gem with a lot of work being carried out but there was still a lot of work to be done, but there was a need to start somewhere and keep it going for years to come as the benefits of this works will show at the returns which will be got from it.

The SD: Communities and Place thanked Mr Darby for his presentation and said that it was clear that Lough Neagh was a strategic asset for Northern Ireland and indeed Mid Ulster District Council in the work we do with Lough Neagh Partnership. He referred to the final slide and stated that there was a recommendation in terms of the committee considering an uplift in the funding which was available from the Council to Lough Neagh Partnership as well as the consideration around the five year's Service Level Agreement. He advised the committee that any consideration around increase in funding was outside the financial envelope, currently available to this committee, and indicated that if members were minded, his advice would be that the additional uplift is noted and then that this is considered as part of the ongoing estimates in rates discussions for 2023/24.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and also any additional uplift to be considered as part of the ongoing rate estimates discussions for 2023/24.

Matters for Decision

D171/22 Sports Representative Grants

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report and sought approval for sports grant allocations.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the sports grants allocations as listed in appendix A of the report.

D172/22 Walk NI Consortium Proposal 2022-23

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report and sought approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium Campaign for 2022-23.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve that Mid Ulster District Council participate as a Regional Partner with the Walking NI Marketing Consortium with a contribution of £3,617.00 towards the 2022-23 campaign.

D173/22 Mountain Bike NI Consortium Proposal 2022-23

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report and sought approval to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2022-23.

Councillor McNamee referred to Davagh Mountain Bike Trail and said that he recalled a contractor having issues and left the contract. He enquired whether the contract was completed yet or was it still left the same way from when contractor left the site.

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing said that as this project as reported through the Environment Committee, he was aware that a paper was due to go to that committee. He said that he was unsure if a paper has been brought to Environment Committee yet but would link in with the Capital team to get an update and come back to the member.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve that Mid Ulster District Council participate as a Consortium Partner with the Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £10,500 to 2022-23 campaign.

D174/22 Social Inclusion – Community Wealth Building

The AD: Development presented previously circulated report to:

- Provide an update on progress in respect to the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework for Mid Ulster District Council.
- Commence the development of a Community Wealth Building Plan.

- Consider and agree the proposed governance approach.
- Approve Council Officer attendance at the fifth annual Community Wealth Building Summit on Friday 18 November in Birmingham.

Councillor Molloy said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation and was aware of this issue being talked about numerous times down the years since the Council had been established in RPA. Our social responsibilities in terms of employment and all that goes along with it, contracts and sub-contracts that we engage in, we do have to have responsibility for how we manage Council projects. He felt that it as a good start but there was still work needed to be done to broaden it out but was a good beginning.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to second the proposal and said that she agreed with Councillor Molloy and the AD: Development and her team that this was a great start to this when you look at appendix 1 with the opportunities which this presents to our communities. She referred to the 4,000 people which went into jobs to get a living wage, reduction in unemployment of 6.5%, 10% rise in 16 – 24 year olds gaining NVQ qualifications and lifted 20% out of the most deprived local authority areas and commended officers on a great piece of work.

Councillor Monteith said that it was a good idea and good to see it going forward and would not propose to go against the recommendation, but wished to put on record once again that he finds it highly ironic that an issue about social inclusion is going to be facilitated by a continued use of this organisation by d'hondt process to exclude all political opinion. He reiterated his disappointment that he and other Councillors were being excluded from the process.

Councillor Kerr said that he totally agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments as the idea of a motion was to try and enhance people's lives. He said that it would be fair to say that the two of the biggest issues which he and Councillor Monteith had mentioned over this last terms was trying to combat poverty and enhance people's lives and also found ironic an idea to try and tackle poverty which excludes Councillors which has a mandate.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

- 1) Note the update on progress in respect to the development of a Community Wealth Building framework
- 2) Agree to commence the development of a Community Wealth Building Plan, with support as required.
- 3) Agree the proposed governance approach
- 4) Approve Council Officer attendance at the fifth annual Community Wealth Building Summit on Friday 18 November in Birmingham, with no financial cost to Council.

D175/22 Social Inclusion – Hardship Support

The AD: Development presented previously circulated report to confirm the continued commitment of Council to the ongoing support with the cost of living challenges, as well as channeling any potential funding from Department for Communities, and any other sources through our already established support network.

Councillor McNamee said that he was very disappointed not to see Halo Helping Hands being included on the list. This group is based outside Cookstown and do tremendous work throughout Mid Ulster and are a major player when it comes to supporting families in need. Recent figures show that they received over 100 requests from Social Services for Christmas alone. He said that he knew that the group were assessed and was unsure how this process works and was also aware of how disappointed they are not ending up on this list and enquired if there was any way that Halo Helping Hands could be included. He referred to groups having opportunities to access but asked how they can access this.

The AD: Development said that it was about maximising resources and have been working to date with the big foodbanks which can bring in more resources over and above on what Council would be giving and not solely relying on funding. She said that the big foodbanks would support the smaller foodbanks and they would link into them, providing parcels and food support. To bring in more outside of the main towns there may be a need to look at opening up a system that would take in every community group and foodbank that were working across the district, which would be diluting the funding and not maximising it in terms of sharing it out to everyone. She reassured members that the larger foodbanks do provide to the smaller ones and everyone is working to the same ethos and the same aim. The critical thing here is that the larger foodbanks aren't precious about who allocates the parcels and one of the things we are happy to do under the number of referrals is to link them in and make sure that there is adequate provision in place to still provide for the local people to make sure no-one goes without.

Councillor Molloy said that he was aware of this Council running this funding for a few years and asked if it would be possible to get a running total as to the amount in which has been distributed throughout the District and need be brought to confidential business due to confidentiality of the groups. He said that it would be useful to generate a report to see how much has been distributed among each group to get a feel of what this Council is putting out into the community.

He said that he was aware of the larger foodbanks having the buying power, but as a Council we have significant buying power and if we were to look at some of the purchasing for all the foodbanks and distribute that, asked if there would be merit in that kind of model where we can buy and let them distribute.

The AD: Development advised that it would be difficult for Council as it would be very heavily regulated in terms of the process that would be used and we wouldn't have the processes in place where the large foodbanks have. A lot of the larger foodbanks would be working closely with the Trussell Trust who have established procedures which allows some of the bigger supermarkets who give away foods. She said that

although we were a large Council and could be looked at, we definitely wouldn't have the procedures or processes in place at the moment.

Councillor Doris in referring to Halo Helping Hands said that she has works with a lot of charities through her job and they always stood out on the work in which they done in some cases which would bring tears to a stone. She said that Social Workers also refer people to Halo Helping Hands and felt that there were really good organisations which were falling through the cracks and this was going to be a really hard Christmas for some people and the last thing we ever want to do is delay the money going out to people who really need it. She felt that there will be a pretty difficult year next year also and referred to Councillor Molloy's comments in terms of having a look down at what the different groups have got and explore if there was a way to make this process a bit more efficient. With Councillors knowledge of local groups within their areas, there would definitely be merit in Council having a separate conversation or a report being brought back on looking what has been allocated to individual groups. Unfortunately this is going to be a tough Christmas and didn't hold a lot of optimism on what next years was going to be like either.

Councillor Monteith asked where the proposal was he had made on the hardship fund specifically to this Council as this was not the report which members received tonight.

The AD: Development advised that the proposal which was being put forward was in relation to hardship support via existing networks, and was up to members to decide. She said what was being proposed by Derry & Strabane District Council is a fund allocated through their advice services for anyone in need. What we were proposing was that we have an established structure with foodbanks and support which can bring in over and above what we would be giving out -£124k. The officers thinking is if £124K is given out then this can be maximised by partners in terms of fundraising, resources and the purchasing power which they have. She said that this was not just about food, it was food, items of need, support towards oil, fuel. The people in need may be able to get more than one allocation of support and there is no set amount, this is based on what is required. However this is only a proposal for members' consideration and advised that the Derry & Strabane model was still there.

The SD: Communities and Place in response to Councillor Monteith's query and following on from what the AD: Development alluded to advised that the direction which came from the committee last month was for Officers to go away and look at the hardship fund which was being introduced by Derry & Strabane and see what this Council could do to replicate that to deliver something similar within Mid Ulster. He said that Officers had engaged with Derry & Strabane and the difference is that Derry & Strabane have went through a process where they have appointed a preferred partner who will work with them to deliver that hardship fund in terms of individual support going out to individuals within the community. Given that there was also direction from the Council to look at providing support in the here and now and given that we are in the midst of a cost of living crisis, it was felt if this Council was to go through a similar process of Derry & Strabane, then this could delay the ability to get money out onto the ground because there would be a requirement to select a preferred partner. We looked at what Partnerships and mechanisms we currently have in place to be able to distribute this additional money and also keep an eye on the fact we want to deliver the same outcomes i.e. those individuals across our communities who need support this

winter, whether this be fuel support, support around white good or other financial support in relation to utilities, that there would be structures in place within our community to go out and obtain that.

Councillor Monteith enquired if a follow could be done. He said that it was worth pointing out that if the proposal which was put through Council in May had of been followed, we wouldn't be in this predicament and if the hardship fund proposal was put together last May when members were told it couldn't be done, now see that Derry & Strabane did do it. He enquired under this proposal, was it a case that people who seek help will be guaranteed £100 - £120 towards whatever support they need on top of what is already provided through these organisations. He asked if this was guaranteed for every applicant.

The AD: Development said that no it wasn't as this was basically based on needs, i.e. if someone came in and were in crisis with oil then there would be support given for that, something similar would happen for parents in crisis seeking toys for their family, then Council would link in with Save the Children. She said that Save the Children allocations was approximately within the region of £344 as it was for a family with children. If someone just requires food parcels, the standard is usually that a food parcel would be allocated for a number of weeks for whatever crisis they are in and may get food parcels up to a value of £150 – £200, alternatively it may be a person coming in to get a one off food parcel of £50, or oil support at £100 - £150. She advised that there was no exact target set for any one person coming in.

Councillor Monteith wanted to express his disappointment as twice now a proposal has went through this Council to set up a specific hardship fund in relation to the cost of living and twice Officers have brought forward proposals which are not adhering to what Councillors had asked for. He said that he was not going to oppose what was being done as it was now in the public domain and was not trying to undermine the work that any of these organisations we are going to fund were doing as each and every one of them were doing very worthwhile work which we rightly support. However, there was major discrepancies between the value amount and how many times a person can access help from all those various organisations and there are differences even within those organisations as to how often a person can secure support geographically, there are issues in amount of support and the idea of support. He stated that he had no issues with any of those organisations as they were all doing good work, but it wasn't accurate to say that the same provision was available throughout the Council area. He felt that the process was not clear for many people out there, that if they need help with the cost of living in relation to energy bills or fuel, most people or the vast majority of people who find themselves in this situation for possibly the first time or an unexpected time of their life and never in this situation before, they do not understand or do not have any comprehension that funding or help is available through foodbanks or that help is available for fuel or energy bills through those organisations. He said that the Council were working through Charities and some people do not feel comfortable approaching Charities as they feel they are taking money from someone else and this was the whole rationale for setting up a fund from the Council so people would feel a bit more comfortable rather than feeling they were taking money from someone else who they believed were in worse off need. He stated that he had said his piece and tried this twice and obviously Officers were not prepared to go down this road and was

happy to see the work Council were doing, but there were many people out there who were not aware and would not be aware of any specific help the Council were doing.

The AD: Development said that she was aware that she couldn't elevate all the concerns but referred to a few of the issues that possibly could be done in relation to funding. She advised that funding was coming from Council so stipulations can be put on it in relation to flexibility of what it could be used for, what level of support people can get in monetary terms, and then Officers can do PR work to let people know that this support is there. Officers have been working to ensure that all of the support services are centrally located in towns to ensure accessible for people to walk to and open to people without having to make appointments etc. to ensure there is as little stigma as possible for people in crisis who are seeking food etc.

Councillor Kerr said that he welcomed the significant amount of money being spent to try and tackle the cost of living crisis and for residents who find themselves on uncharted waters and for people on lower and social economical areas, but concurred with comments made by Councillor Monteith. He said what was originally suggested back in the summertime and last month was a model and as Derry & Strabane did not have any kind of mechanism, it was a wait and see approach from ourselves in Mid Ulster and then Derry & Strabane put together a scheme for people to apply. He personally felt that the model was probably something that Mid Ulster should have imitated as it provided people with a lot more discretion for applying and he also noted that people who were higher up the income scale could apply and who better to know how to spend a professional grant than the individual themselves. Whilst, he does welcome some of the areas of the report, he was just disappointed that this Council did not follow the Derry & Strabane model and although he was not going to oppose the report, felt that the money needed to get out as soon as possible and that Derry & Strabane model was the better path to follow.

Councillor Burton referred to the 11 crisis strategic support groups, with 5 main and Clogher Valley. She sought clarification regarding Clogher Valley on whether this was one main group as there were a number of groups set up during Covid and said that it would be useful to have this information forwarded to members after tonight's meeting so Councillors of the area know exactly where to refer people to. She felt that it was very important that this support was allocated in an equal playing field and as previously referenced, there were people who will not be aware of it and would be doubly sure that there will be rural people who will have no idea that there is that support for them. She said that it was usually the older people who will wait and think that somebody else is more in need than they are and quite often this isn't the case. She felt that this money at the end of the day basically was for people at crisis point or real need and was aware of times where people have went to foodbanks and almost chose out of the box what they take home with them and didn't think that this was a sensible way for this as it was a crisis trying to support people that need to eat that day. She felt that it was important to know exactly what the criteria is here and who will benefit and that there is no way that this can be exploited as there was an onus on Council to really help people who need it the most. She said that she would like clarification relating to Clogher Valley.

The AD: Development advised that she would follow up with everyone regarding the main foodbank groups. She confirmed that the groups in the Clogher valley as she

referenced early work in partnership and the main group takes the lead. She advised members that she would share all the details with them.

Councillor Burton in following up enquired if there would be criteria or who would benefit from it.

The AD: Development said that one thing that could be done would be having it very flexible to need and given the crisis at the moment, most of the agencies that have been supporting people have uplifted their contribution. In relation to this, one of the things Council could say would be allocations in the region of £100 - £150 to help people in crisis. In the past Council and DFC funding which was crisis support linked to the Trussell Trust which aims for support for a set period of for a period to allow the funding to go as far as possible, however Foodbanks/SVP's use their own funding to support those that may need help over a long period of time and are more reliant. She advised that Officers rely on foodbanks to set the criteria to allow for flexibility for someone in crisis and not to have them fill in too much detail or create a stigma where they feel they have to beg for food and support. One thing about the criteria set by Derry & Strabane is that it is so wide and flexible. If members are hearing any issues of people being turned away or any issues in which people are experiencing, definitely feed them into Council.

Councillor McNamee referred to the issue of Halo Helping Hands and advised that the AD: Development had indicated that if a group was coming under pressure with the number of referrals that the larger groups would step in and help them out and asked if she was confident that this would happen.

The AD: Development advised that Council has a network set up where all the foodbanks help each other so there would be no problem if there was a number of referrals who they wish to do themselves or refer the other person in, you will find that the foodbanks just want that person supported. She said that there were a number of foodbanks set up across the District that link and Council seeks to support this networking and will link with Halo regarding their referrals. She stated it was not just Cookstown support but Magherafelt and Dungannon also, for example The Vineyard in Dungannon issues over 500 food parcels at Christmas but they deliver them through a range of partners and charities, it is found to be very open and inclusive. If members feel that there is something happening to the contrary to let Officers know.

Councillor Wilson said that no matter what was going to be produced, it wasn't going to be perfect and by listening to some comments made tonight, he felt it was a fair and a good attempt to try and get money out to those people most in need and would be happy to support the proposal. He said the only concern he would have would be under the Community Halls funding where it mentions Sports Hall and felt that this was not necessary. He felt that Sports Halls and sports people can apply for grants under the Sports Grant Awards and would like to see the word 'Sports' removed.

The AD: Development said that the only difficulty would be is that Council were going to try and uplift the grant allocation that we allocate next year and it was proposed to do a Venues and Facilities Grant amalgamated so it would be difficult to pull the sports facilities and venues out of this support. All groups would receive support either community, arts, heritage, sporting.

Councillor Wilson said he understood where the AD: Development was coming from but when a hardship funding grant is being proposed and the word 'Sports Hall' is mentioned it didn't look appropriate, Community Hall most certainly as it's utilised by people who need it.

The AD: Development said that this could be aligned to the decision on the grants as it would be hard to have one fund for Venues and Facilities across a range of community needs and then identify one grouping not to receive when they are all facing the same overhead community pressures. She said that she was conscious of selecting one group over another indicating that one group where in need and the other where not; it would be very difficult for officers to separate them.

Councillor Wilson said that he appreciated where the AD: Development was coming from but when you are doing a hardship fund and funding proposed it may not look good to mention a Sports Hall. He felt that the money has to be allocated and was not raising any objections but more about the optics of it, but agreed that it was a great attempt and congratulated everyone involved.

The SD: Communities and Place wished to clarify on concern raised regarding Sports facilities, as previously stated by the AD: Development, Council provide grants to a range of community facilities as well as a range of sporting facilities to support their programmes, but also with costs associated with running the building. In recognising across the District there may be some sports facilities which may be utilised for community activity throughout the winter months to support individuals who may be impacted by the cost of living crisis and this was why sports facilities were included in this stage, it's not an additional cost for their programming, it's an additional support around some of the pressures they are facing around cost of living relating to energy and utilities.

Councillor Ashton said that there was a comment referred to regarding Derry & Strabane option that went through their Council and the line that our Officers had taken. She said that too be fair to the Officers and she referred back to June Development Committee minutes, she felt that what the AD: Development had actually presented here tonight is what the members had requested her to present. At that meeting members noted the very in-depth report which was brought forward regarding Derry & Strabane, we agreed that Council provide ongoing support through already strategic networks which she believed what has been proposed here tonight and that any funding allocation in the Department continues to be channeled through the Strategic Network Partners. She felt that it was important to give Officers their dues what they presented was what Councillors asked them to do.

Councillor Corry said that she was aware of some foodbanks providing vouchers which allowed people to go in and get what they want rather than being handed a food parcel. She referred to some foodbanks who are doing these vouchers and asked what would happen if a partner had an addiction and spending the vouchers on alcohol or whatever it was and leaving a family without food and enquired if there was anything that could be done to investigate that.

The AD: Development said that this was always a difficult one and if people in the foodbanks who may not be aware of the background and so forth, it's like the overall

80/20 rule, where most people have genuine need. She said that this was hard to monitor and if you start to over monitor the process, it could then impact on others, who may then not access support. If having to provide too much specific detail may leave people feeling they have to beg for food or support. It is appreciated that this is a very difficult issue, however the foodbanks/SVP seek to manage as far as possible.

Councillor Corry said that she welcomed this as there could be situations where there is domestic abuse within a household and families left without any food.

Councillor McKinney would like to thank Officers for all their hard work. He said that he had an opportunity to visit a lot of these foodbanks from Clogher to Dungannon, right up to his own area. He referred to Christians Against Poverty (CAP) who were involved with Council and came and done a presentation and asked if there was an opportunity to include a support person within the area for a lot of people in the event of money disappearing resulting in a shortage of food. He said that when speaking to these foodbanks they are indicating that they are under extreme pressure at the minute and wished to thank the AD: Development and her team for their efforts. He enquired if there was anything that members could do to offer support i.e. support worker to help people to try and manage better on perceived circumstances. He referred to the excellent presentation which CAP provided but felt that there was only so many places they could be at the one time whilst facing these difficult times.

The AD: Development advised that Council works closely with CAP and they link to the foodbanks. She concurred with Councillor McKinney's comment regarding the importance of CAP, as some people just need general debt management guidance which is available through the Mid Ulster Advice Service whilst others need the actual debt managed on their behalf which is the CAP programme. She agreed this was something Council needed to promote more along with the advice service debt management, one providing advice and one to manage the debt where required. She stated that the CAP programme whilst they did have a strong backing in relation to the wider CAP UK programme, they did have limited people resources re managing referrals on the ground. She said that Officers would speak to them again to see where support can be offered and to maximise their services as best as possible.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the following allocations for the additional **£157,195** to support individuals and groups with the ongoing cost of living pressures:

- (i) **£7,195** to Save the Children, with match funding from both Health Trusts and Save the Children with a total investment of £28,780, to allow for continued delivery of the 'Families in Crisis' programme until end of March 2023.
- (ii) **£90,000** to Councils current model of crisis intervention, via the 11 strategic crisis support groups of foodbanks and SVP partners operating across 5 main towns and Clogher Valley. Funding will be allocated as per

the 3 main towns (Magherafelt, Cookstown & Dungannon) £20,000 each and 2 small towns (Maghera & Coalisland) and Clogher Valley area of £10,000 each.

- (iii) **£60,000** to provide up to a £500 uplift to the Community (and Sports) venues and facilities to help alleviate the unprecedented financial burdens placed on them as a result of the current energy and cost of living crisis

D176/22 Development Report

The AD: Development presented previously circulated report which provided update and sought approval on the following:

- **Rolling Community Grants Programme 2022 - 2023**
- **Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 - 2024**
- **Development Department Update**

It was

Proposed by Corry
Seconded by Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the following:

- **Rolling Community Grants 2022-23**

Councillor Ashton sought clarification point 7 of report regarding the strategic grants 2 year rolling, referred to strategic events and i.e. a person applies this year for next year's event, what happens if the strategic event then comes in year, is this rolling or is only going to be open for 2 years now and can't apply next year or how was it actually going to roll out.

The AD: Development advised that any new events could still apply each year. The strategic events whilst they mostly remain the same each year, still have the opportunity to resubmit an application or new groups can apply. She said that each year if there is pressures in one area of grants and less pressures on another, Officers would propose to Committee to offset this and this is further supported by some being rolling grants. For example if there was a pressure on the strategic events side in year 2, members would have the proviso to offset that with the community festival funding.

Councillor Ashton referred to Grant Allocations particularly the ineligible application enquired what was the reasoning and downfall on this application.

The AD: Development advised that she was unable to provide an explanation as she did not have the exact details in front of her tonight but would provide member with an update.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Community Festival & Good Relations grants as outlined in appendix 1 of the Officers report.

- **Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 – 2024**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 – 2024.

- **Development Department Update**

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

Matters for Information

D177/22 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 October 2022

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

Councillor Kerr referred to D157/22 and enquired if there was any further update on Cappagh Initiative.

The SD: Communities and Place advised that there was no further update from the last meeting i.e. Altmore/Cappagh Project, with Officers working towards the 31st March 2023.

Councillor Kerr referred Gortgonis Leisure Project and asked if there was any update.

The SD: Communities and Place advised that a report was brought to Policy & Resources Committee meeting last Thursday.

D178/22 The Regulation of Cosmetic Treatments in Northern Ireland

Members noted update to inform of the Health Minister's response to Council's request for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland.

D179/22 Leisure Participation

Members noted update on the progress and the continuation of the Active Recreation Plan which encompasses the Active Leisure Programme and Summer Programmes:

- Active Leisure Programmes September 2022 – March 2023
- Summer Programme July – August 2022

D180/22 Economic Development Report – OBFI

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the following:

- Christmas 2022 Town Activities
- ICBAN Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April – Sept 2022)
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (14 -18 Nov 2022)
- Tourism Autumn Campaign 2022
- Hidden Heritage
- Sperrins Hillwalking Programme
- Outline Business Case: Future Proposals for Council-led Entrepreneurship Support Services

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Live broadcast ended at 8.41 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D162/22 to D164/22.

Matters for Decision

D181/22 The Registration of a Society Under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Matters for Information

D182/22 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 October 2022

D183/22 Economic Development Report – November 2022 - CBF

D184/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.45 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.

Report on	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
Date of Meeting	Thursday 24 November 2022
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
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> .					
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	<p><u>Recognition</u></p> <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						
Appendix A details those requests received for recommendation to and approval by council. The request have been categorised in line with the current 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 have been categorised, details of which are set out within appendix A to this report.
3.2	Due to lifting of restrictions around COVID it has been the practice in recent months to resume hosting receptions where current guidance permits.
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 appropriate.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Civic Recognitions Recommended for Approval

Appendix A: November 2022 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
Lana Sheehy	Ulster PPS Ladies Football All-Star Panel for 2023	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Kaitlin Gallagher	EOS IT Solutions Ulster Schools Camogie All Stars 2022-23	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Owen O'Neill	Ulster Title 80 kg	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Competition at National level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Charlie Condry	Northern Ireland Karting Association (Cadet Title) Championship	Cllr Graham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Competition at National level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Eva Jane Muldoon	The Ulster Irish Dancing Championships' 2022 Under 15 Champion	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won Competition at National level 	For: Irish Dancing Date: 2018

Eimear Smith	The Ulster Irish Dancing Championships' 2022 Under 16 Champion	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Competition at National level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Maebh Sherry	The Ulster Irish Dancing Championships' 2022 Senior Ladies Ulster Champion	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Competition at National level 	For: Not Applicable Date:
Molly McSwiggan	The Ulster Irish Dancing Championships' 2022 Ulster Solo Reel Winner Ulster Solo Jig Winner	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Competition at National level 	For: Not Applicable Date:

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
Aliyah Rafferty	Crit Champion 2022	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Aliyah received civic recognition Oct 2022 for Irish National Youth Championship Under 15 Girls National Road Race 2022 and also representing Ireland in European Youth Olympics in Slovakia (Cllrs Kerr, Monteith & Molloy)

Clonoe U15's	Won the Molloy O'Neill Cup on it's 40 th Year Running	Cllr Kerr
Eglis Minor Camogie Team	Won the Minor Championship & League	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith Received letter October 2022 for winning League (Cllrs Kerr & Monteith)
Galbally Pearses (Seniors)	Won the Intermediate Title and crowned County Champions	Cllr Kerr Cllr S McGuigan
Stewartstown Senior Football	County Tyrone Junior Double Championship	Cllr Kerr
Moy Tír na nÓg GFC	Tyrone Under 15 Football Grade 2 Champions 2022	Cllr Monteith
Pomeroy U16 Ladies	Winners of County Tyrone U16 League and Championship – Done the County Double	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith
Ardboe U15's (Boys)	Winners of County Tyrone Grade 1 League	Cllr Kerr
Errigal Ciaran U15's Boys	Winners of County Tyrone U15 Grade One Championship	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith
Darragh Canavan	Finished Top Scorer in Tyrone Championship	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith
Errigal Ciaran Senior Men	Winners of County Tyrone Senior Championship	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith
Eoghan Ruadh, Dún Geanainn	Winners of	Cllr Monteith

	Under 13 Tyrone & Armagh Championship and Tyrone League Winners 2022 Under 15 Tyrone Championship Winners 2022	
Edendork Saint Malachy's GFC	Winners of County Tyrone Camogie Minor Plate Winners 2022	Cllr Monteith Cllr Kerr
Clonoe O'Rahillys Boys	County Tyrone U15's League Final	Cllr Kerr
Farragh McGearry	Farragh entered the Texaco Children's Art prizewinners exhibition. She was placed in the top 15 in her age category.	Cllrs Kerr and Monteith
Maria Donaghy	Maria entered the Texaco Children's Art prizewinners exhibition. She was placed in the top 15 in her age category.	Cllrs Kerr and Monteith
Donaghmore U16 Ladies	Won Grade 2 Tyrone Championship completing the County Double.	Cllrs Kerr and Monteith Received letter last month for winning the County Tyrone Grade 2 League
Coalisland Training Services	Celebrating 40 years of Training and serving the community of Coalisland and surrounding area	Cllr Kerr
Tyrone Ladies Gaelic Forum Association (GFA)	Tyrone Ladies GFA are in existence for 30 years	Councillor Kerr
McNicholl Caravans Ltd	Won Antrim & Fermanagh Section for their static caravan site "Atlantic View Leisure Park, Ballycastle"	Cllr McFlynn

Chrissie McKeague	2022 PWC GAA Football All Stars	<p>Cllr Kearney Cllr McFlynn Cllr S McPeake Cllr B McGuigan Cllr Corry</p> <p>Received Civic Recognition in October 2022 for Irish news Ulster GAA All Star's Men's Football</p>
Conor Glass	2022 PWC GAA Football All Stars	<p>Cllr Kearney Cllr McFlynn Cllr S McPeake Cllr B McGuigan Cllr Corry</p> <p>Received Civic Recognition in October 2022 for Irish news Ulster GAA All Star's Men's Football</p>
Lara Devlin	<p>EOS IT Solutions Ulster Schools Camogie All Stars 2022-23</p> <p>Ulster PPS Ladies Football All Star Panel for 2023</p>	<p>Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith</p> <p>Received Civic recognition Gaelic Life Ulster Schools Camogie Player of the Year 2020</p>
Neve Caning	North Regional Basket Ball Team (Inter Regionals)	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith
Maeve Lyons	North Regional Basket Ball Team (Inter Regionals) (Vice Captain)	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith
Lucy Devlin (St Joseph's College, Coalisland)	6 th place in Ulster Championship	Cllr Kerr
Cara McGuigan	18 th place in Under 12 Ulster Championship	Cllr Kerr

	4 th Place in Solo Reel in Ulster Championship	
*Cayden Cummings	Mid Ulster Novice Championships Boxing Titl	Cllr Kerr *Cayden received Civic Recognition December 2021
Sonny Clements	Mid Ulster Novice Championships Boxing Titles	Cllr Kerr
Ronan Cushnahan	Mid Ulster 68kg Runner Up	Cllr Kerr
Callum Berry	Mid Ulster 57kg Novice Runner Up	Cllr Kerr
Shea Somerville	Mid Ulster 54 kg Ulster Runner Up	Cllr Kerr
Callum McCann	Mid Ulster 38.5 kg Novice Runner Up	Cllr Kerr
Danyla Rudnickji	Mid Ulster 54 kg Ulster Novice Title	Cllr Kerr Civic Recognition Oct 2022 for Ulster Title
Jordan Soares	50kg Mid Ulster Title	Cllr Kerr
Jack Brannigan	48kg Mid Ulster Novice Title	Cllr Kerr
Frank Gervin ABC Boxing Club	Celebrating 50 years of ABC Boxing Club Coalisland	Cllr Kerr

Erin Delaney	<p>Achieved Gold 'Gaisce/President's Award</p> <p>Selected to attend Seanad 100 Minority Voices, Major Change Initiative</p>	Cllrs Kerr & Monteith
Meadbh Hughes	<p>Achieved Gold 'Gaisce/President's Award</p> <p>Selected to attend Seanad 100 Minority Voices, Major Change Initiative</p>	Cllrs Kerr & Monteith
Dáire Carberry	<p>Achieved Gold 'Gaisce/President's Award</p> <p>Selected to attend Seanad 100 Minority Voices, Major Change Initiative</p>	Cllrs Kerr & Monteith
Henry Brothers	Construction Employers Federation Excellence Awards: Construction Project of the Year	<p>Cllrs McFlynn & Kearney</p> <p>Received civic recognition January 2020 for UK Chamber of Commerce Best Family Business</p>
Keep Her Lit	<p>John Joe & Charlie Taggart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Joe qualified for the Cross Country All-Ireland (U11) completing in A Field of over 80 Competitors 	Cllr Kerr

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlie also qualified for the All Ireland (U13) also competing in a Field of over 80 Competitors 	
	<p>Conor O'Neill (Juniors)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conor has qualified for the Cross Country All Irelands in Boys (U17) Race. Conor was competing in a field of 50 competitors. 	
	<p>Leo Sheehan Juniors</p> <p>Leo qualified for the Cross Country All Irelands in Boys (U11) Leo finished 4th narrowly missing out on an individual Ulster Bronze. He was part of the (U11) Boys Team who won an Ulster Silver Medal and will represent Keep Er Lit Club individually & team</p>	

	<p>Leo Sheehan, Daithi, Sam Curran, Ruairi Donaghy, John Joe Taggart</p> <p>Boys (U11) Team have qualified for an All Ireland Cross Country Finals, an achievement in itself, as the Youth in the Club have been training less than one year</p>	
	<p>Youth Boys Team</p> <p>Won the Ulster Silver Medal and will go on to represent Ulster in the All-Irelands</p>	

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	24 November 2022
Reporting Officer	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
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 and to provide the final draft for submission of the Department of Education's Every Child: The Department of Education's Corporate Plan 2023-28 Public Consultation.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
2.2	Also, at October's Full Council meeting, Member's requested that a response be developed to Department of Education's Every Child: The Department of Education's Corporate Plan 2023-28 Public Consultation.
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.
3.2	Appendix B consists of a copy of a draft response to Department of Education's Every Child: The Department of Education's Corporate Plan 2023-28 Public Consultation. In the absence of a submission extension being granted to the Council, the attached draft was sent to Members via email on Friday 11 th November to have comments returned by Tuesday 15 th . The draft was subsequently submitted to DE with the understanding that final version would be submitted following Council's Full Council approval.
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 Appendix B: Draft DE Consultation Response-Nov 2022

Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Northern Ireland Policing Board	Corporate Plan 2023-2025	The Northern Ireland Policing Board is currently developing its Corporate Plan and is seeking the views of the wider public and stakeholders. The Board's Corporate Plan has been designed as a 2-year plan to align with the remainder of the current Policing Plan cycle.	12 noon on 16 January 2023	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/corporate-plan-2023-25-consultation		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
DAERA	Consultation on Herd restrictions for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)	This consultation seeks views on the proposed introduction of herd restrictions to eradicate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD).	20 December 2022	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/BVD-herd-restrictions		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Health	Public consultation on proposed amendments to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) (Independent Guardian) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016	This public consultation relates to proposed amendments to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) (Independent Guardian) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016. The proposed amendments are intended to afford greater flexibility to the Independent Guardian Service for trafficked and/or separated/unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.	19 January 2023	
	Link to Consultation	https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/doh-1/igs-regs-amendments/		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	Yes		
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Justice	The Draft Planning Fees (Deemed Planning Applications and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022	The Department of Justice is seeking views from key stakeholders in the public and private sectors on the fees to be charged for planning appeals and deemed planning applications from 1st April 2023.	20 December 2022	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-planning-fees-deemed-planning-applications-and-appeal-amendment-regulations-ni-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)?	Yes		
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently

				Being Developed
Department of Health	Consultation on Support for Care Leavers	When considering the amendments to the 2005 Regulations, the Department has identified two possible additional amendments which were not included in the previous consultations on the Act's provisions. The first amendment concerns a growing number of care leavers who may have been victims of human trafficking or are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The second amendment relates to the suitability and affordability of accommodation.	19 January 2023	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-support-care-leavers		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Information Commissioner's Office	FOI Public Prioritisation Consultation	The consultation seeks to ensure the way in which the ICO regulate the FOI Act is as efficient and effective as possible, especially in times of increasing demand and shrinking resources.	19 December 2022	
	Link to Consultation	https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/ico-and-stakeholder-consultations/ico-consultation-on-prioritising-access-to-information-complaints/		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes	

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Education Authority	Draft Interim Language Policies, Public Consultation	EA recognises that Irish and Ulster-Scots languages are an expression of the culture in NI. EA has drafted Interim Language Policies for the Irish and Ulster-Scots Languages for consultation.	27 February 2023 (at 6:00 pm)	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/consultations/public-consultation-on-eas-draft-interim-language-policies		
	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
Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland	2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies	This is the third consultation period relating to the revised proposals for Parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland.	15th December 2022	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/2023-review-parliamentary-constituencies		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?			Yes
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Finance	Consultation on Devolution of More Fiscal Powers	The Department is seeking formal engagement on the recommendations made by the Independent Fiscal Commission in its report "More Fiscal	29 November 2022 (at 6pm)	Currently being considered by SD of Corporate Services & Finance

		Devolution for Northern Ireland?"		
	Link to Consultation	https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/devolution-fiscal-powers		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?			Yes, delegated to the Chief Executive/ SD Corporate Services & Finance

15 November 2022

Education Governance Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill, BANGOR
BT19 7PR



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Ref: Every Child: DE's Draft Corporate Plan (2023 – 2028)

To whom it may concern:

Mid Ulster District Council would like to take this opportunity to put forward its views in relation to the consultation on Every Child: DE's Draft Corporate Plan (2023 – 2028). Feedback from the Council on each of the strategic priorities is provided below:

CHAMPIONING all our children and young people and the positive impact of education on all aspects of life

In relation to championing children and young people, Mid Ulster District Council is of the view that providing access to high quality education for all children and young people is the primary way for DE to achieve this priority. It is well documented that disadvantage has a detrimental impact on a child's educational attainment. Statistics show that children in low income families can underperform at key stages in education by up to 10% from their peers not impacted by poverty.

Therefore, quality education must be free at the point of delivery. Research has highlighted that many children skip school on days where money is required, for example, to purchase text books, for home economics resources, art materials, school fees, school visits, charity days etc. There should be provision for low income families. This must not be a stigmatised system which highlights children from low income households. Good practice exists with uniforms based on transferable badges, educational school trips linked to public facilities (many of which are free), school resources books, art materials and so on included in budget etc.

Breakfast clubs can be an 'effective support' solution as many children, especially in disadvantaged areas, are going to school hungry and struggle to participate. After School Clubs can again provide effective support, particularly to children from disadvantaged backgrounds where they are less likely to be supported with school work at home. Research would show those children who are struggling with school work are also more likely not to attend, further impacting on their achievement outcomes.

As evidenced above, low attendance and poverty are inextricably linked. There is a key importance to monitoring attendance and the provision of support in addressing it to ensure the child or young person is fully supported to attend education. There needs to be a promotion of young carers' needs as they are an unidentifiable group and are at risk of low attendance/attainment.

HELPING all our children and young people where they need support for their learning and well-being

With regard to helping children and young people, Mid Ulster District Council believes that recognising and addressing the needs created by family environment is imperative if help is to be targeted and meaningful. Family environment has a major impact on a child's educational attainment and experience. Various issues within a family unit, such as physical and mental health problems, abuse, financial difficulties, can affect a child greatly and his/her ability to learn. A cross departmental whole family approach is required to address the health, economic and educational issues within the family, in order to achieve the best outcomes.

Family Learning Centres aim to provide parents with the support, knowledge and guidance that they need to support their child to achieve their full potential and overcome the barriers to learning that they are experiencing. Effective programmes delivered specifically to address educational attainment and poverty within Neighbourhood Renewal areas in Mid Ulster are the Family Learning Programme (FLP) and the Primary Attendance Matters Programme (PAM). The aim of the FLP is to ensure that parents are provided with the skills needed to help their children at home, ensuring a good link is forged and nurtured between home and school. The aim of the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programme is to help parents to develop their written and spoken English skills, which will ultimately help them to assist their children at home.

INSPIRING all our children and young people to make a positive contribution to society.

Inspiring our children and young people should begin at the earliest possible juncture and as such Mid Ulster District Council believes that there should be a clear focus on early years development and this is fundamental to improving the outcomes of young people. Mid Ulster Community Planning supports the huge benefits of early years programmes and acknowledges the great work carried out by local organisations. However, too often these programmes are targeted by methods such as geographical areas of disadvantage. Whilst the Council acknowledges the need for area based intervention to address disadvantage and that this is recognised by Mid Ulster Community Planning, it can however, exclude pockets of severe deprivation that exists across the district. All early years intervention programmes must be made available to those identified by relevant services regardless of their post code. Mid Ulster District

Council would also advocate that all pre-school children are allocated 30 hours per week in a pre-school setting in line with other regions of the UK.

Meeting the LEARNING needs of our children and young people and developing their knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential.

In relation to meeting the learning needs of our children and young people there are a number of ways that the Council feel that the DE could act in order to enable and fulfil potentials to be met. These areas include:

Pre-School Provision

Mid Ulster District Council's Members have previously highlighted their concerns regarding the complex pre-school education process delivered through a combination of nursery units, primary schools with nursery units, and the voluntary/private sector. It remains the Members' opinion that primary schools with attached nursery units have an advantage over primary schools without. Some parents are willing to travel beyond the catchment area of their nearest primary school without pre-school provision so that their child can attend another school's nursery unit and then progress to that primary school. Boards of Governors of schools with nursery units are able to set their own criteria and can facilitate this practice.

Members call for intervention by the Department of Education with more stringent regulation of schools admissions criteria and close alignment between EA Area Planning and the Early Years Directorate in the delivery of Pre School and Primary School Provision.

Special Educational Needs

The Council is aware of the significant pressures in the SEN sector and welcomes the investment that has been made to date to meet immediate need to date. However, Mid Ulster are keen to ensure that appropriate funding provisions are put in place as soon as possible so that our children can be educated in the closest school that meets a wide range of complex needs and ensures access to the best educational pathway possible.

DELIVERING an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system.

Regarding delivery, there is an apparent lack of clarity around special education provisions set out by the DE and the provision made by Health Trusts. Mid Ulster District Council's Members are aware of young people under the age of 18 attending facilities such as Parkanaur College, Dungannon and the Buddy Bear Trust. The lack of co-terminosity between the two Health Trusts serving Mid Ulster brings its own challenges in navigating the different health and social care services provided by both Trusts in the district. The lack of clarity around the role of Health Trusts and DE in planning for and providing special education further compounds this issue. Addressing

this issue would certainly contribute to the delivery of an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system.

Mid Ulster District Council would also like to take this opportunity to put forward the following views on the strategic priorities detailed in this consultation. Each strategic priority is examined below:

COLLABORATING – Partnering with our stakeholders to support co-production and achievement of shared outcomes.

Mid Ulster District Council would point out, that to strengthen the delivery of this corporate plan and see greater benefit a whole joined up working system approach be taken. This delivery style should also take cognisance of what is happening through the 11 Council areas at local district levels, many of whom are delivering Community Planning actions for vulnerable children and young people.

OPTIMISING – Prioritising, modernising and making most efficient use of our resources to achieve the greatest impact, including stopping or changing activities that don't make the difference we want.

In terms of making the greatest impact, Mid Ulster District Council would consider that the review of change to the use of Free School Meals (FSM) numbers as criteria to assess schools' access to programmes ie after schools.

While the Council acknowledges that there must be some assessment criteria, FSM are not always an accurate assessment of need – particularly for families known as the working poor, who do not qualify. Schools have indicated that they have been unable to access DE/EA programmes because they do not have sufficient numbers of pupils on FSM but there are many children who would benefit greatly. A review of the use of this criteria would certainly make a great positive change for many schools that can pass this onto their pupils and their families.

RESPONDING – Addressing the long term impacts of the pandemic and other emerging challenges and needs faced by our children and young people and the education workforce.

There are a number of ways in which Mid Ulster District Council feel that DE could respond to addressing the impacts of the recent pandemic, including:

- It is now clear that IT equipment are essential items for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to work towards improving their educational attainment. The recent pandemic has highlighted this as a major issue for children and it should be responded to robustly

- The pandemic has also shed light on the requirement for the delivery of equitable access to services and curriculum choices across Northern Ireland, this includes rural and disadvantaged communities.
- A funding and investment response is also required in relation to schools who have been able to clearly demonstrate that their school buildings/sites are not fit for purpose, and in some cases substandard.
- School transport is also a continuing challenge for DE and EA which requires urgent attention in order to find long term solutions. Issues such as overcrowding on school transport, a lack of structure and continuity in relation to transport for SEN pupils and provision in rural areas can have lasting and detrimental impacts for children and young people travelling to their education provision setting. Logistical issues should be addressed in a coherent way that produce effective outcomes.

ENGAGING – Communicating and consulting with our stakeholders to help shape our future services

Mid Ulster District Council welcomes DE's proposal for additional engagement with stakeholders. The Council has responsibility for the facilitation and delivery of Community Planning within the district of which the Education Authority is a statutory partner. The Mid Ulster Community Plan shares similar aims of DE's Draft strategic priorities and will continue to work directly with EA and other partners from across the statutory and voluntary sectors to improve the wellbeing of our children and young people, delivering positive and long lasting educational outcomes. Additional stakeholder contribution opportunities from the Council via the Community Planning function would be encouraged if it can be demonstrated that it will help to positively shape our future DE services in the District.

Finally Mid Ulster District Council would like to offer any assistance necessary to the DE, either through Council or Community Planning, to achieve the best outcomes for the children of Mid Ulster.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Cora Corry

Chair of Mid Ulster District Council

Report on	Correspondence to Council
Date of Meeting	Thursday 24 November 2022
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	E Forde, Members 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	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 Fermanagh & Omagh District Council</p> <p>The Chief Executive has received correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council requesting consideration of a motion carried by them concerning the Implementation of ROMPs Legislation. Refer to Appendix A</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from Department of Education</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Education with regard to St Mary's Primary School, Fivemiletown. Refer to Appendix B</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Department of Education</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Education with regard to School Transport difficulties. Refer to Appendix C</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)</p> <p>The Chair has received a response from the NIHE with regard to concerns expressed by Council in relation to planned contract works. Refer to Appendix D</p>

3.5	Correspondence from Newry, Mourne, Down District Council The Chief Executive has received correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council requesting consideration of a motion carried by them concerning the Cost of Living Crisis. Refer to Appendix E
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: Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Appendix B: Permanent Secretary – Department of Education Appendix C: Permanent Secretary – Department of Education Appendix D: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 7 November 2022

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office, Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Chief Executive,

Re: Motion – Implementation of ROMPs Legislation

At the recent Council meeting held on 1 November 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion:

This Council notes with concern how, since Local Government Reform in April 2015, the Department for Infrastructure (and the Department for the Environment before that) has failed to commence section 129 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 on the Review of Old Minerals Permissions (ROMPs).

Members are concerned that such delays in legislating for the need for historic minerals permissions to comply with modern-day environmental standards have already given rise to significant environmental harm that are beginning to impose undue liabilities and responsibilities on public authorities due to repeated Ministerial decisions since 2006 not to commence ROMPs legislation.

In recognition of the considerable pressures that the implementation of ROMPs will place on the financial and staffing resources of this Council, it is considered unreasonable to have these responsibilities and liabilities imposed upon it due to past Departmental decisions and delays.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to legislate for the removal of responsibility for the implementation, administration and delivery of ROMPs from this, and all local authorities, and to be implemented, administered and delivered by his Department in the interests of fairness, consistency, accountability and the public good as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore, we will contact the other Councils in the North to support this call and to make similar representation to the Minister/Department for Infrastructure.

The Council trusts that you will support this Motion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alison McCullagh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

**From the Permanent Secretary
Mark Browne**

Councillor Cora Corry
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
DUNGANNON
BT71 6DT

E-mail: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Tel: 028 9127 9309
Email: mark.browne@education-ni.gov.uk

SCORR 0099 2022

11 November 2022

Dear Cora

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL (PS), FIVEMILETOWN

Thank you for your letter of 1 November 2022 regarding St Mary's Primary School (PS), Fivemiletown.

The Council's support for the school has been noted. I should explain that any significant change to a school, including its closure, requires the publication of a statutory Development Proposal (DP). The Department's role in the DP process commences once a proposal is published. Publication of a DP initiates a two-month objection period during which anyone can submit their views on a proposal directly to the Department.

At present, the Education Authority (EA) is undertaking pre-publication consultation in relation to DP 694 which proposes that **"St Mary's Primary School, Fivemiletown will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter"**. The pre-publication consultation ends on 23 November 2022.

Following the pre-publication consultation on DP 694, should the EA decide to publish the proposal, you may wish to resubmit your views during the statutory objection period.

At the end of the two-month statutory objection period the Department compiles and assesses all the relevant information in relation to the DP before making a recommendation to the Minister/Permanent Secretary. The recommendation takes account of:

- the proposer's Case for Change (CfC);
- objections received within the two-month objection period;
- other views including those of support received within the two-month objection period;
- advice from policy teams within the Department;

- the professional advice of the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) for the Department of Education (DE);
- an assessment of the school against all six of the criteria and indicators as set out in the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) with no weighting applied to their individual importance; and
- any other information considered pertinent to the proposal including an Equality Impact and Rural Impact assessment (if applicable).

Careful consideration is taken of the Department's recommendation and a decision is taken in the context of the Department's statutory duties, stated priorities, education policies and what is in the best interests of children and young people.

I trust this clarifies the current position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Browne', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

MARK BROWNE (Dr)

**From the Permanent Secretary
Mark Browne**

Councillor Cora Corry
Mid Ulster District Council
info@midulstercouncil.org



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
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Tel: 028 9127 9309
Email: mark.browne@education-ni.gov.uk

11 November 2022

Dear Cora

SCHOOL TRANSPORT – DIFFICULTIES CONTACTING EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Thank you for your letter of 31 October in relation to the difficulties experienced when contacting the Education Authority (EA) and your request for contact details for EA officers.

As you may be aware, the Department of Education is responsible for home to school transport policy and the EA for the operation and delivery of the policy, which includes determining eligibility for transport assistance. I have therefore forwarded your request to the EA and asked it to respond to you directly.

Yours sincerely

MARK BROWNE (Dr)

From: [Palmer, David](#)
To: [Eileen Forde](#)
Cc: [McLaughlin, Maria](#)
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Mid Ulster District Council
Date: 11 November 2022 20:58:56
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good Evening Eileen,

Further to your correspondence of the 1st November in relation to the planned maintenance contracts within the Mid Ulster District Council.

Following the announcement on the 26th October of the agreement to release ten contractors from planned maintenance contracts as a result of escalating cost, arrangements were made directly for the local Housing Executive office to write to the tenants impacted by any delays. The letters offered reassurance to our tenants of our commitment to deliver the improvements to their homes and that we are doing everything in our power to make sure this work is started as soon as possible.

We are currently exploring the possibility of using frameworks to bring the schemes to the market quicker, however if this is unsuccessful, it is envisaged that the schemes will go to market at the end of January/early February 2023 with a June 2023 Board approval. Initial survey/design and approval phase (at clearing house) is anticipated to be August – November 2023, with proposed December 2023 on site start date. Despite the extremely difficult economic conditions, our ambition is to increase expenditure in our programmes to over £200m in 2022/23, which is good news for our tenants and for the construction industry across Northern Ireland.

We have been engaging with the industry, contractors and partner organisations, and it is clear that the economic environment will take a long period to recover. We must continue to ensure that there is minimal disruption to programmes of work while at the same time ensure that contracts are value for money and are sustainable for the construction industry. It is hoped that we can continue to scale up our programmes as we navigate extremely difficult economic conditions.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

David Palmer
Regional Programme Delivery Manager
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Email: david.palmer@nihe.gov.uk
Ext: 85146
Tel : 02895985146
Mob: 07436354459

HousingExecutive

From: McLaughlin, Maria <Maria.McLaughlin@NIHE.GOV.UK>
Sent: 03 November 2022 15:52

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



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

Our ref: C/183/2022

14 November 2022

Dear Chief Executive

Re: Notice of Motion – Government help with Cost of Living Crisis

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 7 November 2022 the following motion was agreed:

"Over the past few months and due to a variety of reasons and circumstances we have seen price hikes and increases on a wide scale that have impacted severely on so many in our district resulting in hardship and unable to make ends meet. Newry Mourne and Down District Council demands that the Government put in place much needed measures to provide much necessary help and support to residents of the District who have been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. If this motion is adopted Council writes to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, also the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland enlisting their support for this motion".

Members spoke at length about concerns for everyone affected by and impacted by price rises on a daily basis for everyday essentials and how the absence of the Assembly was only exacerbating the already dire situation.

Members fully supported the motion and the need for immediate action to deal with the crisis.

I would ask that you give this matter serious consideration and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

