



22 April 2021

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in  
The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road,  
Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 22 April 2021 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

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

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

### Matters for Decision

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| 4. Council minutes of meeting held on 25 March 2021  | 3 - 26  |
| 5. Policy and Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 8 April 2021  | 27 - 34 |
| 6. Planning Committee minutes of meeting held 12 April 2021  |         |
| 7. Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 13 April 2021  | 35 - 48 |
| 8. Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2021  | 49 - 70 |
| 9. Civic Recognition Nominations   | 71 - 76 |
| 10. Council & Committee Meeting Governance Arrangements  | 77 - 78 |
| 11. Submission of the draft Plan Strategy to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to Cause an Independent Examination | 79 - 90 |

### Matters for Information

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| 12. Correspondence | 91 - 106  |
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**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 25 March 2021
15. Policy and Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 April 2021
16. Planning Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 April 2021
17. Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 April 2021
18. Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2021
19. Document for Sealing: 'Supplemental Deed to lease of lands at Blackrock Road, Beaghmore, Cookstown, in connection with the Davagh Solar Walk'.

Matters for Information

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 25 March 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means**

**Chair** Councillor Mallaghan

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

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

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

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

**C0049/21 Apologies**

None

**C050/21 Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillor Black declared an interest *agenda item 22 Council Insurances 2021/22.*

**C051/21 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reflected that there had now been over 6700 deaths from COVID, he said it was wonderful that case numbers were falling that Fermanagh & Omagh had no new cases but noted it was unfortunate that Mid Ulster cases were remaining stubbornly high and urged everyone to keep following guidelines.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that a letter of request had been received from Fairtrade to illuminate buildings to highlight Fairtrade week and proposed that Council proceed. He further requested that Communications promote fair trade week.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That Council

- (i) Light up Ranfurly House & Visitor Centre, Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre and Bridewell as requested to highlight Fairtrade Week; and
- (ii) That Communications Service highlight Fairtrade Week.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reflected on recent discussions regarding the closure of the Bank of Ireland and advised that a delegation had met with bank officials earlier in the day. He said the officials had spoken at length about the process and it was apparent that the decisions had been made. The Chair advised that the link for the meeting had been issued by the Bank of Ireland and noted that some Members had not been able to connect.

Councillor Monteith said that both Councillor Molloy and himself had been unable to access the link and proposed that Council set up the link for the follow up meeting.

Members were advised that they would receive a briefing paper.

Councillor Quinn seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and requested that the next meeting invitation should be extended to all Members.

Councillor Cuddy said he had attended the pre meeting but could not access the meeting with Bank of Ireland officials and stated it did not reflect well on them.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by 'Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That in regard to Bank of Ireland branch Closure: Dungannon, Council seek a further meeting and virtual meeting link be generated and issued by Council. All Members to be invited

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan highlighted that he had been at President Grant Homestead and he had been approached by parents who had advised that there was a lack of wheelchair accessible play equipment in the play area. The Chair advised he had spoken to the Director of Outdoor Leisure and Recreation regarding the ongoing procurement process for four new play areas and he proposed that wheelchair accessible equipment be included in the tender.

Councillor Monteith supported the proposal and referred to a public meeting at a Dungannon area play park in relation to the same issue. He stated there were only two accessible play areas across the six counties which were fully compliant and if it were possible to have a number throughout the district it would be beneficial. Councillor Monteith concluded that he understood it was a niche market but emphasised it was vital for some.

Councillor Doris supported the proposal stating that in 2017 she had proposed that any newly developed play area contain disability friendly equipment. She highlighted that play areas at Washingbay and Stewartstown which had been progressed through neighbourhood renewal had wheelchair friendly roundabouts so Council was travelling in the right direction.

Councillor McLean concurred saying that he had received representations on the matter and was awaiting further information which he would pass on when available.

Councillor McFlynn concurred with the proposal and stated that approximately £1m was invested at Ballyronan Marina and she too had spoken with the Director of Outdoor Leisure and Recreation as all children should be able to use play equipment.

Councillor McKinney advised that whilst he did not want to reiterate what had been previously said posed the question that perhaps Council policy whilst already supporting accessible equipment may need updated to ensure compliance for all.

Councillor Wilson stated he had been contacted by groups regarding Fairhill Park and Drumanard Park as equipment was not always in working order so frequent checks were needed.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that the Director of Outdoor Leisure and Recreation was currently progressing four new play areas but also would be looking at wider facilitation going forward.

Councillor Burton welcomed the refurbishment of the play area at President Grants and said that in the future a wheelchair user swing could be included. She advised that there was accessible equipment in Augher playground and concurred with previous speakers regarding wheelchair friendly equipment. The Councillor concluded that life often proved challenging for families and children with disabilities deserve equal facilitation.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan

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Seconded by Councillor Gildernew

**Resolved** That Wheelchair Accessible Play equipment be included in current procurement exercise regarding four new play areas. Wider facilitation of Wheelchair Accessible Play equipment to be utilised across the district.

Councillor Molloy drew attention to communication which Members had received regarding the recent pay claim for Further Education Lecturers and highlighted that whilst the colleges were direct employers thus responsible for terms and conditions the Department for the Economy was responsible for funding. He referred to the two excellent colleges within the district whose service was second to none and proposed that Council write to the Department calling on them to provide adequate funding for Further Education Colleges and to offer support to the unions representing the lecturers. It was noted that the current pay offer which reflected 1.2% over a nine year period which was the lowest throughout the public sector.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal and concurred with the comments highlighting that throughout the pandemic additional pressure had been put on all teaching staff and they deserved recognition.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

**Resolved** That

- (i) Council write to Minister for Economy lobbying for the provision of funding for acceptable pay claims for FE College Lecturers; and
- (ii) Council write to the relevant Unions to offer support.

Councillor Wilson proposed that Council illuminate designated buildings to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Northern Ireland. He stated that he was aware that the proposal would have to be considered by the policy and resources committee. The Councillor also asked when Members could expect to receive the final report on events to mark the centenary. In response the Chief Executive stated that the report was imminent.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

**Resolved** That a request to illuminate Council property to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland on 5<sup>th</sup> May is referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.

Councillor Cuthbertson expressed concern that Dungannon did not appear to feature with the Minister for Finance as he did not respond to letters and highlighted that Dungannon had not been considered in relation to the recent announcement for eight hubs for civil service employees. He stated that Dungannon would be ideal due to its close proximity to the motorway and said that 150 employees operating in

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Dungannon town would be a great boost to the local economy. He said that it would also be beneficial for Cookstown and Magherafelt. Councillor Cuthbertson asked if Council had lobbied for a hub and if so what progress had been made. He proposed that Council write again to the Minister for Finance and to the Executive Office to seek responses.

In response to comments regarding the regional hub the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that Council had sent a letter together with a list of publicly owned assets for the Ministers consideration.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to concerns raised with him by the Low Country Honey Bee Association regarding the circumvention of restrictions by importation of bees to Great Britain from the European Union via the North of Ireland. He stated that this could result in contamination of native honey bees and proposed that Council support the Native Irish Honey Bee Association in their campaign and also invite them to make a presentation to a relevant committee.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That

- (i) Council to write to the Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association offering its support in the campaign against importation of the native honeybees; and
- (ii) The Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association is invited to make a presentation to Council.

Councillors Cuddy concurred with Councillor Kerr's comments stating this is serious threat to local honey bees.

Councillor Quinn also concurred and shared he had read an article that reported English business men had reckoned they had found a way of importing the bees from Europe via Northern Ireland which would allow them to enter via the back door. He stated the risk of contamination could wipe out Irish bees and many English bee keepers were not happy about the situation either.

Councillor Cuddy referred to previous discussion in relation to the civil service hubs and stated that he had read in the article that Antrim, Newtownabbey, Bangor, Newtownards all mentioned and yet again Dungannon has not been able to avail of central government jobs. He was emphatic that there should be a hub in Mid Ulster and concurred with Councillor Cuthbertson and said much effort was being made to liaise with the Bank of Ireland and this should be the same. He said if the area did not make the radar now it would lose out and highlighted that both the First and Deputy First Minister represented the District yet it did not feature.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan agreed and stated if a response had not been received by the next meeting it would be followed up. Referring to the situation

regarding the honey bees the Chair stated he was glad the matter had been raised and looked forward to the forthcoming presentation.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to the ongoing issue regarding the aerodrome at Ardboe. He highlighted that the former Cookstown Council had endeavoured to have the matter addressed, that more recently Patsy McGlone MLA had done likewise and the answer was always there is no funding. Councillor Quinn proposed that Council write to the following Stormont departments Finance, Economy, Communities and DAERA to request a joint meeting with Council and local stakeholders to try to establish a resolution. He stated that a long term investment plan was required that there was many issues including that of right of ways and all concerned needed to be at the discussion table as back in the day the government had built the aerodrome and it was not acceptable that they just walk away.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal acknowledging that it would not be a quick fix but Council facilitating a meeting may kick start progress. He said he had contacted the local DfI Section Engineer in the past to no avail and Council needed to be stern in its approach and a change of attitude was needed by other statutory bodies.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That Council facilitate a joint meeting with Members, Officers, Department of Finance, Department for the Economy, Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, DAERA, together with local stakeholders to work towards a long term investment plan for Ardboe Aerodrome.

Councillor N McAleer concurred stating that it was a saga and major investment was needed and as time passed the worse its state of repair. He said that in previous conversations the general power of competency had been muted but the investment needed went far beyond its means.

Councillor Burton highlighted that the Caledon postmaster had received an award for 50 years of service to the rural village and asked that a letter be forwarded to Mr Roy Allen to acknowledge this. The Councillor told how he had worked in the rural shop as a young teenager and how his daughter also had a business in the small town.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan agreed.

**Resolved** That the Chair send a letter to Roy Allen, Caledon Post Master to commend him on 50 years' service to Caledon Community in this role.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan acknowledged the twelve and a half years' service of the Director of Environment and Property Mr Andrew Cassells who was now retiring from Council. He stated he had been a member of the Senior Management Team as well as being a key player in the legacy Magherafelt Council and that the



targets Mid Ulster achieved in recycling and reduction in waste landfill was tribute to his good management. He wished him every success in the future and presented him with a small gift.

The Director of Environment and Property expressed his thanks to the Chair.

Councillor McLean concurred with the Chair's remarks and said as a former Magherafelt Councillor he had found Andrew to be upfront and forthright and whilst he may not have been saying what you wanted to hear he was honest and a man of integrity. Councillor McLean wished him a long and happy retirement.

Councillor S McPeake thanked Andrew for his sterling work stating he had brought great accolades to the legacy Magherafelt and to Mid Ulster who could attribute environmental success to his leadership and foresight.

Councillor Kearney concurred saying Andrew was a dedicated officer who had been very supportive to him when he joined Magherafelt as a new Councillor and stated he did not think that Council had heard the end of him yet!

Councillor Cuddy on behalf of the UUP thanked Andrew for his contribution to Council and declared he was an expert in his field. He extended good wishes to him in retirement and his new directions of travel.

The Chief Executive on behalf of the Senior Management Team extended good wishes to Andrew stating he had first encountered him in 2014 and since then he had been a fantastic work colleague and friend on the management team. He said that often the top could be lonely and journeys rocky but Andrew always brought a steady head to choppy waters. The Chief Executive said he had been a key figure in local government in England, Scotland, Belfast and had been down the mines before and after the miners strikes and told many stories of his experiences. He concluded by wishing Andrew well and stated when the pandemic had past and restrictions were lifted they looked forward to an apt send off.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **C052/21      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 25 February 2021**

In response to Councillor Cuthbertson's query regarding the flooding of derelict building on Old Eglish Road the Director of Environment and Property the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that a report would be presented to committee in due course in the coming months.

Councillor Cuthbertson highlighted that following three letters being sent from Council to the Minister for the Department of Finance in relation to rates holidays due to COVID no response had been received and proposed that Council now write to the Executive Office.

Councillor Burton drew attention to of the minutes *C025/21 Chair's Business Rural Roads*, and asked was there an update or response following Council writing to the Minister for Department of Infrastructure.

In response the Chair Councillor Mallaghan advised that the letter had been sent and there was no response to date.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 25 February 2021 (C023/21 – C037/21 and C048/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C053/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 1 March 2021**

Councillor Clarke requested an amendment to the minute page 15 S008/21 Adequacy of Council's Reserves for 2021/22 amend first paragraph to close “....and would second the recommendation of 1.59% increase”.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Special Council held on Monday 1 March 2021 (SC001/21 – SC009/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C054/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 2 March 2021**

Councillor Doris drew attention to page 11 of the planning minute's application LA09/2019/0838/F regarding Coalisland Men's shed. She advised that she had raised the matter at the development committee and had asked if the environmental issues had been required prior to COVID. Councillor Doris said that the issue had been raised with her and Francie Molloy MLA and as an elected representative she would endeavour to resolve issues for her constituents. She suggested to Councillor Quinn that he should perhaps speak to the group and going forward be more supportive of the project.

In response Councillor Quinn advised he had spoken with Members of the Men's Shed and was fully supportive of the project. He concluded that his comments at the Planning Committee were made to ensure Council was aware of the facts, that there

would be no conflict of issues and he had been unaware as to which Member had raised the issue at Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 2 March 2021 (P028/21 – P035/21 and P049/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing amendment, were considered and adopted.

**C055/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 4 March 2021**

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 4 March 2021 (PR043/21 – PR056/21 and PR067/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C056/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9 March 2021**

Councillor Kerr drew attention to

- *E070/21 Department of Health – Draft Mental Health Strategy* and stated that he welcomed the response and noted that post COVID mental health was going to be even more problematic;
- *E071/21 Minutes of the Environment Committee held on 9 February 2021* with regard to the issue on Coalisland Recycling Centre and asked for a report to be brought to committee as it was his understanding there had been further issues at the site concerning machinery parts needing to be purchased from New Zealand;
- *E078/21 Live Here Love Here* in relation to roundabout enhancement that the Dernia and Upper Clonoe roundabouts be included and the scheme not just restricted to Cookstown and Dungannon.

In response the Director of Environment and Property advised that a report would be brought to committee regarding issues at Coalisland Recycling Centre and clarified that the equipment in question had been made in New Zealand and parts were not being purchased from so far afield. With regard to the query regarding roundabout enhancement schemes the Director advised that Council had a policy and officers had to work within its parameters.

Councillor S McAleer referred to *E068/21 DAERA – Valuing Nature* and requested a progress report regarding ongoing issues in the vicinity of St Aine’s burial site at Knockmany. Speaking of the site she highlighted that local Councillors had lobbied for improvements which had been a huge success story highlighting in particular the facilities together with the routes for walkers and wheelchair users but stressed that users must feel safe and if the use of trails needed to be broadened further discussion was required.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor S McAleer’s comments.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Kerr’s proposal with regard to broadening the enhancement of roundabouts and stated that Council should work with local communities.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That Council work with local communities and explore the inclusion of further roundabouts in enhancement schemes.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *E065/21 NIHE Draft Cavity Wall Action Plan* and stated that the matter raises wider issues about fitness standards for housing highlighting that at present there is a very piecemeal approach and a joint up approach was required. He referred to the withdrawal twelve years ago of home improvement grant facility which allowed home owners, landlords and tenants to keep windows, doors and heating systems to an acceptable standard.

Councillor Monteith proposed that an all Member workshop be held to prepare a paper regarding fitness standards for housing which in turn could be used as a lobbying tool for housing standards, inspections and adequate resources to be in place to bring houses up to scratch.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That an all Member workshop be held to prepare a paper with regard to Fitness Standards of Housing, the paper to be a tool to lobby for housing standards, inspections and adequate resources to be in place to ensure housing is up to scratch.

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to *E062/21 Chair’s Business bin collection Drum Road* and stated that a report was to be brought to the Environment Committee with regards to the changes introduced on the route and sought an update on the changes and the savings in relation to same.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor S McAleer’s comments regarding ongoing issues at Knockmany and emphasised that Council needed to take action to overcome the ongoing issues. She referred to a ramp which had been erected and

also that people felt unsafe walking for fear of being hit by a mountain bike users. Councillor Burton in relation to insurance asked what Council's position would be if someone was injured especially given that the clocks were changing and the usage would increase. Councillor Burton highlighted that mountain bike users could use the facility at the Blessingbourne site at a cost of approximately £5 she further advised that she had been asked if a feature to mark the tomb could be erected. Councillor Burton proposed that a meeting be held with officers, walkers and Elected Members.

Councillor Burton referred to the discussion regarding roundabout enhancement and stated that with regard to the scheme at Fivemiletown she had received complaints that the flowers were rotted by the time they were being planted at the scheme.

Councillor Ashton in relation to issues at Knockmany asked if bicycles were permitted on the walking trails and highlighted that many of the issues were with the more adventurous building trails through the forest. She also stated that the damage at the top of the trails was unsightly and some people were using the place to dispose of litter.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal for a meeting and suggested the Forest service should also be invited to attend.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council progress an all Member meeting in relation to ongoing issues at Knockmany Forest. Forest Service also to be invited to attend.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 9 March 2021 (E060/21 – E078/21 and E090/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C057/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2021**

Councillor Quinn drew attention to safety issues with regard to a swing at the play park at Killen and asked that although it was not listed within the five year strategy could it be looked at. He also drew attention to the play park and walkway at Washingbay and said it was a well utilised facility but stated he had received representation from residents with regard to the access road as it was extremely dangerous to turn both in and out of the site and proposed that council work with Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads to progress solutions.

Councillor Quinn also referred to the dog fouling at the Washingbay site and stated that more signs could be erected and highlighted that there was also an issue with human excrement being deposited close to the play area and stated that fouling was an ongoing issue and needed to be addressed.

Councillor Corry requested an Amendment to minute D052/21 Community Development – Derrynoid Forest “...*She said that this base was used as a hub and was a central point for Mid Ulster from other areas and was very popular with local people and was an ideal tourism area.*”

Councillor McNamee referred to Councillor Quinn’s request regarding Killen Play Area and stated that Council had determined the Five Year Strategy for play parks and had agreed schemes and budget and it would set a dangerous precedent to add others in.

Councillor Kerr supported Councillor Quinn with regard to Killen play area and stated that issues were being raised by residents and should be addressed. He further supported Councillor Quinn in relation to concerns expressed about Washingbay site access and stated that the matter needed to be addressed highlighting that there had been previous engagement with DfI Roads and Council officials and that they should be doing more to bring a resolution.

Councillor Doris concurred with regard to the Washinbay site but stated it was her understanding there was an issue with the landowner.

Councillor Doris drew attention to *D048/21 The Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation* and stated that a number of months ago she had proposed that a list be compiled of walking trails in the district and sought an update on same.

In response the Chief Executive advised that it was a work in progress with marketing and tourism sections being added but assured that Members would receive an update.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan suggested that there should be a separate website to promote Mid Ulster walks stating that the one good thing arising from the pandemic was that people were exploring local facilities. Councillor McKinney suggested that the promotion of walkways should be by district electoral area with information as to whether or not they were accessible for wheelchair users. He highlighted there was many hidden gems to be explored.

The Chief Executive reiterated that he would provide an update in relation to walkways. He referred to the concerns expressed regarding access issues at Washingbay and stressed that council officers could engage with DfI Road but it was the politicians who had influence. He suggested that a meeting be progressed with DfI Roads and elected Members emphasising which would provide Members the opportunity to exert influence directly.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor Kerr and proposed the suggestion by the Chief Executive that a meeting be progressed.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal and again stressed that the role of Council is to ensure the safety of the residents and users of the site and more engagement was needed. He concurred that Members could influence but stated that officers too needed to be proactive.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated when everyone worked collectively the best results were achieved.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That Council arrange a site meeting at Washingbay Play Area for DEA Members and DfI to discuss sight line issues entering and exiting the site.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 11 March 2021 (D044/21 – D055/21 and D058 /21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

#### **C058/21 Requests for Civic Recognition**

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

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

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

#### **C059/21 Response Programme for Government Outcomes Framework 2021**

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report making Members aware of the draft consultation response developed on behalf of the Council in response to the Consultation being undertaken on the draft Programme for Government.

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the draft response as outlined in the report. It was noted that the Department had approved a late submission by Monday 29 March.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That Council submit the response to the programme for Government Outcomes Framework 2021.

## **Matters for Information**

### **C060/21 Correspondence**

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

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to correspondence from Derry and Strabane District Council with regard to their motion on calling on the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to conduct a feasibility study on rail connections and the rail network and proposed that Council support the request.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal stating the neglect of infrastructure west of the Bann was not only a disgrace but an act of vandalism and a major detriment to local communities. He highlighted that money could be sourced to promote pipe dreams and vanity projects such as bridges to Scotland yet there was no money for residents living in areas where infrastructure has been decimated.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That Council support the motion raised by Derry City and Strabane District Council and write to the DfI to express same.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the correspondence from Minister for the Economy and the mention of the High Street Task Force, he asked if Council had received the terms of reference for same, if Council were engaged and suggested a workshop regarding the issue.

In response the Chief Executive stated he had heard an interview on the radio regarding the task force and advised that only Belfast City Council had representation on it and it had been highlighted that rural and those west of the Bann should be included. He advised further information would be brought to the development committee and that a meeting would be sought with the taskforce.

**Resolved** That Council seek a meeting with the High Street Task Force highlighted in correspondence from the Department for the Economy.



Councillor N McAleer drew attention to the correspondence received from DAERA which had been emailed to Members. He advised that it was in response to letter forwarded by Council concerning support to the Lough Neagh fishing industry and expressed disappointment in the response given that the pandemic had been ongoing for a year and the industry had received no support. He proposed that Council write yet again requesting a time line for the support mentioned in the letter.

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

**Resolved** That Council to write to Minister for DAERA seeking a time line for support to Lough Neagh fishing industry.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to the correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commissioner and expressed concern that part of Torrent area had been included in Dungannon electoral area and posed the question as to why this was so.

Councillor Kerr highlighted that Council should request that Maghera should be reverted back to Mid Ulster from ABC Council and suggested that Council compile a corporate response regarding local boundary issues.

Councillor Kerr also drew attention to the correspondence from NI Ambulance Service and stated he would like to see a meeting as soon as possible as ambulances were experiencing difficulty finding houses.

In response the Chief Executive stated that there was an offer of a virtual information session with the Local Government Boundary Commission and if Members were minded to engage in the process a corporate response could be prepared.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that different parties may have a different viewpoint.

Councillor Brown proposed that Council avail of the virtual information session with the Commission and stated that everything would be tagged by legislation and Members needed direction.

Councillor Wilson drew attention to correspondence from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and stated that it was vital that Council publicise the necessity to have house numbers displayed at the end of lanes. He proposed that Council avail of the offer to meet with the NIAS.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council progress meeting with NI Ambulance Service.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal to meet with the Local Government Boundary Commission and concurred with Councillor Kerr's view that there would be

issues which would meet corporate agreement and arguments are stronger if all parties agree. Speaking on the issue around the Tyrone side of the river the Councillor said there is tidying up across district electoral areas also. Councillor Monteith said that political parties could submit their own responses also.

Councillor Doris stated that Sinn Féin had lobbied for some time with regard to lands at the Tyrone side of Maghera as there was a lot of potential and she would support getting the matter progressed.

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That Council progress a meeting with the NI Ambulance Service.

#### **C061/21 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council**

Members considered the previously circulated report.

Councillor Clarke drew attention to the consultation listed as Private Members Bill (Declan McAleer MLA) Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) and proposed that Council submit a response.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council submit response to Private Members Bill (Declan McAleer MLA) Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)

#### **C062/21 Notice of Motion**

Councillor Corry moved the motion

“That this Council Expresses its concern with the continued attempts by the British Government to undermine the Good Friday Agreement; Notes that responsibility and powers concerning housing, communities, and local government are devolved to the north of Ireland; Views the proposed opening of a Whitehall Department office for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in Belfast as a power grab and a further attempt to undermine devolution; Believes firmly that local democratically elected representatives in the north of Ireland are best placed to make the decisions on behalf of people here who elect them; Urges greater progress for the further transfer of powers from Britain and not these backward steps by the British Government; Commits to writing to the Joint First Ministers explaining our concerns with the harmful approach of the British Government and its impact on our Peace Process.”

Councillor Corry commenting on the motion stated,

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*“It should be alarming to all local elected representatives, that Whitehall has recently announced that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government plans to open an office in Belfast. This fundamentally undermines the legislative basis of the Good Friday Agreement and the operation of power sharing in the north. In the past few weeks we have seen various attempts by the Tory Government at undermining our devolved governments and indeed our power sharing arrangements. Just yesterday the devolved finance ministers of Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland released a joint statement, expressing their concerns on being bypassed on the allocation of replacement EU funds, of which there was a commitment made, that these powers would be devolved fully after Brexit. As well as breaking a commitment this creates, a new and separate layer of bureaucracy and a bidding process with no guarantee of success. The three ministers stated “It is ignoring our respective devolution arrangements, delivering funding to meet Whitehall’s priorities rather than those of the people of Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland.” This and plans to bring another Whitehall office here are blatant attempts to chip away at power sharing arrangements here and indeed the powers of the three devolved governments.*

*Locally our colleagues in the assembly, like ourselves, have been elected by the people here in the north, with a mandate, to work on their behalf and bring forward the priorities that matter to them. This move by Westminster treats citizens here with absolute contempt. It should be for local ministers to decide on local priorities and for the block grant to be funded appropriately.*

*The north and in particular west of the Bann has been underfunded for decades. Our local infrastructure is crumbling. I like everyone else here, I’m sure, is inundated with issues around the state of our roads, countless potholes, the need for resurfacing and larger scale projects to connect our towns and cities, insufficient broadband, mobile phone coverage, the virtual non-existence of a railway system. Once or twice a year, we have NI Water presenting to us that the system is at breaking point and that without investment it will have a severe impact on new building projects for homes and businesses, perhaps preventing them even happening.*

*Housing has been and is another priority, in November Carál Ní Chuilín announced the biggest housing reform programme the north has seen in decades, to ensure that every household has access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes that are appropriate to need. Minister Deirdre Hargey is working hard to ensure that this programme is carried out. Just this week ITV did a report on the unliveable conditions in high rise flats in Croydon, tower blocks still have flammable cladding in the wake of the Grenfell disaster. The Tory Government have much work they should be doing on their own doorstep and are not.*

*The fact is that responsibilities and powers for communities, housing and local government are devolved matters, we know what the priorities are as we work on them every day. I really don’t think we need the Tory Government with no mandate, to come here, to tell us what our priorities should be on infrastructure, housing or anything else for that matter.*

*This is about the narrow interests of Boris Johnson and his vanity projects, a man who led tax payers up the garden path, to the tune of 43 million on his failed garden bridge project. It is an attempted power grab by the Tory Government on the devolved administration's here in the north and in Scotland and Wales. We need to ensure that the legislative basis of the Good Friday Agreement through power sharing in the devolved assembly is protected. That those with a mandate from the people of the north are the ones that are making decisions locally, not the Tories, who do not hold a mandate and who do not know or care what people's priorities are. I would hope that my colleagues here tonight support the motion as proposed. That we can work together to seek the further transfer of powers as already committed too and not these backwards steps."*

Councillor D McPeake seconded the motion.

Councillor Black commented on the motion stating,

*"There has been a lot of commentary in recent days in response to this announcement by the UK Government, much of it alluding to an undermining of devolution. Firstly, I don't believe this is undermining the devolved institutions, rather I believe that this is a signal of the UK Government's intent to work in partnership with the Northern Ireland parties, to identify areas where a collective approach could deliver better outcomes for the people of Northern Ireland. Surely such an initiative should be welcomed, if viewed beyond the narrow scope some appear to be taking in respect of this matter. I also find myself somewhat bewildered by some of the comments, many of a similar vein to this motion, because the UK Government's plan to increase their visibility and involvement in Northern Ireland is clearly stated within the 'New Decade, New Approach' Agreement. Referencing 'Annex A, which is entitled - UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland' Point 7 states 'Scope the establishment of a Northern Ireland hub in London - complementing the Invest Northern Ireland London Hub - to provide an increased opportunity for Northern Ireland stakeholder engagement in London. In tandem, explore the creation of a UK Government hub in Northern Ireland to increase the visibility and accessibility of UK Government departments in Northern Ireland. Therefore, the announcement that the UK Government plan to establish offices in Northern Ireland should come as no real surprise, especially to the parties who have signed up to this agreement."*

*Further, I find this motion rather hypocritical and a case of Sinn Fein trying to ride two horses, as they are quite content to have Westminster involvement in Northern Ireland when it suits their agenda. For example, in the assembly over recent days, Sinn Fein abstained from voting on Westminster legislation to implement abortion services in Northern Ireland. Whilst lip service was given to being opposed to Westminster involvement, when push came to shove Sinn Fein facilitated Westminster involvement on this matter. There was no real concern with the UK Government's involvement in the devolved matter of health on this occasion."*

*Finally and in closing, Mr Chair, I think the member should reflect on the language used in this motion. Accusing the British Government of a so called 'power grab' and alluding to the damage the British Government's plans will have on our 'peace process' is incendiary and unhelpful language. It amounts to nothing more than sabre-rattling to play to the hard line elements in the nationalist/ republican community.*

*Such attitudes are depressing and I don't believe are reflective of many in our communities. Focusing on a collective approach, including, where appropriate, the devolved institutions working in partnership with the British Government to deliver positive outcomes for all our people, should be where our energies are focused. We will therefore not be supporting this motion."*

Councillor Wilson said that once again Council is debating a contentious motion over which it has no control and that if you were a cynic you would think there was an election in the offing. He said that the motion was factually incorrect as it speaks of the Good Friday Agreement, not the Belfast Agreement and that there is no such entity as the north of Ireland and certainly not in the agreement. The Councillor reminded the meeting that Northern Ireland receives a subvention of £10billion from the UK government and the block grant which is the funding used to run Stormont. He stated that devolution is a partnership and posed the question where would Northern Ireland currently be without the UK funding for furlough business grants not to mention the success of the vaccine roll out. Whilst Sinn Féin may prefer that Northern Ireland was part of the Republic far from criticising the United Kingdom they should be extending their thanks for continued support. Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor Black's comments in regard to 'New Decade New Approach' item 7, and stated that Sinn Féin say they support it but what did they think a UK hub would be and yet again they were cherry-picking from agreements.

Councillor Wilson proposed an amendment to the motion that it be marked read, saying that to save Council the embarrassment of passing a motion that was factually incorrect.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred with Councillor Black and proposed that the proposer of the motion and Sinn Féin would clarify what is meant by the last line of the motion and asked if they were not 100% committed to the peace process or is this a threat to it.

Councillor Quinn said that the Tory party stood a candidate in local elections who had received less than 3000 votes and thus the Tories have no mandate to impose priorities. He stated that they had not delivered the funding they committed to the New Decade New Approach nor had they turbo charged infrastructure requirements as they had promised. Councillor Quinn said whilst the SDLP welcomed all additional funding they did not agree that London should decide how it is spent highlighting that £20m is set aside for feasibility study on a bridge when this spend was much needed in infrastructure. He said elected representatives here Ministers, MLAs and Councillors should decide how money is spent not London. Councillor Quinn concluded that the crux of the problem was the Tory government had seen the

success of the Scottish National Party running Scotland and now on the verge of independence and were afraid of losing power. Councillor Quinn said the SDLP would support the motion.

Councillor McKinney seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal and said that a lot of comments had been made about the British government yet it was they who had looked after Northern Ireland especially over the past year. He also remarked on the talks of a bridge to Scotland and highlighted the boost this would be to the local economy as it would allow trade links with the United Kingdom within an hour. Councillor McKinney said he may not see the bridge in his lifetime but it would be welcome not just by Northern Ireland but also its neighbours in Eire who would also reap the benefits and unless you were really bitter and hard line you would recognise updated road links was much needed. Councillor McKinney said in conclusion all should remember that the British government is the paymaster and yet again this was tribal politics.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor McKinney

That the motion be marked Read.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan ruled out the proposal as it did not add or change the motion.

Councillor Monteith stated that listening to the debate you would not think that local people paid tax and as such were entitled to avail of the systems they pay into and reiterated that the six counties pay tax to the British government. He said that Sinn Féin signed up to the NDNA agreement and it did say it would create a presence and as an Irish republican he would object to this. He concluded that he had issues with the motion as he did not think it would achieve much but he would support it as he did not agree with British involvement.

Councillor Brown concurred with Councillor Black and picking up on both the SDLP and Sinn Féin speakers reminded them that in relation to the rights of abortion they made way for the Tories to impose laws in Northern Ireland reminding them that Colum Eastwood, Claire Hannah and the Alliance Party were all instrumental in making this happen.

Councillor Cuddy said he was a Northern Irish Unionist and unionism had been around for many years. He said that much of the debate tonight had been on issues not relating to the motion. With regard to the proposed hub he said that the government were doing this across the UK it would bring investment and create local jobs. Councillor Cuddy stated Council should welcome all investment should it be from Mars, he said that if Brussels was opening an office everyone would be delighted and that earlier in the meeting the discussion was getting a regional hub for civil service staff into our towns. Councillor Cuddy said Council should not be rejecting the hub as it would bring investment and expertise which Council needed to

capitalise on. Councillor Cuddy stated that it was a pity the amendment from Councillor Wilson had been overruled.

Councillor Kerr said he concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and likewise had reservations about the motion but did concur with regard to British interference in Ireland was not welcome. In relation to Boris Johnston's recent comments that 'capitalism and greed' was behind the success of the vaccine roll out Councillor Kerr expressed his disgust stating that some countries for example Iraq had only received its first dose of the vaccine and this was all human life being impacted. He made reference to the comments that the British government was the paymaster and reminded Members that throughout history the British had plundered and stole assets and from other nations highlighting that gold stolen from Venezuela was not being returned. He said money coming here was taxpayers' money that people had contributed to and highlighted that the British should remember their Colonial Museums were full of stolen items. He concluded he would support the motion.

Councillor Colvin said that the current actions by London was predictable as far back as the RHI situation as having read Sam McBride's book BURNED, it was only a matter of time that the governance arrangements in Belfast would be examined by London because of a cynical attitude to the expenditure of public money where the tab would be picked up by London. He recalled that Sinn Féin had collapsed the Assembly on the issue and as such would have thought such independent help from London would have been welcomed, and rather than objected to. Councillor Colvin also remarked that the DUP had not challenged the term 'Joint First Ministers' and suggested was this because they were the architects of the new structure?" Councillor Colvin also highlighted that the will of the people in Northern Ireland had been ignored by the British Government in the matter of abortion. He stated that the Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform NI is one of many pro-life groups and quoted from them, *"Northern Ireland is facing its greatest political and constitutional crisis ever. The Secretary of State is taking control from the NI Assembly and Executive on abortion and leaving our elected representatives without any say or control on this issue in the future. Tragically this will be just the first step in turning NI into one of the most socially liberal countries in the world, will result in the deaths of thousands of unborn children, with massive implications for freedom of speech, religion, and transform the social and moral foundations of our society."*

Councillor Colvin said he held a strong *both lives matter* view on this issue and, for the record stated that he was personally opposed to abortion but asked that Members consider that if one is a supporter of the of abortion ideology, this is a matter that should be decided by the democratically elected Assembly and allowing otherwise sets a very concerning precedent going forward. He also expressed his concern that the SDLP had, with some other 50 MP's, written a letter to the Secretary of State asking him to, in effect, ignore the Assembly; and commission abortion over the head of the elected members. Councillor Colvin concluded that had the motion recognised that the issue of abortion was the one that undermined devolution he would have supported it but as it is, the assistance of London to improve the governance arrangements was completely misconstrued by the motion, and therefore he would not support the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reminded Members that there was a Northern Ireland Office and he did not see the need for another one. He also stated that decisions made on behalf of people here should be made by the politicians here. The Chair also stated that the Barnett consequential was law and that is what determines the level of support received if it was not law the Tories would not give the level of support. He said that again and again the Tory government had shafted local parties who had given them support and it amazed him that no matter how often they were shafted the same parties supported them again and again. With regard to Joint First Ministers the Chair stated that it was a joint office and people could use whatever terminology they were comfortable with. The Chair, asked Councillor Corry to give her concluding remarks.

Councillor Corry in answer to comments made in debate stated that all parties signed up to the peace process and part of the workings out of that is the Good Friday Agreement, the devolved assembly and power sharing institutions. She highlighted that everyone made a commitment to honour their obligations to this and as such the British Government also need to honour their commitments and not seek to undermine devolution. Councillor Corry said it was not an orange and green issue it is about democracy that those elected to the devolved assembly have a mandate and are accountable to the people that elected them. The Tory government have no mandate and no accountability. She highlighted that successive British Governments had decades upon decades to rectify infrastructure, bring capital projects, housing projects and so on but chose not to and under numerous policies actually decimated housing and infrastructure among many other things.

Councillor Corry reminded Members that as already alluded to we all pay our taxes, we have a right to get that back and for our local politicians with a mandate, to spend it where they know it is most needed. She said it amazed her that there are still people here who trust Boris Johnson. Councillor Corry stressed that it is our roads and local infrastructure projects that she gets lobbied on, not the building of a tunnel through a munitions dump in the Irish Sea or a bridge on one of the windiest routes going and when you look at the Foyle bridge closures due to adverse weather conditions would it be viable. In conclusion Councillor Corry said she wanted to work with her colleagues here and in the assembly to deliver what local people want and need but if some wanted to live in Boris Johnson's fantasyland that is up to them.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan put the motion to the vote.

For	25
Against	15

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared the motion carried.



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

*The live broadcast concluded at 9.10 pm*

Proposed by Councillor Bell  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That items C063/21 to C072/21 be taken as confidential business.

### **Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 25 February 2021;
- (ii) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 2 March 2021;
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 4 March 2021;
- (iv) Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 March 2021;
- (v) Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 March 2021;
- (vi) Audit Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 March 2021
- (vii) Cookstown Town Centre
- (viii) Council Insurances 2021/22
- (ix) Document for Sealing: Ballyronan Refurbishment & Tourism Contract - Contractor – E Quinn Civils Ltd
- (x) Document for Sealing: Peace IV Shared Space Villages Contract - Contractor - M P Coleman Ltd

### **C073/21 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.35 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 Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 8 April 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor Quinn, Chair

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

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive  
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property Services  
Ms Donnelly\*\*, Council Solicitor  
Mrs Dyson\*\*, Head of Human Resources  
Mr Kelso\*\*, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure  
Mr Moffett\*\*, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT  
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance  
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Councillor Burton\*\*\*

\* Denotes members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.04 pm.

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

**PR068/21 Apologies**

Councillors Ashton and Hughes and Director of Organisational Development.

**PR069/21 Declarations of Interest**

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

**PR070/21 Chair's Business**

None.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **PR071/21 Ballysaggart Lough Retaining Wall Remedial Works**

The Director of Environment and Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval for initial capital funding to carry out the necessary replacement and reinstatement works of the retaining wall structure at Ballysaggart Lough following its collapse mid-February 2021.

Councillor Gildernew commented that he felt almost £10k for a short structural engineer's report was ridiculous.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that the £9,600 was not for the structural engineer's report but for the works identified at 3.2 of the report and further to this the actual cost of repairs.

Councillor Cuddy stated that Ballysaggart Lough was a popular attraction and asked that officers look at the option of increasing parking at this site as now would be an opportune time to add such works to the quotation.

The Director of Environment and Property agreed to look at the option of providing additional parking at Ballysaggart Lough.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve an initial release of £50,000 of capital funding for the unforeseen works required at Ballysaggart Lough, subject to the outcome of the Tender Exercise.
  - To consider options to provide additional parking at the Ballysaggart Lough site.

### **PR072/21 Revised Equality Scheme, Disability Action Plan and Equality Action Plan (2021-2026)**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which provided the updated final Equality Scheme (2021-2026), Disability Action Plan (2021-2026) and Equality Action Plan (2021-2026) completed following a period of public consultation and commentary/feedback incorporated in the final documentation.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the final versions of the Equality Scheme, Equality Action Plan and Disability Action Plan as set out at Appendix A to C of report.

## **PR073/21 Council & Committee Meeting Schedule: 2021-2022**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the June 2021- June 2022 Committee and Council Meeting Schedule.

Councillor McKinney proposed the meeting schedule as tabled to include adding a Council meeting for August. Councillor McKinney asked when meetings would return to being conducted fully around the table.

The Chief Executive advised that meetings are conducted in line with the directives provided by the Executive and that as directives are lifted Council will move towards having more people back in a room for a meeting.

The Director of Finance asked for some flexibility in relation to the date proposed for the September Audit Committee as this meeting will more likely have to move to October in line with the Audit Office presenting their Report to Those Charged with Governance.

Councillor McLean proposed the meeting schedule as circulated with the following two caveats –

- To add a date for a Council meeting in August, subject to need
- To confirm date for Autumn Audit meeting (possibility of meeting moving from September to October)

Councillor S McGuigan seconded Councillor McLean's proposal.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for the period June 2021- June 2022 subject to -
- Date for Council meeting in August to be reserved with the proviso that the Council may, prior to the reserved date, decide to not convene a meeting in August
  - Date for Autumn Audit meeting to be confirmed in due course (initial proposed date of 21<sup>st</sup> September to be retained on the proviso that the Council may, having regard to advice from the officers, seek to either substitute or supplement that meeting with a meeting in October in order to satisfy local government audit requirements)

## **PR074/21 Requests to Illuminate Council Property: April 2021**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered requests received to illuminate/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark;

- Centenary of Northern Ireland - May 2021 (as referred from March Council)
- Action for Brain Injury Week - May 2021
- Organ Donation Week - September 2021
- Baby Loss Awareness Day - October 2021

Councillor McKinney proposed all four requests to illuminate designated Council buildings.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor McKinney's proposal.

Councillor Molloy stated that the request to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland does not fall within Council policy. Councillor Molloy stated it was a dark day for Ireland when it was partitioned against the wishes of the majority of people. The Councillor stated that lighting up the buildings to mark the Centenary goes against what he would aspire to in a reunited Ireland and he would be voting against such a proposal. Councillor Molloy proposed lighting up the buildings to mark Action for Brain Injury Week, Organ Donation Week and Baby Loss Awareness Day and not to illuminate buildings to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland as it does not fall within Council policy.

Councillor Elattar seconded Councillor Molloy's proposal.

Councillor McLean stated that history cannot be rewritten and whether we agree or disagree is irrelevant the fact is that it happened and the request asks that the day be marked. Councillor McLean stated he agreed with Councillor McKinney's proposal to agree to all the requests set out in the report and asked those within Council who were not in agreement with the proposal to allow the Unionist section of the community to have this acknowledgement.

Councillor Doris stated that she agreed with Councillor Molloy's proposal and whilst she understood the Centenary was important for Unionists she stated it was a step too far to think that she could celebrate the beginning of a Protestant state for Protestant people that saw people discriminated against for years. Councillor Doris stated that partition has failed everyone no matter what side they are on, has caused economic devastation and many social issues which are still prevalent today.

Councillor McLean stated that neither himself or Councillors Cuddy and McKinney had mentioned celebrations and that the report refers to marking the Centenary of Northern Ireland and to acknowledge history. Councillor McLean stated that the comments from the Nationalist/Republican side of Council tonight were in contradiction to a previous willingness to share history and challenged those people to allow the people of Mid Ulster to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland.

Councillor Cuddy stated he understood the point of view taken by Sinn Féin however he thought the world had moved forward. Councillor Cuddy stated that Northern Ireland is not a failed state and has been good to everyone. The Councillor stated that this request was to mark an anniversary in the middle of a decade of anniversaries. Councillor Cuddy asked if Council buildings were lit to mark St Patrick's day.

Councillor Doris stated that she was not saying the Centenary could not be marked by the Unionist community but that the lighting of buildings for the people she represents is a step too far. Councillor Doris stated there were many anniversaries for which Sinn Féin don't ask for buildings to be lit up. The Councillor also felt that to

say Northern Ireland has been good to people was incorrect and referred to people's wages here compared to the Republic of Ireland and UK.

Councillor S McPeake stated he brought a lengthy motion to Council on this issue in December and that Unionists did not give it the time of day at that time. Councillor S McPeake stated that proposals were being considered on how to mark centenaries, that a workshop had taken place at which sensitive issues were discussed and that he would suggest that Members await the out-workings of these discussions and proposals to be brought forward. The Councillor stated that the proposal tonight falls outside Council policy and that he would be voting against lighting up buildings to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland given its history.

Councillor Cuddy asked if Council buildings were lit for St Patrick's day as this would also fall outside policy if they were.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that buildings were not illuminated for St Patrick's Day this year or any other year under the term of Mid Ulster Council.

Members voted on Councillor McKinney's proposal –

For – 5

Against – 9

Members voted on Councillor Molloy's proposal –

For – 9

Against – 3

Abstained – 2

The Chair, Councillor Quinn declared Councillor Molloy's proposal carried.

Councillor McKinney stated he had no issue with the other three requests to light up buildings but that he did have difficulty with one being left out. The Councillor stated he was also disappointed that history has not moved on and that Nationalist and Republican Councillors are going to keep dragging Mid Ulster Council into the gutter. Councillor McKinney referred to comments on how the country is deprived and stated that in Northern Ireland there was a healthcare system which was free of charge and that Covid vaccinations were progressing well and that similar could not be said of the Republic of Ireland. Councillor McKinney stated that it saddened him that leadership cannot be shown and that Council has to keep dragging itself back.

The Chair, Councillor Quinn stated he objected to Councillor McKinney's comments in relation to dragging the Council into the gutter and that Mid Ulster Council has led the way. The Chair stated that the proposal is not about one country versus the other and there was not a Councillor within Council who was not trying to improve the lives of everyone in the Council area.

Councillor McKinney stated he did not refer to one country against the other.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to light up designated Council properties to mark -
- Action for Brain Injury Week from 17-23 May 2021;
  - Organ Donation Week from 20-24 September 2021; and
  - Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day on 15 October 2021.

**PR075/21 Member Services**

No issues.

**Matters for Information**

**PR076/21 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 4 March 2021**

Members noted Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 4 March 2021.

**PR077/21 Local Government Staff Commission and National Association of Councillors: 2020-2021 Annual Subscriptions**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence received from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) and the National Association for Councillors (NAC) on annual contributions payable for 2021-22.

*Live broadcast ended at 7.48 pm.*

**Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor McKinney  
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

- Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Member consider items PR078/21 to PR087/21.

**Matters for Decision**

- PR078/21 Staff Matter for Decision  
PR079/21 Lands at Drumcoo  
PR080/21 Gortgonis Leisure & Community Health & Well Being Hub

**Matters for Information**

- PR081/21 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 4 March 2021  
PR082/21 Staff Matters for Information  
PR083/21 Organisational Review  
PR084/21 Financial Update



PR085/21 Contracts and DAC  
PR086/21 Letting of Agricultural Lands at Cabin Wood, Tullywiggan  
Road, Cookstown  
PR087/21 Relocation of Staff

**PR088/21 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.31 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 13 April 2021 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon  
and by virtual means**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor S McGuigan, Chair  Councillors Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Cuthbertson, Glasgow*, Graham*, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn*, B McGuigan*, McNamee*, Milne*, O'Neill*, Totten*, Wilson*
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services** Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services** Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health** Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services** Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control** Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Agenda Item 4 - Mr Hania – Chairperson – The Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association*** Agenda Item 26 - Mr Dunne – WISE*** Councillor Kerr***

\* 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

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

**E091/21      Apologies**

None.

**E092/21      Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillors Burton and McFlynn declared an interest in agenda item 7 – Ageing Well – Age Friendly Network.

Councillor Graham declared an interest in agenda item 9 – Proposal for the acceptance of agricultural plastics at Tullyvar Recycling Centre.

## **E093/21      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan advised that in addition to the presentation on the Native Irish Honeybee there would be a further presentation relating to agenda item 26 – Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan and that this presentation should help to inform Member's discussion later in the meeting.

Councillor Wilson raised concern in relation to the Cemetery at Forthill Cookstown with regard to newly dug graves being dug up by dogs off the lead and stated that this is causing upset to those who have just buried loved ones. In addition, Councillor Wilson stated that there have also been a number of thefts of flowers/ornaments from graves over the past number of months. The Councillor stated he was not criticising staff as they work hard to combat such incidents but he was appealing for the public to keep their dogs on a lead in the Cemetery and to look out for any suspicious activity.

The Head of Property Services stated that similar issues have been raised before and that these concerns have been discussed with on site staff at the Cemetery. The officer advised that staff are aware of the issues and are vigilant but that the matter can be highlighted with them again.

## **E094/21      Deputation - The Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association**

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan welcomed Mr Hania, Chairperson of The Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Hania provided presentation (Appendix 1) which introduced the different types of bees and more specifically the honeybee. Mr Hania explained that the ambition of the Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association is to encourage the Native Irish Honeybee through breeding and conservation. Mr Hania also outlined the problem with importing bees and the risk of importing pests and diseases such as the small hive beetle which can cause devastation to a hive. Mr Hania advised that since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 a new regulation restricts the free movement of bees from EU to GB and that large honeybee importers are looking to use the NI Protocol to import Italian honeybees through NI into the UK. Mr Hania stated that the small hive beetle is established in Italy and that there was a potential risk of importing such a pest. Mr Hania asked for Council support in preventing the importation of the Italian honeybee through NI into UK and in so doing preventing the possibility of bringing in the small hive beetle. Mr Hania also asked for support in conserving the Native Irish Honeybee. Mr Hania explained the importance of having good habitats in place for honeybees and invited Council to work with the Association to preserve the Native Irish Honeybee and its habitats.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan thanked Mr Hania for his presentation and stated that a point of contact within Council would be the Biodiversity Officer who could provide support.

Councillor Brown referred to the concerns expressed regarding the importation of the Italian honeybee and asked what conversations have taken place between governments to prevent such importation. Councillor Brown stated that he was

aware of others who have similar fears in relation to the importation of bees and the possibility of destroying the honeybee population in Northern Ireland.

Mr Hania advised that bee keeping associations are actively campaigning against the importation of the Italian honeybee apart from those with a vested interest. Mr Hania stated conversations were taking place at a Council level and that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council have voiced their concerns against the importation of the Italian honeybee. Mr Hania stated he would come back to Councillor Brown on what was happening in relation to the matter being raised at Stormont.

Councillor Kerr thanked Mr Hania for the presentation and advised that Derry City and Strabane District Council have passed a motion calling on governments to stop the importation of Italian honeybees into the UK via Northern Ireland and that a similar motion was coming before Fermanagh and Omagh District Council tonight. Councillor Kerr referred to his previous discussions with Mr Hania in relation to working with Council regarding wildflowers and grass verges and asked for more information on this as he was aware of other councils in England who carry out biodiversity projects in conjunction with local groups.

Mr Hania advised of the Grass Verges England group who carry out good campaigns and stated that there is so much possibility with supporting habitats such as having pollinator friendly areas not only for bees but also butterflies and other insects. Mr Hania stated that not cutting grass verges as often was another option as was planting hedges. Mr Hania stated there was room for education in Mid Ulster on whether grass and hedge cutting was needed as frequently and he would like to work with Council on this, he felt that it is also good for the public to have an eye catching biodiversity project. Mr Hania stated that he was from Holland and has also kept bees in Ardee in the Republic of Ireland and that the habitats in Mid Ulster are as good as any other place which is not often realised and that he is passionate to keep it this way and make improvements on habitats.

Councillor Wilson stated that there are a number of bee associations within Mid Ulster and asked Mr Hania if he is in contact with these groups.

Mr Hania stated that the Chair of the Mid Ulster Beekeepers Association is a member of the Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association and that there is connection with the other associations in the area.

Councillor S McAleer referred to individual bee keepers and asked if there is contact with such individuals. Councillor S McAleer asked if there was a specific period of time when grass verges and hedges should not be cut as often which will benefit bees.

Mr Hania stated that a good hedge and a wild grass verge would give different forages during the season such as ivy which is an autumn crop and a super food for the winter. Mr Hania accepted that hedges and verges needed to be managed but it was difficult to answer on what should be done when but that he would come back to the Councillor on this issue. Mr Hania stated that most bee keepers should be associated with a bee keepers organisation. Mr Hania stated it was also for insurance purposes that every bee keeper should be a member of a bee keepers organisation and through those organisations contact can be made with individual

bee keepers. Mr Hania stated that more groups were starting up who are promoting, breeding and conserving the native bee.

Councillor O'Neill asked if the Association needed any help with funding from Council.

Mr Hania stated that the Association have accessed funding through Council in the past and are looking at additional funding in the next funding round. Mr Hania stated that as the Association grows then more funding will be required but at the moment funding was adequate.

Councillor Burton stated that nature should be embraced and looked after and that as stated previously the Council's Biodiversity Officer would be able to provide a good support to the Association. Councillor Burton also referred to the Ulster in Bloom competition and that there are a large number of organisations throughout Mid Ulster who are involved in this competition and one of the things they are encouraged to do is use less weedkiller. Councillor Burton stated that Members are often lobbied in relation to keeping hedges and grass verges up to standard and well trimmed back and stated that she would assume that it would be Spring/Summer that cutting should take place at a minimum rather than the maximum. Councillor Burton also referred to the limited period of time in which farmers can spread slurry as asked if this was an issue. Councillor Burton referred to group in Castlecaulfield who sowed a meadow completely in Dandelions for wildlife purposes and also provided a background story to this initiative and felt this is a good way of educating children and getting them involved. The Councillor stated that people on that group now also work with schools and felt that this would be a good way of the Association providing education on bees.

Mr Hania stated that Dandelion is a superfood for bees so he was pleased to hear of the initiative in Castlecaulfield. In relation to grass verges and when these should be cut, Mr Hania stated that he would seek to provide more information to Council as he felt there is a balance to be struck. Mr Hania stated that it was not for him to dictate on the spreading of slurry and when this can be done but highlighted that clover in grassland is an important crop for bees. Mr Hania stated that there were ways of supporting wildlife and bees by limiting hedge cutting on farms and other places.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan thanked Mr Hania for this presentation and that the range of commentary from the question and answer session showed a positive feeling towards the work of the Association and that it is important that the Association ties in with Council for help.

Mr Hania left the meeting at 7.41 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **E095/21      Bus Shelters Update**

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

Councillor O'Neill referred to bus shelter at Clonoe Crossroads and asked when this will be erected as he was aware of some issues regarding walls at this location. Councillor O'Neill also referred to bus shelter proposed close to old dog track on Derrytresk Road and stated that he had been advised that the landowner has given permission for this to go ahead but that it has not come forward within the report.

The Head of Technical Services advised that he would follow up on both issues raised.

Councillor Cuthbertson expressed some frustration in relation to bus shelter at Moygashel in that there is no room on the footpath for the shelter to have walls. The Councillor stated that it was his understanding that when styles of bus shelter and supplier were agreed previously that all types could be accommodated however he appreciated the efforts of officers in getting amended designs for the shelter.

Councillor Burton stated it was good to see existing bus shelters getting refreshed and repainted as it is important that these are maintained.

The Head of Technical Services stated that the maintenance of bus shelters falls under the remit of Property Services so thanks should go to this team.

Proposed by Councillor O'Neill  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to withdraw bus shelter application for the requested shelter at Duffs Corner, Ardboe. Previous "On Hold" shelters from the list below will be re-consulted based on the new procedural guide -
- Main Street, Benburb
  - Tullyhogue village
  - St Colmans Park, Moortown
  - Cappagh village
  - Whitebridge, Ballygawley
  - Innishrush Village
  - Annaghnaboe Road, Clonoe
  - Bellaghy ( 2 no )
  - Knockloughrim Village
  - Meenagh Park, Coalisland
  - Eglis View, Ballinderry

#### **E096/21      Sustainable NI – Renewal of annual subscription 2021/22**

The Head of Technical Services presented previously circulated report which considered Sustainable NI's request for continued Council support for 2021/22 in the form of £5000 annual subscription fee.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to continue to support Sustainable NI and make available a contribution of £5,000 for the subscription for the 2021/22 financial year.

## **E097/21      Ageing Well – Age Friendly Framework**

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which provided update on the ongoing work around Age Friendly Communities and associated Networks across the Mid Ulster District Council Area and request for financial support to be associated with the Age Friendly NI award next year if agreed by all 11 Councils.

Councillor Brown felt this is something Council should be encouraging and proposed Council support the award.

Councillor McNamee seconded Councillor Brown's proposal.

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to support a future financial contribution (approximately £200) towards the delivery of the Age Friendly Network NI Award if supported by all 11 Councils.

## **E098/21      Street Naming and Property Numbering**

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential Housing Developments within Mid-Ulster.

Site off Benburb Road, Moy

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to name development off Benburb Road, Moy as Horse Fair Meadows.

Site off Mullaghmore Road, Dungannon

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to name development off Mullaghmore Road, Dungannon as Fort View.

## **E099/21      Proposal for the Acceptance of Agricultural Plastics at Tullyvar Recycling Centre**

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report which considered the options for the acceptance of agricultural plastics at Tullyvar Landfill Site.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan declared an interest in this item as a member of Tullyvar Joint Committee.

Councillor McFlynn stated that the report set out the costs of increasing the number of facilities that can accept agricultural plastics. Councillor McFlynn proposed the



report recommendation as she felt it would take a number of years for Council to recoup its costs if it went ahead with expanding the scheme.

Councillor Burton stated that the report does not set out how much it costs for Council to collect dumped agricultural material and asked if the officer felt this is an issue. Councillor Burton also referred to suggestion of having a collection point for the plastics which can then be transported on to one of the sites which does accept the material.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that the dumping of agricultural wastes has not been a fly tipping issue to date. In relation to having skips for the collection of material, the officer stated there would be licensing issues with this. The Head of Environmental Services highlighted that there is a Farm Waste Compliance Scheme and that he understood that if a farmer is registered with this scheme they are entitled to one free collection of material per year from their property. The officer advised that the registration to this scheme is £35 per year which is a lot less than the fee per tonne being proposed.

Councillor Burton wondered how many people were aware that this service was available if registered to the Scheme.

Councillor S McAleer declared an interest in this item as Chair of Tullyvar Joint Committee. The Councillor stated it was one of the members of the Committee who raised the issue and concern of having to travel a long distance to dispose of the plastics.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that Council needed to be cautious in terms of cost and seconded Councillor McFlynn's proposal. The Councillor stated he would have some concern regarding widening out the acceptance of material to other recycling centres due to the costs involved and putting additional financial pressure on Council.

Councillor Glasgow stated he welcomed the report and conversation tonight. The Councillor stated that the reality was that the £225 cost per tonne will not be paid as the farmer can probably get a cheaper price elsewhere. Councillor Glasgow stated that there is an opportunity for some education for farmers in that there is a mechanism that can help with the disposal of agricultural plastics. Councillor Glasgow referred to comments regarding fly tipping of agricultural plastics and that this was not an issue and that he felt this was down to the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme and Red Tractor Scheme to which evidence of how plastics wrappings are disposed of has to be provided otherwise assurance to the Scheme can be lost.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that it is regrettable that it is costing so much for Council to deal with this type of waste whenever there are so many other incentives in relation to other types of recycling.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- That the acceptance of agricultural plastics is still restricted to the three main recycling centres in line with other commercial wastes.
  - To undertake some publicity in relation to the Farm Waste Compliance Scheme so that registered members to the Scheme can get one free collection of plastic wrappings from their property each year.

**E100/21      DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - The A6 Toome By-Pass – Stopping-Up of Private Access – Proposed Stopping-Up Order**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to the A6 Toome By-Pass – Stopping-Up of Private Access – Proposed Stopping-Up Order.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to the A6 Toome By-Pass – Stopping-Up of Private Access – Proposed Stopping-Up Order.

**E101/21      DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 40MPH Speed Limit – Bush Road, Dungannon**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit – Bush Road, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit – Bush Road, Dungannon.

**E102/21      DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 30MPH Speed Limit – Desertmartin Road, Tullynagee Road and Station Road, Moneymore**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed 30mph speed limit – Desertmartin Road, Tullynagee Road and Station Road, Moneymore.

Councillor McFlynn declared an interest in this item as she had made the request for a reduced speed limit.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 30mph speed limit – Desertmartin Road, Tullynagee Road and Station Road, Moneymore.

## **Matters for Information**

### **E103/21      Minutes of Environment Committee held on 9 March 2021**

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 9 March 2021.

Councillor McNamee asked for an update in relation to Dual Language Signage and if visits can be undertaken to the Electoral Office yet. The Councillor also referred to requests in the system and asked if these were now backing up.

The Head of Building Control advised that there are approximately 30 requests sitting in the system at the moment as officers cannot access the Electoral Office due to current restrictions in order to progress the requests. The officer stated that hopefully with the relaxation of restrictions in the coming weeks officers will be able to regain access to the Electoral Office again and will be able to get caught up on the work needed.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to last month's review of policy on Dual Language Signage and that he had proposed that the review be deferred until legal opinion had been sought on the positioning of a second language on signage. The Councillor stated that at that meeting the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure gave a verbal update on legal opinion and that Members decided to move on with the review however he thought that a finalised report would be coming back to Committee with a written legal opinion and that he would like to see this brought forward.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that legal advices was reflected on at the March Council meeting and that the legal advice indicated that Council was operating within the law in terms of the current process for Dual Language Signage and that there was no need to change. The Director advised that in concluding the review process a further report would be brought to the Committee which can reference the relevant advices.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that a report be brought back to Committee with the legal opinion in relation to positioning of a second language on Dual Language Signage.

Councillor Buchanan seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Councillor McNamee stated he did not feel it was necessary to bring a report back to Committee as Council already had the legal opinion. Councillor McNamee proposed that a report is not brought back to Committee.

Councillor Milne seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that last month Councillor Cuthbertson raised that there was legal opinion being sought in other Councils in relation to Dual Language Signage and that he had requested that the review of Dual Language Signage be deferred until this Council had obtained legal opinion on the matter. The Chair stated that he had suggested that legal opinion could be sought if it was felt there were individual issues however this was not commented on. The Chair stated that the Committee proceeded with the review and the decision taken on the night

was that Council policy on Dual Language Signage should remain as is and this has since been taken through Council.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that there were two proposals before the Committee and asked if Councillor Cuthbertson wanted to proceed to a vote.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he felt a vote should be taken as the Director of Public Health and infrastructure had indicated that the legal opinion could be provided within a report.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated he had asked last month if there was any legality preventing Members from undertaking the review and that he was advised there wasn't. On that basis the policy was reviewed and it was decided that the policy should remain as it is.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that the review process was not yet concluded as such and that a further report would be brought forward.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he was content with this.

Councillor McNamee stated that Council have already erected over 200 signs and if there was a legal problem then this would have come to light long ago. The Councillor stated that if the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure wanted to bring a final report it was up to him.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to bring forward a final report on the review process in relation to Dual Language Signage.

Councillor Graham stated that she was not listed as being present in the minutes of the March Environment meeting however she had been present at the meeting.

#### **E104/21 Health & Wellbeing Slow Cooker Initiative**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the progress of a Healthy and Wellbeing Slow Cooker and Recipe Book initiative.

#### **E105/21 Air Quality Report 2020**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the current air quality in the Mid Ulster District Council area, and of the ongoing monitoring currently being undertaken in relation to this.

#### **E106/21 Building Control Workload**

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

#### **E107/21 Entertainment Licensing Applications**

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

## **E108/21      Bin smART Competition**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the outcome of the Bin smART recycling competition.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated this looked like a good competition which got a good response however he had received complaints from parents whose children had entered the competition. The Councillor stated that the complainants felt that the judging of the competition was unfair in that winners had been randomly selected. Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that should the competition be run again then a third party judge should be engaged to assess all the entries.

Councillor McFlynn stated that given there was no Eco Speak competition this year the Bin smART competition had been positively received. The Councillor asked how many took part in the competition.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that over 500 entries were received which far exceeded anyone's expectations but made it impossible to judge all entries. The officer stated that the judging process can be reviewed going forward.

Councillor Buchanan seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council that the judging process for future Bin smART competitions be reviewed with consideration to be given to engaging a third party judge to assess entries.

## **E109/21      Bin lifters at Coalisland and Drumcoo Recycling Centres**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on recent modifications to bin lifters at two Recycling Centres.

Councillor O'Neill stated it was good to see some money being spent on Coalisland Recycling Centre.

*Live broadcast ended at 8.25 pm.*

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill 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 E110/21 to E121/21.

### **Matters for Decision**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| E110/21 | Magherafelt Recycling Centre and Transfer Station Upgrade |
| E111/21 | Cemetery Burial Space Expansion and Improvement Works     |

- E112/21 Cemetery Administration & Maintenance of Old Burial Grounds and update on conditions of ruins
- E113/21 Cemetery Memorial Safety Inspection Programme Update
- E114/21 Tender Report for GPS Fleet/Mobile Asset Tracking System and Maintenance Software
- E115/21 Electricity Supplier Variation for 21/22
- E116/21 Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan

**Matters for Information**

- E117/21 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 9 March 2021
- E118/21 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E119/21 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E120/21 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update
- E121/21 Council Estate Capital Property Repairs/Maintenance

**E122/21 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 10.36 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

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





**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 15 April 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon  
and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor McNamee

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

**Officers in  
Attendance**

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

**Others in  
Attendance**

Deputation: Fionnuala Boyle Mother & Baby Home Enquiry  
Councillor S McGuigan\*\*\*

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

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

**D059/21      Apologies**

None.

**D060/21      Declarations of Interest**

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

## **D061/21      Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that agenda item 16 Decade of Anniversaries Commemorations 2021/22 Updated Action Plan would be raised in open business and taken immediately after agenda item 9.

He also advised members that the Community Grants were now open and will remain open until the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The Chair referred to the welcome news coming out of an application to Sport NI in relation to the extension to Mid Ulster Sports Arena and happy to say we got an indicative funding offer for an 8 lane floodlit running track and a 3G pitch. He said he was pleased to advise members that the Council had received an indicative award of £1m for that project and wanted to say a huge thank you to all the officers and staff who had worked on this over the last number of years. He also wanted to thank the Cookstown DEA Councillors as this was started in the legacy Council when Michelle O'Neill was the DARD Minister with a few letters written to her seeking more land and thankfully the members received the right sound bites then and said all was looking good.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that confirmation was received yesterday that the Council had received £1m indicative award which meant that the Council could now move on to the next stage and actually start with the detailed designs, appoint ICT Teams and apply for planning permission to allow to put together a detailed plan for a floodlit 8 lane athletic track and 3G infield synthetic pitch with lights. She said that work had been ongoing through an Officer and Councillor team for a number of years and was delighted to have gotten it to this stage. Officers would be firing ahead in the next number of weeks to get designs and approval processed to get consultants appointed which would allow Officers to take to completion.

Councillor Kerr advised that he had been contacted by a representative from Killeeshil-Galbally Responders seeking Council's help on some issues. He said that the group had a major concern trying to open a bank account which was stopping them from applying for charity status. This organisation also carries out ambulance services and first responder treatment in conjunction with the Ambulance Service and the lack of house numbering for more rural housing was an issue and would like to highlight along with Council for homeowners to display numbering to help them find a residence to help them carry out their medical assistance. This group also carries out CPR, defibrillator and first aid training and believed that this would be beneficial to see if the Council could coordinate with the group to help raise awareness which was within their main functions and encourage council staff to undergo this type of training offered. He referred to the recent incident involving Michael Coleman in America who took a cardiac arrest, the term the 'widow-maker' and statistics have shown only a 12% success rate of survival outside the medical facilities. He also referred to incident involving Conor Gormley's father whilst attending a GAA match between Ardboe and Carrickmore who took a turn and thankfully the defibrillator was within reach and saved his life and also the sudden

death syndrome and a close friend of his Johnny Curran. He said that it would be very beneficial to issue an invite this group to make a presentation.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to issue an invite to Killeeshil-Galbally Responders to make a presentation to a future meeting to make Council aware of the work they carry out and to encourage Council staff and the general public to participate in first responder training.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to support Councillor Kerr's proposal as this organisation carry out fantastic work and also highlights the issue which he was aware of other groups coming across in terms of the inability of local voluntary groups to open bank accounts which was an ongoing and scandalous issue and should be up to Council to challenge these issues with Banks on behalf of local community groups. He said it was about time the Council started liaising with funders as there was a need for another mechanism for funding as Banks were not going to allow community groups and sporting groups to open accounts with funding having to be channeled in another mechanism as groups were on hold and not acceptable.

Councillor Doris concurred with points made by previous members but in relation to defibrillators raised an issue regarding an incident which happened at the Canal Walk this week with no signs to point to the nearest defibrillators were and asked if it would be possible for staff to erect signage on the route to point to the nearest defibrillators were.

The Chair said that he was aware of this being addressed through the Environment Committee and may be best referred to that team as there was a mapping exercise for defibs right across the District and any defib which was logged onto the mapping system the Ambulance Service was aware of it, but said that Councillor Doris' comments would be passed on to the Environment Committee.

The Chair said that he was glad to hear of Mickey Coleman's recovery and wished him well.

Councillor Molloy said that members would be aware of the meetings with the East Timorese Community and their formulated group and referred to press reports relating to traumatic flooding in East Timor and surrounding areas and the devastation that has caused to a lot of communities and many family members which were resident in the South Tyrone area. He felt that anything that members within the group could do to assist them or help them as there would be family members at home which need support, possibly even offering counselling and anything that the Council could do to support them would be greatly appreciated.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Molloy's comments and said that he was aware of the Council securing some resources for the people. He said that he had been involved all week in helping the East Timorese gather up essential items like food, tinned food, clothing, bedding and shoes etc, and would like to pay tribute to the East Timorese Community locally and to the nationalities and Irish who had really rose to the

occasion with an overwhelming response to the call for help. He suggested that to arrange a DEA meeting and for any other Councillor interested to get an up to date situation on what was actually going on as this has devastated the large capital city and surrounding areas and feedback from the people stating that this was going to be a long drawn out process of a rebuild. He said that it was important as a local Council to be involved as there was going to be some sort of campaign from the East Timorese people to get aid home on an ongoing basis and would be vitally important to support them. He advised that there was another flood last year and the East Timorese Community organised aid also but this was a lot more of a catastrophic natural disaster this time around and wanted to pay tribute to the ongoing work and was aware that Officers had been talking to representatives from East Timor community over this last 10 days or so. He said that it would be important that a meeting was organised asap on this issue to see what we can do or can't do as this Council wasn't found wanting when it came to emergency crisis this time last year when there was the Covid outbreak and would have no doubt they would be found in wanting helping out this emergency in East Timor.

The Head of Community Development to take the issue on board.

Councillor Black said as this was the first meeting of the Development Committee since the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh last week he would like to take this opportunity to express condolences on behalf of the DUP to her Majesty the Queen at this sad time on the loss of her husband, their children on the loss of a father and their children on the loss of their grandfather and great grandfather. Prince Philip was a great role model, serving his country with courage, honor and distinction, both as a member of the armed forces and as a member of the Royal family. Prince Philip came across as having many passions in life none more so than setting up the Duke of Edinburgh award as this has benefitted many young people across these Islands, giving them a great opportunity for personal development and learning new skills and he knew many young people locally including himself who were very grateful for this opportunity and believed that this would be all part of a great legacy which he had left behind for future generations.

#### **D062/21      Deputation – Fionnuala Boyle Mother & Baby Home Enquiry**

The Chair welcomed to the committee Ms Fionnuala Boyle – Mother & Baby Home Enquiry and invited her to address the committee.

Ms Boyle thanked members for allowing her to make her presentation tonight as this was something very close to her heart. She advised that she was a survivor of the Mother and Baby Home and wanted to tell her story to members present and her ambition to help other people looking for their lost babies and mothers.

Councillor Kerr commended Fionnuala on her bravery and said that he fully supported her campaign and undoubtedly as a corporate body would support her going forward. He said that the way young mothers, women and children were treated was disgraceful and a crime against humanity and was aware of the previous good work she had carried out in the community and her passionate about helping people. He concurred with Fionnuala's comment about turning her negative energy into something positive

and very glad to see her going down this route as she deserved justice, accountability and transparency and wanted to stress that he was very sorry about what did happen to her brother but hoped that this would give her strength going forward and wanted to commend her again on her campaign.

Councillor Monteith commended Fionnuala as he was aware of how nervous Fionnuala was but said that she was brilliant and wanted to pay tribute to her bravery. He said that it was one of the most moving presentations brought before this committee and made the right decision as there was no need for a presentation with statistics as she spoke from the heart to get the message across very well. He stated that Fionnuala had spoken about the horror of the homes and said that this was exactly what they were, as those homes were horrific, horrendous and as Councillor Kerr had stated, a crime against humanity and he would most certainly supporting her in any way he could and was confident that all Councillors here would be of the same opinion and generate unanimous support for her campaign. He asked Fionnuala to keep the Council informed and come back on a regular basis and keep members up to date and if she thinks that this organisation could do to help her, never be afraid to get in touch. He felt that it was a very humbling presentation and couldn't stress enough the tribute he paid her.

Councillor Monteith said he wished to ask Fionnuala a question as it was the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster and the panel involved with her campaign and was aware of Phil Scraton being involved with the Hillsborough families and couldn't be in better hands for someone to scratch back the layers of cover ups and asked her about the team which was working with them.

Ms Boyle advised that there were three experts on the panel, Deirdre Mullan, a social work background from the Department of Health, Dr Maeve O'Rourke, Barrister and Lecturer in Human Rights in University College, Galway and finally Phil Scraton a former Queens University Lecturer. She said that Mr Scraton had worked on some very high profile cases and had written a book into the high profile investigation into the Hillsborough disaster, he also worked with the people involved in Lockerbie and Dunblane and more recently he has been working with the families from Grenfell Tower in London as well. She said that when Mr Scraton introduced himself and heard his background, for the first time in years she had a glimmer of hope that actually something could be achieved and said the most important thing for her would be that this doesn't get lowered down the pile of issues with other things coming along deemed more important as Mothers which were in those homes were dying now and there was no time to wait and deserve to have peace, which was too late for her mother, but was determined to help every other family to get a resolution.

Councillor Burton said that she appreciated Fionnuala coming along and telling her story here tonight on the absolutely horrific things that happened during her life journey and hoped that going forward that she would be able to rise about this. She said as a mother of four children she couldn't comprehend this happening to her as life was so precious and a chance for a good upbringing but was encouraged to hear she had a good life with her adopted parents. She referred to the television programme Long Lost Families and said that that these people go through an awful time to try and find their families which was heartbreaking but said that the presentation tonight was from Fionnuala's heart and felt that sometimes the best way to get through difficult situations

was to speak about it. She concurred with other members asking Fionnuala to stay in touch and to contact the Council if she required any further assistance.

Councillor Doris thanked Fionnuala for her really emotional presentation and said that it was unbelievable that people use Christianity to shame women into this and responsibility should be all on them. She referred to the Irish Government's handling of this issue and said that it was absolutely disgraceful and advised that Linda Dillon MLA was working closely with Kathleen Funchion TD in the Dail in trying to get access to paperwork and this may not be the top priority on Fionnuala's list but it was something, somehow which may be a help. She thanked Fionnuala for speaking tonight and said that everyone handles grief very differently and agreed what was said about some people not feeling comfortable about discussing the issue within their families and for Fionnuala speaking out and helping countless peoples to help them deal with their trauma. She said that she wished her well going forward in her campaign and was a real privilege to hear the story tonight.

Councillor Elattar thanked Fionnuala for sharing her touching story tonight and wished her every success in her campaign as she was confident that a lot of support would be given, especially by Dr Maeve O'Rourke. She advised that she was able to be part of a deputation from Mother and Baby Homes with her party and Martina Anderson MEP to Brussels to present their story to the EU and spent a few days with the group, with mothers and children who had been in these institutions and will never forget the stories in which they told, emotions that were involved and the long lasting consequences on what had happened to the people involved in these unfortunate places. She said that she would like to think as working as a midwife that this has changed and hoped that never again that people would have to go through such horrendous experiences which affected so many in the past and asked that the Council be kept updated on progress.

Councillor Kearney thanked Fionnuala for bringing it to members' attention tonight especially about neglect and hunger at those horrific times with no religious boundaries being shown at that time. He advised that his oldest grandchild was first year post primary and the same age as one of the victims and could relate to what Fionnuala was speaking about. He wanted to acknowledge her bravery in pursuing truth and justice for the victims of such horrific actions against the most vulnerable.

Councillor Molloy wished Fionnuala for the best for the future and was confident that she would generate the success she was campaigning for. He stated there were still a lot of countless other unmarked graves which was being currently worked upon in Dungannon as these victims needed to be given the dignity they deserved in such adverse times and have their graves marked out of respect.

Councillor Corry thanked Fionnuala for her harrowing presentation and said that anything that this Council could do to please come forward and get in touch. She agreed with Councillor Doris' comments around the name of Christianity and how these people were supposed to help the most vulnerable at that time.

Councillor Wilson advised that this was one of the most moving presentation that he had listened to in the last 30 years of being a Councillor. He said that Fionnuala was an incredible brave lady and wished her well in her campaign in the pursuit of truth and justice for all the victims and that Council would support her in any way they possible could.

Councillor Burton enquired if Fionnuala was aware of any mothers alive and children trying to find each other or whether this campaign was about lost children in the past.

Ms Boyle advised that there was still mothers and children looking for each other but there was some difficulty due to children being moved to another jurisdictions, across the border element. She said that she was aware of a man being born in Marianvale Home and ending up in Co. Donegal in another jurisdiction which was totally heartbreaking. She said that she was fortunate that she was one of the younger children in the Home, but this operation still continued up to 1990 and felt that people should have easier access to information as there were complete blocks for her trying to locate her mother and baby brother. She said her aim was to try and help other people as there were people out there in trauma over their past and also to try and match mothers and their children up as there was so many unclaimed babies.

The Chair thanked Fionnuala for sharing her story this evening and was confident that members would be very supportive and had no doubt that Officers would be in contact with her to see what they could do to help progress her campaign.

Councillor Monteith stated that in light of Fionnuala's campaign it may be an idea to try and help the victims to get their message across and proposed that this Council write to the 10 other Councils asking them to facilitate a presentation so Fionnuala and other people like her in their campaign in the pursuit of truth and justice. He said that the more elected members to hear these horrendous stories the better as the human story was needed to come out and felt that this was something proactive this Council could do. He felt that it would be useful for a presentation to be heard by victims in their own local Council area as enough people cannot hear these horror stories and would be certain that the Council Officers would take forward anything that was asked to do.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to write to the other 10 Councils asking them to facilitate a meeting with Fionnuala and others like her to get their message across.

Ms Boyle thanked members for their overwhelming support and left the meeting at 7.52 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D063/21 Collaborative Tourism Cluster – Partnership Agreement**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to seek approval for Mid Ulster Council to enter into a partnership agreement with Antrim & Newtownabbey Council and for Mid Ulster Council to lead on the delivery of the Lough Neagh Shoreline tourism cluster.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to propose the recommendation but in terms of Tourism Cluster which she had raised on numerous times and was aware that the Head of Tourism had sent an email which she hadn't an opportunity to read yet regarding tourism signage. She advised that Linda Dillon MLA had sent an email to Nichola Mallon, Minister for DfI regarding brown tourism signage, but their whole aspect of it was for redirecting traffic and not for advertising and more for traffic management rather than for tourist attractions. Ms Dillon MLA had then written to the Minister for Economy, but still awaiting a reply and was looking to see if this committee could write a letter to DfE and if need be to DfI also to see if there could be a change around legislation in terms of Brown Tourism Signage as this was something tourism businesses were crying out for.

The Head of Tourism concurred with Councillor Doris' perception around signage and directing of traffic not being related to tourism advertising and attractions. He said that he would put the issue on the agenda for the next Tourism Development Group as a subject for decision at that group.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that Mid Ulster Council enters into a partnership agreement with Antrim and Newtownabbey Council and that Mid Ulster Council to lead on the Lough Neagh Shoreline cluster. Brown Tourism Signage to be put on Agenda for next Tourism Development Group as a subject for decision.

Councillor Kerr asked for clarity on whether there was any discussion with Lough Neagh Partnership as they carry out similar initiatives and if this was the case asked if it was possible to carry out a collaboration or duplication of Lough Neagh Partnership as he was aware of some members sitting here being on the board of LNP.

The Head of Tourism said that advised that Officers work closely with the team of Lough Neagh Partnership who were aware of the ongoing work and Officers always co-ordinate working with them an endeavor to work with them on this programme also.

#### **D064/21 Economic Development Report – OBFD**

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

**(i) MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network**

**a) MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan**

Councillor Molloy said that he would be happy to accept the officer recommendation.

Councillor Monteith sought clarity on whether there was any trade union involvement.



The Head of Economic Development advised that the MEGA group was not operated by the Council and was led by the private sector. She added it was not within the Council's remit to intervene regarding MEGA's membership. MEGA has proven itself over the last few years to be a very successful body to represent manufacturing and engineering businesses in Mid Ulster and Council is but one small funder in comparison to Invest NI. She said that as far as she was aware MEGA did not have union involvement but was focused on developing opportunities to grow this important cluster of companies in Mid Ulster.

Councillor Monteith said that he would have major issues with allocating the funding requested and proposed not to disagree to not award but to get in contact with the organisations involved and ask if they would accept a strategic input from some local trade unions at a strategic level as he would be more comfortable funding an organisation who have workers input.

Councillor Black said that he would be happy to second the officer recommendation, given the prominence of the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area and the importance it has to the local economy

Proposed by Councillor Black

That MEGA be invited to present to a future committee once they had completed their strategic review to update us on the work in which they were doing, outcome of the review and their plans for the future.

The Chief Executive advised that the Head of Economic Development had outlined the structure of MEGA with amalgam with over 50 local engineering companies, small, medium and large which were self-sustained and self-established with many of them created family businesses with some of them being now multi-national conglomerates. He said that it has been an overwhelming success and was the talk of all career and skills discussions and now the go-to body for all NI agencies in terms of developing skills agenda and he suspected that it would be a major input into the new NI Skills agenda which was anticipated to be brought forward in the next 5 to 6 months. He said that there was a fine line as Council were not here to tell MEGA what to do and the success of MEGA was because it was not owned by Council or Invest NI or any other government body, but in relation to union representation, he had no difficulty relaying the comments back and asking them for this consideration and didn't foresee any issue relating to this. He felt that the way forward for these companies should be shaped by management, staff, customers and everyone alike.

Councillor Kerr said that he welcomed the Chief Executive's comments and seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal as we were fortunate to have a huge amount of engineering companies within the Mid Ulster area. He said that thousands of workers were employed locally and there was a need for trade union input in relation to salaries, longer breaks, better working conditions amongst other issues and any future discussion must include the invitation to trade unions for all sectors of the community.

Councillor Monteith advised that he wasn't against the proposal but to agree in principle until a conversation was held first regarding the involvement of trade unions being invited to the table to help all sections of the community.

Councillor Molloy said that he would be happy to agree with Councillor Monteith's proposal regarding the engagement of trade unions.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve funding contribution of £5,000 from Council's Economic Development budget, subject to MEGA securing match funding from Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme to undertake a Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan. Discussions to take place first with MEGA at a strategic level to encourage Trade Union involvement.

Councillor Ashton seconded Councillor Black's proposal.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that MEGA be invited to present to Committee once they had completed their strategic review to update on the work they were doing, outcome of the review and their plans for the future.

**b) MEGA's Ongoing 3 Year Work Programme (2019/20 – 2021/22)**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Black and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to reallocate £4,000 if its funding contribution to the MEGA Project in year 2 (2020/21) to year 3 (2021/22). This flexibility will allow various aspects of the project to be completed, having been delayed as a result of the pandemic. There is no additional cost to Council related to this request.

**ii) Mid Ulster Gift Card**

Councillor Corry advised that this was something that businesses were crying out for and enquired if this was across all sectors of businesses.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Gift Card would be available to all businesses that wanted to participate across Mid Ulster.

Councillor Burton referred to the purchase of a gift card and in the event of the business closing down enquired what would be the outcome.

The Head of Economic Development advised that when a member of the public purchased a Mid Ulster Gift Card they could choose to redeem the card in any

participating Mid Ulster business, so if one business closed down, there would be lots of others businesses to choose from to spend their card value.

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve a budget of £57,000 towards the implementation of a Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme from Council's economic development budget over a 3 year period (2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24) and progress to tender for a suitable organisation to develop and deliver the scheme. Note the budget is subject to variance as it is dependent on the number of businesses participating on the scheme on an annual basis.

Councillor Kerr referred to Coalisland Public Realm Scheme and said that now that it was almost completed it was unfortunate that there had been no financial commitment from any the statutory bodies involved for a major resurfacing schemes on the roads around the area as many roads have been neglected for many years. He proposed that a meeting be held with senior Council Officers and Road Service officials to try and get a commitment to improve the general roads in around Coalisland Town Centre.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the committee to refer the matter to the Environment Committee requesting that a DEA meeting be held with Senior Officers from Council and DFI local section office to get the matter of resurfacing of certain sections of road in Coalisland which had been overlooked.

#### **D065/21 Master Plan/Business Case – Maghera Walkways**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to seek Council approval to appoint a suitably qualified consultancy team to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road/Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.

Councillor Corry said that she like to propose the item as it was very welcome news for Maghera as the Walled Garden has been a huge success and a well-loved and well used feature in Maghera and had also increased the appetite for further development of outdoor recreational greenspace for the village. She said that getting outdoors has been a great importance for people, especially during the past year for physical and mental health and this addition to increase greenspace would be a great asset with community input to the masterplan and the creation of habitat, biodiversity and conservation, natural play and a network of community trails in the area. She stated that this would add to enhance the Walled Garden and the Largantogher Walkway and looked forward to seeing the development of the project.

Councillor Black seconded the recommendation and concurred with Councillor Corry's comments regarding the appetite within the local community for some time for further greenspace to be provided and was no doubt that these calls would be strengthened due to the importance that has been placed on greenspace over this last year since the

onset of the pandemic. He said that he believed on the progress on securing this land and the commissioning of a consultancy team to put together a masterplan for the provision of greenspace and an outdoor recreation area in Maghera has shown that the Council had been listening to the requests coming from the community and trusts that this would be the next step in delivering what would be a great amenity for the people of Maghera and its surroundings areas.

Councillor Kearney wished to place on record his thanks to Council officials who had negotiated the purchase and transfer of the significant 37 acres. The physical development and action plan with the key message for Maghera at time which was devised as a vibrant welcoming place where people work in referred to the five opportunity sites which were heralded in the 2017-2030 action plan. He said that it was great to add another project to the list alongside another recent development the Trim Trail at the former PSNI station and felt that the greenspace identified would go a long way to satisfy the interests and needs of the people and looked forward to the next phase of this development and the involvement of the consultancy team to develop a master plan and business case as these were exciting times.

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Black and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council be granted to progress procurement of a suitably qualified Consultancy Teams to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road/Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.

#### **D066/21      Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2021/22**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to agree proposals on Community Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the financial year 2021/22 only.

*Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA).*

Councillor Kerr said that he was very happy to see this and knew of a lot of community groups organising litter picks etc within their local communities. He said that he had been contacted regarding issues relating to Washingbay Walkway in relation to the replacement of bins on the public walkway and asked if comments be brought to the attention of the relevant department.

Councillor Burton advised that as a Council it was important to support these facilities and ensure that leisure was an option for those areas and the tie in they have with the community and schools.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council:

- i) Members are asked to note record of Council Minute D092/20 - (9th July 2020) which refers to the Development Committee's recommendation to accept option two as presented:

***Option 2.*** *Subject to Council approval, Service Level Agreements impacted upon by Covid-19 restrictions would be paid as per current terms and conditions, without pro rata reductions.*

- ii) To grant approval to extend current arrangements afforded to Community Service Level Agreements under the terms of option two, subject to Full Council Approval.
- iii) To grant approval to make annual payments in full associated to Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements for the period 2021/22 financial year only.

## **D067/21 DfC Strategy for Sport Consultation**

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to seek members' approval in responding to the consultation for the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland, prepared by the Department for Communities (DfC). A copy of the proposed consultation response is in Appendix B.

Councillor Monteith advised that this was a very comprehensive response and had no difficulty with its contents but wanted to highlight a few things that he felt needed added to give it substance.

He referred to:

- Question 4 – There was a need for infrastructure as there was a need for pitches and facilities which needed funded and done. He felt that any strategy which hadn't the significant money for increased facilities was ultimately going to fail and this was needed for non-elite sports as the majority of Council owned facilities were primarily of those competing at a competitive level whether locally or on a higher stage. If Council were serious about life-long sport then this was where it was needed for more pitches and facilities as there weren't enough facilities to deal with the current sporting activity which were concentrating on and around competition and if people were expected to take on life-long sports then funding must be made available for major facilities.
- Question 6 – Not enough facilities especially in urban areas as there could be a tendency sometimes to look in a different direction and sometimes the suggestion of major sporting hubs and agreed there was a role for them but this was not going to be possible necessarily in urban environments. There was an onus on Council to make sure that there were facilities available in local communities for a mixture of urban and rural facilities which were accessible and immediate to people's local environment.

- Question 7 – The need for adequate funding for life-long sports and encourage funding through other streams as well as our own. He said there was a need to reassure people that the Council would consider funding a sport which wasn't competitive but more life-long and recreational.
- Question 12 – Onus on the Council as an organisation for housing developments passed to have access to greenspace. He reiterated the need as a condition for approving housing developments to have open greenspace on zoned lands and to tie in with the area plan as the Council had the ability to change the mind-set going forward.

Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and commended the officer team which collated the response. He said that over the last 12 months has shown that peoples' quality of life had changed dramatically but was encouraging to see the huge uptake of walking and running in the fresh air. He agreed with non-competitive/organised sports as we have seen successful projects in different areas where facilities were provided for non-competitive sports for people to come together like football, squash etc. but to engage in physical activity but funding was the key criteria and this should not be a wish list but the reassurance that funding would be provided.

Councillor Kerr concurred with the previous speakers and said that it was important to not just target elite sports but to entice all abilities to come together as the last 12 months have shown how good sports was for physical and mental health and this was important to broaden out the target audience.

The Head of Leisure said that he would take the comments on board and reflect that within the response. He said that it was anticipated to bring forward a paper in May outlining the previous update given in February about the future pitch and open space strategy when consultants were appointed outlining what the strategy may look like.

Councillor Burton referred to her meeting with the Head of Leisure in Fivemiletown along with John Hughes from NILGA last week and she took the opportunity to lobby for not 3G pitches but for also floodlit 3G pitches for all sections of the community in that area. She also referred to the wish list to have a hub and a great need right across the place for better hockey facilities and felt that the whole view of this consultation across the community was to have a strategic framework for a departmental, ambitious and comprehensive approach promoting participation in excellence in sports and physical activity and hoped at the end of this that there was a long term view on what was needed in the community and working with them to try and ensure that physical activity was something that was easily accessible. She said that over the pandemic that if it hadn't been for the outdoor spaces to help with physical and mental health things could have been much worse as she had seen numerous people out walking and running in towns, roads and especially the forests to get their head space and looked forward to helping the community in getting what they want out there and hoped that the Head of Leisure would keep in mind that there were rural football groups that need the encouragement to tap into this consultation.

Councillor Kearney concurred with the previous speakers and due to the week that was in it felt it was important to recognise the achievements of local man Kenny Shiels and the Northern Ireland's Women's Football Team which started from very humble beginnings. He advised that Kenny had been in that job from 2019 and had brought great belief and unbelievable success in that short time and had brought the ladies football to a new level for qualifying for the Euros. He said that Kenny was a very plain speaking no-nonsense person and his proven record of success has stood him in a very good stead with everyone being really proud of him and suggested that he and his team be invited for one of the training sessions at the new pitch in Maghera. He wanted to mark the success of Kenny and Northern Ireland's Women's team here tonight.

Councillor Burton advised that whilst previously speaking she had meant to congratulate the team as Mid Ulster had their own representative on the team, Samantha Kelly from Castlecaulfield who had played on the night and was fantastic to see what the girls had achieved. She said that they were real ambassadors in speaking in the aftermath of the event and in previous years they had to wear men's gear and now it was great to see them wearing their own and encouraging to see the younger girls coming on at the end of game and great to see what can be achieved within our communities on role models for sports.

The Chair advised that he knew the goalkeeper really well Jackie Burns and was a tremendous achievement.

Councillor Black concurred with all previous comments and wished to be associated with them and said he also knew Kenny and Jackie. He said that this was a tremendous achievement and were great ambassadors for the area and exciting to look forward to see them progress.

Councillor Wilson also wished to add his congratulations to the team and felt that everyone played their part in this success and no one player should be individualised as people can easily forget as we had Jackie Burns from Cookstown, Simone Magill originally from Magherafelt but now playing for Everton, Samantha Kelly from Castledawson. He also wanted to pay tribute to the backroom team including Kenny and Dean Shiels as well as Dwayne Nelson from Castledawson and Gary Boyd from Dungannon and felt that this was the complete list of all those in the Mid Ulster area and said that it was important to recognise the success of everyone from this area.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the consultation response to the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland, prepared by the Department for Communities (DfC).

Councillor Ashton said that it would be important for the Council to recognise the success of Northern Ireland Women's Team getting to the Euros.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to look at recognising the Northern Ireland Ladies team and those associated with it as part of our receptions procedures.

**D068/21      Decade of Anniversaries Commemorations 2021-2022 Updated Action Plan**

The Head of Culture & Arts presented previously circulated report and sought members' approval for the Decade of Anniversary Commemorations 2021/22 Action Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Decade of Anniversaries Commemorations 2021-2022 Updated Action Plan.

Councillor Monteith advised that he had no difficulty in proposing the plan but felt there was still a lot of room for manoeuvre on a few issues and said there was a need to come back before this was implemented as each person's experiences were different in relation to community representation, exhibitions etc. and the incorporating of grants.

The Chair agreed that there was a need to have a balance.

**Matters for Information**

**D069/21      Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 March 2021**

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 11 March 2021.

Councillor Clarke referred to Davagh and its success for over 40 years and continuing to do so with people coming in droves daily and weekends. He said that Davagh attracted different types of people, whether for mountain biking, walking, recreational and family days out and felt that upgrades were badly needed on basics like toilets as they were really backward for a lot of visiting families and not fit for purpose due to the lack of investment over the years. He also referred to the old effluent system which dated back over 50 years and not up to standard and the old pump track which needed maintained or repaired and asked that these concerns be taken on board.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to look at upgrading facilities at Davagh to improve modestly what was there to meet the needs of the site in relation to mountain biking, playpark, toilets etc. Investigations to be carried out on the effluent system and pump track.

Councillor Wilson enquired if Mountain Bike Clubs were consulted on new trails around Davagh as they had complained that they were not consulted and asked that going forward that they be kept in the loop as to bring them along with us.



Councillor Burton referred to Knockmany and said that a lot of mountain biking enthusiasts used the Forest which was picked up by the press and asked that Mountain Bikers within other areas of Council be also kept up to date on issues.

Councillor Burton referred to D048/21 – Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland – Key Stakeholder Consultation. She referred to White Lough and commended the work which had been done as it was a great job on the new footpath which was carried out by the Rivers Agency and the involvement of Council staff but felt that the area would benefit from the installation of a bin and asked if this could be looked at.

She commended that work carried out at the Brantry and White Lough which were very busy, but asked if there were any future plans for Creeve Lough to be upgraded as the public can only walk a little of the way and would be great to see this area getting attention also during these unprecedented times of the pandemic to encourage people to get out and about. She said that Brantry Lough was so busy now at the weekends people were going to the White Lough and would be wonderful to see the upgrade at Creeve Lough and asked if there were any future considerations in the pipeline and if not she proposed to have it looked at.

The Head of Parks advised that White Lough was still managed through the Inland Fisheries and was not in the Council's remit but discussions have ensued with the Rivers Agency and Inland Fisheries in reviewing the circumstances around the lakes and proposed that White Lough comes along with other venues also regarding litter lifts and they have been included in the discussions and hoped to bring proposals to committee in the not-to distance future.

In relation to mountain biking the Head of Parks advised that consultations had taken place with mountain biking groups including Grassroots Mountain Bikers in relation to Davagh and Knockmany as commitment was given to include them with a certain line of communication being open. He advised that meetings had been held with Grassroots Mountain Biking group at Davagh but would continue to liaise with them going forward.

Councillor Burton advised that there was a need to continually promote mountain biking at Blessingbourne.

In relation to query regarding Creeve Lough, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was a Playpark Strategy and an Outdoor Recreation Strategy and funding which Council had allocated was towards those strategies but can check to see if Creeve Lough was included in those, but if not, funding may not be there. The Capital Programme was being reviewed but would provide an update to the member on the situation.

Councillor Monteith referred to item D052/21 Paupers' Grave and enquired if there was any response to the letter sent to Southern Trust regarding Workhouse Graves at South Tyrone Hospital.

The Head of Community Development advised that a letter was issued to the Southern Trust on 26 March 2021, but to date no response has been received. She advised that

a meeting was scheduled to take place with the local History group to follow up on Council's support through them.

Councillor Molloy referred to earlier comments made by Councillor Clarke regarding the influx of people visiting Davagh and the deluge of traffic on these inadequate roads which were not fit for purpose. He said that recently there had been a public announcement asking people not to visit Cuilcaigh Mountain due to the high volume of traffic and felt that this was akin with Davagh and suggested that a mechanism needed to be explored to reduce the huge volume of traffic on these types of roads possibly the investigation of providing shuttle buses to ease congestion.

Councillor Monteith in referring to the Workhouse Graves was disappointed at the cover up by the Southern Trust and their refusal to work with local authorities. He said that it was dismaying to say the least and the next time the Trust were invited to attend a committee meeting they should be asked for their reasons for not working with this Council.

The Chief Executive advised that the issue of Workhouse Graves would be followed up with the Southern Trust tomorrow with any update being forwarded on to members.

The Chief Executive stated that the demand for outdoor recreation had went through the roof with the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation and her team working to the best of her ability with the existing budget in place. He said that this was now about realigning the existing budget to cover demand where it was needed most and as an organisation there was a need to reflect where customer needs are.

In response to Councillor Kerr's query regarding ambulance response times, the Chief Executive advised that he would look this up but was confident that something had been received.

The Chair advised that there were huge volumes of people taking part in outside activities and would be beneficial to have a bit of refresh to promote outdoor recreation.

## **D070/21      Economic Development Report – OBFI**

Members noted update on Mid Ulster District Council Traders Engagement.

Councillor Corry referred to dereliction and vacancies within the report and noticed that this issue hadn't been raised by Maghera or Magherafelt traders and asked if this could be something that was added on and looked at the same as the other towns like Cookstown, Coalisland and Dungannon as this was an opportunity for premises for new businesses and bringing a shopping experiences to towns again.

The Head of Economic Development advised that she had no issues including Maghera and Magherafelt but with limited funding available in the economic development budget, additional funding would be needed to tackle derelict and vacant premises across Mid Ulster's towns and villages. She added that she had been lobbying the Department for Communities (DfC) for funding on this matter as they have responsibility and corresponding budgets for town centre revitalisation. At this stage, DfC has agreed to

work with Council to look at dereliction in Dungannon and Council has previously set aside a budget (over 3 years of £120k - £40k per annum) to match fund any scheme that DfC may bring forward to assist Council in this regard. At present, there's no additional financial assistance to tackle dereliction in other towns and villages across Mid Ulster.

Councillor Corry asked that other small towns be also considered.

Councillor Monteith also raised concern regarding villages not being included in the consultation and although he accepted the fact that there was a need to start somewhere, it was unfair to exclude small towns and villages and felt that a mechanism needed to be put in place going forward.

He suggested that Economic Development organise engagements with DEA elected representatives and traders of small villages through technology (zoom) to provide them with an opportunity to liaise with Council to hear their views.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that Economic Development organise engagements with DEA elected representatives and traders of small villages through technology (zoom) to provide them with an opportunity to liaise with Council to hear their views.

Councillor Monteith sought clarification regarding rumours relating to the future of Ann Street and asked that a DEA meeting be organised or for any other interested councillor who wished to attend.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to organise a Dungannon DEA Meeting to provide Members with an update on the Ann Street Development.

Councillor Elattar concurred with previous members' comments regarding small villages like Ballinascreen and enquired if it was envisaged to have any available funding for any sources for dereliction of villages.

The Chief Executive said that officers were always up for engagement but there was also the need not to create an expectation. He said that 71 letters of offer for shop front schemes had been issued this week for the 2021/22 financial year providing a quarter of a million pounds funding to traders which clearly demonstrates that Council is leading from the front.

Councillor Molloy said that it was good to see engagement from traders and would like to see more but one thing that stood out to him was restrictions around on-street parking and the 2 hours waiting time limit. He enquired if his could be brought to the attention of DfI with the possibility of engaging in conversation to see if anything could be progressed.

The Chief Executive said that this could be brought forward and if members minded that this would be brought to the highest possible level, but everyone would anticipate what

the answer was going to be, but a letter would be issued to the Department tomorrow as a corporate body.

#### **D071/21      Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of meeting of 3 March 2021**

Members noted Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of meeting of 3 March 2021.

In relation to Councillor Corry's query, the Head of Culture & Arts advised that the website development was currently being looked at by the Irish Language Officers on what could be translated into Irish. In referring to issue relating to social media channels used the Head of Culture & Arts advised that key events were promoted through the appropriate social media channels that would target those audiences that engage directly through the medium of Irish language.

Councillor Ashton recorded the DUP's objection to the update.

#### **D072/21      Community Development Report**

Members noted key activities relating to:

- PCSP Plan 2021 – 2022
- Community Development

#### **D073/21      Community Planning**

Members noted Community Planning report which provided an update on Community Planning Process for Mid Ulster District.

*Live broadcast ended at 9.10 pm.*

#### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Milne 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 D074/21 to D076/21.

#### **Matters for Decision**

D074/21      Economic Development Report – CBFD

#### **Matters for Information**

D075/21      Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 March 2021

D076/21      Economic Development Report – CBFi

**D077/21      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.15 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



<b>Report on</b>	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 22 April 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	E Forde, Member Support Officer

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

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

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







## Appendix A: April 2021 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

### Category: Civic Honour

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

### Category: Civic Reception

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
Niamh Campbell	National Council Training Journalists Trainee Sports Journalist of the Year	Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding Achievement</li> </ul>	Not Applicable
Kenny Shiels Coach NI Ladies Football Team	NI Ladies Team qualifying for European Championship	Cllr Kearney Cllr Black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level</li> </ul>	Not Applicable

**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
Woodmarque	Elevation to Exemplar status by InterTradelreland	Cllr S McGuigan

<b>Report on</b>	Council & Committee Meeting Governance Arrangements
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	A McCreesh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer</b>	A McCreesh, Chief Executive P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the committee and council meeting governance arrangements in the context of the <i>Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020</i> in place to allow for remote meetings, remote attendance by members and members of the public, where applicable. To consider the current standing of the Regulations.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Members will be aware that in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic the Department for Communities brought legislation forward to the NI Assembly in April 2020 to allow for the transaction of Council meetings virtually/in-remote form. The ability for the NI Assembly to do this flowed from Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 passed by the UK Parliament on 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020.
2.2	The Regulations referenced in 1.1 above became operational on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2020. These Regulations are time limited and as such temporary. The Regulations are due to expire on 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 meaning that virtual/remote meetings held under the guise of these Regulations can only be done so up on midnight of 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021.
2.3	The Department for Communities (DfC) has confirmed that the new Regulations will now not be in place before 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 to allow for a seamless continuation of remote/virtual meetings. DfC has advised that they are working towards having the new regulations in place for Council AGMs in June. Mid Ulster Council's AGM will take place on Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>This expiration of the existing Regulations in the absence of new ones being in place will affect how we approach any council/committee meetings held between 7<sup>th</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> May. On the basis that DfC are working to have new Regs. in place for June 2021 the following meetings fall in the affected period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Committee: Tues 11<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>• Development Committee: Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> May</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council: Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May</li> </ul>
3.2	The Planning and Policy & Resources Committees will be held before the current Regulations expire.
3.3	Subject to further direction being provided by DfC on this matter and in the interests of continuing the transaction of council/committee business during this period it is recommended that meetings continue in the format as they have been to date (i.e. our hybrid/virtual meetings with the participation of members)
3.4	<p>To facilitate this, it is recommended that any decisions arrived upon at these meetings will be implemented by the Chief Executive, under the authority granted to that position by 3.3 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers, where it states;</p> <p><b>3.3 Emergencies and Cases of Urgency</b></p> <p><i>'Taking such measures, including incurring expenditure, as may be required in emergency situations or cases of urgency, subject to advising the appropriate Chair and reporting to the appropriate committee as soon as possible'</i></p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Not applicable
	Human: Not applicable
	Risk Management: Not applicable
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: Not applicable
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That the council consider the contents of this report to continue with meetings in the current format and any decisions made at meetings from 7 <sup>th</sup> May until the new Remote Meeting Regulations are in place be implemented by the Chief Executive under 3.3 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None

<b>Report on</b>	<b>Report for Council on the Submission of the draft Plan Strategy to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to Cause an Independent Examination</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	22 April 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Dr. Chris Boomer, Planning Manager
<b>Contact Officer/s</b>	Roisin McAllister, Senior Planning Officer (Acting) Colin McKeown, Senior Planning Officer (Acting)

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>		Yes	x
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon		No	
x	Information relates to financial or business affairs of a person (including the council)		

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek agreement to submit the Local Development Plan Strategy to the Department so that those people making representations on the strategy are provided opportunity to represent their views at a Public Examination(IE).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>To date, the process for publishing the draft Plan Strategy has incorporated the following stages;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Preferred Options Paper (POP)</u> – This was published in November 2016 with a 12 week consultation period which ran until 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. There were 657 responses and these were used to inform the draft Plan Strategy.</li> <li>➤ <u>Draft Plan Strategy (DPS)</u> – Following agreement from Council members on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019, the DPS was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 followed by an 8 week consultation period. There were 204 representations during the consultation period. These representation were made available to view online and in the three principal offices and a further 8 week consultation period followed to allow for specific policy representations (counter representations) from 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019. There were a total of 214 counter-representations received. All representations and counter representations were considered and collated in consultation reports, which were agreed by Planning Committee over 3 separate meetings between November 2019 – January 2020.</li> </ul>

	<p>➤ <u>Re-Consultation Exercise</u> – Following the discovery of a procedural error in the consultation process, a re-consultation on the Draft Plan Strategy was launched for the period of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and closure of Councils buildings, this consultation period was extended until 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 meaning that there was a 6 month re-consultation period. A total of 36 additional representations were received. Again, all representations were placed on display in the three principal council offices and the Council website and subject to another counter representation consultation period between 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. An additional 14 counter representations were received. The updated public consultation report with the additional representations and counter representations was agreed by Planning Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Main Issues</b></p> <p>Council have already agreed the contents of the draft Plan Strategy. The most noteworthy and important elements of the contents of the DPS are summarised below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Additional scope for rural housing through an enhanced list of criteria whereby development of single dwellings may be appropriate. This is to reflect the existing rural settlement patterns in Mid Ulster and to support our vibrant rural communities</li> <li>➤ Additional scope for economic development in the rural area in order to reflect the current make up of our District i.e. we have a considerable degree of rural industry / entrepreneurship; particularly in manufacturing.</li> <li>➤ Enhanced protection for our most vulnerable landscapes through additional designations which include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special Countryside Area (SCA)</li> <li>○ Area of Constraint on Mineral Development (ACMD) designation and</li> <li>○ Area of Constraint on Wind Turbines and High Structures (AOCWTHS) designation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>These designations are focussed on the High Sperrins, the Brougher Mountain Escarpment overlooking the Clogher Valley, Slieve Beagh and the shoreline of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg.</p>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Consultation Responses</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<p>A summary of the main issues, which were raised during the consultation period for the DPS, include the following;</p> <p><u>Rural Housing</u></p> <p>Unsurprisingly, DfI have registered strong objections to our proposed rural housing policy. They argue that we are facilitating more rural housing which goes against regional planning policy which encourages people to live in towns and cities as opposed to more unsustainable forms of living such as rural dwellings.</p>



	<p>The Councils position is that policies are tailored to our district and they support our vibrant rural communities, allowing them to survive and continue to grow, something that is also reflected in regional planning policy. In doing so, we are also capable of fulfilling the RDS target of 60% of new houses to be located in the hub settlements, as shown in Appendix 1 of the draft Plan Strategy. In effort to ensure rural house building does not exceed existing levels, we have incorporated a review mechanism to monitor levels.</p>
<b>3.4</b>	<p><u>Landscape Character Assessment Review</u></p> <p>DfI have also raised concerns regarding the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) Review which was carried out to inform the strategic environmental designations brought forward in the DPS and already referenced in this report. The Council considers that the approach taken to its LCA Review is sound. The Council has relied on the robust pre-existing data sources which have been updated as necessary and the Council considers this is an approach which has been relied on elsewhere with success. Furthermore, GM Design Associates, a well respected consultancy, were employed by the Council to carry out an audit of the LCA Review. GM Design Associates and the Council planning department are content that the issues identified throughout their audit process resulted in appropriate amendments and that the resulting LCA Review is a more comprehensive and sound document.</p> <p>A paper defending the approach taken to Landscape Review has been approved by planning committee in March 2021 and will be uploaded to the Council website as supporting documentation to the DPS.</p>
<b>3.5</b>	<p><u>Mining</u></p> <p>In order to protect local communities and important landscapes the Plan Strategy proposes greater protection against inappropriate minerals development, particularly in the Sperrins. This is a subject on which there are very strong and competing views and a public examination is needed to allow everyone to have their say.</p>
<b>3.6</b>	<p><u>Renewable Energy</u></p> <p>The Renewable Energy industry have raised concern that the strategic designations brought forward in the DPS will restrict potential for renewable energy development. The Councils position on this is that Northern Ireland as a country is on course to meet our renewable energy targets, (albeit this will kept under review) and that Mid Ulster is a significant contributor to this achievement. In addition to this, we have to balance the need for further renewable energy with a need to protect our vulnerable landscapes such as the high Sperrins, Slieve Beagh, Brougher Mountain etc. from inappropriate development.</p>
<b>3.7</b>	<p><b>Moving Forward</b></p> <p>The need to re-run our consultation process and to extend it due to covid-19 has meant that the process of progressing the DPS has become somewhat protracted. Consequently, we consider it expedient to ensure that stakeholders who have made a representation or counter representation to the DPS, have their views heard at Independent Examination as soon as possible.</p>
<b>3.8</b>	<p>All issues raised during the consultation periods have been presented to and agreed by the Planning Committee and the DPS Consultation Report will be</p>

	<p>uploaded to the Council website as part of the process of submission. The DPS Consultation Report will not be published on the Council website until submission of the DPS for IE. It can therefore be viewed via the link below;</p> <p><b>DPS Consultation Report - Consideration of Issues Raised in Representations and Counter Representations:</b> <a href="https://midulsterdistrictcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/johnpaul_devlin_midulstercouncil_org/EcPbMX7V05pCkTYTeT03DQABAJZsN5t1yMtuyKubz9JZ6g?e=5RypUd">https://midulsterdistrictcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/johnpaul_devlin_midulstercouncil_org/EcPbMX7V05pCkTYTeT03DQABAJZsN5t1yMtuyKubz9JZ6g?e=5RypUd</a></p> <p><b>Note: If using a laptop or PC this link may need to be pasted into the web address bar</b></p>
3.9	In addition to the DPS Consultation Report, there are a range of reports and supporting documentation, which will form part of our submission which are already uploaded and detailed in appendix A attached to this report.
3.10	Appendix A provides an Overview of Submission Documents with links to view said documents either via the Council website or for those not published, via a private link as provided (as above). This includes documentation required under The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and relevant to the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy.
3.11	<p>The Planning Manager will ensure that the following reports are also completed and uploaded as part of the submission process. These reports are required in order to meet legislative obligations on the Council under Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 20 of <u>The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist</b> –in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</li> <li>➤ <b>Self Assessment check on compliance with SCI</b> - in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (b) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015</li> <li>➤ <b>Statement setting out summary of main issues raised in response to draft Plan Strategy</b> - in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (g) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (Note: DPS Consultation Report has already been agreed by Planning Committee)</li> </ul>
3.12	<p>Other documentation to be completed and submitted (not legislative requirements):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Self Assessment Checklist – Compliance with The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Excel Charts of all Representations and Counter Representations to the draft Plan Strategy.</b></li> </ul>

3.13	<p>➤ <b>Minor Corrections to DPS.</b></p> <p>Following submission of the DPS, the Department will either direct the Council to withdraw the DPS or will cause an Independent Examination to be held by the Planning Appeals Commission. It is strongly expected that the latter option will be adopted and that an Independent Examination will be caused.</p> <p>It is anticipated that as is normal practice, the Independent Examination will compel the Council to make some changes prior to adoption of the Strategy in its final form. Following adoption, the next stage of the Local Development Plan process will be to advance with the Local Policies Plan which will consider site specific issues such as land use zonings and the extent of development settlement limits for each settlement. Members should be advised that there is no pressing issues of land shortages, and in that regard, extant zonings in the 3 legacy Area Plans are deemed sufficient to cater for the District in the intervening period.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:None identified</p> <p>Human: None identified</p> <p>Risk Management: None identified</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: None identified</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None identified</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Council agree the following;</p> <p>5.1.1 The Planning Manager submits the draft Plan Strategy to DfI subject to the aforementioned reports being completed.</p> <p>5.1.2 Following the submission of the Draft Plan Strategy and accompanying documents to the Department, the Planning Manager, in accordance with Regulation 21 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ make available for inspection at it's principal offices, the Draft Plan Strategy and all accompanying documents specified in regulation 20(2) and any documents relevant to the preparation of the DPS and,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ notify the consultation bodies of the fact that the Draft Plan Strategy and the accompanying documents are available for inspection and the places and times at which they can be inspected and,</li> <li>○ notify any person who has made (and not withdrawn) a representation in accordance with regulation 16(2) or 18(2) of those matters;</li> <li>○ give notice in the Belfast Gazette and by local advertisement of the fact that the Draft Plan Strategy has been submitted to the Department; and</li> <li>○ publish the notice mentioned on its website.</li> </ul>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A – Overview of Submission Documents

## Appendix A

### Overview of Submission Documents

#### 1.0 Submission Documents for draft Plan Strategy (already completed)

- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment – in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (a) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Publications/Planning/Local%20Development%20Plan/Sustainability-Appraisal-incorporating-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-update-compressed.pdf>

<b>Additional SA/SEA Preparatory Papers:</b>
<a href="https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/local-development-plan-2030-draft-plan-strategy-an">https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/local-development-plan-2030-draft-plan-strategy-an</a>
<a href="#"><i>SA/SEA Non-Tech Summary Report</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>SA/SEA Scoping Report</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>SA/SEA Interim Report</i></a>

- Statement of Community Involvement – in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (b) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/getmedia/fb4b59e1-877e-410c-928d-86db7327ba41/FINAL-AGREED-Revised-Statement-of-Community-Involvement-June-2020.pdf.aspx>

- Timetable – in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (e) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/getmedia/1cdcbe9c-413b-47cf-96ad-046280e9767d/LDP-Revised-Timetable-for-August-2020-Agreed-01-09-2020.pdf.aspx>

- Preferred Options Paper – Public Consultation Report - in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (f) (i) and (ii) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Publications/Planning/Local%20Development%20Plan/Public-Consultation-Report-January-2019-Compressed.pdf>

- Copies of Representations and Counter Representations - in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (h) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Representations:

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/local-development-plan-2030-draft-plan-strategy-an/representations-received-to-local-development-plan>

Counter Representations:

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/local-development-plan-2030-draft-plan-strategy-an/counter-representations-received-to-draft-plan-str>

- Background Evidence Papers – in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (i) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

#### **Preparatory Position Papers:**

[https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning-\(1\)/mid-ulster-development-plan/preferred-options-paper/development-plan-preparatory-position-papers](https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning-(1)/mid-ulster-development-plan/preferred-options-paper/development-plan-preparatory-position-papers)

[Development Pressure Analysis](#)

[Employment and Economic Development Paper](#)

[Environmental Assets Paper](#)

[Housing Position Paper](#)

[Health, Education & Community Uses](#)

[Housing Allocation Paper](#)

[Landscape Assessment Position Paper](#)

[Minerals Paper](#)

[Open Space Recreation and Leisure Position Paper](#)

[Population Growth](#)

[Utilities Paper](#)

[Strategic Settlement Evaluation Position Paper](#)

[Sustainability Assessment Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)

[Tourism Position Paper](#)

[Town Centre Position Paper](#)

[Transportation Paper](#)

#### **Background Evidence (see bottom of page under useful documents)**

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/local-development-plan-2030-draft-plan-strategy-an>

<b>Background Evidence (see bottom of page under useful documents)</b> <a href="https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/local-development-plan-2030-draft-plan-strategy-an">https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/local-development-plan-2030-draft-plan-strategy-an</a>
<a href="#"><u>Addendum to Background Paper Considering Tourism Opportunity Zones and Tourism Consideration Zones</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Addendum to Position Paper Public Utilities</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Addendum to Position Paper Strategic Settlement Evaluation Paper January 2019</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Addendum to Position paper 3 Employment and Economic Development</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper Defining 'Countryside'</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper Minerals</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper Renewable Energy</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper Rural Industrial Policy Areas (RIPAs)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper Tourism Opportunity Zones Tourism Conservation Zones</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper High Sperrins and Clogher Valley Areas of Constraint on Wind Turbines and High Structures (AoC)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper Lough Neagh Lough Beg Special Countryside Area (SCA)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper High Sperrins and Slieve Beagh Special Countryside Area (SCA)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Background Evidence Paper - Identification of AOC on Mineral Development and impact of Surface Development</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Landscape Character Assessment Review</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Review and Audit of Mid Ulster District Council Landscape Character Assessment Review</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Industrial Land Monitor Update October 2018</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Housing Monitor Report 2015 – 2019 (Updated 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Retail and Commercial Leisure Capacity Study</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Implications of COVID-19 on Draft Plan Strategy March 2021</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Addendum to Landscape Character Assessment Review March 2021</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Report on the Draft Plan Strategy and linkages to the draft Marine Plan</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Urban Capacity Study March 2021</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Housing Monitor Report 2019 – 2020</u></a>

- **Policy Review Papers** - *in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (i) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*

<b>Policy Review Papers:</b> <a href="https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/preferred-options-paper/development-plan-policy-review-papers">https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/preferred-options-paper/development-plan-policy-review-papers</a>
<a href="#"><u>Archaeology and Built Heritage Policy Review</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Economic Development Policy Review</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Flood risk Policy Review</u></a>

<b>Policy Review Papers:</b> <a href="https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/preferred-options-paper/development-plan-policy-review-papers">https://www.midulstercouncil.org/planning/mid-ulster-development-plan/preferred-options-paper/development-plan-policy-review-papers</a>
<a href="#">General Planning Principles Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Housing in Settlements- Quality Residential Environments Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Minerals Development Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Natural Heritage Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Open Spaces Recreation and Leisure Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Renewables Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Sustainable Development in the Countryside Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Telecommunications and Overhead Cables Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Tourism Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Town Centre and Retailing Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Transportation Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Urban Design Policy Review</a>
<a href="#">Waste Management Policy Review</a>

- Preferred Options Paper - *in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (i) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Publications/Planning/Local%20Development%20Plan/mid-ulster-local-deve-plan-2030.pdf>

Preferred Option Paper Easy Read Guide:

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Publications/Planning/Local%20Development%20Plan/Mid-Ulster-Local-Development-Plan-2030-Preferred-Options-Paper-Easy-Read-Guide.pdf>

- Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy - *in accordance with Regulation 20 (3) (a) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/getmedia/dd8d49d7-79a6-4419-948f-2569cb0d0fa5/Local-Development-Plan-2030-Strategy-for-reconsultation.pdf.aspx>

### **Other Supporting Information:**

- Equality Impact Screening Report of the Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy. - *This considers the potential impact of the Draft Plan Strategy's policies and proposals on specific groups identified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.*



<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Publications/Planning/Local%20Development%20Plan/Equality-Impact-Screening-Report.pdf>

- Rural Needs Impact Assessment – *required by The Rural Needs Act 2016*

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Publications/Planning/Local%20Development%20Plan/Rural-Needs-Impact-Assessment.pdf>

- Habitats Regulations Assessment - *required by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).*

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Publications/Planning/Local%20Development%20Plan/Habitat-Regulations-Assessment.pdf>

## **2.0 Submission Documents for draft Plan Strategy (completed but not available on the Council Website (private link))**

- Draft Plan Strategy Consultation Report – Consideration of Issues Raised in Representations and Counter Representations – *as per guidance ‘Procedures for Independent Examination of Local development Plans’ (April 2017, PAC) and ‘DPPN 10 Submitting Development Plan Documents for Independent Examination’ (December 2029, DfI)*

[https://midulsterdistrictcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/johnpaul\\_devlin\\_midulstercouncil\\_org/EcPbMX7V05pCkTYTeT03DQABAJZsN5t1yMtuyKubz9JZ6g?e=5RypUd](https://midulsterdistrictcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/johnpaul_devlin_midulstercouncil_org/EcPbMX7V05pCkTYTeT03DQABAJZsN5t1yMtuyKubz9JZ6g?e=5RypUd)

**\*Note: If using a laptop or PC this link may need to be pasted into the web address bar**

## **Additional documents which will be prepared and submitted by the Planning Manager**

### **2.1 Documents needed before submission – legislative requirements;**

- Self Assessment Checklist of Soundness – in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
- Self Assessment check on compliance with SCI – in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (b) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015
- Statement setting out summary of main issues raised in response to draft Plan Strategy - in accordance with Regulation 20 (2) (g) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

### **2.2 Documents to be completed before submission (not legislative requirements):**

- Self Assessment Checklist – Compliance with The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015
- Excel Charts of all Representations and Counter Representations to the draft Plan Strategy.
- Minor Corrections to DPS.

NOTE: Over the course of the consideration by the Department for Infrastructure and Planning Appeals Commission, the Planning Manager will also provide additional evidential information as required.

<b>Report on</b>	Correspondence to Council – April 2021
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Correspondence from Minister for Health</b></p> <p>The Minister for Health has corresponded with the Council on the motion previously carried by Council on care provided by hospices and hospice staff. Refer to appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Correspondence from Minister of Finance</b></p> <p>The Minister for Finance has corresponded with the Council Chair regarding the motion previously carried by Council on Vacant Rates on Town Centre retail premises. Refer to appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Correspondence from Chief Executive, Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</b></p> <p>The Chief Executive of Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council has corresponded with the Council Chief Executive giving notification that it carried a motion on Holiday Hunger, requesting that this Council also write to the Minister of Education on the matter. Refer to appendix C.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Correspondence from Monaghan County Council</b></p> <p>A representative from Monaghan County Council has corresponded with the Council giving notification of a resolution passed by it calling on the World Health Organisation to ensure an equitable distribution of Coronavirus vaccines. Refer to appendix D.</p>

3.5	<b>Correspondence from Minister of Finance</b>  The Minister of Finance has corresponded with the Council Chair on the central government Connect2 Hubs setting out the current position and ongoing local engagement. Refer to appendix E
3.6	<b>Correspondence from NI Official, University &amp; College Union (NI)</b>  The Northern Ireland Official of the University & College Union (NI) has written back to the Council expressing their appreciation for the support provided by the Council on their campaign for fairer and enhanced equitable pay. Refer to appendix F.
3.7	<b>Correspondence from NI Ambulance Service Health &amp; Social Care Trust</b>  The Chief Executive of the NIAS has corresponded with the Council Chief Executive in response to issues previously raised by members on property numbering of housing developments, responses times of ambulance crews and estates issues. Refer to appendix G.
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>  Financial: not applicable  Human: not applicable  Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>  Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable  Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A: Minister of Health Appendix B: Minister of Finance Appendix C: Chief Executive, Mid & East Antrim BC Appendix D: Monaghan County Council Appendix E: Minister of Finance Appendix F: NI Official, University & College Union (NI) Appendix G: Chief Executive, NI Ambulance Service

## FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan  
Mid Ulster District Council

[Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org)

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 028 9052 2556  
Email: [private.office@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@health-ni.gov.uk)

Your Ref: C015/21

Our Ref: CORR-0513-2021

Date: 17 February 2021

Dear

*Cathal,*

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 February 2021 in which you advised of the Motion carried by the Mid Ulster District Council in relation to the care provided by hospices and hospice staff and which called for fair and transparent funding in line with demand and continued high quality palliative and end of life care.

I appreciate that hospices in Northern Ireland provide much valued services in caring for those living with palliative and end of life care needs. Departmental officials and their colleagues in the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) work closely with hospices and are aware of both the contribution they make and the challenges they face.

I recognise the financial pressure facing hospices. Unfortunately COVID-19 has impacted across the voluntary and community sector and there are similar issues across other areas and organisations also where there are increasing demands for services and financial pressures arising from this.

The Health and Social Care Board has Service Level Agreements in place with each of the hospice providers in Northern Ireland for both inpatient and community based services. Separate arrangements are also in place with HSC Trusts for hospice nurse night sitting services as required. In addition, Marie Curie also provides a regional out of hours Rapid Response Service.

Funding guidance put in place by the Department in 2004 introduced 50/50 funding for agreed adult inpatient hospice services with effect from 2004/05 and 50% funding for agreed adult community services with effect from 2005/06. These arrangements provide for funding of agreed commissioned services costs, not a hospice's total running costs.

Children's hospice services are funded differently to adult services and separate commissioning and funding arrangements are in place with the Northern Ireland Hospice for children's palliative care and hospice services.

In addition to core funding, following the closure of the Horizon West children's hospice, my Department agreed to fund an additional bed at the NI Children's Hospice at Horizon House for 3 years from 2018/19 on a 50:50 basis.

Since 2018, a Paediatric and Life Limited Service (PALLs) has been commissioned from the NI Children's Hospice. The service provides a specialist nursing role to support children, families and clinicians in recognising and managing end of life needs as well as access to a dedicated bed in the NI Children's Hospice or in the child's own home. The funding of £186,000 for the PALLs service was made available initially through Confidence and Supply transformation funding. My Department has made this funding available for a further year in 2020/21 to ensure the continued delivery of the service by the NI Children's hospice.

In recognition of challenges faced by hospices during the ongoing pandemic, with the agreement of my Department, the HSCB put arrangements in place to support hospices' cash flow. These arrangements also apply to contracts between the hospices and Health and Social Care Trusts. The Health and Social Care Board has also worked closely with hospices to support the availability of PPE, fit testing and access to sanitising equipment and to keep hospices informed about the broader system approach to responding to COVID-19.

I also welcome the additional funding that has been made available to hospices in recognition of the restrictions on fundraising opportunities and retail as a result of COVID-19. In May 2020, £6.75 million was allocated to local hospices and the Cancer Fund for Children (CFC). On 29 October, additional funding of £7.3million for hospices and the Cancer Fund for Children was announced.

More recently, my Department has made further funding of £1.754million available for hospices as part of additional COVID-19 funding for 2020/21, in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 and the additional costs that hospices face as they have continued to provide palliative and end of life care during the pandemic.

The HSCB has recently completed a review of adult hospice funding, as a result of which a total funding shortfall of £867,360 was identified between the 2019/20 funding provided to hospices when compared against benchmarked costs assessed as part of the review process. This additional funding has been made available to hospices backdated to April 2019.

In October 2020, the Health and Social Care Board approved a 4% uplift for 2020/21 to the value of its core contract Service Level Agreements held with hospices in Northern Ireland.

The current funding arrangements for adult hospices date back to 2004. I believe it is appropriate therefore that consideration be given to reviewing these in light of the changing context and demographics for palliative care and I hope that hospices would engage with this.

New Decade New Approach (NDNA) included a commitment to increase investment in palliative and end of life care to fully implement service improvements for palliative and end of life care including enhancing the contribution of hospices; and to increase support for palliative perinatal care. Investment to meet the NDNA palliative care commitment was included in my Department's bids for additional funding in the Department of Finance Budget 2021-22 Exercise. Unfortunately my Department's Draft Budget allocation hasn't provided specific allocations to take forward any of our NDNA commitments including palliative care. My Department is currently considering whether some of our NDNA priorities including palliative care could be funded from the funding that is available for the COVID/ Rebuild of services.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister of Health**

**From the Minister of Finance**

*Cllr Cathal Mallaghan*

[Philip.Moffett@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Philip.Moffett@midulstercouncil.org)

Private Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
BELFAST  
BT3 9ED  
Tel: 028 9081 6216  
Email: [private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference: C036-21  
Our reference: CORR-0639-2021

Date: 02 April 2021

Dear Cathal

**MOTION CARRIED BY COUNCIL ON VACANT RATES ON TOWN CENTRE RETAIL PREMISES**

Thank you for your letter of 16 March regarding vacant rating policy and requesting that further assistance be provided to vacant retail premises within town centres for the next financial year.

The general policy in regard to vacant premises provides that once a non-domestic property becomes vacant, it receives 100% exemption from business rates for the first three months of that vacant period, after which the vacant empty premises relief of 50% of the occupied rate will be applied. The funding for this relief, which costs approximately £43m in revenue foregone per year, is shared between the Executive and District Councils.

In response to the difficulties facing our town centres and village streets due to the pandemic, in the 2020/21 rating year I provided a 12 months rates holiday which provided £288m of support for businesses; this applied to both occupied and vacant retail units. In other words, vacant retail units were not charged any rates in 2020-21. As the cost of this additional relief was funded entirely by the Executive, this did not impact on council revenues, reflecting also our determination to protect livelihoods and jobs.

In relation to the forthcoming rating year, you will already be aware that on 11 March I announced details of a further rate relief package for the forthcoming rating year. This will deliver £230 million of support to almost 29,000 businesses here in the form of a rate free period for the next 12 months from 1 April 2021. My officials are



currently working to bring forward Statutory Regulations which will provide details of this relief to specified businesses uses in the retail, hospitality, leisure, tourism, childcare and manufacturing sectors, as well as airports and newspaper production facilities. Similar to last year, I can confirm that the cost of this support will be funded entirely by the Executive and will result in eligible vacant retail premises paying no rates for a further 12 months.

I trust you find this response helpful.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conor Murphy." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**CONOR MURPHY MLA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**



Ref: TC/ab/KM

29 March 2021

Sent via email: [private.office@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@education-ni.gov.uk)

Mr Peter Weir, MLA  
Education Minister  
Rathgael house  
Balloo Road  
Rathgill  
BANGOR  
BT19 7PR

Dear Minister Weir

**Re: Holiday Hunger**

At the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council meeting on 09 February 2021, a Notice of Motion was passed and unanimously supported by Council regarding Holiday Hunger as proposed by Ald Billy Ashe MBE and Seconded by Ald Beth Adger MBE:

*“Following my notice of motion dated 03 September 2019 that was unanimously supported by Council on summer hunger for children, and the sterling work by Manchester United Football star Marcus Rashford, I noticed that other regions within the UK have moved on this issue. This council should write to the Education Minister and invite other councils to write in support of implementing free school meals during summer holidays for those entitled to ensure no child goes hungry and is given the best start on life and help raise our young people and make happy teenagers.”*

The eradication of Holiday Hunger has been an issue which this Council has actively pursued over the last couple of years. In 2018, Council approved a Notice of Motion to tackle this issue in which Council resolved to work with statutory and voluntary agencies to bring forth a solution to holiday hunger.

Council was delighted to hear your announcement in November 2020, that families of young people who are entitled to Free School Meals will receive food grants during school holidays, from Christmas 2020 until Easter 2022. This is reassuring news for the increasing number of families who find themselves in food poverty in our Borough. In the short term it will alleviate some of their hardship and help ensure that no child goes hungry and is given the best start in life.

Please reply to:

■ **Head Office**  
The Braid  
1-29 Bridge Street  
Ballymena BT43 5EJ

□ **Ballymena Office**  
Ardeevin  
80 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena BT42 1AB

□ **Carrickfergus Office**  
Museum & Civic Centre  
11 Antrim Street  
Carrickfergus BT38 7DG

□ **Larne Office**  
Smiley Buildings  
Victoria Road  
Larne BT40 1RU

□ **Planning Office**  
Business Park  
190 Raceview Road  
Ballymena  
BT42 4HZ

Chief Executive  
Anne Donaghy OBE

Easter 2022 is only 12 months away and I am writing to you as Minister for Education, to ask you to support the continuation of food grants during holiday periods beyond this timescale or to develop and implement a new initiative to address the growing issues of Holiday Hunger. You have previously stated that *“access to a healthy nutritious meal should be a basic right for all children”* and our Council unanimously agree with you. It is therefore vital that this support is continued to ensure children and young people return to school after holiday periods, healthy and ready to learn.

Research highlights the correlation between good nourishment and a child’s ability to learn. Children who are malnourished fall behind in school because they cannot concentrate or they often miss classes to help the family put food on the table. Food poverty will not simply disappear in 12 months, therefore it is essential that action is taken now to address the issue of holiday hunger in the longer term.

Council would be keen to meet with you to assist in any interagency approach or initiative that you can develop in order to ensure no young person in our Borough goes hungry during school holiday breaks.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely



**Anne Donaghy OBE**  
**Clerk & Chief Executive**

Please reply to:

■ **Head Office**  
The Braid  
1-29 Bridge Street  
Ballymena BT43 5EJ

Tel: 0300 1245 000

□ **Ballymena Office**  
Ardeevin  
80 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena BT42 1AB

[www.midandeantrim.gov.uk](http://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk)

□ **Carrickfergus Office**  
Museum & Civic Centre  
11 Antrim Street  
Carrickfergus BT38 7DG

□ **Larne Office**  
Smiley Buildings  
Victoria Road  
Larne BT40 1RU

□ **Planning Office**  
Business Park  
190 Raceview Road  
Ballymena  
BT42 4HZ

Chief Executive  
Anne Donaghy OBE



# Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin Monaghan County Council

Appendix D

6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

The Elected Members of  
Each Borough Council, City Council  
and District Council in  
Northern Ireland.

Dear Councillor,

At the March meeting of Monaghan County Council the following resolution was passed and I was directed to circulate it to all local authorities north and south of the border seeking their support and adoption.

*That this Council records it's support for the World Health Organisation's plea for the equitable global distribution of all vaccines, treatments and therapies developed to combat the coronavirus scourge, and further notes:*

- *that some 130 countries across the world have yet to receive a single vaccine;*
- *that some countries have made arrangements for the delivery of vaccines far in excess of their populations need;*
- *that multiple voices have raised concern that some of the world's poorest countries are unlikely to receive an adequate delivery of vaccines to meet their populations need until late 2023 or even into 2024;*
- *the failure of the pharmaceutical companies behind the current batch of developed vaccines to share their research and findings with equally competent pharmaceutical manufacturers across the world to help speed up the production and distribution of vaccines and thereby the defeat of this global pandemic;*
- *the European Commission's approval of an application by concerned citizens to secure one million signatures of EU citizens to compel the Commission to consider the steps it can take, including legislation, to address this global inequality;*

*That this Council encourages all citizens to sign the EU hosted petition through Google Chrome on [www.noprofitonpandemic.eu](http://www.noprofitonpandemic.eu) thereby helping to reach the one million signatures target at the earliest date possible.*

Yours faithfully,

Carmel Thornton  
Meetings Administrator

Fáltaíonn an tUdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Oifigí an Chontae, An Gleann, Muineachán, Éire.

Monaghan County Council, Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland.

00353 47 82739 00353 47 82739 [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie)

[eolas@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:eolas@monaghancoco.ie) [info@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:info@monaghancoco.ie)

Acmhainní Daonna  
Human Resources  
047 30586

Airgeadas  
Finance  
047 30589

Na Bóithre  
Roads  
047 30597

Clár na dToghthóirí  
Register of Electors  
047 30551

Comhshaol  
Environment  
042 9661240

Na hEalaíona  
Arts  
047 38162

Iasachtaí /Deontais Tithíochta  
Housing Loans/Grants  
047 30527

Leabharlann an Chontae  
County Library  
047 74700

Mótarcháin  
Motor Tax  
047 81175

Músaem an Chontae  
County Museum  
047 82928

Pleanáil  
Planning  
047 30532

Pobal  
Community  
047 73719

Rialú Dóiteáin/Foirgnimh  
Fire/Building Control  
047 30521

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office  
047 71818

Seirbhís Uisce  
Water Services  
047 30504/30571



**From the Minister of Finance**



*Cllr Cathal Mallaghan*

*Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT*

Private Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
BELFAST  
BT3 9ED  
Tel: 028 9081 6216  
Email: [private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference:  
Our reference: **CORR-0671-2021**

Date: **29 March 2021**

Dear Councillor Mallaghan,

### **Connect2 Hubs**

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 March 2021 on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in relation to Connect2 regional hubs. I have read your letter and I understand that Council is disappointed that there are no current plans to locate a Connect2 within the Mid Ulster region.

Whilst I am mindful of the deleterious impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Mid Ulster area, it is important to highlight that the Connect2 hubs will not lead to the redeployment of Civil Service jobs. Rather, the hubs are intended to provide an alternative location for existing NICS staff to work without the need to travel longer distances.

My officials determined the optimal locations of the Connect2 regional hubs based on NICS staff commuter data analysis provided by Ordnance Survey NI, geographical location, and the Department of Finance's existing office portfolio. They will continue to review the data to ensure that hubs are located in areas that maximise their impact, best meet departmental needs and ensure best value for money to the public purse. As the hubs develop in the future, I have asked them to keep the properties detailed in the appendix to your letter under consideration.

Derek Kennedy is the Senior Responsible Owner of the Reform of Property Management Programme and is leading on Connect2 project delivery. I understand that Derek discussed the Connect2 hubs with Council Officer Paul McCready on 23 March. Derek is also meeting with your Chief Executive, Adrian McCreesh, on 30 March to discuss the hubs and the wider plans for central government's office estate and how we might work together to maximise the impact of the central government estate in the Mid Ulster Council area.

My Department is committed to exploring opportunities to work alongside you to maximise local regeneration and redress regional imbalance.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conor Murphy." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**CONOR MURPHY MLA**  
**MINISTER OF FINANCE**

**Correspondence from - Northern Ireland Official, University & College Union (NI)**

Appendix F

**From:** Katharine Clarke  
**Sent:** 12 April 2021 09:55  
**To:** Eileen Forde <[Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: FE Lecturers Pay Claim

Good Morning Eileen

Please extend the UCU's thanks and appreciation to the Council for their support. I will share the correspondence with members.

Kind regards

Katharine

**From:** Eileen Forde [<mailto:Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org>]  
**Sent:** 08 April 2021 10:56  
**To:** Katharine Clarke  
**Subject:** FE Lecturers Pay Claim

Good morning

Please find attached correspondence from Mid Ulster District Council for your attention.

Best regards

Eileen Forde

**Eileen Forde**  
**Member Support Officer**  
**Dungannon Office**  
**Telephone 03000 132 132 Ext 24004**  
**Mobile: 07825140198**



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council





# Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust



Appendix G

Chief Executive's Office  
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Email: michael.bloomfield@nias.hscni.net  
Tel: 028 9040 0999

Mr Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Council Offices  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT

Our Ref: AD/CE/50(1)  
Your Ref:

Date: 18 March 2021

Dear Adrian

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2021 and for the interest that the Council takes in relation to the provision of ambulance services in the area.

I would be very happy to meet with the Council to discuss the issues raised in your letter in more detail. In the meantime, I would comment as follows on the specific issues raised by Council members as outlined in your letter.

## New Housing developments and the NIAS Navigation system

New housing developments are captured as part of the Ordnance Survey NI (OSNI) Pointer data set, which are released on a regular basis. The pointer dataset is the foundation of our Gazetteer held within the Computer Aided Dispatch system, which automatically updates the satellite navigation systems in our ambulances.

More generally, on the issue of locating properties, particularly in rural areas, I very much welcome your planned promotional campaign to encourage both houses and lane entrances to be clearly numbered. I believe this is an issue we could work on jointly, and with your agreement, will provide the contact details of our Media and Communications Manager who would lead on this on behalf of NIAS.

## Response times

Ambulance response times continue to be challenging, particularly during the Pandemic when a substantial number of staff have been unavailable for work at any time due to Covid-19 related issues such as needing to self-isolate. This has increased our reliance on the need for staff to work overtime to provide as much operational cover as possible. The longer-term solution to this lies in the full implementation of our new Clinical Response Model which would see an expansion in our operational workforce of over 300 staff. We continue to work with the Department of Health to secure funding for this expansion.



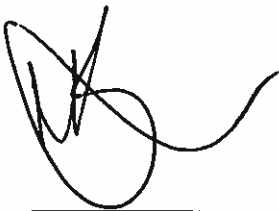
The introduction of our new Clinical Response Model forms part of a wider framework on ongoing service reforms in NIAS. I appreciate your concerns as to how this translates into practice within rural areas and look forward to providing the Council with a full overview as to how each part of our strategy connects to deliver as equitable a service as possible across all areas.

#### Estates issues

Upgrading our estates to make them fit for purpose and ensuring that they are geographically sited in areas which provide most benefit is a key deliverable of our strategy to transform 2020-2026 – “Caring Today, Planning for Tomorrow”. As such, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the NIAS strategic plans to reconfigure our estate, the impact that these proposals will have on response times and the potential for collaborative work with Mid Ulster Council in the development of these plans.

I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail with the Council, and would ask your office contacts my PA, Nikki Dornan via email [chief.secretary@nias.hscni.net](mailto:chief.secretary@nias.hscni.net) or telephone 028 9040 0712 to arrange a suitable time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Bloomfield', written over a horizontal line.

**Michael Bloomfield**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>Report on</b>	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments and statutory agencies, 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.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members review and note consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

## Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for Communities	<b>Sport and Physical Activity Strategy</b>	Department for Communities is consulting on the development of a new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland to cover the next 10 years and beyond. The new Strategy is being developed by the Department for Communities acting on behalf of all the departments of the Northern Ireland Executive. The aim is to provide a flexible strategic framework for a cross-departmental, ambitious, and comprehensive approach to promoting participation and excellence in sport and physical activity.	23 April 2021	Draft response prepared for April Development Committee
	Link to Consultation	<a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-new-strategy-sport-and-physical-activity">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-new-strategy-sport-and-physical-activity</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority</b> 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
The Department for the Economy	<b>Restoring Trust in Audit and Corporate Governance</b>	This white paper is seeking views on proposals to strengthen the UK's framework for major companies and the way they are audited.	8 July 2021	

	<b>Link to Consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/restoring-trust-in-audit-and-corporate-governance-proposals-on-reforms">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/restoring-trust-in-audit-and-corporate-governance-proposals-on-reforms</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority</b> required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation Title</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Response Currently Being Developed</b>
<b>DAERA</b>	<b>Disability Action Plan 2019-2024</b>	DAERA would welcome your comments on the proposed action measures in the Disability Action Plan or views on other ways in which the commitment to the disability duties could be better demonstrated.	4 July 2021	
	<b>Link to Consultation</b>	<a href="https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/consultation-on-the-daera-disability-action-plan-2/consult_view/">https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/consultation-on-the-daera-disability-action-plan-2/consult_view/</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority</b> required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation Title</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Response Currently Being Developed</b>
<b>SEUPB</b>	<b>PEACE PLUS Programme Public Consultation</b>	SEUPB are seeking your view on the draft content of the European Union funded PEACE PLUS Programme (2021-2027), worth approximately €1bn. It has been designed following a comprehensive cross border stakeholder engagement process, early last year.	12 May 2021	
	<b>Link to Consultation</b>	<a href="https://seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS">https://seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority</b> required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation Title</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Response Currently Being Developed</b>

Department for the Economy	Restoring trust in audit and Corporate Governance	In this white paper, views are requested on proposals to strengthen the UK's framework for major companies and the way they are audited. The proposals set out how: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting on their governance and finances</li> <li>• reporting should be audited audit and the audit market should change</li> <li>• these should be overseen by a new regulator</li> </ul>	11:45pm on 8 July 2021	
	Link to Consultation	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/restoring-trust-in-audit-and-corporate-governance-proposals-on-reforms">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/restoring-trust-in-audit-and-corporate-governance-proposals-on-reforms</a>		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for the Economy	Policy Options Consultation for the new Energy Strategy	This consultation builds on the evidence received and the key issues identified through the Call for Evidence process. Five working groups covering energy efficiency, heat, power, transport and consumers were established to review the Call for Evidence responses, contribute additional evidence and help to identify and shortlist potential policy options.	5pm on 30 June 2021	
	Link to Consultation	<a href="http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/energy-strategy-northern-ireland">www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/energy-strategy-northern-ireland</a>		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		No	

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Health	Duty of Candour & Being Open	The Department of Health is consulting on policy proposals to enact a statutory Duty of Candour in Northern Ireland, developed by the Duty of Candour Workstream and its Being Open Subgroup as part of the Hyponatraemia Implementation Programme.	5pm on 2nd August 2021	
	Link to Consultation	<a href="https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/duty-of-candour">https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/duty-of-candour</a>		
	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	

