

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 22 July 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means**

**Chair** Councillor McLean

**Members Present** Councillors Ashton, Bell\*, Brown\*, Buchanan\*, Clarke\*, Colvin\*, Corry\*, Cuddy\*, Cuthbertson\*, Doris\*, Elattar\*, Forde\*, Gildernew\*, Glasgow\*, Hughes\*, Kearney\*, Kerr, Mallaghan\*, N McAleer\*, S McAleer\*, McFlynn\*, B McGuigan\*, S McGuigan, McKinney, McNamee\*, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne\*, Molloy\*, Monteith, Mullen, 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 Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer  
Ms Kate Keys\*\*, Communications

**In Attendance** **Agenda Item 4 Deputation: Department for Infrastructure (Roads)**

Mr David McKinley**	Divisional Roads Manager
Mr Neill Bratton**	Section Engineer
Ms Lesley Maxwell**	Section Engineer
Ms Michelle Greer**	Networks Maintenance Manager

**Agenda Item 21 Presentation by Chief Executive  
Amendments to Senior Staff Structure**

Ms Hilary Brearley**	HR Consultant
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\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

*The Chair, Councillor McLean 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.*

**C146/21 Apologies**

Councillors Black, Burton, Graham and Oneill

## **C147/21      Declarations of Interest**

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

## **C148/21      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor McLean said that everyone welcomed the gradual return to normality as COVID restrictions continue to lift and life eases back to the way things were pre-pandemic. He did however urge everyone to continue to exercise caution and follow the public health advice and get the jab to limit the risk to COVID spread which appeared to be gaining momentum across the district and region. The Chair also spoke of the good weather and highlighted that it is a time when everyone must look in on neighbours, particularly the elderly in the extreme heat to ensure that all is well. He said that equally pets, particularly dogs needed care to limit the potential of heat exhaustion and dehydration.

The Chair, Councillor McLean highlighted the reports issued by NI Water regarding the immense demand being placed on the water supply to the district during the current heat wave and asked everyone to play their part in following the advice from the authorities to reduce the pressure on the water supply by looking at how voluntarily use of mains water can be reduced to essential use only.

The Chair, Councillor McLean noted that a Council meeting had been scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> August. He reminded Members that this had been agreed subject to business requirements and urgent matters requiring consideration in the month of August and as such he together with the Chief Executive would consider the need for a meeting closer to the time. Members would be advised accordingly. He highlighted that many staff had worked throughout the pandemic and Council should be mindful that they needed their annual leave.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer That the Chair and Chief Executive consider the requirements for a meeting of Council in August and only issue notice if there are urgent matters for consideration

Councillor Wilson advised that a mobile vaccination centre would be operational on Saturday 24 July 2021 in the Burnavon, Cookstown and encouraged all who were not yet vaccinated to avail of the opportunity.

Councillor Monteith referred to comments made in relation to NI Water and said that advise needed to be shared throughout departments as he had been made aware that the parks were using sprinklers earlier in the day. In response, the Chief

Executive said that as yet there was no public hosepipe ban but information had been shared regarding unnecessary water use. He further advised that Council would collect water from for example river basins and water butts to water flowers and plants. He assured Members that Council would lead by example but did highlight that bowling greens would have to be maintained as the costs of repairs would be exorbitant.

#### **C149/21      Deputation: Department for Infrastructure Roads**

The Chair, Councillor McLean welcomed representatives from DfI Roads to the meeting. He reminded Members they would have received an email with an enquiry sheet to forward issues and stressed the presentation was for strategic issues and delivery of the Spring Report.

Mr McKinley presented the previously circulated report.

The Chair Councillor McLean thanked Mr McKinley for his report and invited Member questions on strategic issues only reminding Members that enquiry forms had been issued and should be returned to Democratic Services as soon as possible.

Councillor Wilson thanked the officials for the report in particular local section staff for their work in what had not been an easy year. He referred to the Cookstown Bypass Project and the fact that the public information sessions had been postponed and asked if this was on line for early 2022. He expressed concern on the secondment of Neill Bratton to the procurement team and sought clarity on the duration.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said Council had received a letter from the Minister Infrastructure with regard to the legal challenge in relation to procurement issues, a party leaders meeting had been called and it had been noted that DfI had given a commitment that this was a short term period of six months and the officer would be returned to post.

In response to the query on the Cookstown Bypass Mr McKinley advised that there had been some modifications regarding the junction at Castle Road and Killymoon and a further roundabout had been suggested. He confirmed that the Department were on course for the public information sessions early in 2022.

Councillor Cuthbertson thanked local teams for their work during the past year and expressed disappointment with regard to resurfacing and stated he hoped it would be rectified early autumn. He requested that housing estates and developments received consideration for resurfacing as there was serious neglect in this area. He asked how far grass cutting had progressed in the current year and if the proposed park and ride at Stangmore Roundabout is the same location as previously discussed.

In response Mr McKinley said the proposed park and ride at Stangmore Roundabout is still the preferred site but there were discussions regarding access. With regard to

grass cutting Mr Bratton advised that the first cutting of the season had been completed in the north of the district and it was hoped to commence the second cut next week between Moneymore and Cookstown. Ms Maxwell said the south of the district was similar, there had been some issues with the new contractor but was hoped that the second cut would commence shortly.

Councillor Buchanan asked if the budget for resurfacing was being carried forward if not expended.

In response Mr McKinley said he could not confirm what flexibility there would be but DfI were striving to get the projects up and running by January 2022. He advised that Fermanagh and Omagh Council had resolved to write to the Minister to seek assurance that the money would remain for spend in the west.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to the impact of the hot weather on the roads and said that some areas of roads were melting. He highlighted an example of the B4 between Pomeroy and Donaghmore whereby a heavy goods vehicle had driven over a road softened by the heat and it had left a trough. He asked if going forward given that climate change was resulting in hotter weather if there were any plans for improvement in the bitumen mix for roads that they be more durable.

In response Mr McKinley said there was no immediate plans for change at present as the current bitumen is designed for the ambient temperatures experienced to date. Mr Bratton concurred but stated that other countries with a hotter climate have a higher cement mix but that would be for higher level consideration as the current mix was to British Standards.

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

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – that the Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that
- (i) The budget underspend in Mid Ulster resulting from the current suspension of works by the department due to issues in relation to tender processes be retained for spend in the district; and
  - (ii) Due to climate change and the expectancy of increasing temperatures consideration is given to the Bitmac formula used for the roads in order that it will be more durable in hot weather

Councillor McKinney asked if smaller projects could be completed using some of the monies which had been allocated to the procured projects.

In response Mr McKinley said that smaller schemes were being considered and highlighted that the rural roads funding programme would be fully utilised.

Ms Greer stated that there was access to smaller contracts and all avenues would be utilised as far as possible.

The Chair Councillor McLean asked if Council could assist by suggesting projects via the enquiry form, in response Ms Maxwell said that there was already quite a list within the small scale works programme.

The Chair Councillor McLean requested that DfI share the proposed list for the small scale works programme. In response Ms Maxwell said that this is not usual practice. The Chair stated that a partnership approach was needed and Members could assist for example in prioritising. Ms Maxwell stated that project prioritisation had already taken place.

The Chair, Councillor McLean highlighted that the Dungannon Bypass was not mentioned on the report and stated if it was not on the agenda it would not happen. He reflected on the time it had taken to get previous schemes such as Magherafelt and Cookstown up and running and asked how Council could progress the matter.

Mr McKinley stated that at present Dungannon Bypass had no status but was subject to review and he anticipated it would be there in the future. He said it was ultimately dependent on the Minister's priorities but hopefully in the future there would be a stimulus package to commence design work. He said he would like to see work on a five year rolling programme to get started and keep the ball rolling. He said that in Enniskillen vesting orders had been published. He concluded that it needed to be in the Regional Strategic Network Transportation Plan.

The Chair thanked the DfI team for their contributions and they withdrew from the meeting at 8.09pm.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **C150/21      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 24 June 2021**

Proposed by Councillor Quinn

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 24 June 2021 (C119/21 – C135/21 and C145/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

#### **C151/21      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 1 July 2021**

Proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 1 July 2021 (PR134/21 – PR141/21 and PR156/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C152/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 5 July 2021**

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E195/21 Minutes of the Environment Committee held on 15 June 2021* and stated he had requested information from officers regarding the whereabouts of litter bins which had been removed at the commencement of the Public Realm Scheme in Coalisland but had received no response. The Councillor stated that the bins could be used in other locations.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer –that an update be provided to Members in relation to E195/21. Bin Issues – an update be provided regarding litter bins removed at the commencement of the Public Realm Scheme in Coalisland as some of these could now be utilised in other locations.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E194/21 Biodiversity All Ireland Pollinator Plan* and welcomed that Council had signed up to the plan. He requested that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Environment Committee on an action plan for the district to include proposed initiatives.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to E190/21 Deputation NI Houses of Multiple Occupation Unit and said that it was somewhat farcical highlighting that to say there is only 24 registered houses of multiple occupation in Dungannon and stated you would have more in housing estates. He said that Belfast with its student population is somewhat different to Dungannon and to say there is no mechanism to identify HMO's is nonsensical. Councillor Monteith said that in order to assist in the collation of data to provide better housing standards he would propose that Council write to Estate Agents throughout the district who are letting agents for Landlords and ask them to identify the Houses of Multiple Occupation they manage. He said it was imperative that Council work with whoever is necessary in order to deliver better housing standards.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – In order to assist in collation of data to provide better housing standards, Council write to Estate Agents throughout the district who are letting agents for Landlords and ask them to identify the Houses of Multiple Occupation they manage.

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to *E196/21 Update on Refuse Collection/Route Optimisation* and said he had posed questions but to date had received no answer and asked again in relation to website bin collection schedule if Council controlled it or if it was in the control of a third party. He also said that it was his understanding that Council policy was that no one would have to cross the road to access the bin collection point. Councillor Glasgow asked again had this changed.

In response the Marketing and Communications Officer advised that Communications did not control the updating of the calendar, that it was managed by a third party and Environmental Services was the point of contact to provide instruction to action changes. In relation to policy change the Councillor was advised that the Head of Environmental Services would provide an update.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer –

- (i) that an update be provided as to whether the policy has changed in that no citizen would be asked to bring their bin to the opposite side of the road.
- (ii) that information in relation to refuse collection is updated as and when required.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 5 July 2021 (E187/21 – E203/21 and E214/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C153/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2021**

In response to Councillor McKinney’s comments in relation to ICT issues at the planning committee the Head of Democratic Services advised that an ICT officer had

been assigned and unfortunately it had escaped his attention, but that the matter had been swiftly rectified.

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 (P087/21 – P092/21 and P099/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

*Declaration of Interest*

*Councillor S McAleer declared an interest in Knockmany Running Club.*

**C154/21      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 7 July 2021**

Councillor Ashton requested amendment at D139/21 *Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22 and Irish Language Action Plan 2021/22*, “Councillor Ashton proposed that the Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22 and Irish Language Action Plan 2021/22 be considered in open business. In response, the Head of Community Development stated that the paper referred to public grants and thus should present no difficulty. The Chief Executive concurred.”

Councillor S McAleer commended staff who had worked with the Knockmany Running Club to erect signage throughout the Knockmany facility. She said that the signage had been well thought out and had resolved ongoing issues.

Councillor Doris welcomed the signage and acknowledged the good work Council was delivering in parks including the provision of disabled friendly equipment. She then advised that she had been contacted by parents with children who have additional needs and asked if a paper could be brought forward to outline the current provision in leisure centres for those with additional needs. Councillor Doris concluded by stating that some supermarkets promote an autism friendly hour in order to be more user friendly.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – that a report be brought to a future committee outlining the current provision in leisure centres for those with additional needs.

In response to Councillor Cuddy’s query in relation to D137/21 Economic Development – DfC Revitalisation schemes the Chief Executive reiterated that Council had received funding under previous schemes for Cookstown, Dungannon



and Magherafelt and suggested that a report be brought to committee outlining how the funding was allocated before considering the Councillor's proposal to write to the Minister for Communities.

Councillor Cuddy agreed but stated his recollection of the development committee debate was that funding had not been received.

Councillor Ashton stated that her recollection was that funding had been received.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer, that a report be brought to Development committee to provide detail of allocations received from Department for Communities Revitalisation Schemes following public realm schemes in various towns across the district and how it was utilised in the individual towns.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to D140/21 Development Committee minutes 17 June and the issue raised on dredging at Lough Neagh and the response that Council had no responsibility for Lough Neagh waters. He highlighted a recent protest held on this issue and a BBC news report which had detailed that the relevant Councils were scheduled to meet on the matter and he would welcome such a meeting.

In response the Chief Executive stated that the event and news report had been observed, Council officers had met with the Lough Neagh Partnership and a further meeting was planned with other agencies such as ICBAN and the Ulster Canal group to discuss waterways.

Councillor Doris reflected on the motion brought by Sinn Féin the previous month and shared her experience of a recent boat trip on Lough Neagh to view the problems she advised that the invitation to view the problems was now extended to the Chief Executive and Head of Tourism.

Councillor Doris proposed that Lough Neagh fishermen be invited to present to a future development committee.

The Chair, Councillor McLean stated the points had been noted.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer, Consideration given to inviting Lough Neagh Fishermen to present to Committee in relation to ongoing issues in the Lough

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for

Senior Officer, that the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 7 July 2021 (D127/21 – D145/21 and D148/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

#### **C155/21      Civic Recognition Nomination**

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, and as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer that approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report and be dealt with as previously resolved by April 2020 Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate;

#### **C156/21      Conferences, Seminars and Training**

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, training and seminars together with a request that the Chief Executive attend the UK Government's NI Business and Innovation Showcase event at Queen Elizabeth II Centre, London, SW1 on 15 September 2021. It was noted that the event itself was free and approval was sought for travel and subsistence costs.

Proposed by Councillor Chair, Councillor McLean  
Seconded by Councillor Brown

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer that approval be given to aforementioned together with submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training aforementioned as outlined in the appendix to the report.

#### **Matters for Information**

##### *Declaration of Interest*

*Councillor Colvin declared an interest as a Member of the Northern Commissioning Group in item considering correspondence from BMA and RCGP.*

#### **C157/21      Correspondence**

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

Councillor Monteith drew attention to correspondence received from British Medical Association (BMA) and Royal College of General Practitioners NI (RCGP) and said it was refreshing to see that they recognise that there is an issue with GP delivery of services as he was receiving complaints on a daily basis. Councillor Monteith proposed that Council seek a meeting with the BMA and RCGP and spoke of the ongoing issues of shortage of staff and resources but highlighted that people needed face to face contact with doctors.

Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal and said that he hated to be cynical but in the past the organisations had aspired to video conferencing as a way of seeing patients but he would support the need for more GPs in practices.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer that Council to seek a meeting with the BMA and Royal College of General Practitioners on the issues raised within correspondence received.

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to the correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh Council regarding the motion approved in relation to the “Rights of Nature”, and said whilst it appeared to be a good idea he would request that a report and or presentation be brought forward to the Environment Committee in order that Members gain an insight into the concept.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer that a report and/or presentation be brought to Environment committee to inform Members on the concept of “Rights of Nature”

Councillor Doris drew attention to the correspondence received from Fermanagh and Omagh Council regarding the motion approved “Implementation of our BDS support in relation to PSNI/An Garda Síochána partnerships with Israeli security forces and companies with involvement in illegal Israeli settlements. She said that the Palestinian people had been forced from their homes and Israeli forces should have to face the consequences of their actions. Councillor Doris referred to a recent motion brought to the Dáil by Sinn Féin and stated that international solidarity had been invaluable in Ireland and South Africa and emphasised the improvement it had brought to many lives and as such she would support the correspondence.

Councillor Kerr associated himself with previous comments in relation to GPs and spoke of a case whereby a lady had been asked to send a photograph of her throat

and the exacerbation felt when people could not get through to surgeries when telephoning or having to ring at a certain time. With regard to the “Right of Nature” Councillor Kerr said he would welcome a paper to the Environment committee.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to the correspondence received from the Minister of Finance and the reference to further financial clawback in relation to broadband schemes. Councillor S McPeake proposed that Council write to the Minister for the Economy reiterating the need for any monies clawed back to be reinvested into areas where broadband is poorest.

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

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer that Council write to the Department for the Economy reiterating that clawed back monies in relation to Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Programme (NIBIP) and Superfast Rollout Programme (SRP) is directed to *Broadband provision into rural areas with poorest broadband speeds.*

#### **C158/21 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council**

Members considered previously circulated report on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to *DAERA: Call for Evidence on a Plan to Eliminate Plastic Pollution in NI*. He proposed that the consultation be included as an item on the agenda for Environment Committee stating that the throw-away culture needed to be addressed and that plastic should be valued as a resource referencing the good work carried out by Council in recycling plastics. Councillor B McGuigan referred to the ‘Live Here Love Here’ project, Council’s support for local litter picks and yet plastic is still seen on the streets.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer that DAERA: Call for Evidence on a Plan to Eliminate Plastic Pollution in NI - item to be included on Environment Committee Agenda for discussion.

**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 8.40 pm*

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That items C159/21 to C168/21 be taken as confidential business.

**Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 24 June 2021
- (ii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 1 July 2021
- (iii) Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 5 July 2021
- (iv) Planning Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 July 2021
- (v) Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 July 2021
- (vi) Document for Sealing -Collaborative Agreement with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for the 'Digital Transformation Programme'
- (vii) Staff Matters for Decision
- (viii) Presentation by Chief Executive: Amendments to Senior Staff Structure
- (ix) Report on Amendments to Senior Staff Structure

**C169/21 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 10.05pm

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.