



25 July 2024

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 25 July 2024 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

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

### Matters for Decision

- |     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| 5.  | Council minutes of meeting held on 27 June 2024                      | 3 - 14  |
| 6.  | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 2 July 2024            | 15 - 26 |
| 7.  | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 8 July 2024         | 27 - 36 |
| 8.  | Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 9 July 2024         | 37 - 48 |
| 9.  | Policy & Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 10 July 2024 | 49 - 54 |
| 10. | Standing Orders for Council - Amendment                              | 55 - 66 |
| 11. | Conferences, Seminars and Training                                   | 67 - 74 |

Matters for Information

- |     |   |         |
|-----|---|---------|
| 12. | Correspondence Report                                 | 75 - 78 |
| 13. | Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council | 79 - 90 |

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

Matters for Decision

- 14. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 27 June 2024
- 15. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 2 July 2024
- 16. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 July 2024
- 17. Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 July 2024
- 18. Policy & Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 July 2024
- 19. Delegated Authority to Chief Executive on Matters – August 2024
- 20. Document for Sealing: Tender for Maghera Public Realm for MUDC Project No: MUDC/TS/C/2017/09
- 21. Document for Sealing: Contracts for Collection and Processing of Kerbside Dry Recyclables

Matters for Information

## **Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 June 2024 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Chair** Councillor McConnell

**Members Present** Councillors Black (7.03pm), J Buchanan, W Buchanan, F Burton, J Burton, Cahoon, Carney, Clarke, Corry, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Graham, Groogan, Kelly, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McElvogue, McFlynn, McGuigan, McLernon, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, McQuade, Milne, Monteith, Robinson, Quinn, Varsani and Wilson

### **Officers in Attendance**

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive  
Mr Black, Strategic Director Communities and Place (SD: CP)  
Ms Campbell, Strategic Director Environment (SD: Env)  
Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP)  
Ms Keys, Marketing and Communications Manager  
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSSE)  
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP)  
Mr McKeown, ICT  
Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

### **C117/24 Notice of Recording**

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

### **C118/24 Apologies**

Councillors Bell, Brown, W Buchanan, Forde (BEM), Johnston, Martin, McLean, Molloy and Totten

### **C119/24 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair, Councillor McConnell reminded Members of their responsibility regarding declarations of interest.

## **C120/24      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor McConnell in his opening remarks said that, "in looking back, It has proved a busy first month as Chair and I'm working on my promise to be a Chair for all. Last week was Refugee Week, and I was delighted to celebrate it at two events hosted by our Ukrainian and Syrian Communities. Refugee Week celebrates the contributions of refugees and people seeking sanctuary, challenges negative stereotypes and creates a space where refugees can be seen and heard beyond their experience of displacement. It was my privilege to continue to welcome people from all over the world to Mid Ulster. I also attended the Family Fayre and Pre-Loved Sale Event in Meadowbank Arena. Seeing so many families come together to have fun and contribute to a more sustainable future was just wonderful. The event enabled local families to save money on pre-loved items they no longer needed, while also promoting reuse and recycling – a fantastic event that I hope to see repeated.

You'll have seen that Council's social media channels are focusing on spreading the message about registering of defibrillators. This is such an important message that I wanted to highlight it here tonight. The moment someone has a cardiac arrest, the clock starts ticking. Every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces the chances of survival. But many defibrillators are never used because emergency services don't know where they are located - this is where The Circuit comes in. It connects defibrillators to NHS ambulance services and people first on scene so that in the crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, defibs can be accessed quickly to help save lives. We are urging all local groups, clubs and organisations to register their defibrillator today if you've not already done so and also to reregister your equipment if it has been used or repaired recently. It could save a life.

I also want to take a moment to congratulate the three hundred and fifty plus students who participated in the creation of the Sensory Infusion Exhibition on display in the Burnavon. The students from eight schools which included a combination of special schools and specialist provision within mainstream across the district have produced some wonderful bright positive artworks and I'd encourage you to drop in before the exhibition finishes on Sunday. To finish, just a word of thanks to the many new faces I have met this month and who have made me feel so welcome, from the Clogher Valley Rugby Club, the Kildress Health Matters team, Tourette's Support N.I, Primate Dixon Primary School and the organisers of the All-Ireland Whist Competition, Eileen Mullan and Josie Scullion as well as many others, it has been great to see the depth of real live activity that is happening across the district is uplifting."

The Chair, Councillor McConnell stated that a new brush sweeps clean and given the number of Chair's Business requests received, many of which were after the deadline he had taken a decision and would ask Members to respect it. He said that anything that came in after the deadline which was not relevant to agenda items would not be taken, any relevant items would be taken in the relevant business area and this is how he would be conducting Chair's business going forward. He emphasised the ruling was for all members. Members agreed.

The Chair, Councillor McConnell invited Councillor Cahoon to speak, Councillor Cahoon stated, "I wish to speak about the 80th Anniversary of DDAY and the events that were held across the District to remember those brave soldiers, sailors and airmen. As on 6 June 1944 more than 150,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy supported by 11500 aircraft and 6900 naval vessels in the largest sea-land invasion in history. DDay altered the course of history as it laid the groundwork for the liberation of Western Europe as Allied Forces Shattered Hitler's Atlantic Wall.

The Battle of Normandy lasted until the end of August as British, American, French, Canadian, Polish and other Allied forces pushed German forces beyond the River Seine. Across Mid Ulster residents paid tribute to those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms and stopped to remember the thousands of personnel who lost their lives when they left their future behind to liberate Western Europe from the Nazis. Killymoon Castle played a key role in the war effort as it was the base for the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (of the 82nd Airborne Division) of the US Army. 643 American army paratroopers were stationed at Killymoon Castle as they spent three months between Dec 43- Feb 44 at Killymoon before being dispatched to England for the final preparations of the operation to land in France, that would forever be known as D-Day. On the cellar walls in Killymoon you can read an engraving that says: "P.T – Tony J. Vickery 505 Prcht. Inf, U.S. Army, Atlanta, GA".

Tony Vickery had been part of the parachute regiment in the 82nd Airborne Division and was only 18 when he stayed at Killymoon. He parachuted into Normandy on 6 June 1944. Five days later he was providing cover while other soldiers were sleeping and a group of Germans advanced to their position. A firefight ensued and Tony Vickery was killed in action. By the end of World War Two, 153 paratroopers who stayed at Killymoon were killed. A memorial now stands at Killymoon Castle along with a Roll of Honour marked with the words "Time will not dim the glory of their Deeds" Bringing my remarks to a conclusion, I would like to place on record my thanks to all of the Council staff who helped to ensure that groups and schools across the District received their DDAY 80 commemorative Lamp of Peace which were lit on 6 June 2024 to mark this 80th Anniversary."

Councillor Cuthbertson said he had submitted his request to raise matters in chair's business prior to the deadline. He also advised that former councillor, Mr Harry Greenaway who had served on the legacy Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council had passed away earlier in the day and he thought it fitting that a letter of sympathy be sent to his family.

The Chair, Councillor McConnell agreed to send a letter of sympathy. Councillor Cuthbertson paid tribute to Noel Irwin President of the Royal British Legion Dungannon & Moy Branch who had been awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours.

The Chair, Councillor McConnell reminded Members of his opening remarks in relation to chairs business and further advised all those submitted requests to honour local citizens achievements would receive a letter. He said there was merit in all achievements but he was not highlighting each individual one but give the assurance that all would receive a letter from him as Chair of the Council and going forward if requests were received they would be issued from the Chair.

In response to further comments made by Councillor Cuthbertson the Chair, Councillor McConnell reiterated his ruling.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **C121/24      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on 23 May 2024**

Councillor Kerr acknowledged the Chair, Councillor McConnell’s decision with regards to Chair’s Business and said he had not been aware of the deadline. He drew attention to C096/24 Chair’s Business and wished local boxer Ferghal McCrory best wishes in his forthcoming title fight.

Councillor Kerr sought an update in relation to Council’s resolve at C096/24 in relation to companies who had received MEGA funding but were now having to lay off workers. He advised he had met with representatives of South West College who were keen to assist anyone in a redundancy situation to upskill or retrain. Councillor Kerr proposed that Council Officers explore this opportunity with South West College.

The Chair Councillor McConnell concurred.

**Resolved**      That Council explore options of support with South West College in relation to workers facing redundancy.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 23 May 2024 (C093/24 – C104/24 and C116/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

#### **C122/24      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Annual Meeting of Council held on 3 June 2024**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Annual Council held on Monday 3 June 2024 (AC1/24 – AC10/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

#### **C123/24      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2024**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr

Seconded by Councillor S McPeake

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 June 2024 (P078/24 – P084/24 and P091/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

**C124/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2024**

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 June 2024 (P117/24 – PR129/24 and PR136/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C125/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2024**

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to E129/24 Festive Lighting Replacement – delegated authority request and said he had been contacted by Town traders who had been involved in discussions but still felt that their queries had not been answered. He said that the tender process was now closed, and it was hoped the paper would be brought to Environment Committee in July but he would ask that officers make contact with the Traders Association as soon as possible to have queries addressed as he too had failed to get answers.

The Chair, Councillor McConnell said that updates would be sought.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Cuthbertson’s comments stating that some of the traders are dismayed and he too could identify with not getting answers to questions sought. He said whilst there was to be a new lighting scheme large sections of the town would not be lit such as Irish Street, Greers Road and Shambles Lane. He said that traders had made it clear that all streets should be lit and he would share concerns.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

**Resolved** That Council progress a meeting Dungannon Traders Association to discuss Christmas Lighting in Dungannon Town.

Councillor Varsani referred to a meeting with Traders which had taken place earlier in the day to update traders on ongoing issues. She said that further discussions

were needed and that the original lighting may be able to be reused in streets not within the new scheme. Councillor Varsani said the meeting had been useful and thanked officers who had worked on the project to date.

The Chair, Councillor McConnell thanked Councillor Varsani for the update and said Council should look at reusing the redundant lighting.

Councillor Kerr drew attention bus shelter report and requested that those listed be installed prior to the schools returning in September.

Councillor J Burton concurred with Councillors Cuthbertson and Monteith in relation to a face-to-face meeting with traders.

Councillor F Burton asked if there was any surplus lighting because of the new lighting schemes if smaller towns and villages could be considered. She highlighted in these areas the community looks after lighting schemes albeit with support from Council, but it would be good if officers could investigate a reusable scheme concluding that it was also good recycling.

Councillor McGuigan said the matter had been discussed at the Environment Committee and that areas where the community led the lighting scheme via council grant opportunities for redistribution were to be explored.

Councillor Varsani concurred that reusability of current lighting had been discussed and this would be addressed when officers determine a way forward.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 (E122/24 – E136/24 and E144/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C126/24 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2024**

Councillor Wilson drew attention to the Pitches Strategy and the issue of lack of provision for hockey in the district. He proposed that Cookstown Hockey Club be invited to a future development committee to make a presentation.

Councillor Cuthbertson seconded the proposal and said he had raised the lack of provision for hockey in Dungannon in the past.

The Chair of the Development Committee, Councillor Black concurred with the request.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and



**Resolved** That Cookstown Hockey Club be invited to make a presentation to Development Committee in relation to provision of pitches for hockey in the district.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to D108/24 Development Report – Gortgonis and Coalisland Canal. He requested that a Torrent DEA meeting be organised to continue progress on the Gortgonis project and sought an update in relation to previously raised queries regarding expert advice in relation to the running track and gym equipment.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to the Coalisland Canal Project and stressed the importance of the project, the attendance of all relevant staff at the planned consultation event highlighting that there was wide public interest both for and against the project and effective community engagement was required.

In response the Chief Executive give assurance that as in any public exercise, the Council performs ethically, and the officer team deliver on that basis.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 13 June 2024 (D102/24 – D115/24 and D119/24) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C127/24 Regulation on Remote Meetings – Transaction of Council & Committee Meetings**

The HoSS&E advised that since the paper was issued with the reports the Department for Communities (DfC) had now introduced regulations to enable Councils to opt to continue fully remote and/or hybrid meetings. Members were asked to consider Council's position on transacting future Council and Committee business by remote means, now that the regulations had been passed by the NI Assembly in the form of the *Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024*. The HoSS&E stated should Council decide to operate remote and/or hybrid meetings the Standing Orders would have to be amended and as Members would be aware this requires a notification to Council one month prior to the actual debate to consider change thus the earliest the remote and/or hybrid meetings could be held would be October.

*Councillor J Burton left the meeting at 7.32 pm*

Councillor Mallaghan proposing that Council opt to continue with fully remote and/or hybrid meetings and said it was important that the need for this is reflected especially for those Members who have caring responsibilities.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That in line with Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) Council progress to amend standing orders to opt to transact its council and committee meetings by fully remote and/or hybrid means.

Councillor Cuthbertson outlined that the DUP are content with the option of hybrid position but the preference is in person attendance especially for legal matters and in committee business. He said he had set through situations when Members attending remotely have had their cameras off and thus you don't know who else could be listening.

Councillor Quinn said the SDLP supported the option of remote and/or hybrid which gave the Members options to connect to meetings remotely.

Councillor Wilson concurred with the options.

The Chair, Councillor McConnell said it was a sensible approach as each Member at times had differing circumstances.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That approval is granted for Council to transact its Council and Committee meetings by fully remote and/or hybrid means, subject to regulations being passed by the NI Assembly.

## **C128/24 Consultations**

The HoSS&E provided update on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Gildernew drew attention to NIHE Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy 2024-2029 and proposed that Council seek an extension to the closing date and if granted response it be brought to Development Committee on 9th July 2024, should extension not be granted then authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to approve the response.

Councillor Corry seconded the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That Council note the consultations and

- (i) respond to consultation NIHE Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy 2024-2029; that Council seek an extension to the closing date and if granted response be brought to Development Committee on 9th July 2024, should extension not

be granted then authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to approve the response.

- (ii) that delegated authority be granted to Chief Executive to approve responses to consultations whereby extensions are not granted for: DfC: Equality Impact Assessment consultation on his initial decisions on the Department for Communities 2024-2025 budget; DfI: Budget 2024-25 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation; DoH: Budget 2024-25 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation.

## **Matters for Information**

### **C129/24      Correspondence**

Members noted update on correspondence received for attention of Council.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to the response from NI Water and stated whilst they had upgraded works in some areas the tone of the letter would imply, they are passing off responsibility. He said he had met with NI Water regarding discharge into a local river, that Lough Neagh was on the brink of disaster, yet the response had been the discharge leaked into the river would be filtered before it reached the Lough. He said an independent Environment Agency was required.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to email from Northern Ireland Housing Executive and referred to the meeting which took place. He welcomed that the NIHE had admitted standards had fallen and that things should improve going forward but it would be worthwhile to revisit that standards have been maintained perhaps in October.

He acknowledged grass cutting was a major issue in many housing developments many of which had management companies who implemented high charges for care of the estate. Councillor Monteith proposed that council have a workshop at which the planning department should also be involved to outline the conditions outlined in planning permissions in where green space had been a condition. He said many of the companies were quoting to residents that it was the planning permission conditions that made the charges necessary.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

**Resolved** That a workshop is progressed for all Members to provide clarity on who is responsible for maintenance of grass areas in housing developments, open spaces and verges. Planning Department to provide clarity in relation to planning permission conditions.

The Chair, councillor McConnell said the matter was prevalent as Members were being contacted about hedges, footpaths and grass cutting and who owns different stretches of grass and the workshop would be beneficial.

Councillor Varsani drew attention to correspondence listed in the report: Remembering Srebrenica UK. She highlighted that it was listed as the worst atrocity

according to the United Nations and yet now it did not bear to think about what was taking place in Gaza. Councillor Varsani said that community cohesions across Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales was vitality important and anything Council could do to broaden understanding should be done.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That Council explore how it can be involved in Srebrenica Memorial Day to help raise awareness and reject hatred and extremism and build more cohesive communities.

Councillor Gildernew drew attention to correspondence from Minister O'Dowd Department for Infrastructure and welcomed the positive update on the A5 Western Transport Corridor.

Councillor F Burton welcomed the preparation of a response to the Department of Health consultation listed in the report. She highlighted the differences between the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and the Southern Health and Social Care trust when it comes to various project support. Councillor Burton highlighted the Loneliness Network which is funded by Public Health Agency but there was insufficient funding for events. She advised there was vast differences at times in contributions to support organisations from the respective trusts and asked if officers could establish how best to ascertain the differences and revert to Members who inevitably need to lobby for such groups.

The Chair, Councillor McConnell concurred and said there was need for transparency.

The Chief Executive said that Officers would explore and revert to Member.

Councillor Quinn concurred with comments in relation to Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Day and acknowledge the level of hate crime against the Muslim community especially in England. He shared how he had attended recent events with the local Muslim community and their delight in that Council had an interest in them. He also spoke of a recent racist incident in Coalisland where a young man had been attacked because he was different. He spoke of the range of nationalities that Mid Ulster District now enjoys and said he would support community cohesion.

Councillor Monteith referred to issues in relation to grass cutting and said it would be useful if there was a schedule issued to members in relation to grass cutting of verges as residents are coming to Members for clarification.

Councillor McGuigan said this information was available for Members and there were maps of what Council owned.

Councillor McConnell concluded correspondence and highlighted that he had recently learned of the achievements of Darren Rafferty, and it had been a pleasure to listen to the excitement and enthusiasm around his recent cycling achievements.

He advised as referred to in Chair's Business he would send a letter of congratulations as Chair of Council.

*Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8.51 pm*

**Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public withdrew from the meeting at 7.50**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That items C130/24 to C140/24 be taken as confidential business.

**Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 23 May 2024
- (ii) Planning Confidential minutes of meeting held on 4 June 2024
- (iii) Policy & Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 June 2024
- (iv) Environment Confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 June 2024
- (v) Development Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 June 2024
- (vi) Audit Confidential minutes of meeting held on 18 June 2024
- (vii) Tender for Mobile Vending Provision
- (viii) Document for Sealing: Appointment of ICT: Small Settlements Moy Pitch Development. Ref: MUDC/TC/C/2022/004
- (ix) Document for Sealing: Improvements to Cottagequinn Cemetery, Dungannon
- (x) Document for Sealing: Transfer Deed between Mid Ulster District Council and the property owners of 62 Coleraine Road, Maghera
- (xi) Document for Sealing: Section 76 Planning Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Orchard County Contracts

**C141/24 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.05 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 2 July 2024 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor Robinson, Chair
	Councillors Black, Clarke, Graham, Mallaghan, Martin, McElvogue, McFlynn, D McPeake, S McPeake, Varsani
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor Ms Doyle, Head of Local Planning (HLP) Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer (SPO) Ms McKinless, Senior Planning Officer (SPO) Mr Kennedy, ICT Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Councillor J Burton
	LA09/2023/1215/O                      Sheila Curtin MRTPI

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm.

**P092/24      Notice of Recording**

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

**P093/24      Apologies**

Councillors Bell, J Buchanan, Carney, Cuthbertson, Kerr.

**P094/24      Declarations of Interest**

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

**P095/24      Chair's Business**

The Chair passed on his congratulations to Councillor Kerr on the recent birth of his baby daughter.

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

Agenda Item 5.2 – LA09/2023/0015/F – Retrospective farm storage shed and associated landscaping at 110m S of 31 Crancussy Road, Dunamore, Cookstown for Mr Patrick O’Gara (withdrawn from tonight’s schedule)

Agenda Item 5.5 - LA09/2023/0910/O - Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 60m NE of 46 Drumsamney Road, Magherafelt for Mr Ivor Austin

Agenda Item 5.6 - Retention of agricultural storage at 26 Reenaderry Road, Coalisland for Mr Gerard McStrvog

Agenda Item 5.12 - LA09/2024/0144/O - Dwelling and garage approx 50m to rear of 146 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Mr Oliver Brady

**Resolved** That the planning applications listed above be deferred for an office meeting/withdrawn for consideration of further information.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **P096/24 Planning Applications for Determination**

**LA09/2022/1737/F Replacement dwelling (existing dwelling retained for ancillary use) at lands 30m E of 23 Iniscarn Road, Desertmartin for FJS Contracts**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1737/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2022/1737/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer’s report.

**LA09/2023/0015/F Retrospective farm storage shed and associated landscaping at 110m S of 31 Crancussy Road, Dunamore, Cookstown for Mr Patrick O’Gara**

Agreed earlier in the meeting that application be withdrawn from tonight’s schedule to consider late objection.

**LA09/2023/0380/F 2 replacement dwellings at 4-6 Gortfad Lane, Gortfade Glebe, Cookstown for Mr Kenny Henry**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0380/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and



**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/0380/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/0853/F**                      **Alterations and extension to listed dwelling at 180 Maydown Road, Benburb for Mr and Mrs Kieran and Rebecca Hughes**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0853/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani  
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/0853/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/0910/O**                      **Site for dwelling and domestic garage at 60m NE of 46 Drumsamney Road, Magherafelt for Mr Ivor Austin**

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

**LA09/2023/0939/F**                      **Retention of agricultural building to be used for agricultural storage at 26 Reenaderry Road, Coalisland for Mr Gerard McStrvog**

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

**LA09/2023/1093/F**                      **Licensed Garden room, erection of acoustic fence and associated works at 9-10 The Square, Moy for Mr Barry McNeice**

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/1093/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The Chair advised that a request to speak against the application had been received and invited Councillor J Burton to address the committee.

Councillor J Burton advised the committee that he was in attendance tonight to voice his concerns on behalf of the residents of Moy. The Councillor said that this was something that has been raised in the past which was prevalent and in the minds of these residents across the community. The Councillor enquired whether the Council would be liaising with the residents on any ongoing issues in the future. Councillor J Burton wished to reiterate concerns relating to litter on the streets, noise pollution and anti-social behaviour within the area and felt if this application was approved, this would make a bad situation even worse in Moy and would like to see the objections taken on board as Council needs to be doing right by the residents in that area.

Councillor Varsani said that this application was on for approval this evening but there have been a number of issues raised by residents and was right that these have been considered and continue to be considered into the future. The Councillor outlined issues i.e. noise surveys being carried out, but no actual noise complaints received since 2022 which showed a balancing aspect; there has been no objections from the Police which was a mitigating factor and although there have been incidents, no formal objections has been received from the Police which was important to note. In terms of noise reduction there has been a condition included and an acoustic fence being put in place which was an attempt by the establishment to mitigate the effects of noise which she hoped residents would become aware of also. It was hoped that everyone could become good neighbours to each other and would be important to note that monitoring of noise should be continued and other issues like litter and anti-social behaviour monitored into the future also, but nonetheless any reasons for not letting this application go forward would have to be very tightly focused and quite legal. The Councillor said that on that basis she would be happy to approve the recommendation but with a view to the concerns of the residents being considered into the future.

Councillor Black said that by listening to the report and representations which have been made felt that it was clear that some concerns still do exist within the local community. The Councillor said that it was clear within the report that there were some conditions attached i.e. erection of acoustic fence which would hopefully go some way in regard to controlling any noise that may come from the premises in question. The Councillor enquired if there would be any merit in deferring this application for a site meeting to allow further engagement with the residents in and around the positioning of the acoustic fence which may help to alleviate the concerns at the outset and hopefully move forward in a positive manner with engagement with all the stakeholders concerned.

Mr Marrion (SPO) referred to Councillor Black's proposal for a site meeting and advised that any meetings that would be taking place would be a site visit for members to see the site and not an opportunity for members to engage with the general public to discuss the proposals, but members could certainly come along and see where the proposed building was going. He drew members attention to the report and details that were there in relation to the construction of the proposed building which has not been erected yet, it is proposed to be self-contained and also have an acoustic attenuation within the building itself. Conditions have been put in place to make sure that doors are closed at appropriate times and ensure that acoustic fences are erected so that anyone coming from the bar into the property itself, that noise would be muted from neighbouring properties. Mr Marrion (SPO) said he wished to make members aware that this was not an opportunity for members to go out on site to discuss proposals with public but rather to go and see the proposals on the ground.

Councillor S McPeake said that by reading the conditions attached felt that they were pretty onerous, particularly the acoustic barriers that were being proposed and whilst he took on board there were incidents where site visits can be beneficial, this was relating to noise which was different as members would not be going out at night to listen to bands playing or loud music, only going out on site during daytime hours. The Councillor said that by reading the conditions in place and what was being

proposed that he would have full confidence that this has been properly adjudicated by the Officers and would second the proposal.

Councillor Black said that he wished to clarify that he wasn't proposing to engage with residents on-site at a site meeting but for members to become more informed and further discussion taking place after the event. The Councillor felt if members were more informed then this could be something that could be relayed back to residents in due course in a more informed manner.

The Chair enquired what an acoustic fence was as he wished to know for his own benefit as this was something he wasn't familiar with.

Mr Marrion (SPO) advised that there were no gaps within the fence, it was a dense wooden fence to contain noise within the site, similar to the same concept of blast walls. He said that this was a fence which was going to be located between the development itself and neighbours on the west side, who were the ones who raised the most concerns. He confirmed that this was a very dense fence which would control and contain noise.

Ms Doyle (HLP) advised that the situation at the moment meant that visitors to the premises could stand outside and not be contained within the building and as there was no acoustic fence there, this would actually help the situation going forward.

Mr Marrion (SPO) agreed as there was a certain area where everyone could congregate and now it is proposed that the acoustic fence would be erected there to help control the noise.

Councillor J Burton stated that he didn't sit on this committee and cannot support the Councillor Black's proposal but felt that it may be a good idea to proceed with the proposal anyway to relay back to the residents and set out exactly what was going to be done going forward. Councillor J Burton felt that it would be important to keep residents informed.

Councillor Graham said that she would be happy to second Councillor Black's proposal.

The Chair clarified that the reason for the site visit was for members to see for themselves the issues raised.

The Chair advised that it was proposed by Councillor Varsani and seconded by Councillor S McPeake to accept the recommendation and asked if the two members would consider withdrawing their proposal to allow the opportunity for a site visit for the other Councillors or were they still happy to continue with their proposal.

Councillor S McPeake said that he had already alluded to within his original contribution, that he did not see any merit in the site meeting on this occasion because it was a technical issue regarding a sound barrier. The Councillor said that Officers had already explained that the acoustic fence would help absorb any noise situation and felt that this was a win-win situation and doing the application an injustice by questioning or prolonging it any longer. The Councillor felt what was

being proposed was not of benefit and would remain of the opinion that the application be approved.

Councillor Graham felt that a site visit would help the committee to see how close the neighbouring properties were to what was being proposed as members were only looking at plans and advised that was why she seconded the proposal.

The Chair advised that two proposals were being brought forward for consideration tonight.

Councillor Black's proposal to defer the application for a site visit was put to the vote:

For	2
Against	8

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/1093/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/1095/F**                      **Change of use from nightclub to 4 flats (2 No two bedroom and 2 No one bedroom) at 24 – 28 The Square, Coalisland for Mr Declan Dorrity**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/1095/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/1095/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/1218/F**                      **Erection of a cover spectator stand, 4 floodlights and extension to walkway around pitch with access steps to primary school at 1 Convent Road, Cookstown for Cookstown Fr Rock GFC**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/1218/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/1218/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/1238/F**                      **Competition level 8-lane running track and IFA immediate level 3G soccer pitch and class 1 floodlighting. Banking spectator terraces and pathways with bollard lighting, fencing landscaping**

**and associated site works at 47A Tullywiggan Road,  
Loughry, Cookstown for Mid Ulster District Council**

*All members present declared an interest in the above application.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/1238/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Martin and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/1238/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2024/0090/LBC      Reducing the reservoir's water level to access necessary repairs and suggesting 2 new valves configuration along with pipes and headwall at Dungannon Park, Moy Road, Dungannon for Mid Ulster District Council**

*All members present declared an interest in the above application.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2024/0090/LBC which had a recommendation for approval.

The Chair advised that he had received an email from another member this afternoon in relation to whether or not these valves need fitting as it could cause flooding in local fields and the surrounding area.

Mr Marrion (SPO) referred members to overhead map and advised that this was to do with the dam wall at Dungannon Park Lake. The SPO said that members may or may not be aware that the actual park itself was designated as a reservoir under the Reservoirs Act, with the Council becoming the designated manager of the Act. This proposal is to allow works to be carried out to the existing wall to permit the Council to reduce the level of water behind it and to carry out the necessary checks to ensure that the structure is safe and secure and the ability to maintain it for the future. He said that the area downstream from the dam wall is within a flood inundation zone and within that zone, planning policy does not allow any development unless there are assurances that the dam itself is being properly managed. The SPO stated that this proposal was to allow the Council to carry out their function to properly manage and maintain the reservoir itself.

The Chair thanked Mr Marrion (SPO) for the update but felt that the issue was in relation to when the water was lowered in supposed to the usage of valves. The Chair said that it was his understanding that this may have been carried out in a different way in the past that didn't possibly cause as many issues.

Mr Marrion (SPO) said pumps were previously used and referred members to overhead sketch and advised that the valves would be on the lower side of the dam within new manhole covers. The proposal is to ensure that people will have to go up

onto the dam wall to carry out the draining and advised that this was a listed structure with Officers consulting with Historic Environment Division who were content and no issues with the proposal. This will allow the Council to carry out its function more properly and easily within the Reservoirs Act.

Councillor Varsani said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as it was engineering and water specific and a very technical area. The Councillor said that by reading through the application it was important that the necessary safeguards were in place.

Councillor Graham sought clarification regarding comment about land being lower down in a flood plain and referred to a blockage a few years ago where Linen Green was flooded and enquired if there was a possibility that this could happen again.

Mr Marrion (SPO) stated that this was a different matter, as this was about making sure the integrity of the dam itself is maintained and to allow the Council to do that. He said that there were unknowns here, there is knowledge that there may be a secondary wall behind the dam, with divers being sent down to try and discover how far back that is. Essentially the flooding at Linen Green was a different matter as this was to do with flood inundation that would happen if the dam wall itself was to fail and if this was the case, all the water from Dungannon Park Lake would empty into Moygashel and cause flood inundation which would be even worse than what happened to the Linen Green previously. This proposal is to allow the Council to carry out its function as the reservoir manager.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani  
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2024/0090/LBC be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2024/0144/O Dwelling and garage approx. 50m to rear of 146 Washing Bay Road, Coalisland for Mr Oliver Brady**

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

*Councillor J Burton left the meeting at 6.28 pm.*

**LA09/2024/0155/O Dwelling and garage approx. 110m W of 39 Castle Road, Cookstown for Mr Ricky Boyd**

Ms McKinless (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2024/0155/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2024/0155/O be refused.

**LA09/2024/0262/F**                      **To complete dwelling commenced – approved M/2005/2046/O and M/2009/0230/RM at 110m SE of 16C Annaloughan Road, Augher for Mr Stephen Maxwell**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2024/0262/F which had a recommendation for approval.

*Councillor Black declared an interest in planning application LA09/2024/0262/F.*

*Councillor Black withdrew from the meeting at 18.30 pm.*

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

**Resolved**     That planning application LA09/2024/0262/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

*Councillor Black returned to the meeting at 18.32 pm.*

**LA09/2019/0483/O**                      **Infill dwelling and garage at approx. 51m SW of 12 Fallylea Road, Maghera for Mr Fergal Rafferty**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0483/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**     That planning application LA09/2019/0483/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2020/1380/F**                      **Erection of dwelling, relocation of existing dwelling and site restoration adjacent & 100m E of 18 Shantavny Road, Garvaghy for Mr Ciaran Owens**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1380/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McElvogue  
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

**Resolved**     That planning application LA09/2020/1380/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2021/1700/O**                      **Dwelling and garage at land off Pomeroy Road, approx. 285m NE of 47 Kilmardle Road, Dungannon for Mr Robert Quinn**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1700/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani  
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2021/1700/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/0874/F**                      **Farm shed at lands approx. 53m E of 17A  
Corvanaghan Road, Cookstown for Mr Charles Quinn**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0874/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/0874/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/0916/F**                      **Off site replacement dwelling and garage at 180m W  
of 16 Carncoose Road, Cranny, Moneymore for Mr  
Gregory McGovern**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0916/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/0916/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2023/1215/O**                      **Site for two dwellings and detached garages at lands  
between 21 and 23 Halfgayne Road, Maghera for Mr  
Francis Bradley**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/1215/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2023/1215/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.



## **Matters for Information**

### **P097/24      Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 June 2024**

To note previously circulated minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 June 2024.

*Live broadcast ended at 18.34 pm.*

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

Proposed by Councillor Varsani  
Seconded by Councillor Graham 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 P098/24 to P100/24.

### **Matters for Information**

P098/24	Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 June 2024
P099/24	Enforcement Cases Opened
P100/24	Enforcement Cases Closed
P101/24	Update on Local Development Plan

### **P102/24      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 6 pm and ended at 18.45 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

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

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

I would 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 agenda.

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Monday 8 July 2024 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

**Members Present**

Councillor McAleer, Chair

Councillors J Buchanan, J Burton, Cahoon, Cuthbertson,  
Kelly, Groogan, McGuigan, McNamee, Milne, Robinson

**Officers in  
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD:  
Env)

Mr Conlon, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)

Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services  
(AD: ES)

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD:  
PS)

Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

**E145/24 Notice of Recording**

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

**E146/24 Apologies**

Councillors Johnston, Martin and Varsani.

**E147/24 Declarations of Interest**

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

**E148/24 Chair's Business**

Councillor McNamee stated that as Chair of the Regional Minority Language Working Group it has been raised a number of times about the need to have language recognition when it comes to the festive season, in line with Council policy to promote the Irish language. The Councillor stated that the only place where he is aware there are Christmas greetings in Irish is in Dungannon town and this is from the legacy Council. Councillor McNamee referred to possibility of laser projections with Christmas greetings in Irish on to civic buildings such as the Burnavon similar to when

the sports awards were taking place. Councillor McNamee proposed that officers investigate potential options and bring report back to Committee.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the lighting up of civic buildings falls under a different committee and that in relation to festive lighting there is an item on the agenda tonight to which the budget and tender has already been set.

Councillor J Burton stated that this matter was raised at a DEA meeting last week and that he had voiced concerns about festive lighting becoming political at a time when everyone in the community is being encouraged to support their local towns. The Councillor felt that the proposal outlined by Councillor McNamee would be the wrong avenue to go down.

Councillor McNamee stated that Council has an Irish Language Policy which permits the promotion of the Irish language and that the language is not political and is there to be used by everyone and highlighted that it is used by members of the Unionist community. The Councillor stated that he had made a proposal which was separate to the item to be considered later on and that he had asked officers to come back with potential options and that there is no cost attached at this stage.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) advised that a report would be brought back to the relevant committee.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that a report detailing lighting options for Christmas greetings in Irish be brought back to the relevant Committee.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **E149/24 Waste Management Plan Addendum**

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for an addendum to the existing Waste Management Plan.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Waste Management Plan addendum as set out at appendix to report.

### **E150/24 Bus Shelters Update**

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

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that bus shelter applications listed under 3.7 of report be approved to installation this month: 2NR
- 3.7.1 – Millview Manor, Coalisland Road.
  - 3.7.2 – McErleans Villas, Ballynease Road, Bellaghy.

**E151/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Tullyvar Road, Aughnacloy, 40 mph Speed Limit**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce a 40mph speed limit at Tullyvar Road, Aughnacloy.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a 40mph speed limit at Tullyvar Road, Aughnacloy.

**E152/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Disabled Persons Parking Bay at O'Neill Park, Ballyronan**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at O'Neill Park, Ballyronan.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at O'Neill Park, Ballyronan.

**E153/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – No waiting at any time restriction at Crossowen Road, Augher**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to a No waiting at any time restriction at Crossowen Road, Augher.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a No waiting at any time restriction at Crossowen Road, Augher.

**E154/24      Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – No waiting at any time restriction at Annaghilla Road, Augher**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to a No waiting at any time restriction at Annaghilla Road, Augher.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a No waiting at any time restriction at Annaghilla Road, Augher.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that for a number of years Dfl Roads came to Committee in June to present their programme of works for the following year but that since Covid this has slipped back to September/October. The Councillor highlighted concerns that the budget starts on 1 April and that the programme of works is presented in September and that there is always a rush in February/March to get work done before the end of the financial year. Councillor Cuthbertson asked that contact be made with Dfl to get a firm commitment from them that they will present their report in September.

The Strategic Director of Environment agreed to follow up on this.

**E155/24      Street Naming and Property Numbering**

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

Site off Gortgammon Road, Tullyhogue, Cookstown

Proposed by Councillor Groogan  
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to name development off Gortgammon Road, Tullyhogue, Cookstown as Birchwood Grove.

Site off Glen Road, Maghera

Proposed by Councillor Groogan  
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to name development off Glen Road, Maghera as Glen Green.

Site off Drumard Road, Draperstown

Councillor Groogan proposed that this item be brought back to a future Committee to allow time for other names to be considered as she did not feel either name proposed ties in with the local area and that something historical would be better.

Councillor McGuigan seconded Councillor Groogan's proposal as he felt there had been no consultation in relation to the naming of the development. The Councillor stated this is a problem he had raised before regarding developers not tying in with people in the area in terms of naming and that in this case he had contacted the developer at the outset in relation to working with them regarding the naming of the development but that no response came back from them. Councillor McGuigan agreed that there is a possibility of a more historical name within the area of the development and the proposal will allow time to consider this further.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to go back to the developer for alternative options on the naming of the development off Drumard Road, Draperstown.

Site off Church Way, Swatragh

Proposed by Councillor Groogan  
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to name development off Church Way, Swatragh as Church Drive.

**E156/24 Postage Costs associated with issuing Dual Language Signage Surveys**

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the additional costs associated with dual language surveys issued via recorded delivery in lieu of current method of standard delivery.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had not been at the Environment Committee last month when this matter was raised but that he had considered the matter and read the report before Members tonight. Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the average 27 envelopes per street and proposed that if a survey is to be undertaken in an urban area that these surveys be hand delivered similar to when leaflet drops are undertaken by refuse staff or environmental health staff and that the recorded delivery option only be used on rural roads and that to do this would not increase costs that much. The Councillor stated that his party from day one has raised concern in relation to costs and that the true cost of dual language signage is not known despite asking numerous times over the years what the budget is. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he would ask again tonight what the budget is for dual language signage as it is difficult to judge if something is too expensive if you don't know what the budget is. Councillor Cuthbertson stated there has been a clear example of people living on a road who did not receive correspondence from Council in relation to changing the name signs under dual language signage.

Councillor McNamee proposed option 1 in the report – To continue delivering dual language survey forms via standard second-class delivery as per current method based on the current cost of £0.85/envelope.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson clarified that his proposal is to deliver dual language surveys by recorded delivery on rural roads and that if there is an urban development that these surveys could be hand delivered. Councillor Cuthbertson stated he also wanted to know what the budget is for dual language signage as everything else is costed when it comes to setting the rates apart from dual language signage.

Councillor Robinson seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal and expressed thanks to the Assistant Director of Property Services for coming back with the relevant information quickly since the matter was raised at the last meeting. The Councillor stated that the request came on the back of him being contacted by a number of families on a road who advised that they did not receive a survey and that he felt if there is anything Council can do to make the process more robust then it should consider it. Councillor Robinson felt that the recorded delivery option will be of benefit to everyone and questioned what price should be put on having a secure method of delivery. The Councillor stated that if the families on this particular road had received the survey then Council could probably have saved itself at least £1000 by not having to replace signs.

Councillor Groogan stated that it was her understanding that the recorded delivery option was to keep track and have record of delivery of surveys and that she felt the hand delivery option defeated the purpose of this.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer stated there were two proposals and asked Members to vote on Councillor McNamee's proposal to continue delivering dual language survey forms via standard second-class delivery as per current method.

For – 6

Against – 5

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to continue delivering dual language survey forms via standard second-class delivery as per current method based on the current cost of £0.85/envelope.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) stated that in relation to the budget a report was previously brought before Members which detailed what is being spent this year on signage and approval was obtained from the Committee to proceed with that. The SD: Env clarified that there is no specific budget for street signage and that the monies for such comes from the Property Services maintenance budget and that dual language is not allocated separately. The SD: Env stated that Members are made aware of the cost of signage as reports are brought to Members attention and approval is sought before proceeding.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the report the SD: Env was referring to related to additional dual language signage for Council properties and was not related to dual



language signage for roads/streets. The Councillor stated that Members are being advised the money for dual language signage is coming from the Property Services maintenance budget and questioned when does this maintenance budget run out and if something needs repairing within Council property does dual language signage have priority.

The SD: Env reassured Members that if something within the Council buildings requires maintenance then it is addressed in a timely manner.

## **Matters for Information**

### **E157/24      Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 11 June 2024**

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 June 2024.

Councillor J Burton referred to festive lighting and that Dungannon Traders Association want to meet with officers in this regard.

### **E158/24      WISH NI Ambassador Award**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of Council's receipt of a WISHNI Ambassador Award for 2024/25.

### **E159/24      Big Spring Clean 2024**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Big Spring Clean 2024 activities within Mid Ulster.

### **E160/24      Waste Management Licensing Technical Competence Update**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of changes to the management of technical competence under the Northern Ireland Waste Management Licensing and Permitting Regime.

### **E161/24      Sustainability, Biodiversity and Recycling Education Update**

Members noted presented previously circulated report which provided update on Sustainability, Biodiversity and Recycling Education activities.

### **E162/24      Building Control Workload**

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

### **E163/24      Entertainment Licensing Applications**

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

## **E164/24      Dual Language Signage Surveys**

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

## **E165/24      Introduction of Dilapidation Bill to Northern Ireland Assembly**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the future introduction of a Dilapidation Bill to the Northern Ireland Assembly following consultation in 2016.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the Bill is to be welcomed as Members would all have knowledge of dilapidated buildings in their area and that this legislation could potentially give Council the authority to take action. The Councillor asked what authority Council would have if the Bill came into effect and what the cost would be to Council.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) stated that within the Building Control function Council has responsibilities under the dangerous structures legislation and that this is enforced at the cost of the property owner at present. The AD: PS stated that if this legislation is passed the potential impact is that there would be greater officer time in terms of enforcement and the costs associated with that but that there would also be cost to the property owner in terms of making any repairs.

*Live broadcast ended at 7.31 pm.*

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

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Groogan 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 E148/24 cont'd and E166/24 to E173/24.

### **Matters for Decision**

- E148/24      Chair's Business cont'd
- E166/24      Contract for the Collection, Treatment and Recycling of Textiles
- E167/24      Flower Bed and Roundabout Sponsorship
- E168/24      Tender report for the appointment of Vehicle Suppliers
- E169/24      Festive Lighting Replacement Tender Report

### **Matters for Information**

- E170/24      Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 11 June 2024
- E171/24      Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update

E172/24 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update  
E173/24 Energy Management Update – Display Energy Certificates  
(DEC's)

**E174/24 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.48 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, [Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt].

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

I would 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 agenda.



**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 9 July 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

**Members Present**

Councillor Black, Chair

Councillors W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke, Corry (7.04 pm), Forde, Gildernew, McNamee, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn, Wilson

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)  
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)  
Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)  
Mr McCreedy, Strategic Programmes Service Manager (SPSM)  
Ms McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM)  
Mrs Spence, Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM)  
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Councillor Johnston

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

**D120/24 Notice of Recording**

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

**D121/24 Apologies**

Councillors Bell, McLernon and McQuade.

**D122/24 Declaration of Interests**

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

## **D123/24      Chair's Business**

Councillor Wilson stated that the Ulster Pipe Band Championship will be coming to Mid Ulster for the first time in August and that this is the first time that a major competition will come to the area. The Councillor stated that the competition is coming to this area because other Councils have pulled out but also because of the venue and expertise in holding such an event. Councillor Wilson asked that Council contribute £5k towards this competition which he felt is cheap for what it brings to the area. The Councillor stated that the event will be held on the 1st weekend in August in Cookstown and that the press launch for the event had been held today.

*Councillor Corry entered the meeting at 7.04 pm.*

The Chair, Councillor Black stated that it is a great opportunity to host a major competition in the locality and he would be supportive of the request made.

Councillor Buchanan supported Councillor Wilson's request stating it is a great honour for the area.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) stated that the request is not within budgets but if the Committee is minded to support the request he would look at how it can be facilitated within potential in year underspends.

The Chair, Councillor Black felt this is a good event to support if Council can find the funds to do so. The Councillor asked if there was any dissent to the request.

Councillor McNamee stated he was happy enough as long as the same consideration is given to any other events which may come up at the last minute.

The Chair, Councillor Black stated that every event should be considered on its own merits.

Councillor Wilson thanked the Committee for the support and stated that bands will come from all over Ireland to the competition. The Councillor stated that Council gets big events in Mid Ulster on the cheap and that he felt having a fund available for when last minute events crop up is something which should be looked at during the rate setting process next year.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D124/24      Development Report**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- Community Grant Awards – Rolling Sports Representative Grant
- TRAAD - Final Design Concept
- Social Inclusion – Community Wealth Building Test & Learn Report
- Development Department - Update

2 – Development Committee (09.07.24)

The Chair, Councillor Black referred to report on community wealth building and that one of the proposals within that is suggesting an amendment to Council's procurement policy to include a clause for the National Living Wage to be paid by any contractor engaged by the Council which he felt is a positive step but could put a burden on to businesses that could be applying particularly when trying to keep business local. The Councillor felt Council needed to be mindful of the knock on impact on smaller contractors so as not to exclude from being able to apply.

Councillor Clarke proposed the recommendations.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal stating that that it has been a good piece of work in relation to the test and learn which she was a member of the working group. The Councillor stated she would argue against the Chair's comments in relation to amending the procurement policy as she felt it will give local businesses an edge against larger businesses. Councillor Corry stated it is an exciting opportunity and it will be interesting to see the outworkings of the test and learn as time goes on.

Councillor Monteith asked for an update in relation to timescales and when movement on the ground can be expected for the Railway Park Scheme as there are issues in relation to maintenance. The Councillor stated that during storms last year trees were uprooted and that he had been advised at the time that the trees could not be replaced because Council was waiting on a contract. Councillor Monteith advised that some of the said trees are still lying where they fell and that residents are asking when the trees will be replaced and that he would also ask what stage the Scheme is at as everything seems to have stopped.

The AD: Dev advised that the Scheme has gone through Council and is then taken through the capital process. The SD: Dev advised that the Scheme went through SMT this month and will now move to appointing an IST team. The IST team will work up a detailed design concept and it is hoped to go out to contract on that by the end of September and further to this that there will be work on the ground by February 2025.

Councillor Monteith asked if it was the case that the trees will not be replaced.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) stated he was not aware of the specific issues in relation to the trees but agreed to look at the matter separately to see if something can be done between now and the contractor going on site.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- Approve the Community Grant Awards for Sports Representative Grant
  - Approve the TRAAD - Final Design Concept to be taken forward under the Capital Planning process
  - Approve the Community Wealth Building Test & Learn report
  - Note the Development update

## **D125/24      Gortgonis Leisure and Community Health Hub Update**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which provided update on the Gortgonis Leisure and Community Health Hub scheme and sought agreement on next steps.

Councillor Quinn stated he would propose the recommendations and referred to the issues regarding the Forever Friends playgroup over the past couple of weeks and that he assumed the playgroup has accepted the temporary provision. The Councillor referred to the design of the scheme and that this has been scaled back and that the community's expectations have been built up in the area but that he is happy to see the scheme going forward and that the EA have also now contributed monies.

The AD: Dev advised that the Forever Friends playgroup have secured their own option of temporary accommodation for 2024/25 and that Council is still working with them to secure accommodation over the longer term construction period.

Councillor Molloy confirmed that the playgroup have made their own temporary arrangement for the 2024/25 year but stated that if the development is going to take four or five years then they need to know in advance that they have accommodation over these years. Councillor Molloy referred to the other users of Gortgonis and that they also need to be kept informed on what was happening. Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Quinn's proposal.

Councillor Wilson asked if Council is only helping the playgroup secure premises and nothing else.

The AD: Dev advised the Council is helping the playgroup in terms of liaison in securing accommodation for future years. The AD: Dev stated that if there is a request for additional support then this will be brought back to the Committee for consideration.

- Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council -
- To decant the building and closure of the play park by 31st August.
  - That formal booking of the pitch to end at 31st August.
  - That the track and use of the pitch for a kick about to be determined during EA construction phase.
  - That communication on building closure and usage of pitch and track to commence after the Council meeting in July.

## **D126/24      Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - OBFD**

The Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM) presented previously circulated report which provided update on key activities as detailed below –

- Christmas Marketing Campaign 2024
- Christmas 2024 Town Activities
- Mid Ulster Business Welcome Pack for SME Businesses

4 – Development Committee (09.07.24)



- Tourism Trade Engagement Events October 2024
- Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2024/25

Councillor Corry proposed the recommendations and stated that there was good work ongoing. The Councillor stated that Christmas is a good opportunity for increasing footfall into the towns and asked what impact the public realm works will have on Maghera in the run up to Christmas.

The ERSM advised that officers are considering options for Maghera during the Christmas period and that it will depend what stage public realm works are at at that time. The ERSM advised that options will be brought to Maghera Town Forum for consideration but that people would still be encouraged to come to Maghera during the Christmas period.

Councillor Wilson seconded the report and referred to the welcome pack for SMEs. The Councillor stated that Council already runs a programme in conjunction with Invest NI and that most businesses setting up an SME are advised to go through that. The Councillor asked why Council is seeking to issue these welcome packs when there is a programme already in place.

The ERSM advised that new businesses coming to the District often ask Council for information during the initial stages of trading and that it is proposed that a welcome pack will be developed to provide such information and signposting to support new SMEs. The ERSM stated it also an opportunity for Regeneration Managers to visit new businesses and welcome them to the area and outline the support available and that Council is here to help.

Councillor Burton referred to the Christmas marketing and that Council also needs to ensure that villages are included in this ie. When events are taking place and the location etc. The Councillor also referred to redundant Christmas lighting and the potential reuse of this lighting by community groups.

The Chair, Councillor Black stated the issue of potential reuse of redundant Christmas lighting is being considered by the Environment Committee.

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

- **Christmas Marketing Campaign 2024**
  - To approve the development of a strong Christmas Marketing Campaign (including the appointment of external service providers to develop and purchase marketing collateral and media e.g. video production, photography etc) that will support retail and hospitality sectors during the festive period, with an approximate cost of £30,000 from Council's Economic Development budget.
  - To approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful company/ies following procurement exercises to allow work to commence as soon as possible due to timeframes etc.

- **Christmas 2024 Town Activities**
  - To approve Budget will be available from the existing Economic Development, Tourism, Strategic Programme budget 2024/25.
  - To approve that Council proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint professional organisation to manage and co-ordinate the delivery festive trails.
  - To approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful company following the procurement exercise to allow work to commence as soon as possible due to project development timeframe.
- **Mid Ulster Business Welcome Pack for SMEs Business**
  - To approve £5,000 available within the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes budget 2024/2025.
- **Tourism Trade Engagement Events October 2024**
  - To approve Tourism Trade Engagement Events for October 2024, Meet the Expert with a familiarisation tour and the associated costs to deliver the events, circ. £2,000, to be borne by Council's Tourism Budget in 2024/2025.
- **Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2024/2025**
  - To approve Council's membership renewal of Social Enterprise NI (SENI) for the year 2024/2025 at a fee of £500.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D127/24      Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 June 2024**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 June 2024.

The Chair, Councillor Black referred to previous discussion in relation to replacement of footbridge at Lough Fea and asked for an update on this.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that the old bridge has now been dismantled which has allowed a structural engineer to assess the integrity of the head wall and prepare a report and design for a new footbridge which is now with the contractor for pricing. The AD: HL&W stated it hoped to get prices from the contractor in the next fortnight and that this will then inform the route for procurement. The AD: HL&W stated there were still some steps to navigate but that he felt some time had been clawed back in relation to the timescales given at last months meeting and that he wanted to reassure Members that this matter is being treated as a priority.

The Chair, Councillor Black thanked the AD: HL&W for the ongoing hard work to get this matter resolved as soon as possible.

Councillor Monteith referred to the previous discussion in relation to facilities at Benburb and potential facilities at Drumcoo and asked if there was an update on dates for meetings in relation to this. The Councillor also referred to previous discussion in relation to young people having difficulty in getting apprenticeships

especially for those attending local colleges for plumbing, electrician and bricklaying courses. Councillor Monteith asked if there has been any feedback from the colleges or LNP in relation to this and if anything is being done to deal with the situation.

The AD: HL&W advised that in relation to Drumcoo there are a number of DEA meetings due to be held at the end of July which will look at a review of the entire capital programme and that will be the mechanism to raise any such requests. The AD: HL&W advised that in relation to facilities in Benburb both the local football club and hurling club have been invited to present to the Development Committee in September and officers are continuing to engage with the football club as per the pitches strategy.

The Strategic Programmes Service Manager (SPSM) advised that the lack of placements for young people was raised at the Labour Market Partnership and that there seemed to be issues both in respect of a lack of people coming through onto those courses and a lack of placements. The SPSM advised that a meeting has been organised with the local college to try to address those issues and that a report will be brought back to the September committee meeting.

Councillor Monteith stated that the message among young people is that there is no point enrolling on these courses as it will be a year wasted if a placement cannot be obtained. Councillor Monteith stated that young people do want to do these courses but that they want to be sure that employers are willing to take them on for apprenticeships. The Councillor referred to conversation earlier in the meeting in relation to contracts and asked should Council also be building into its contracts that contractors do take on young people. Councillor Monteith stated that young people want to be in a position that when they start a course they will also be in a position to finish the course and stated that it is the only form of education where the responsibility is put entirely on the young person to find an employer and placement and when they can't they are forced to drop out of the course. The Councillor felt it is worth looking at Council's tendering process and that if there is a meeting with South West College that this be extended to Councillors.

The SPSM stated that the invitation to meet with the College would be extended to Councillors.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that there are changes to the public procurement regulations and that one of those changes includes social value clauses and when this comes through it can be explored.

The Chair, Councillor Black stated that the underlying problem is a lack of confidence among young people. Councillor Black stated that he got the point in that it is the only form of education where the student relies on getting a placement in order to complete their course and he looked forward to the report coming back to Committee on the matter.

Councillor Quinn asked if there was an update in relation a meeting with the Minister regarding the Blackwater River. The Councillor asked if there was any movement on this issue as he had now asked several times for an update. Councillor Quinn stated he had also been speaking with local fishermen who raised issues on this Council's

side of Lough Neagh relating to poor navigation and access to public toilets. The Councillor stated there are no public toilets from Ballyronan to Oxford Island and asked that both issues be looked into.

Councillor Molloy advised that the last navigational post at Maghery was damaged last weekend and that this is the only navigational post that is at the mouth of the canal cut. The Councillor stated that there are sand banks and rock banks in that area and it is incumbent that this issue is resolved. Councillor Molloy asked if there is the same drive from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council in relation to Lough Neagh and River Blackwater and are they pushing as much as this Council is. The Councillor asked if there is a working group between the Councils working across the board as there are numerous issues that need to be sorted in order to promote Lough Neagh in both areas.

The SD: C&P advised that issues in relation to Lough Neagh are being led by the Environment Committee and that the Strategic Director of Environment is the lead officer who is co-ordinating communications between the Councils. The SD: C&P stated he will advise the Strategic Director of Environment of the issues raised tonight and seek an update for Members.

#### **D128/24      Food Service Plan for 2024/2025**

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined Council's Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2024/2025.

#### **D129/24      Environmental Health Service Update**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during April and May 2024.

Councillor Buchanan referred to non farmed animal welfare and asked what steps Council are taking to pursue DAERA funding in order that it can fulfil its statutory duties.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised when Council became aware of the notification from DAERA last year it ringfenced £100k towards the financial share towards animal welfare. The actual costs for last year came in at £53k so was not as much as anticipated and it was advised that there is ongoing dialogue between Councils and the Minister for funding for this year 2024/25 however the outcome of these discussions is not yet known. The AD: HL&W stated it is hoped to find out more by the autumn but advised that Council may be in a similar situation this year as it was last year. It was advised that there is provision made within budget for 2024/25 but it is hoped it won't have to be used.

The Chair, Councillor Black appreciated the ongoing work to try to secure funding and that hopefully there will be a positive update in due course.

Councillor Monteith stated he had previously asked in relation to access to housing fitness inspection reports and whether or not the tenant is entitled to see this report. The Councillor stated he was aware that people who have given Environmental

Health access to their home to carry out the inspection are then told they do not have the right to see the report and that they should go their landlord or Housing Executive. Councillor Monteith stated that when the tenant does go to the Housing Executive they have also advised that they cannot see the report.

The AD: HL&W advised that there is a live enquiry on this issue at the moment and stated that the legislation element is not that clear and that Council are taking legal advice. The AD: HL&W stated that there has also been a Freedom of Information request received on this issue and that it is important to get clarity for everyone and that if Council is in a position to share information it will but he did not want to pre-empt the outcome of ongoing enquiries tonight.

#### **D130/24      Environmental Health Update on New Legislative Control Measures for XL Bully Breed Type Dogs**

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the legislative controls being introduced for XL Bully Dogs in 2024.

Councillor McNamee referred to the fact that there are two XL Bully dogs licensed in the Mid Ulster area but that there would be concerns that there are a lot more out there and asked if there is any way of identifying these dogs either by Council Officers, Dog Wardens or by public information call to get more of these dogs registered as he stated they are a very dangerous animal.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) stated he agreed with the sentiments and that whilst there are only two dogs registered in this Council area, there are approximately 200 registered across Northern Ireland and that he believed it was the case that there are a lot more but that are not registered. The AD: HL&W stated there is an ongoing media campaign and that Dog Wardens are engaging with breeding establishments. Members were advised that on 1 August an application scheme for an exemption certificate opens and that this is important because after 31 December this year it will be illegal to have an XL Bully dog without an exemption certificate and therefore it is expected that when the application scheme opens responsible dog owners who have this type of dog will come forward. The AD: HL&W advised that there will be an ongoing media campaign and engagement but that a lot of it will come down to self regulation.

Councillor Quinn stated that the XL Bully dogs that are unlicensed cause a particular concern and asked what the recourse is for unlicensed dogs of this type ie. Are they put in kennels or destroyed.

The AD: HL&W stated that there is still some clarification to come from the Executive on this and that it was his understanding that the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of legislation on the Dangerous Dogs Order NI will be considered by the Executive prior to their summer recess and that it is hoped this will bring more clarity.

The Chair, Councillor Black stated that a lot of the responsibility comes down to the owner and that you don't want a situation that a dog is being punished because of the owners lack of responsibility.

Councillor Quinn referred to his disappointment that the Minister did not accept an Animal Cruelty Register some months back and that he felt this is something this Council needs to continue to push for.

*The live broadcast ended at 7.45 pm.*

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

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public 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 D131/24 to D135/24.

### **Matters for Decision**

D131/24 SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project  
D132/24 NI Water Mast, Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon  
D133/24 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - CBFD

### **Matters for Information**

D134/24 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 June 2024  
D135/24 Mid South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal Update

## **D136/24 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.41 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, [Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt].

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

I would 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 agenda.





**Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 10 July 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

**Members Present**

Councillor Quinn, Chair

Councillors Brown, F Burton, J Burton, Cahoon, Corry, Gildernew, S McPeake, N McAleer, Molloy and Wilson

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Finance (SD: CS&F)

Ms Dyson, Head of Human Resources (HoHR)

Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)

Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy & Performance (AD: ODSP)

Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT (HoIT)

Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager

The meeting commenced at 7.00 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 by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**PR137/24 Notice of Recording**

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

**PR138/24 Apologies**

Councillors Johnston, McConnell, McLean, McLernon and Totten

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)

**PR139/24 Declarations of Interest**

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

**PR140/24 Chairs Business**

None.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **PR141/24    Annual Progress Return to the Equality Commission for 2023/2024**

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which considered Mid Ulster District Council's Annual Progress Report for the period 2023-24 on meeting the statutory equality and good relations duties as detailed within Section 75(1) and 75(2) of the N Ireland Act 1998.

Councillor Cahoon drew attention to the 'Changing Places' facilities detailed in the report and sought confirmation as to locations.

In response the HoSSE advised he would provide the Member with a list of same.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved**    That it be recommended to Council to approve the Annual Progress Report (2023-24) on the implementation and activity surrounding its Equality and Good Relations statutory duties.

### **PR142/24    Request(s) to Illuminate Council Property**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- Air Ambulance NI: Air Ambulance Week 9th September 2024 – Colour: Red
- Versus Arthritis - Arthritis World Awareness Day - 12 October – Colour: Blue
- Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) Awareness Day 25 October 2023 – Colour: Purple

Councillor Wilson proposed the recommendation.

Councillor Brown seconding the recommendation further proposed that the Air Ambulance NI be invited to make presentation to council.

Councillor J Burton seconded the proposal and said the Air Ambulance NI carried out a great work in the district and he would be interested in learning more about it.

Councillor Corry supported the proposal and shared that they had attended an accident in which her cousin had lost his life and how they had attended to him in what was the last moments of his life.

Councillor Gildernew concurred with the proposal and shared that her niece had been airlifted to hospital by Air Ambulance NI.

The Chair, Councillor Quinn concurred with the proposal and said that the three charities listed were fantastic, that former councillor, Kim Ashton had been a great supporter of the Air Ambulance NI and said he could identify personally with arthritis sufferers.

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor J Burton

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that Air Ambulance NI be invited to make a presentation to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –

- Air Ambulance NI: Air Ambulance Week 9th September 2024 – Colour: Red
- Versus Arthritis - Arthritis World Awareness Day - 12 October – Colour: Blue
- Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) Awareness Day 25 October 2023 – Colour: Purple

Councillor F Burton requested that Ulster Farmers Union and Young Farmers Club be invited to make presentation to Council as they carry out great work in rural communities.

Members concurred.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that Ulster Farmers Union; and The Young Farmers Club be invited to make presentation to Council.

#### **PR143/24 Elected Member Development Working Group Report**

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which considered the report of a meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on 30 May 2024.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor J Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the report and recommendations of the Elected Member Development Steering Group meeting, and actions contained, held on 30 May 2024 to include:

- Local Democracy Events;
- Issue of Personal Development Plans to Members;
- Training required be programmed within budget throughout the term of the Council 2023-2027.

#### **PR144/24 Corporate Plan 2024-2028: Draft Corporate Plan Objectives and Measures**

The Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report which considered the 2024-2028 draft corporate objectives and associated measures for inclusion within the Council's

Corporate Plan to assist and inform the final development of the 2024-2028 plan within its new format.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to agree the draft Corporate Plan objectives, as detailed within appendix 1 of the report, for inclusion in the 2024-2028 corporate plan for production in print, online, digital and video formats.

**PR145/24 Member Services**

No issues.

**Matters for Information**

**PR146/24 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 June 2024**

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 6 June 2024.

*Live broadcast ended at 7.10 pm*

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

Proposed by Councillor J Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Brown 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 PR147/24 to PR153/24.

**Matters for Decision**

PR147/24 Staffing Matters for Decision  
PR148/24 Staff Updates – Organisational Restructure  
PR149/24 Update in relation to Discussion System and associated works relating to Dungannon and Magherafelt Chamber Upgrades

**Matters for Information**

PR150/24 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 6 June 2024  
PR151/24 Treasury Management – Update  
PR152/24 Contracts and DAC  
PR153/24 Staff Matters for Information

**P154/24 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.40 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, [Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt].

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

I would 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 agenda.



<b>Report on</b>	Standing Orders for Council - Amendment
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer</b>	J McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement

<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 consider an amendment to the Standing Orders of Council following the passing of the <i>Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024</i> by the Northern Ireland Assembly on 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, providing Councils with the option to transact council and committee business by remote/hybrid means should it opt to do so.
1.2	In line with standing order 30.2 concerning any amendments to our Standing Orders, discussion on the amendments as noted within section 3.0 now stands adjourned until the next ordinary meeting of Mid Ulster District Council. It states:  <i>“Any motion to, add to, vary or revoke these Standing Orders will, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. The mandatory standing orders may not be added to, varied or revoked by the Council.”</i>
1.3	The next ordinary meeting of Council will take place on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September, at which the proposed amendments as detailed can be discussed, and subject to their agreement by Members be enacted thereafter.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
	<b><u>Requirement for Amendment(s)</u></b>
2.1	From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic Council had been transacting its council and committee meeting business by virtual means by convening hybrid meetings initially over Webex before migrating to using Zoom. Hybrid meetings whereby some members attended in person and others virtually, initially to comply with social distancing requirements, were undertaken under section 78 (local authority meetings) of the coronavirus Act 2020 and subordinate legislation passed by the NI Assembly which came into operation on 1st May 2020.

2.2.	Extension Orders to this provision were made on a number of occasions but came to an end on 6th March 2024. With the ability for Councils to transact its business by remote/virtual means having ceased such meetings stopped in March 2024. All meetings are now in-person only.
2.3	The <i>Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024</i> have been enacted and these Regulations allow Council to transact their business by virtual/remote means, extending to hybrid meetings. Council at its meeting of Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June opted to transact all future council and committee meetings by way of hybrid means, whereby the meetings would be streamed and chaired from a council chamber but Members (and members of the public) would have the option to join virtually should they wish to do so.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Following Council decision of the <i>Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024</i> to opt to transact future Council and Committee meetings by hybrid means forming part of our Standing Orders, the amendments as noted be incorporated.
3.2	<p><b><u>New Standing Order(s) specific to Hybrid Meetings</u></b></p> <p>The following is being proposed as the wording of a new Standing Order (no.32):-</p> <p><b>32 Remote Council Meetings</b></p> <p>The Council has decided that council meetings are to be held remotely, either wholly or partly. Any reference to 'physical' Council meetings in Standing Orders applies as if it applies to 'remote' Council meetings. The Remote Meetings Protocol forms part of Standing Orders (Annex 2).</p> <p>That Members consider the wording of the new Standing Order no.32 above to include the Remote Meetings Protocol (Appendix 1)</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: Approval is required to ensure the proper administration in relation to the conduct of Council and Committee meetings.



<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Regulations are the responsibility of DfC and any associated considerations required. Officers have given consideration to any potential implications and mitigated any negative impacts identified, where possible with the introduction of hybrid meetings.
	Rural Needs Implications: Regulations are the responsibility of DfC and any associated considerations required. Officers have given consideration to any potential implications and mitigated any negative impacts identified, where possible with the introduction of hybrid meetings.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the proposed amendments as detailed within Section 3.0 and any discussion on same stands adjourned until the next ordinary meeting of Council on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1: Annex 2 Remote Meetings Protocol



## **ANNEX B**

### **REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL**

#### **1. Definitions**

“The 2024 Regulations” means The Local Government Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 No.140;

“remote access” means the ability to attend or participate in a meeting by electronic means, including but not limited to, by telephone conference, video conference, live webcasts and live interactive streaming;

“remote attendance” means fulfilling conditions (i)-(iii) inclusive in Paragraphs 6 or 7 below, as appropriate;

“open to the public” includes remote access to the meeting and where a meeting is accessible to the public through such remote means the meeting is open to the public whether or not members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person.

#### **2. Introduction and Application of this Protocol**

This Protocol has been produced to satisfy the requirements under Regulation 2(5) of the 2024 Regulations in relation to meetings held remotely, either wholly or partly.

The Protocol should be read in conjunction with the Council’s Standing Orders and Procedure Rules within the Constitution. The 2024 Regulations apply notwithstanding any other legislation or current or pre-existing standing orders or any other rules of the Council governing meetings.

This Protocol does not negate the validity of the Council’s Standing Orders. Wherever there is a conflict, this Protocol takes precedence only in relation to any aspect of the meeting, attendance or access that is by remote means.

#### **3. References to “place” and “present”**

Any references to a council meeting in the Standing Orders, is not limited to a meeting of members, all or any of whom, are present in the same place. Any reference to “place” where a meeting is held, or to be held, includes reference to

more than one place, including electronic, digital or virtual locations, e.g., internet locations, web addresses or conference call addresses.

The Annual Meeting and meetings of the Council shall be held at 7pm in the place or places specified on the summons.

The 'place' at which the meeting is held may be at a Council building or may be where the organiser of the meeting is located or may be an electronic or a digital or virtual location, a web address or a conference call telephone number; or could be a number of these combined. The meeting may also be held in a Council building with a proportion of the membership and any participating public additionally attending remotely. The place of the meeting will be specified on the notice.

Any references to being "present" in the Constitution and Standing Orders, includes being present through remote attendance.

#### **4. Notice and Summons of Meetings**

The requisite notice shall be given to the public of the time and place of the meeting, and the agenda, together with a link to view the meeting. The notice will be available on the Council's website.

#### **5. Public access**

Subject to below, meetings will be open to the public and members of the press and public will be encouraged to use remote access facilities provided by the Council to access a meeting remotely.

If the Chair is made aware that the meeting is not accessible to the public through remote means, due to any technological or other failure of provision by the Council, then the Chair may adjourn the meeting immediately. If the provision of access through remote means cannot be restored within a reasonable period, then, if in all the circumstances the Chair is of the view that it would be reasonable for the remaining business to be considered when remote access is available, then the remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If the Chair does not fix a date in these circumstances, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.

##### *Exclusion of Public and Press*

When council meetings are not open to the public, i.e., when confidential, or "exempt" issues are under consideration, the meeting facilitator will ensure that there are no members of the public in remote attendance or remotely accessing the meeting are able to hear or see the proceedings once the exclusion has been agreed by the meeting.

Where there is disturbance by the public, the Chair will warn the person concerned and can order that their remote access is severed, if the interruption continues.

## **6. Remote Attendance by Members**

A Member in remote attendance is present and attends the meeting, including for the purposes of the meeting's quorum, if at any time all three of the following conditions are satisfied, those conditions being that the Member in remote attendance is able at that time:

- (i) to hear and be so heard by and, where practicable, to see and be seen by, the other Members in attendance.
- (ii) to hear and be so heard by and, where practicable, to see and be seen by, any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting; and
- (iii) to be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the meeting.

Where a member who is in remote attendance is muted or has forgotten to unmute themselves when they are speaking, this does not mean that they are unable to be heard for the purposes of 6(i)-(iii) above.

If a Member in remote attendance is leaving the meeting, they must indicate to the Chair when they are doing so. A member will be deemed to have left the meeting where, at any point in time during the meeting, any one of the conditions for remote attendance contained in 6(i)-(iii) above are not met. In such circumstance the Chair may, as they deem appropriate and subject to any indication given by the Member to the Chair;

- adjourn the meeting for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance of a Member contained in (i)-(iii) above to be reestablished;
- count the number of Members in attendance for the purposes of the quorum; or
- continue to transact the remaining business of the meeting in the absence of the Member that is no longer in remote attendance.

A member who disconnects and re-connects to the meeting due to technological issues is still "present throughout" as long as any matters discussed during their absence are repeated.

## **7. Remote Attendance by the Public**

A member of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak, or make a deputation, at the meeting is in remote attendance at any time if

all three of the following conditions are satisfied, those conditions being that the member of the public in remote attendance is able at that time:

- (i) to hear and be so heard by and, where practicable, to see and be seen by, Members in attendance;
- (ii) to hear and be so heard by and, where practicable, to see and be seen by, any other members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting; and
- (iii) to be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the meeting.

A member of the public in remote attendance and entitled to exercise a right to speak or make a deputation, will be deemed to have left the meeting where, at any point in time during the meeting, any one of the conditions for remote attendance contained in 7(i)-(iii) above are not met. In such circumstance the Chair may, as they deem appropriate:

- (a) adjourn the meeting for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance contained in 7(i)-(iii) above to be re-established;
- (b) suspend consideration of the item of business in relation to the member of public's attendance until such time as a following item of business on the agenda has been transacted and the conditions for the member of the public's remote attendance have been reestablished or, on confirmation that this cannot be done, before the end of the meeting, whichever is the earliest; or
- (c) continue to transact the remaining business of the meeting in the absence of the member of the public in remote attendance.

Refer to Planning section for difference in proceeding in these circumstances.

## **8. Remote Voting**

In relation to the Chair taking the vote by a show of hands, this will involve those members in remote attendance ensuring their video is turned on and raising their hands.

If the Chair is unable to see a Member in remote attendance, the Chair will ask that member to verbally indicate how they wish to cast their vote.

The Chair may, in their absolute discretion, decide to call a vote by remote means using an electronic voting system for remote voting.

## **9. Access to Information**

Members of the public may access minutes, decision and other relevant documents through the Council's website.

## **10. Postponing a meeting**

The Chair can postpone a meeting by giving 24 hours' notice to members, or such shorter period as the Chair may determine in cases of urgency. The same notice will be published on the Council's notice.

## **11. Planning**

The Protocol for the operation of the Planning Committee is amended as follows:-

### *Addendum*

Any additional papers tabled at a Planning Committee meeting by way of the Addendum must be emailed to each Committee member by 5pm on the evening of the Committee.

At the start of each meeting, the Chair will ask members to confirm that; (i) they've received the Addendum; and (ii) they've had sufficient time to review same. If any member indicates in the negative to 11(i) and/or (ii), the Chair will allow, by a short adjournment if necessary, for these to be delivered to and read by said member.

### *Visual Aids*

To ensure that a member in remote attendance can clearly follow any officer presentation, copies of the presentation should be shown simultaneously and be able to be seen by the member in remote attendance.

### *Speaking Rights*

Any reference to speaking rights and the exercise of same (with the exception of Pre Determination Hearings below) will be treated as follows:-

- a. In the first instance, the requester will be offered an opportunity to attend the meeting by remote access.
- b. If the requester is unable to attend remotely, and subject to the Council being able to facilitate attendance in person, the requester will be offered the opportunity to attend the meeting in person. Please note only one person per speaking time will be able to attend in person and so speaking time cannot be shared (e.g., one person for applicant; one person against development); and
- c. If the requester is unable or unwilling to exercise speaking rights by virtue of 11a. or b. above, they will be able to provide Written Submissions no later than 11pm two working days prior to the meeting, which will be circulated to members the Committee.

The deadline for receipt of requests to speak including the submission of any written information remains as per paragraph 23 of the Protocol on the Operation of the Planning Committee, i.e., no later than 12pm two working days prior to the meeting.

### *Pre Determination Hearings*

Any reference to speaking rights and the exercise of same in relation to Pre Determination Hearings will be treated as follows:-

1. In the first instance, the requester will be offered an opportunity to attend the meeting by remote access and the conditions in paragraph 7(i)-(iii) must be met;
2. If the requester is unable to attend remotely, and subject to the Council being able to facilitate attendance in person, the requester will be offered the opportunity to attend the meeting in person. Please note only one person per speaking time will be able to attend in person and so speaking time cannot be shared (e.g., one person for applicant; one person against development).

#### *Remote attendance by the public*

Where a member of the public in remote attendance and entitled to exercise a right to speak has been deemed to have left the meeting when their particular application is under consideration, the Chair may, as they deem appropriate:

- (a) adjourn the meeting for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance contained in (i)-(iii) of paragraph 7 above to be re-established;
- (b) suspend consideration of the item of business in relation to the member of public's attendance until such time as a following item of business on the agenda has been transacted and the conditions for the member of the public's remote attendance have been re-established. If the conditions for the member of the public's remote attendance cannot be satisfied prior to the conclusion of the meeting and before the committee resolves to go in to closed business, the application under consideration will be deferred until the next available Planning Committee meeting.

#### *Declaration of Interests*

Where a Member in remote attendance has declared an interest in an application and would ordinarily be required to leave the meeting or sit in the public gallery, that member will be required to turn their video off and have their microphone muted whilst any discussion or vote takes place in respect of the item or items of business which the member may not participate.

## **12. Licensing**

When considering any application relating to the licensing function of the council and there exists a statutory requirement that the Council gives an opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by the council to any person, or words to that effect, then the Committee can satisfy this requirement by:-

1. In the first instance, the Speaker will be offered an opportunity to attend the meeting by remote access and the conditions in 7(i)-(iii) above must be met;
2. If the Speaker is unable to attend remotely, and subject to the Council being able to facilitate attendance in person, the Speaker will be offered the



opportunity to attend the meeting in person. Please note only one person per speaking time will be able to attend in person and so speaking time cannot be shared.

DRAFT



<b>Report on</b>	Conferences, Seminars & Training
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	25 July 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Eileen Forde, Committee & Member Services Manager

<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 seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2024-2025 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members</b></p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Members are asked to consider engaging in training opportunities as outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>Council is now a Member of APSE which allows Council to avail of training opportunities at reduced rates. APSE is offering two free places to their annual conference in Briston, one officer and one Member. Should Council decide to avail of these places associated costs for accommodation and subsistence would be met through Member conference/training allowance. Officer place would be met through existing budget.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Officer Approvals</b></p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2024/2025 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member
	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	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A Member Conferences, Seminars & Training Appendix B Staff Conferences, Seminars & Training

## Member Training

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
APSE	10-13 September 2024	Bristol	2 conference places free one officer and one Member  Accommodation costs additional approx. £501 + VAT plus flights and subsistence	

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**From:** Matthew Ellis <MEllis@apse.org.uk>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:03 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** Join APSE for free in Bristol this September - Hurry as places at our Annual Seminar are limited!



**FREE Annual Seminar Package for APSE Main Contacts and a councillor from your authority**

**Full Delegate Place: APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards Dinner 2024 worth over £850\***

**>>> [Please use this link to access the free main contact place booking form](#) <<<**

As an APSE main contact, you are entitled to a **FREE** full delegate package to attend APSE's Annual Seminar 2024. The FREE place is in recognition of the extraordinary efforts of our APSE member local councils over the past 12 months. APSE's National Council have once again extended this package to include a complimentary place for a nominated councillor from your authority. This is a unique opportunity for senior officers and councillors to spend time at an event dedicated to excellence in local government, celebrating our frontline services and debating the very latest local government policy research.

This package is worth **£445** per person and includes the following: -

- **Evening of Tuesday 10 September** - two delegate passes to gain entry to the pre-seminar welcome reception.
- **Daytime Wednesday 11 September – two delegate passes to gain** access to Day One the APSE seminar plenary sessions, frontline roundtable discussions, and local government innovation exhibition.
- **Afternoon Wednesday 11 September - two delegate passes to gain** access to the APSE Annual General Meeting which elects our representatives for the coming year.
- **Evening Wednesday 11 September – two delegate passes to gain** access to the SS Great Britain with an evening guest speaker and supper.
- **Daytime Thursday 12 September** - access to Day Two of the APSE seminar plenary sessions, and local government innovation exhibition.
- **Evening Thursday 13 September** – access to the APSE Service Awards Charity Dinner 2024 at the spectacular ballroom at the Mercure Bristol Grand for you and your councillor to celebrate the best in local government which will allow you and your councillor access to our APSE Annual Service Awards dinner, followed by the Service Awards ceremony, announcing the winners of the 2024 APSE Service Awards.

Online bookings to secure your two FREE places are now open. [Please use this link to access the free main contact place booking form.](#)

**Please remember to use code **FMC24** in the special requirements/information box on the online form.**

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation is **not included** but you can reserve your hotel accommodation online as follows, all as 'bed and breakfast' packages within Bristol City Centre, and within walking distance to the City Hall and the Mercure Grand:-

- Two nights' accommodation **£334+VAT** per person  
Dates 11 and 12 September 2024 (B&B)
- Three nights' accommodation package **501+VAT** per person  
Dates 10, 11 and 12 Sept 2024 (B&B)

I hope that you are able to take advantage of this complimentary package for you and your councillor. This is APSE's way of saying thank you for getting our communities and our local government frontline teams through the hardest of years and for your continued support to APSE.

**Please remember to book your place early as places will be limited, and we will need to take a 'first come first served' approach to places.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require more information.

Kind regards

Matt Ellis, APSE

**Matt Ellis**

Principal Advisor

**Association for Public Service Excellence**

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## Appendix B

### Staff Conferences – July 2024

#### Approval:-

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Conference	Environment	1	£78+ vat	5 <sup>th</sup> September 24	Belfast



<b>Report on</b>	Correspondence to Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 25 July 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	J McGuckin Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
<b>Contact Officer</b>	E Forde, Committee & Member Services Manager

<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	<b>Correspondence from Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council</b>  The Chief Executive has received correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in relation to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and the Department for the Economy's proposals. Refer to Appendix A
<b>4.0</b>	<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

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A: Fermanagh & Omagh District Council



Our Ref: Council/June 2024/10.1

Date: 26 June 2024

Email: [fiona.dillon@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:fiona.dillon@fermanaghomagh.com)

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

Dear Mr McCreesh,

**Re: Ireland's Hidden Heartlands**

At the June Council meeting when discussing the Economy Minister's recent comments regarding the potential for the expansion of tourism brands including 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' into Northern Ireland, Members asked that I write to our neighbouring Councils with an interest in promoting tourism in Tyrone, to seek your views on the Minister's proposal and asking if Mid Ulster District Council or Derry and Strabane District Council would be willing to participate in such an initiative.

The Council looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alison McCullagh".

**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive



<b>Report on</b>	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	25 July 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Ann McAleer, Policy Engagement 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 and make members aware of consultations that were submitted recently via Delegated Authority.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
<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.
3.2	This paper also includes recently submitted responses which have been approved via Delegated Authority. Appendix B sets out the submitted response to DFI EQIA Budget Response 24/25 while Appendix C contains the submitted response to NIHE's Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy consultation.
<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 and submitted by Mid Ulster District Council.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b> Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations Appendix B: Submitted Consultation Response: DFI EQIA Budget Response 24/25 Appendix C: Submitted Consultation Response: NIHE Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy



## Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Education	School Uniform Policy Consultation	The Minister of Education plans to introduce statutory guidance so that all school governing bodies will be required to review their school uniform policy and ensure costs are manageable for parents/carers. This consultation seeks views on this approach and on what should be contained within any statutory guidance, particularly around the cost and affordability of school uniforms, the use of branded items and single supplier arrangements. Views are also sought on the proposal to introduce cost control measures, such as a price cap.	27 September 2024 at 5pm	No
	Link to Consultation	<a href="https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/school-uniform-policy-consultation">https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/school-uniform-policy-consultation</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	The 'Good Jobs' Employment Rights Bill	The Good Jobs agenda involves supporting businesses to grow and become more productive to build skills base. It also involves strengthening legislation. The feedback from this	30 September 2024	No

		consultation will inform an Employment Bill and a supporting programme of secondary legislation.		
	<b>Link to Consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/good-jobs-employment-rights-bill">https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/good-jobs-employment-rights-bill</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 of Health	<b>Consultation on Policy Proposals to Underpin a New Public Health Bill</b>	The policy proposed is to underpin the new Public Health Bill which seeks to widen the scope of current legislation, which focuses almost exclusively on infectious diseases, to include various forms of infection and contamination, whether these be of chemical, biological, or radiological origin.	27 September 2024 at 5pm	No
	<b>Link to consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/policy-proposals-inform-development-new-public-health-bill-northern-ireland">https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/policy-proposals-inform-development-new-public-health-bill-northern-ireland</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>
NIHE	<b>Community Safety Strategy 2025 -2030</b>	This strategy sets out three key aims: Building Community Confidence, Ensuring local Solutions and Working Together. As well as an action plan that will be delivered throughout the life of the	30th September 2024	No

		strategy and will update annually.		
	<b>Link to consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/working-with-us/partners/consultations">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/working-with-us/partners/consultations</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?</b>	No		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation Title</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Response Currently Being Developed</b>
<b>Department for Communities</b>	<b>Consultation on Child Maintenance: Accelerating Enforcement (Administrative Liability Orders)</b>	This consultation sets out the Department's plans to implement existing powers that allow the Child Maintenance Service to make an administrative liability order against a person who has failed to pay child maintenance and is in arrears.	29 September 2024	No
	<b>Link to consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-child-maintenance-accelerating-enforcement-administrative-liability-orders">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-child-maintenance-accelerating-enforcement-administrative-liability-orders</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?</b>	No		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation Title</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Response Currently Being Developed</b>
<b>Department for Communities</b>	<b>The Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024</b>	This consultation seeks views about the regulation of cremations, conducted in crematoria operated and maintained by councils.	30 September 2024	No
	<b>Link to consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-local-government-cremation-regulations-ni-2024">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-local-government-cremation-regulations-ni-2024</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?</b>	No		



4 July 2024

Financial Planning & Management Team

Department for Infrastructure

12-18 Adelaide Street

BELFAST

BT2 8GB

Email: [budget@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:budget@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Reference: DfI Resource Budget 2024-25 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation

To whom it may concern:

Mid Ulster District Council would like to take this opportunity to provide comments on DfI Resource Budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Assessment. It's Mid Ulster District Council's understanding that the outcome of the implementation of this proposed budgets cut would lead to:

- limited level of services,
- reduction in funding for other essential services such as road safety,
- reduction on progress on actions for climate change
- limited emergency responses in relation to flooding, infrastructure collapse and major weather events
- reductions to both Translink and NI Water

These stark proposals have raised grave concerns across the District, particularly in relation to how some of the most vulnerable people in society will be negatively impacted. This negative impact is particularly clear in relation to the proposed withdrawal of service will impact on access to transport across the District.

However, the Council welcomes that funding will remain in place for the A29 Cookstown Bypass and the A5 upgrade. The Council would recommend that these budgets are protected in the strongest possible terms. The upgrade of the A5 should remain a priority given the sheer scale of the carnage and loss of life that the current road has seen in recent years.

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## Transport

In relation to the Community Transport provision, the Council note that it will be difficult for services to be sustained on the same budget allocation as 23/24. However, the funding they have allocated to Shopmobility Mid Ulster and Go Mobility is clearly not sufficient to operate a scheme across Mid Ulster. These proposals will result in a reduction in service in Cookstown and Dungannon and the recently reopened scheme in Magherafelt will only be available one day per week.

Therefore it is clear that Shopmobility Mid Ulster is a key service that this budget will impact on negatively. Shopmobility Mid Ulster has long provided opportunities for local residents and visitors to the District, especially to the towns of Cookstown and Dungannon, where they provide equipment to allow people to have an enjoyable shopping and visitor experience which may be curtailed if not available. In recent times the need for the service within Mid Ulster has grown significantly and this has been demonstrated by additional equipment being purchased to meet demand for the service. In recent years, a larger premise for the service has recently been secured in Cookstown. The growth of the services is testament to the local service available and the need for equipment to improve the lives of people from all ages across the District while also tackling social isolation across the Section 75 groupings. The Council welcomes the Minister's attendance at a meeting in Cookstown on 3rd July 2024 with Shopmobility Mid Ulster representatives. The Council agree that there should be scope to explore for an integrated approach to transport across the District e.g. from home to town centres and attending specific events and facilities.

Shopmobility Mid Ulster is also an integral consultee and advisor in the design of the Public Realm Schemes across Mid Ulster; particularly in relation to the Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Pomeroy schemes as well as the current roll out of Maghera Public Realm Scheme. Expertise in relation to public realm scheme colours, finishes, dropped kerb locations and disabled parking bays have proved invaluable to the design of access spaces across the District. Shopmobility Mid Ulster have also been involved in tourism attraction development, including Castledawson pathways and Seamus Heaney Trails. The completion of access and inclusion audit reports for Mid Ulster District Council sites including Leisure Centres, Tourist Information Centres and sites including Ballyronan Marina and Knockmany Forest park have also proved immensely beneficial for improvement of accessibility across the District.

In addition, Shopmobility Mid Ulster have also demonstrated the added value of Go Mobility by providing on the go access to equipment at Mid Ulster Council corporate events. Therefore, it is evident that the removal of this service as well will impact negatively upon elderly people, people with a disability (of all ages), men and women generally and people with dependents.

Mid Ulster District Council is a vastly rural area, consequently residents rely heavily on access to transport therefore, the additional costs in relation to applying for, renewing or replacing the SmartPass also causes concern. The anticipated £20 application fee to be introduced in autumn this year could act as a barrier to accessing public transport. However, it is welcomed that the Minister intends to waive the application fee completely for some groups, including disabled people. The Council is in agreement that Section 75 groupings more at risk to poverty should be able to access concessionary rates.

## **Mitigations**

While the Council appreciate that it is difficult to make funding cuts across any area removal of which will have a significantly negative impact across Section 75 groupings. Any level of mitigation required will be significant. The EQIA outcomes would also need to be swift and substantial in order to be able to even mildly address the potential impact on the Section 75 groups negatively impacted upon by the service reductions proposed in this consultation.

## **Consultation Timeline**

The Council would like to seek clarity in relation to the consultation period put in place for this consultation. The guideline information states that any views received after the initial four week period will only be used to consider mitigations. This timeline is at odds with what is stated in DfI's Equality Scheme. If 'exceptional circumstances' are the Department's rationale for this approach it would be useful if that was stated within the consultation documentation.

The consultation timeline does not seem to offer the option of face-to-face consultations or any public meetings. It is the opinion of the Council that the extremely short time frame during which this consultation is being carried out would have benefited immensely from opportunities to fully discuss the budget proposals and their implications. These additional consultation opportunities would have also allowed impacted groupings to ask questions and seek clarifications.

## **Cumulative Negative Impact**

It cannot be ignored that this consultation is not being held in isolation. NI Assembly Departments are currently consulting across short timeframes on drastically reduced budgets. It is clear that each of these budget focused EQIAs identify negative impacts across Section 75 groups. The overall result is a devastating cumulative impact on some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Overall, there is a lack of joined up thinking in relation to the proposals made across four Departments. Each Department seems to be viewing only their budgets in isolation without documenting the issues created by multi-sectoral cuts that will directly negatively impact upon some of the most vulnerable and most marginalised in society.

### **General Comments**

While this EQIA fulfils the necessary seven step requirements of Department's Equality Scheme it could be more detailed, thorough and robust to reflect the substantial nature of the spending recommendations that it is linked to implementing.

DfI will also be aware that the Section 75 duties are continuing duties, and the Department is required to equality assess any changes to circumstances. It is important that the Department demonstrates that it has paid the appropriate level of regard to its promotion of equality and good relations in its budget decisions, as required by the duties.

### **Rural Needs**

In relation to this consultation, Mid Ulster District Council believe that the Department has failed to demonstrate due regard to the Rural Needs Act 2016. The cuts can be clearly demonstrated to have a more significant impact on those in rural areas however a Rural Needs Impact did not accompany the consultation documentation.

### **Conclusion**

Mid Ulster District Council strongly oppose the outlined budget and view it as neither workable nor practicable. Initiatives that have taken years to develop, implement and bring to fruition should not be cast aside in this crude manner, particularly when they are exactly what are needed to help to support vulnerable individuals during the current cost of living and climate crises.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Adrian McCreesh', written in a cursive style.

Adrian McCreesh

Chief Executive





## **NIHE Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy 2024-2029 Consultation July 2024**

### **Mid Ulster District Council Response**

Quality social and affordable housing provision in the district is a key objective within both the Council's Corporate Plan and the District's Community Plan. The quality of our social and affordable housing, not only speaks to the physical construction of the housing but also the support services available to develop and maintain inclusive, safe and thriving communities. Mid Ulster District Council welcomes this strategy and its strategic objective to "Enable and engage communities to interact and work together to co-design Housing Executive services and support a more cohesive society". In the whole, Council is supportive of the detail laid out in strategy under the 3 key aims. However, we would like to note the following points.

The council would like to see the interagency group and estate inspections strengthened, with increased participation from statutory partners. Local elected members have received a growing number of complaints from residents regarding the upkeep and appearance of local estates. Where issues of over-grown vegetation, glit on pathways etc. would have been dealt with in a timely manner by partners of the interagency group, lack of certain partner participation has meant that these issues have remained unresolved for a significant period, resulting in several estates becoming unsightly. Estates that look uncared for are more likely to be treated badly with fly tipping, littering, crime and antisocial behavior. The council would advocate for a renewed focus on this interagency partnership that takes account of the issues that the residents are highlighting and working with those residents to resolve them. The council are fully committed to fulfilling its role as partner of this interagency.

With regards to NIHE's community development work and Community Grants programmes, Council would like to highlight the work it has just recently undertaken to develop a new community development strategy and action plan for the district. The Strategy aims to review and align all of Council's key community funded programmes, as well as seeking to better align with partners delivering similar community development services and grants in the district, to improve efficiencies and maximize benefit to the community & voluntary sector and the delivering agencies. The council would welcome the participation of NIHE in this work.

There are several Shared Housing schemes within the district and the Council welcomes the opportunity to be involved in the advisory groups that have been set up at a local level. There are however strategic opportunities for better alignment

and co-ordination between NIHE, Housing Associations and Council to work together especially around good relations and community safety outcomes. Furthermore, Councils' knowledge and local access to services and facilities could also support 'bonding' and 'bridging' programmes being delivered.