

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 9 September 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

Councillors, Buchanan*, Doris*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Kearney, S McAleer*, S McGuigan, McLean, S McPeake*, Molloy, Quinn*, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Dyson**, Head of Human Resources
Mr Hill**, Head of Parks
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

PR157/21 Apologies

Councillors Cuddy, Elattar.

PR158/21 Declarations of Interest

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

PR159/21 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR160/21 Request(s) to Illustrate Council Property – September 2021

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

- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month from member of public – Monday 27th to Thursday 30th September

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to light up designated Council properties to mark Childhood Cancer Awareness Month from Monday 27th to Thursday 30th September – the colour be Yellow/Gold.

Councillor Doris wanted to thank Ms Nuala McEvoy from Coalisland and her daughter who was unfortunately personally affected. She said that this was suggested last year and meant a lot to the family and further proposed that the Communications team upload some information online on the early signs of childhood cancer and things to look out for as prevention was better than cure.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Council's Communications team upload some information online to highlight the early signs and indicators of childhood cancer.

PR161/21 Performance Improvement: Annual Assessment Report 2020-2021

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to inform members on progress made towards discharging its General Duty to Improve under Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) act 2014 by way of an annual self-assessment report. Having due regard for the Department of Communities having set aside Council's requirement to develop a Performance Improvement Plan for 2020 to 2021.

Councillor Kearney advised that this was an 80 page report which was very extensive during a unique period of lifetime of this Council with so many things which had happened and wanted to commend the report in its entirety. He referred to the Council's Emergency Plan and stated that it was something that was discussed many times but didn't actually realise that it would be used in these unprecedented circumstances.

Councillor Kearney wished to praise staff for their hard work and referred to the three "R's" – "*Response, Reconfiguration and Recovery*" and said that we were now in the latter part of this and seeing this situation through. He also said that he was pleased and surprised to see only 3.4% going into waste landfill and felt that this was very significant as it was a very small percentage which was unique and worth praising.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Annual Self-Assessment Report 2020 to 2021.

PR162/21 Tamnamore Close Play Park Lease Agreement

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to progress lease proposals in relation to a parcel of land adjacent to 1 and 4 Tamnamore Close, Dungannon from Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Councillor Molloy enquired when it was anticipated to see work beginning on the ground at this site.

The Head of Parks advised that once approval was granted for the transfer of land, early access to the site would be sought from the Housing Executive. He said that discussions had already taken place as works were long overdue and there was an intention to get early possession of the site. He stated that there was an ambition to achieve these works before Christmas with an update being provided to members if there was any change to that.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted:

- 1) To accept the Lease Agreement from Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to the proposed 25 year lease for the amount of £25.00 for the designated land at Tamnamore Close, Dungannon for the provision of public play facilities.
- 2) To present all associated lease documentation for approval and Seal.

PR163/21 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR164/21 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 1 July 2021

Members noted Policy & Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 1 July 2021.

PR165/21 Provisional Recommendations on Local Government Boundaries Review

The Head of Democratic Services provided a brief overview of Local Government Boundaries Commissioner review of the Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland.

He brought members attention to item 3.4 and said that he was conscious that 2 of Mid Ulster's wards – Ballysaggart and Coalisland South, which were 2 of our 20 wards where there was going to be a change of electors. These 2 wards currently benefit from Coalisland and Dungannon Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and after looking at it, identified that approximately 300 people could potentially move in and out of those wards and anyone gaining an advantage of being in that Neighbourhood Renewal area i.e. access to childcare and benefits etc. may fall out of that. He stated that although this may be a small number he wished to bring the issue to the attention of members present tonight.

PR166/21 Recordings of Council and Committee Meetings – Audio and Video

Members noted update on the arrangements in place for audio-video recording Council and Committee meetings in line with the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 and in response to the movement to virtual meetings emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic.

PR167/21 Service Improvement Plan – Legal Services

Members noted update in relation to the Legal Services Department Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

PR168/21 Service Improvement Plan – Democratic Services

Members noted update in relation to Democratic Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

Live broadcast ended at 7.15 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Member consider items PR169/21 to PR174/21.

Matters for Decision

- PR169/21 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR170/21 Legal Update – VAT Matters

Matters for Information

- PR171/21 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2021
- PR172/21 Financial Report for 2 Months ended 21 May 2021
- PR173/21 Contracts and DAC
- PR174/21 Staff Matters for Information

PR175/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 7.20 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

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