



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

**Report of**  
**Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster District**  
**Council**

Report of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Council Offices, Cookstown

**Attendees**    **Members:** Cllr J Mc Namee (Chair), Cllr K Ashton, Cllr T Wilson, Cllr D Mc Kinney, Cllr T Quinn, Cllr S Mc Peake,  
**Officers:** T McCance, U Uí Dhonngaile, D Ó Doibhlin

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>MATTERS AGREED</b>	<b>ACTIONS &amp; RESPONSIBILITY</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Cllr R Mc Ginley, Cllr P Bateson, Cllr C O'Neill, Anne-Marie Campbell	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Prior to establishing declarations of interest, the Chair welcomed Irish Language Officer back after maternity leave and extended thanks to Maria Thomasson who covered the role during the maternity period.  No declarations of interest submitted.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Report on previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b>	
	A report of the previous meeting of 15 <sup>th</sup> November was presented to the Working Group.  T McCance noted that item 3 under the responsibility of M Kelso on the minutes is still under development. Chair explained that the Road Signage issue was at Equality Testing stage and Cllr Mc Peake stated that the colour coding issues in relation to signage had been signed off at full Council.	

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Facility Signage</b>	
	<p>T McCance presented the group with samples (based on the Burnavon model) for proposed internal signage for Cookstown Leisure Centre and The Burnavon for which the arrangement would be Irish, English and braille and invited feedback on those samples.</p> <p>Cllr McNamee queried whether the committee had the authority to select the signage, and T McCance confirmed that the Irish Language Implementation Group could forward recommendations to the relevant Council committee but that approval responsibility remains with the Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Ashton expressed concern as to the design and cost involved.</p> <p>Cllr Mc Peake confirmed his approval of the design templates.</p> <p>T McCance reminded the group that the money for this signage would come from council's previously agreed budget for signage 2016/17 as the company has been appointed and design consultation work commenced but that the actual signage work must be carried out as soon as possible.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson expressed his concern at Braille being included on the signage as it is not a legal requirement to do so and by doing so added further financial cost. T McCance explained that these signs were limited in number and covered the primary areas in the buildings. Cllr Mc Peake expressed that he felt it an expressive step and that it was vitally important that braille should also be included.</p> <p>Cllr T Quinn proposed that signage work proceeds based on the design work provided and Cllr S Mc Peake seconded the motion.</p> <p>Cllr Ashton, Cllr Wilson, and Cllr Mc Kinney noted that they were against the introduction of the proposed signage.</p>	<p>T McCance</p> <p>T McCance</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Ulster Scots activity proposals</b>	

	<p>T McCance reported that work is in progress and engagement ongoing with stakeholders including with the Ulster Scots Community Network. T McCance also highlighted that the work of consultants currently preparing the Arts &amp; Cultural Strategy will provide further direction on Ulster Scots activity as part of the Arts and Culture five year strategy.</p>	T McCance
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Launch of Irish Language and Ulster Scots Policies</b>	
	<p>Cllr Wilson proposed launching the Irish Language and Ulster Scots policies by the end of April 2017 and expressed his concern relating to the 'limited progress' of Ulster Scots.</p> <p>Cllr McKinney seconded this proposal.</p> <p>Cllr Ashton expressed that emphasis should be placed on the cultural element of Ulster Scots and also had concern over the merit in launching the policies together at one event.</p> <p>Cllr Ashton also suggested that given the wider remit of the group that the <i>Regional and Minority Languages Implementation Working Group</i> would now be a more appropriate title for the working group.</p> <p>Cllr Ashton also queried whether the two policies once finalised would need ratified at Council and T McCance stated he would clarify the position on this. The policies would be launched at the earliest date available pending clarity on ratification of same.</p>	T McCance
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Irish Language Update</b>	
	<p>D Ó Doibhlin updated the group on the Irish Language progress report.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson complimented the provision of service in terms of Environmental Health issues though Irish to Irish Medium schools.</p> <p>Cllr Mc Peake praised the wide range of work and activity.</p> <p>Cllr Mc Kinney raised concerns in terms of the schools project and whether it was the role of the Council to deliver Irish Language in schools.</p> <p>Cllr Mc Peake suggested inviting Linda Ervine to the launch of both policies when date confirmed.</p>	T McCance

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Irish Language Action Plan 2017/18</b>	
	<p>Ursula Uí Dhonnghaile presented the group with the proposed Irish language activity for 2017/18.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson requested that a list of schools who have participated in the Irish language schools project to date be shared and he expressed concern over possible duplication of funding in the case of community groups accessing funding for the Minority Languages Bursary scheme / Irish Language Activity funding and funding through other Council grant schemes.</p>	D O Doibhlin/ U Uí Dhonnghaile
<b>9.0</b>	<b>A.O.B.</b>	
	Name of group to be changed from Irish Language Implementation Working Group to Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group. This to be reflected in revised Terms of Reference for the Group.	T McCance
<b><i>Meeting concluded at 7pm</i></b>		

**Reports of Working Groups:** Finalised Reports of Working Groups should be forwarded to Democratic Services on [committees@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:committees@midulstercouncil.org) with a cover report to be scheduled on the agenda of the next available relevant committee meeting

