

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 4 June 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present Councillor McKinney (In the Chair)

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Gildernew* Hughes, Molloy, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McLean* S McPeake, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mrs Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Cassells**, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr McAdoo**, Head of Environmental Services
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

* Denotes members, staff and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Quinn, the Deputy Chair, Councillor McKinney took the Chair.

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

The Chair, Councillor McKinney welcomed members to the Policy and Resources Committee and also those who were virtually watching the proceedings.

PR077/20 Apologies

Councillors Forde, Quinn.

PR078/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Elattar declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 – Tullywiggan Play Park Lease Proposal as she is Board Member of Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

PR079/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McKinney sent the good wishes of the Policy and Resources Committee to Councillor Quinn (Chair) and his wife on the anticipated arrival of their first child.

Matters for Decision

PR080/20 Tullywiggan Play Park Lease

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report and sought approval to transfer through lease or acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to private dwellings 34 – 40 Tullywiggan Cottages, Cookstown from Northern Ireland Housing Executive relating to creation of a new play park by legacy Cookstown Council in 2002.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the transfer of land through either lease or acquisition, subject to agreement on Terms and Conditions as provided from Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

PR081/20 Elected Member Development Working Group

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the report of a meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on Thursday 5 March 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Elected Member Development Steering Group meeting, and actions contained, held on Thursday 5 March 2020.

PR082/20 Outcome of Consultation Undertaken on the Council's Proposed Improvement Objectives 2020-21 and 2021-22

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to update on the findings and outcome of the consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed improvement objections 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022.

He advised that it was a routine requirement of the Local Government Act 2014 to publish the improvement plan by June, but the Department of Communities has advised that this would now be extended to possibly December.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the 50 or so responses being returned and felt that this could potentially be staff and said that it looked like that this could be a mandatory requirement which would be difficult to monitor especially within these last three months. He stated that it was important to be mindful of not getting too involved with this.

The Chief Executive advised that considerable time and effort was put into Performance Improvement as it was a legal requirement by the Auditor. He said over that last four years it has been demonstrated how our services have improved and would agree that although a lot of work has been put in, it shouldn't be seen as burdensome, but more of something that should be embraced. These objectives are for a two-year period, but due to the recent situation efforts over this last two months have focused on the corona virus recovery and achieving objectives.

Councillor Cuddy said that he welcomed the clarification from the Chief Executive and content that this was beneficial to the Council.

Councillor Ashton referred to Improvement Objective Two regarding technology and stated that there was a strong response around issues relating to rural broadband and felt there was an onus on the Council to take action.

Councillor Molloy agreed with Councillor Ashton's comments and said that there was good engagement with the community regarding concerns and many people raised issues around rural broadband. These concerns relate to people trying to work from home and children trying to complete school work and stated that broadband was failing the population of Mid Ulster and that this Council needed to step up to the mark.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the outcome of the Corporate Improvement Objectives Consultation 2020 and 2021 and the adoption of the objectives.

PR083/20 Member Services

Councillor Molloy referred to the response to designated training needs for members and enquired if it reached the 60% mark.

The Head of Democratic Services said that he would investigate and advise members on the exact figure but was certain that it was sitting around the high 50% mark.

The Chair suggested that when new members join the Council they should get the full required training so that they can actively proceed forward onto Committees such as the planning committee.

Matters for Information

PR084/20 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday March 2020

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 March 2020.

PR085/20 National Association of Councillors: Annual Subscription

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence received from the National Association of Councillors (NAC) on annual membership/contribution payable for 2020-21.

PR086/20 Marketing & Communications Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on key areas of recent marketing and communications activity.

PR087/20 Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages & Civil Partnerships

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on provision of Registration services within Mid Ulster District Council.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan 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 PR088/20 to

Matters for Decision

- PR088/20 Staff Matters for Decision
- PR089/20 Contract for the Collection and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclates (Blue Bin Contract)
- PR090/20 Recognition for Essential Staff during COVID-19

Matters for Information

- PR091/20 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 5 March 2020
- PR092/20 Staffing Matters for Information
- PR093/20 Contracts and DAC
- PR094/20 Miscellaneous Matters

PR095/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.08 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 please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- 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.