

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 12 January 2022 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

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

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Services & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Ms McNally**, Assistant Director of Finance, Legal, Governance and Transformation
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr Scullion**, Assistant Director of Property Services
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Glasgow

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 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.

PR001/22 Apologies

Councillors Ashton.

PR002/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

PR003/22 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR004/22 Request to Light Up Buildings

The AD: ODSP presented previously circulated report which considered requests received to illuminated/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark:

- Chest Heart & Stroke: National Heart Month
- Chartered Communications on behalf of St Vincent de Paul: Highlight the Charity

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to light up the three designated
Council properties as follows:

- (i) National Heart Month on Tuesday 1 February 2022 – colour Red
- (ii) St Vincent de Paul Charity on Tuesday 27 September 2022 – colour Blue

Councillor Doris advised that she had a meeting with the Samaritans this week where she took part in a useful information session and would be confident that all of members would be aware of the good work that they do. She asked that a request to light up the designated buildings be put on the agenda for 21 December 2022 which was the longest day of the year, the colour green.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to light up the three designated Council properties for Samaritans on Wednesday 21 December 2022 – colour green.

Councillor Quinn declared an interest in St Vincent de Paul as he was a member.

Matters for Information

PR005/22 Policy and Resources Committee held on 2 December 2021

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 2 December 2021.

PR006/22 Background: Syringes for Cuba/End the Blockade Campaign

Members noted previously circulated report which provided background on the Syringes for Cuba/End the Blockade campaign. This campaign was referenced in a letter from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council which came before October Council meeting.

PR007/22 Implementation of Motion Carried by Council May 2021 – Constitutional Change

Members noted previously circulated report which informed on the implementation of the motion carried by the Council in May 2021 in the area of Constitutional Change.

Councillor McLean wanted to record his party's opposition to the matter as in today's climate £16,000 could be better spent.

Councillor Cuddy concurred with Councillor McLean's comments. He stated that a lot of money was lost through Covid by this Council trying to cover all the gaps and trying to provide an adequate service to the ratepayer which was difficult to do. He said that it was inevitable that there would be an increase in the rates this year and didn't want to put an extra burden on the ratepayer as a lot of services were closed and not provided. He advised that his party did not participate in the Good Relations Working Group as it was off no benefit to them and by reading the report it indicates that the Good Relations Group agree whatever they want and totally out of his party's remit and was confused why an issue like this was brought at this time. He enquired if this was going to help the good relations community or would it impact it and nowhere in the report was it stated an officer as saying that it could impact good relations within a community and this was one of the reasons why the Ulster Unionist Party seen no benefit in going along to these meetings. He expressed his disappointment especially when there was so much more going on and this was the direction we had to go as there was always three or four Notice of Motions each month going through and this one has come back with a lot of costings. This was the first Notice of Motion where the Council were really contributing a lot of money and was disappointing to see ratepayer's hard earned money going towards it. He concluded by saying that he had no confidence in the process.

PR008/22 Performance Improvement: Local Government Auditor's Audit and Assessment Report 2020-21

Members noted update which provided information of the key findings of the Local Government Auditor's Audit and Assessment Report 2020-21.

In response to Councillor McLean's query, the SD: CS&F advised that unqualified in an audit report is as good as it gets. He said that regardless of what kind of an audit being presented the objective was to get to the position an issue of an unqualified opinion and after that if there were any issues, then these would be modified.

Live broadcast ended at 7.10 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
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 PR009/22 to PR021/22.

Matters for Decision

- PR009/22 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR010/22 Ballysaggart Lough Retaining Wall
- PR011/22 Department for Communities: Call for Evidence on Remote/Hybrid Meetings for Council
- PR012/22 Committee Management System
- PR013/22 2022-2023 Rates Estimates Updates
- PR014/22 Ann Street Update
- PR015/22 Mid-South West Growth Deal
- PR016/22 Maghera Public Realm Scheme

Matters for Information

- PR017/22 Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 2 December 2021
- PR018/22 Financial report for 8 months ended 30 November 2021
- PR019/22 Contracts and DAC
- PR020/22 Staffing Matters for Information
- PR021/22 Update on Appointments to Senior Management Structure

PR022/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.20 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.