



27 May 2021

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 4. | Special Council minutes of meeting held on 22 April 2021 | 5 - 12 |
| 5. | Council minutes of meeting held on 22 April 2021 | 13 - 32 |
| 6. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 4 May 2021 | 33 - 48 |
| 7. | Policy and Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 6 May 2021 | 49 - 52 |
| 8. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 11 May 2021 | 53 - 64 |
| 9. | Development Committee Minutes of meeting held on 13 May 2021 | 65 - 92 |
| 10. | Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower | 93 - 96 |
| 11. | Civic Recognition Nominations | 97 - 102 |

Matters for Information

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| 12 | Correspondence | 103 - 122 |
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Notice of Motions

14 Councillor Doris to move

That this Council condemns unequivocally domestic abuse; recognises that domestic abuse continues to be hugely underreported; acknowledges the important legislative progress promised by the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill; further acknowledges that domestic abuse often follows victims into their workplace; highlights the impact that domestic abuse can have on a victim's employment through the impact on their physical and mental health; notes the existing Civil Service special leave policy which enables staff paid time off for domestic reasons including domestic abuse; and calls on the Minister for the Economy to introduce legislation to create a statutory entitlement to ten days of paid special leave for victims of domestic abuse.

15 Councillor McNamee to move

That this Council recognises that the discussions about a constitutional change is now well underway and this Council has a duty to consult with its ratepayers on this important issue and the implications for the Council area. Therefore, calls on the Council to establish a working group on Irish unity and to begin a consultation with ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change.

16 Councillor Cuddy to move

UUP Councillors continue to receive representations on why English is not placed first on Mid Ulster road/street signs.

The UUP ask Mid Ulster Council to review this section of the policy to put English first and then whichever languages are agreed next.

This is how the original Local Government (NI) Order in 1995 was intended - to support by agreeing to include minority or second languages on new signage. We feel the current policy has not correctly interpreted the original Order. To be clear the issue is not another language on the signs – it is the ordering of the languages – English names should be first.

English is the working language for us all. English is the language that all our new Nationals who have come to Mid Ulster to set up their homes and start a new life understand. English is the universal language and we all use the English Language all the time.

The job of the Council is to act responsibly and find a

consensus of agreement. The current policy leaves a large proportion of the people of Mid Ulster feeling left behind and could be easily resolved with this suggestion. We appeal to the Council to reconsider its position for the sake of harmony and moving forward together.

Signed: Cllr. Walter Cuddy, Cllr. Mark Glasgow, Cllr. Meta Graham, Cllr. Robert Colvin, Cllr Trevor Wilson, Cllr. Derek McKinney. As required by Standing Order 24 (Rescission of a preceding Resolution)

- 17 Councillor Corry to move
That this Council recognises the struggle for equality by generations of people who identify as LGBTQ+; acknowledges the successful work of LGBTQ+ activists in eradicating elements of institutionalised discrimination; condemns the continued inequalities experienced by those who identify as LGBTQ+; welcomes the initiative of the Minister for Communities in beginning a process to ban the practice of conversion therapy; calls on the Minister of Health to address the serious deficits in healthcare services for transgender individuals, particularly at Brackenburn Clinic in Belfast; further calls on the Minister of Education to ensure that sex and relationship education guidance for schools is inclusive and covers LGBTQ+ relationships and transgender identities; and calls on the Executive to commit to equality, respect and human rights for all sections of our society in its actions, words and deeds.
- 18 Councillor Burton to move
That this Council notes the poor conditions of our rural roads in Mid Ulster and joins with other councils through NILGA in respect of evidence based lobbying across local government in making joint representation to the Minister of Infrastructure to support an increased budget to improve maintenance in this and future financial years.
- 19 Councillor Bell to move
That this Council is deeply concerned that at the end of 2020 almost 4,500 children across HSC Trusts were awaiting diagnosis for autism, some reportedly waiting more than 2 years; recognises the distress and harm this places on those awaiting diagnosis and tailored support services, their families; further expresses concern at the growing inequality of access to autism services and diagnosis; notes the stark difference in waiting times across HSC Trust areas; and calls for a longer-term strategy to be progressed urgently in partnership with those with autism, their families and carers, the community and voluntary

sector organisations in order to ensure equality of care and services, free at the point of access based on need.

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

20. Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 22 April 2021
21. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 4 May 2021
22. Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 May 2021
23. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 May 2021
24. Development Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 13 May 2021
25. Document for Sealing:
Substation Lease Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and NI Electricity Networks Limited in respect of lands situated at Gortgonis Leisure Centre, Coalisland

Matters for Information

Minutes of Special Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 22 April 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Members Present: Councillor Mallaghan (Chair)

Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black*, Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Clarke*, Colvin*, Corey*, Cuddy*, Cuthbertson*, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Glasgow*, Graham, Hughes*, Kearney* Kerr*, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn*, B McGuigan*, S McGuigan*, McKinney*, McLean*, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Mullen, Oneill*, Quinn, Robinson*, Totten* and Wilson*

Officers in Attendance: Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Mezza, Head of Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 6pm

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

SC010/21 Apologies

None

SC011/21 Declarations of Interest

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

SC012/21 Chair's Business

None

Matters for Decision

SC013/21 To discuss flying the Union flag at half-mast as a mark of respect to the late HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referenced condolences expressed by Michelle O'Neill, deputy First Minister on the death of Prince Philip and added condolences on behalf of both himself and the Sinn Féin party Council grouping. He extended thanks to fellow Councillor S McPeake for his comments at Planning Committee, which was the first meeting following the sad news. He reflected that the loss of a loved one is a very difficult time whether you lived a privileged lifestyle or you are an ordinary person the sense of grief is no different.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that many across the district will have felt the loss of Prince Philip more profound than others and as Chair, he extended condolences to those who hold the British Royal family in high regard. He referred to comments of the deputy First Minister who had said that the British Royal family like many others had a direct link to the conflict here, and became a symbol of reconciliation and helped to build the peace we enjoy today. He also stated that as an Irish Republican it was not lost on him the significance of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visiting the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin and respectfully laying a wreath in memory of all those who gave their lives to Irish Freedom and again in her State speech on the same visit in Irish. The Chair recalled that the visit was one of with huge gestures going a long way to improving relationships across these islands.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan explained that on the afternoon of Prince Philip's death he had been attending a training course but on hearing the news contacted the Deputy Chair and asked her to take the lead in arranging condolences as he would not be available to later in the evening. He advised that a virtual Book of Condolence had been opened and a statement issued by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Graham on behalf of the Council. The Chair thanked the Deputy Chair for taking on this responsibility in his absence and said it was his understanding that Mid Ulster was the quickest Council to respond to the passing of Prince Philip.

Drawing attention to the purpose of the meeting calling upon respect the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to the lack of respect shown to democracy in the utterances from the DUP within the local press. He said that the desire to run roughshod over democratic decision making of the locally elected Council did not portray respect to its citizens. Speaking of the council's flag policy, he reminded Members it was first introduced in the Cookstown legacy council in 1997 and was then adopted by Mid Ulster following which it was subject to a 'Call In', discussed again in March 2015 at which time the Chief Executive obtained legal advice from a Barrister which concluded the democratic decision of this Council was sound. The Chair spoke of Councillor McLean's comments in the press over the past week which had said that he as Chair or Sinn Féin group leader could have made the decision to fly the flag at half-mast. The Chair stated that was not democracy and go against what the Mid Ulster electorate voted for. He also stated it would show no respect for the democratic mandate of the SDLP nor the Independent Members of Council. The Chair commented that he was not sure if the suggestion had come through lack of knowledge on how the council works or whether they were to deflect from the catalogue of mistakes over the past five years, reflected in somewhat poor poll results.

Referring to respect the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan spoke of the regular attacks from Unionism in the Chamber against Irish language, being reflected on the streets

with vandalism to Council signage. He also referred to the graffiti at Council buildings which was a result of the subject of the meeting. The Chair stated that when Council engage with the public from all sides of the community the results are positive, people feel supported and have great admiration for officers who deliver excellent service for everyone. He also referred to positive comments he received following a recent district electoral area meeting and those that he receives regularly in his role as Chair.

The Chair highlighted that the image that Unionism portrays is that Mid Ulster is a 'cold house' but this is not the image reflected in real-life, as there is equal access to services at every level of the organisation. He said that there was no evidence to show that any community is discriminated against, and the council position of flag flying ensures that.

The Chair concluded by saying the meeting indicated to him that the DUP was desperate to deflect the issue, demonstrated by the fact that the request for the meeting came in six days after the passing of Prince Philip. He finished by remarking that the British Royal family showed considerably more respect to Irish people and had done more to bring about reconciliation than the DUP.

Councillor McLean stating that he would not divulge in 'tit for tat' as it was not respectful said he was saddened that the meeting which he had requested on the 14th April was required. He explained its purpose was to give the Council an opportunity to explain in public why its Chairperson could neither light up a building or raise a Union Flag to half-mast to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh which in his opinion came down to a lack respect. He said, like many others living in the district he had been disappointed and appalled at the disrespect shown during the period of National Mourning.

Councillor McLean said he did not always get everything right and big enough to admit it, but Sinn Fein and others within the Council should take this opportunity to stand up and acknowledge they had got it wrong on this occasion and apologise. He said that Unionists were in the minority but all they had requested was a tangible expression of respect and sympathy to Her Majesty and the wider Royal Family by flying the Union Flag at half-mast. Stating that council officers are bound by policy Councillor McLean stated that on some occasions policy had been set aside as *"if there is a will there is a way"* but Sinn Fein chose, on this occasion, not to be willing. He reflected that although Unionists only made up 15 of the 40 members they had a right to be heard and along with the people they represent deserve an explanation as to why the Queen's husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, a ninety-nine-year-old gentleman, who had been a constant throughout their lives could not be afforded the flag being flown at half-mast for eight days, or even a building to be lit.

Councillor McLean reflected on the actions of the Sinn Fein Speaker in the Northern Ireland Assembly who had the union flag flown at half-mast on Parliament Buildings, but here in deputy First Minister's constituency another Sinn Fein Councillor refused such a mark of respect. He listed the actions of other Councils; Fermanagh and Omagh lit up their buildings; Newry, Mourne and Down, with an SDLP Mayor, opened a book of condolence and lit up their buildings for two nights; Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, with a Sinn Fein Mayor, flew the Union Flag at half-mast;

Belfast City Council flew the Union Flag at half-mast; Ards and North Down flew the Union Flag at half-mast; Mid and East Antrim flew the Union Flag at half-mast; Derry & Strabane District – a minute's silence at the first meeting following the death and opened a book of condolence; Causeway Coast and Glens flew the Union Flag at half-mast; Antrim and Newtownabbey flew the Union Flag at half-mast; Lisburn and Castlereagh flew the Union Flag at half-mast. Yet within Mid Ulster District Council all that was managed was a virtual Book of Condolence, which he had struggled to find on the website.

Councillor McLean put on record appreciation to the Council Deputy Chair for opening the online Book of Condolence" in the absence of the Chair. Councillor McLean advised that the DUP like other unionist parties, received hundreds of calls from ratepayers asking how their Council was going to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh and sadly, time and again, they had to explain the tolerance for anything British within the Council was so limited that the other twenty-five Councillors could not allow one Union Flag to be flown at half-mast for even one day or even a building to be lit for one night.

In conclusion, Councillor McLean said whilst it was too little too late he proposed that Council apologises to the people of Mid Ulster and in so doing write to the Royal Family apologising for their disrespectful behaviour in not flying the Union Flag at half-mast and offer Her Majesty and her family our deepest sympathy on behalf of the whole of Mid Ulster.

Councillor Cuthbertson said it was with great sadness that he had learnt of the passing of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and that his death had caused enormous sadness across Mid Ulster, Northern Ireland, the entire Nation, Commonwealth and right around the world. Speaking of Prince Philip he stated he had been a remarkable man who had dedicated his life to service, serving the Commonwealth, firstly as a Naval Officer during the second World War and then as Royal Consort to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Councillor stated that his thoughts and prayers continued to be with Her Majesty, who herself had turned 95 on Wednesday, at this immeasurable time of grief.

Councillor Cuthbertson said the Council's decision not to fly the Union Flag at half-mast during the period of national mourning was disgusting. He said it had put a dark cloud over the council, had harmed its reputation and completely shattered any confidence that the Unionist community had left in Council. He told how he had been inundated with calls and messages from constituents, both protestant and catholic, and constituents of all nationalities and how those from the foreign national community could not believe Councils failure to act. Councillor Cuthbertson said that Sinn Féin often preach about equality and respect but in Mid Ulster they did not know the meaning of the words as once republicans attained a majority in an area it is quickly forgotten. He remarked on how many ratepayers were being told that the Council had a no flags policy and requested that officers present it to the meeting. He reminded the meeting that there was divisive policies on many issues a copy of which is presented, for example Dual Language Signage to Environment Committee each month. He said many policies had been developed through council and assessments had been made on same but this was not the case in relation to flags. He stated that in relation to flags that when setting up Mid Ulster to get things moving

and change the Dungannon legacy policy of flying flags on designated days a decision had been made by a motion and vote in the Chamber which was somewhat different from an adopted policy document. Councillor Cuthbertson reiterated his request that the policy be presented to the meeting and concluded by seconding Councillor McLean's proposal.

In response, the Chair Councillor Mallaghan stated that as one of the signatories to the 'call-in' Councillor Cuthbertson would be aware that the decision on flags had been assessed legally and the decision brought to Council.

Councillor Cuthbertson responded that this had been a recommendation not a policy.

Councillor Wilson on behalf of the UUP said that following the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh there was a wave of sympathy and sadness across the nation and Mid Ulster was no different. He spoke of how the Duke had set up the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and the thousands of young people who had participated in the scheme many of whom were from Mid Ulster. He further reflected on the messages of condolence from across Sinn Féin and even the apology from the party leader regarding the murder of Lord Mountbatten. Councillor Wilson said that he understood a decision had been taken by Council regarding flags but it could have been set aside for such exceptional circumstances and the fact that the party leaders had not even been consulted showed a further lack of respect. He extended his thanks to the Deputy Chair for opening a virtual book of condolence.

Councillor Wilson highlighted that Sinn Féin had broken every COVID restriction rule at a funeral for a terrorist at which over 2,000 people had been present and at other funerals. He remarked upon the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral whereby restrictions had been fully adhered to. He said that the Sinn Féin promise to do great things to accommodate British identity in a United Ireland and spoke of the Belfast Agreement point 2 and 3, that a legacy of suffering could best be honoured through a fresh start and the commitment to work in partnership with equality and mutual respect between Northern Ireland and the South. He said that 23 years on unionists receive no respect or equality in Mid Ulster and whilst they may be in the minority they are nonetheless a sizeable proportion of the population. Councillor Wilson concluded that Unionists will have to be forgiven for feeling they have no place in a new Ireland and the failure to honour the Duke of Edinburgh would not easily be forgotten.

Councillor Kearney speaking on behalf of the SDLP extended condolences to the Queen and her family on the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh. He highlighted that the death of someone so special to them was even more difficult given the current COVID 19 restrictions. He reflected that everyone present had at some time lost someone who they have respected and cherished and therefore could understand how difficult a time it was for many people and stressed the importance of respecting how others might feel. Councillor Kearney spoke of the importance of healing divisions of the past. In closing, he paid tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh stating that in particular he had admired him for his love of the environment and the awards scheme concluding may he rest in peace.

Councillor S McPeake stated that many within the district understood why Council had introduced the policy of not flying flags yet now some said there is no policy. He

stated that the meeting had heard of the immediate steps taken by the Chair on hearing of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh and how he had reflected on his passing at the Planning Committee the first meeting since the Duke's passing. He said that from what he could see of the situation is that the DUP wished to use the non-flying of the flag as a diversionary tactic to distract from the real issue which was Brexit that they had thrust on people with the support of their Tories. He also spoke of their endeavour for a hard Brexit, very much against the wishes of many people, including those in business and agriculture. Councillor S McPeake highlighted some of the mixed messages communicated by the DUP for example its opposition to Protocol then their Leader speaking of the great gateway of opportunity, to be followed by them being 'thrown off the bus' by Boris Johnson. He reflected that instead of creating tensions within the population, bringing unwanted hysteria, Unionists needed to work through the issues and this was really the elephant in the room. He concluded by saying that the UUP had fallen into the trap of supporting the DUP and calm leadership was needed with less political stunts.

Councillor Kerr said he could appreciate the loss of anyone and the grief of their family but as an Irish Republican he was opposed to what the Duke of Edinburgh stood for. He said that many people had lost their lives due to the British state and to fly the flag would have been an insult to them. Councillor Kerr referred to how the monarchy had to be financed and said the monarchy was an outdated system which gave power and privilege and believed everyone born should have equal status. He spoke of other international events in recent months for example the assassination of the President of Chad and said if a flag had been flown for the Duke of Edinburgh should it not be flown to mark other international events.

Councillor Ashton extended sympathy to Her Majesty and the Royal family. She spoke of her disappointment at the response from Sinn Féin members and stated that Unionists wished to air their views and the meeting was not an effort to deflect from Brexit. Councillor Ashton said that she did not think Sinn Féin understood the anger particularly in the Unionist community and is why the DUP exercised their right to ask for a special meeting. Highlighting that Members had received calls regarding the non-flying of the union flag and that the Council offices could not cope with the volume of complaints received she concluded that in speaking of respect, Sinn Féin needed to acknowledge the feelings of the Unionist community.

Councillor Quinn added his condolences stating that no one could have watched the Queen and not been moved. He referred to the thousands of families who had gone through similar circumstances and spoke of the SDLP losses during lockdown by the deaths of former Councillor Jim Cavanagh and former SDLP Leader John Hume. Councillor Quinn said he was disappointed in the Unionist reaction to the policy which was in place to protect staff and ensure people could work and visit neutral venues. He referred to the attacks on the council offices due to the situation being used to rile people up and reflected that only two weeks ago petrol bombs had been thrown on the streets in reaction to the Protocol. Councillor Quinn reminded the meeting of the words of the late John Hume who said 'you can't eat a flag' and said that Council should be discussing real issues such as people starving and facing homelessness. In conclusion, he said he was disgusted at the reaction and violence of recent days.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Quinn and extended solidarity to staff who worked in buildings that had been attacked and vandalised. He said as a responsible employer Council needed to acknowledge staff have to implement decisions and in doing so many went to work extremely fearful and frightened for their own wellbeing and that of their families. He concurred with Councillor Kerr's sentiments and acknowledged the grief of the family but as a Republican he opposed inherited power and privilege but could understand the Royal family had a special place in the hearts of some. He said Council had been right to adhere to its policy not to fly flags and said as an Irish Republican he could not acknowledge the monarchy in any form.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said it was unfortunate that throughout the debate not one Unionist had condemned the vandalism. He said Unionists had never been silenced but on occasions had lost the vote on proposals but this was democracy. He spoke of complaints received by Council and made reference to a caller requesting that the call handler confirm their name and where they came from. He concluded by saying that flags are designed to mark out territory and that the policy ensured Council was neutral and open to everyone.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan put the proposal to the vote.

For	15
Against	25

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the proposal had fallen.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to his call to see the policy in relation to flags and emblems.

SC014/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 6.00 pm and ended at 6.50 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 22 April 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan

Members Present Councillors, Bell*, Black, Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Clarke*, Colvin*, Corry*, Cuddy*, Cuthbertson*, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Glasgow*, Graham, Hughes*, Kearney*, Kerr*, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn*, B McGuigan*, S McGuigan*, McKinney*, McLean*, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Mullen*, Oneill*, Quinn, Robinson*, Totten* and Wilson*

Officers in Attendance Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Canavan**, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr Tohill**, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

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

C074/21 Apologies

Councillor Ashton

C075/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in item *D064/21 Economic Development Report – OBFD - MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network* in the Development Committee minutes, as he is a member of a trade union.

C076/21 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said that the number of deaths across Ireland due to COVID was now in excess of 7,000 and emphasised the importance of continuing to follow health guidance. He highlighted that close contact services were scheduled to resume and urged everyone to be cautious as if people did not act with caution we would have a new set of restrictions. He stressed the Hands-Face-Space message and highlighted that there is a risk if people start to relax on this. The Chair also made reference to the vaccination programme in that the uptake from the older cohort had been tremendous but as age groups came down it was less well covered. He also advised that interventions were being put in place such as 'walk in clinics' in food production factories to allow people to get vaccinated at work. It was further noted that 35% here and 20% in the South had received the first vaccination.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that the joint First Ministers had visited Mid Ulster Sports Arena earlier in the day when the Mid Ulster ladies soccer team and children had been on site to mark the re-opening of sport. He advised his daughter had been back at the Plunketts GAA training and noted that all of this had to be protected. The Chair said that the MUSA visit had received great news footage and commended the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation and her team for the £1m funding offer for a running track at the site but cautioned that more was to be done. The Chair made reference to a visit by Minister for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs to Davagh Walking trail to Beaghmore Stone Circles and concluded that the commencement of work was important to the construction sector concluding that the amenity would be an asset for all.

Councillor Quinn spoke of an incident at Coalisland Recycling Centre where the wildflower garden, on which a number of rare birds had been spotted, had been mistakenly cut by staff and biodiversity work had been destroyed. He said mistakes can happen but he was keen to have preventative measures in place. He proposed that Council bring forward a conservation policy to include the promotion of wildflower beds throughout the district highlighting that this would attract bees.

Councillor Quinn proposed that Council bring forward a paper to request a feasibility study by Department for Infrastructure with regard to the re-opening of the Coalisland Canal. He spoke of previous efforts of former councillor Jim Canning to open up the canal and the advocate he had been for it. He said that people had rediscovered the Canal during lock down and highlighted that such a project would tie in with the Irish Government work to open the Ulster Canal.

Councillor Quinn spoke of the bridge at Maghery and proposed that Council host a meeting with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Torrent DEA Members and interested parties to progress a development project at Maghery Bridge.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan highlighted that ICBAN was also carrying out work in relation to the Ulster Canal.

Councillor Doris spoke of the grass cutting incident at Coalisland Recycling Centre and stated much damage had been done and that when she had visited the site with Francie Molloy MP they had been told of a unique blue butterfly that had been

spotted on the wildflowers. She stated it was her understanding that staff were instructed not to cut the grass and asked what had been the breakdown in communication. She acknowledged that mistakes can happen but stated that Council could not ask people to protect the environment when they couldn't do it themselves.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That Council

- (i) Bring forward a conservation policy to include the promotion of wildflower beds throughout the district;
- (ii) Investigate with a view to prevention of reoccurrences the cutting 'in season' of wildflower beds at Coalisland Recycling Centre.

Councillor Doris also seconded the proposal for the Coalisland Canal and stated that to progress work at Maghera Bridge would be great.

Councillor Kerr spoke in relation to the recycling centre and expressed his concerns as Council should be encouraging biodiversity and referred to the recent presentation made to Environment Committee by the Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association. He further highlighted that councils in England plant out grass verges with wildflowers.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal for Maghera Bridge and stated that works should be carried out to improve the area. He also highlighted that runners and walkers were using the Coalisland Canal walkway and more should be done to bring about improvements. Councillor Kerr stated it would be a great achievement if the Canal could be opened to boats again and if connections were made to waterways throughout Ireland it would be great for local tourism.

Councillor O'Neill said that many Councillors had received the telephone call about the cutting of the wildflowers and asked why this had happened, who had given the instruction and sought assurance that it would not happen again. He further concurred regarding proposals for the Ferry-bridge at Maghera and extended his thanks for the works carried out at cleaning up the canal walk.

Councillor S McPeake stated that ICBAN was doing a lot of work in tandem with Waterways Ireland, there was commitments from the Stormont Assembly and that there had been a meeting with regard the strategic project with the Taoiseach. He highlighted that a feasibility study around the Clones area was also needed together with further commitment from both governments. He said it would be brilliant for tourism across Ulster and that there was a meeting within the next few weeks with Waterways Ireland at which it was hoped to put 'more flesh on the bones', Coalisland would be on the agenda and it was vital that the programme was delivered by both governments.

Councillor Molloy stated that the work of ICBAN dovetailed into work in relation to a scoping study at the Blackwater River and Coalisland Canal but one stumbling block was the motorway bridge. He stated that a number of groups such as the Canoe group and the Blackwater Barge Project had approached him as to how the river could be better utilised as it had many untapped sources for recreation and tourism.

Councillor Burton advised that the Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society had planted a complete meadow of wildflowers, that across the Clogher Valley there are wildflowers and it would be worthwhile to investigate which flowers are best as some thistles planted had grown very tall and blocked motorists view.

Councillor Cuthbertson speaking on the potential meeting with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council said he had raised the possibility of improvements at Verners Bridge, Tamnamore as at present it is too narrow and if this could be added to discussions.

Resolved That Council

- (i) host a meeting with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Torrent DEA Members and interested parties to progress development project at Maghery Bridge;
- (ii) Explore possibility of footbridge at Verners Bridge, Tamnamore.

Councillor Mullen stated she worked with the Blackwater Barge group and it was an uphill battle to get work done but extended good wishes to the Coalisland project.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan spoke of the work of Pat Treanor from County Louth who was a major advocate for the Ulster Canal and said that it could happen. In terms of the wildflowers the Chair spoke of projects around Luton airport which although initially expensive paid dividends.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That Council

- (i) bring forward a paper to request a feasibility study by Department for Infrastructure with regard to the re-opening of the Coalisland Canal
- (ii) link in other waterways such as Blackwater River
- (iii) Work with ICBAN to extend the Ulster Canal

Councillor Cuthbertson spoke of the situation in East Timorese were following a natural disaster towns and villages had been decimated and he had been speaking to many East Timorese people whose family and friends had been impacted. He highlighted that Council had already supported a local group but proposed that Council tie in with all East Timorese groups throughout the district that assistance was not just going to one group.

4 – Council (22.04.21)

Councillor Molloy concurred and stated that Council had liaised with the group, TISE, who had asked for wheeled bins to help their efforts in collecting resources. He expressed his condolences to East Timorese people who were suffering.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that Councillor Cuddy had submitted a notice of motion within the required timeframe in relation to Irish Language and how it is placed on Dual Language signage. He explained that he had requested that the Chief Executive and Democratic Services review the motion as from his understanding, the policy had recently been reviewed and thus such a motion could not be submitted for six-months, as if passed it would have the effect of rescinding a previous decision. The Chair concluded that his understanding had been confirmed and that Councillor Cuddy wished to speak on the process in relation to standing orders.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the motion submitted had not mentioned the Irish language and expressed his disappointment to the Chair in relation to his comments when in the email he had received from the Chair he had been specifically requested not to speak on the content of the motion but the process, yet before he had opportunity to speak the Chair had done it himself. He stated he had been told by an Officer, that if he had 15% Member support for the motion, he could re-submit it.

Councillor Cuddy referred back to the Chair's opening remarks in relation to Covid and stated he had difficulty with his connection but concurred with comments and said that the Minister for Health, Robin Swann had done a great job in managing the situation and his party would be encouraging citizens of Mid Ulster to keep their guard up.

Councillor Cuddy stated he had had his hand up to speak at the Special Council meeting but it had not been seen. He said that what had been required over the past two weeks was good leadership. He spoke of the actions taken by other councils to mark the passing of Prince Philip for example Derry City and Strabane District Council held a minute's silence and that Mid Ulster leaders should have sat down to find a middle ground. Councillor Cuddy emphasised that different cultures give respect in different ways and some may not understand the unionist community but they were 40% of the population in Mid Ulster and common ground should have been sought. Councillor Cuddy concluded that in the days of the former Dungannon Council, Councillors Cavanagh, Molloy, Morrow and himself had met and found common ground on many occasions.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that in the previous meeting before he called for a vote he had specifically asked if anyone had anything to say. He stated that he was sorry regarding the disappointment in how he as Chair had introduced this item but he was merely giving context to the subject prior to Councillor Cuddy raising his concerns and had not intended to be underhand. He also stated that throughout the past week not one had requested a party leaders meeting the only request had been the raising of the union flag. He concluded by saying when he had heard of the

death of Prince Philip he had telephoned the Deputy Chair and requested that she take the lead.

Councillor Monteith referred to the discussion about East Timor and said it had been raised at the development committee and advised there is a number of initiatives across the district to collect aid. He proposed that a way forward would be to talk to the groups and suggest an initiative to assist with a central fund that local people could feed into to assist with transport costs to get the aid delivered. He commended the initiatives already shown.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That Council explore options with East Timorese groups throughout the District has how best to facilitate a central fund for transport costs

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to comments regarding the review of the dual language policy and stated that it had been discussed at Environment Committee and it was to be brought back thus the review was not complete but ongoing.

Matters for Decision

C077/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 25 March 2021

Councillor Burton requested an amendment to the minutes at C056/21 amend to read *“Councillor Burton referred to the discussion regarding roundabout enhancement and stated that with regard to the scheme at Fivemiletown she had received complaints that there were no flowers remaining by the time they reached the scheme.”*

Councillor Monteith requested an amendment to the minute at C060/21 amend to read resolve at page 16, *That Council progress a meeting with the Boundary Commission*

Councillor Monteith sought an update on (i) C056/21 Environment Committee minutes where it had been resolved that an all Member workshop be held to prepare a paper with regard to housing fitness and (ii) C060/21 Correspondence proposed meeting with the Boundary Commission.

The Chief Executive advised he did not have an update on the workshop in relation to housing fitness and that the meeting with the Boundary Commission was scheduled for Friday 14 May 2021. He further advised that he had a meeting scheduled with the NI Ambulance Service on Friday 23rd April.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to C051/21 Chair’s Business – Civil Service Regional Hubs and sought an update on the meeting held on 30 March.

The Chief Executive advised he had had a meeting with the Department at which he had relayed Members concerns and had identified the proximity of Dungannon and Magherafelt to the M1 and M2. The Department had agreed to relook at public sector buildings in Dungannon and also view a section of the Council's own premises in Magherafelt. He concluded that progress had been made and he would advise Members when he received a response.

Councillor Kerr also welcomed the Chief Executive's scheduled meeting with the NI Ambulance Service and stated that he hoped it would resolve issues identified in recent months.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 25 March 2021 (C049/21 – C062/21 and C073/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C078/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 8 April 2021

Councillor McLean stated he was extremely disappointed with the outcome of Councillor Wilson's proposal to illuminate Council designated buildings to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland. He stated that once again the Unionist section of the community had been overruled by Council.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 8 April 2021 (PR068/21 – PR077/21 and PR088/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C079/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 12 April 2021

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the DfI presentation which had been made at the Planning Committee and highlighted that he had raised the issues in relation to satellite villages in Dungannon such as Bush and Killyman which don't fall into school transport categories and stated that the sooner Council commissions work the better.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that Council commission a piece of work to link Killyman and Bush villages with paths or cycle ways to Dungannon.

Councillor Cuddy seconded the proposal and commented on the work carried out between Maghera and Tobermore. He said footpaths outlined in the proposal would provide faster and safer routes for users.

Councillor Clarke said he did not disagree with the sentiments of the proposal but there was many situations within villages with pathways not connected within the villages themselves highlighting examples such as The Loup and Dunamore. He stated such hamlets and villages should be higher on a priority list.

Councillor S McPeake concurred with sentiments and highlighted that many such issues had been raised at the meeting such as Clady to Kilrea, Gulladuff to Bellaghy and that Council should not cherry-pick. He proposed that the Planning Manager should do a wider piece of work than that originally proposed.

Councillor Colvin concurred with the proposal for a wider piece of work highlighting the work carried out by the community in Newmills in relation to the aqueduct. He stated that additional paths and walkways would help with mental health issues and highlighted that Council should work with community groups who have initiated projects for footpath provision.

In response the Planning Manager stated he would be happy to work on this within the Development Plan which highlighted at item 11 on the agenda but it would have to be in the context of the development plan. He advised that the steps were to submit the area plan, take it to inquiry and then start work on village settlement limits zonings, cycle-ways and pathways.

Resolved That Council under the auspices of the Development Plan work towards the provision of footpaths in villages and hamlets where no footpaths exist or where there are gaps in footpath provision

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Monday 12 April 2021 (P050/21 – P054/21 and P062/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing amendment, were considered and adopted.

C080/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 13 April 2021

Councillor S McAleer requested an Amendment to minute E099/21 page 7 to read *Councillor S McAleer declared an interest in this item as Vice Chair of Tullyvar.*

Councillor Wilson drew attention to the issue he had raised at *E093/21 Chair’s Business* regarding the Cemetery at Forthill Cookstown and said that the situation was ongoing and there was instances where dogs had dug up freshly dug graves. He

said that he was aware Council was reviewing the policy but this was urgent and he suggested that artificial grass be placed on fresh graves. He said that there has been ongoing occurrences of antisocial behaviour both at the Cemetery, behind the recycling centre where youths had gathered and lit a fire and at the laneway link to St Jeans. He requested if Council could look at these issues.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *E098/21 Street Naming and Property Numbering* and asked that it be raised with developers that in providing three options for consideration the options are not to be always simply drive, way and park. He also drew attention to *E107/21 Entertainment Licensing Applications* and highlighted that many licensed establishments were going through rigorous activity to prepare for re-opening and it was his understanding there was a considerable back log with Environmental Health and planning officers. Councillor Monteith proposed that the senior management team take a look at the situation and ensure that sufficient resources were in place to process requests from licensed premises.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council investigate reallocating resources to accelerate licensing premises applications in relation to re-opening post lockdown to ensure delays are kept to a minimum

Councillor Kerr also referred to the names being submitted for new developments and said that some were preposterous and townland names should be included.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said town land names did form part of the policy but Council should revisit.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burton declared an interest in *E097/21 Ageing Well – Age Friendly Framework*

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McAleer and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 13 April 2021 (E091/21 – E109/21 and E122/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C081/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2021

Councillor McNamee highlighted the indicative Sport NI Award towards an athletic track and 3G pitch at Mid Ulster Sports Arena and welcomed the initiative.

Councillor Doris highlighted the success of the public realm scheme in Coalisland and how the Men's Shed had planted flowers along the Annagher Road and requested that Council look at planting flowers in Coalisland.

Councillor Kerr highlighted the lack of maintenance at Northern Ireland Electricity substations identifying in particular the one at Altmore where it was surrounded by moss and overgrown weeds. He stated that he was aware that NIE were only responsible for the inside area but the matter needed to be addressed.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to *D68/21 Decade of Anniversaries Commemorations 2021-2022 Updated Action Plan* he said it was disappointing that the already small budget had been squeezed yet again and referred to the workshop where there had been a lack of tolerance for example 'no trees planted as part of the scheme in Mid Ulster'. Councillor Cuthbertson said that Council discusses diversity but cannot plant a tree to commemorate Northern Ireland centenary. He further highlighted that a proposed concert had also been dropped off the report and the budget did not add up. He said that this again highlights disrespect for the unionist population adding that there was no mention of events for the centenary on the Council website and there was no mention of available grants. He highlighted that at the District Electoral Area meetings held, Officers were not aware of anything and stated that such decisions should be voted on in the Chamber and not determined by Council Officers.

Councillor O'Neill concurred with Councillor Kerr regarding the NIE substation site but advised that the one at Altmore had now been cleaned.

The Chief Executive in response to comments made by Councillor Cuthbertson said that officers do not develop the programme it is discussed and decided upon through committee and the role of the officer is to follow instruction.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor Doris with regard to the public realm scheme in Coalisland and the work of the Men's Shed.

Councillor Kerr said that the pavements in Coalisland were superb but the roads required resurfacing.

Councillor Monteith referred to the proposal with regard to NIE Substations and stated that this should be opened up throughout the district as many areas end up maintaining the surrounding grounds themselves because they are neglected by NIE.

Councillor Kerr concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved Council request a meeting with NIE with regard to maintenance of Substations and their surrounding areas throughout the district.

Councillor Monteith requested an amendment to the minute *D068/21 Decade of Anniversaries Commemorations 2021-2022 Updated Action Plan* to read; “Councillor Monteith advised that he had no difficulty in supporting grants.”

Councillor Monteith referred to the recent confirmation from the SHSCT in relation to the garden of reflection in remembrance of those who died in the workhouse which was at the South Tyrone hospital site. He commended the work done by Donaghmore Historical Society and Council officers and said that the proposed garden would do credit to those buried on the site.

He stated that along with fellow Councillors they had lobbied for this for many years and proposed that Council write again to the SHSCT seeking assurance that the site will be accessible to the public at all times.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that he had been concerned at initial responses but much now had been achieved.

Councillor Molloy welcomed the commitment from the SHSCT but concurred that it would be good to seek clarity of the exact location of the graves and once established it be made known.

Councillor Monteith concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That Council write to the Southern Trust seeking assurance that the site planned to mark the graves of those who perished in the Workhouse will be accessible to the public and that the exact location of the graves are established and made known.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan made reference to the presentation to the Development Committee by Fionnuala O’Boyle regarding the Mother and Baby Home Enquiry. He stated that anyone who had not heard the presentation should listen to her experience.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 15 April 2021 (D059/21 – D073/21 and D077/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C082/21 Civic Recognition Nomination

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, and as detailed within the report at appendix A.

11 – Council (22.04.21)

Councillor Wilson referred to the request for Northern Ireland Ladies Football team and asked that his name be added to supporting councillors and that the names highlighted at D67/21 undernoted be included for civic recognition.

Extract of D067/21 “Jackie Burns from Cookstown, Simone Magill originally from Magherafelt but now playing for Everton, Samantha Kelly from Castledawson. He also wanted to pay tribute to the backroom team including Kenny and Dean Shiels as well as Dwayne Nelson from Castledawson and Gary Boyd from Dungannon and felt that this was the complete list of all those in the Mid Ulster area and said that it was important to recognise the success of everyone from this area.

Councillor Burton concurred and asked that her name also be included and highlighted that those on the team from Mid Ulster are ambassadors for the area.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised he had been at MUSA earlier in the day and there had been much talk of their success.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Oneill and

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report and be dealt with as previously resolved by April 2020 Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate.

C083/21 Council and Committee Meeting Governance Arrangements

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which provided update on the committee and council meeting governance arrangements in the context of *the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020* in place to allow for remote meetings, remote attendance by members and members of the public where applicable and to consider the current standing of the Regulations.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the current regulations expire on 7 May 2021 and although the Department for Communities hopes to have regulations in place for the Council annual meeting, in the interim Mid Ulster Council needs to address how it carries out its business between 7th May and 31 May. He highlighted that the Planning Committee and Policy and Resources Committee will not be impacted but the others would be, Environment, Development and Council meetings. He said that subject to further direction being provided it he proposed to continue with hybrid meetings and to facilitate good governance that decisions made be implemented under authority afforded to him under the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers. The Chief Executive concluded that should new Regulations not be in place by early June Council must then consider perhaps deferring the planning committee, subject to COVID-19 restrictions easements.

12 – Council (22.04.21)

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council to continue with meetings in the current format. Any decisions made at council and committees meetings from 7th May 2021 until the Department for Communities have new Regulations on Remote Meetings in place be implemented by the Chief Executive under 3.3 of the Council's *Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers* on Emergencies and Cases of urgency

C084/21 Submission of the draft Plan Strategy to the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) to Cause an Independent Examination

The Planning Manager presented previously circulated report which sought agreement to submit the Local Development Plan Strategy to the Department so that those people making representations on the strategy are provided opportunity to represent their views at a Public Examination (IE).

Councillor Quinn left the meeting at 8.15 pm returning at 8.18 pm

The Planning Manager made reference to the effort made by Members to develop the plan, the many workshops to consider options, the consultations on what the plan would contain and the endless hours spent in planning committee. He stated that together they had worked to create a plan with added emphasis on creating new opportunities to get housing in the countryside, the Lough Neagh Fishermen contribution, the work with town councillors regarding the development of town centres, additional industrial grounds in Dungannon and the need for more social housing. The Planning Manager advised he was amazed at how few concerns had been raised in relation to the plan and that approximately 200 representations had been made many of which were supportive and the majority of people through their silence were deemed content. He highlighted that there had been a further consultation and Members had worked through them all. He sought approval for the recommendation which would empower him to complete the linking documents and submit the plan to the department which would incorporate the desire for cycle trails, settlements and planned housing development.

Councillor S McPeake thanked the Planning Manager for outlining the key points and made reference to the many hours and detailed work through important subject areas which had taken place. He stated it was an important milestone in development of a progressive and vibrant plan for the district.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor and Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council submit the draft Plan Strategy to Dfi subject to the aforementioned reports at 3.11 and 3.12 of the report being completed.

Following the submission of the Draft Plan Strategy and accompanying documents to the Department, the Planning Manager, in accordance with Regulation 21 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 will:

- Make available for inspection at its principal offices, the Draft Plan Strategy and all accompanying documents specified in regulation 20(2) and any documents relevant to the preparation of the DPS and,
- Notify the consultation bodies of the fact that the Draft Plan Strategy and the accompanying documents are available for inspection and the places and times at which they can be inspected and,
- Notify any person who has made (and not withdrawn) a representation in accordance with regulation 16(2) or 18(2) of those matters;
- Give notice in the Belfast Gazette and by local advertisement of the fact that the Draft Plan Strategy has been submitted to the Department; and
- Publish the notice mentioned on its website.

Matters for Information

C085/21 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council.

Councillor Quinn made reference to the response emailed to Members earlier in the evening received from the Irish government and highlighted that whilst the detail of what they are doing is welcome the destruction of aid relief for Gaza had not been mentioned. He also advised that the press was highlighting the roll out of the vaccine in Israel but the dark secret was that the Palestinians have been denied access to the vaccine by the Israeli government and it was his hope that the Irish Government would push for change.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Quinn's comments and said like Ireland, Palestine had faced occupation and was a shame on the international community the holocaust the Israeli government was carrying out in deliberately blocking access to vaccines. He said that they also deny access to water and electricity and he would support initiatives to bring this to an end.

Councillor Kerr also welcomed the letter in relation to Lough Neagh fishermen and said that he hoped Council would continue to lobby on their behalf

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the correspondence from the Minister of Finance in relation to vacant property rates but noted that he still had not responded to three previous letters submitted by council.

Councillor Elattar drew attention to correspondence from Monaghan County Council in relation to the motion calling on the World Health Organisation to ensure an equitable distribution of Coronavirus vaccines to poorer countries and proposed that Council support the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council supports the Motion carried by Monaghan County Council in relation to

- (i) the equitable global distribution of all vaccines, treatments and therapies developed to combat the coronavirus scourge;
- (ii) encourages all citizens to sign the EU hosted petition on www.nprofitonpandemic.eu

Councillor Monteith concurred solidarity with Councillor Kerr's remarks regarding Palestine. He also referred to homes and communities wiped out in East Timor and stated that it was almost obscene how many countries were boasting about the roll out of vaccines when so many poor countries did not have access to it.

Councillor Doris sought an update on the letter issued to DfI regarding the upkeep of roads.

In response, the Head of Democratic Services advised a response had been issued by email just prior to the Council meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that the Minister had suggested a meeting and Council could use this to highlight other issues raised.

Councillor Corry drew attention to correspondence from Mid & East Antrim Borough Council detailing a motion passed in relation to Holiday Hunger and requested that council support the motion and write to the Minister of Education on the matter. Councillor Corry highlighted that the number of children receiving food parcels was totally horrendous and it was heart breaking that holiday hunger led to education under achievement. She further highlighted that a party colleague was working on a private Members Bill to legislate for a long term commitment that children get meals to build their nutrition and are protected from going hungry.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved Council support the motion and write to the Education Minister in support of implementing free school meals during summer holidays for those entitled to ensure no child goes hungry and is given the best start on life and help raise our young people and make happy teenagers.

Councillor Glasgow welcomed the reply from the Department for Infrastructure and stated that the reality was there is an under investment in rural roads that a pot hole now needed to be beyond 50mm at the time of inspection to be repaired and it was apparent that the department was willing just to pay out the compensation rather than deal with the cause. He emphasised that funding is required and the policies need to be looked at urgently as for many years permanent secretaries hid behind the excuse there was no Minister but now there was and action was needed in relation to rural roads. Councillor Glasgow concluded that that the current policy needed to be 'thrown out the window' and a policy implemented that would deliver.

Councillor N McAleer raised the issue about the inspection periods and proposed that Council write back to the Minister asking if this had been considered. In relation to the Lough Shore fishermen he stated that Conor Murphy Minister of Finance had signed off on the monies and it would be interesting to see how long it took Minister Poots to deliver.

Councillor Molloy welcomed the correspondence from DfI and said that all councillors would want an input into any forthcoming meeting should it be by way of a pre meeting.

Councillor Colvin made the observation that 130 countries in the world were yet to receive a single vaccine yet again Israel is selected to take a kick at, he said if anyone had been to Auschwitz they would see what the Jews had suffered and highlighted that they were not occupying the land but if anyone read the prophecies they would know that God gave them the land and it would increase.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to Councillor Colvin's comments and said with what the Jews had experienced you would think it would change their attitudes towards the Palestinians yet as their neighbours they treat them horrendously.

Councillor Burton referred to correspondence from DfI and drew attention to the Raghey Road at which the verge had collapsed and there was a number of potholes. She highlighted that if two lorries meet there is insufficient room to pass and it was very dangerous. Councillor Burton advised that DfI had fixed the potholes but did not deal with the problems at the verge which led down a drop into a field. She concurred with Councillor Glasgow's comments about compensation but said that work and investment was needed on rural roads as they were like dereliction sites. Councillor Burton seconded the suggestion that clarification in relation to the time frame of inspecting rural roads be sought. Councillor Burton also stated that use of rural roads was on the increase with people visiting forests during the pandemic.

Councillor Kerr commented on Councillor Colvin's intolerance towards comments about Palestine. He stated that he had visited Auschwitz and what happened was a crime against humanity. He also stated that the United Nations recognised that Israel was occupying lands at Syria and Palestine and he felt Councillor Colvin's remarks were wrong.

Councillor S McAleer highlighted that Members had a meeting invitation regarding issues at Granville and Eskragh Road next week.

Councillor Gildernew concurred with comments about the Raghey Road and stated that he had been lobbying DfI Roads continuously in relation to it. He said it was only a matter of time until the road subsided as holes were appearing in the middle of the road, there was a stream running under the road and the matter needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. He referred to works at Black Lough and highlighted that the situation had been bad enough but it had been at a car park not a main road.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan proposed that Council liaise with the Minister's office with regard to widening the conversation regarding infrastructure issues in the district. Councillor Burton seconded the proposal

Resolved That Council liaise with the Minister's office on

- (i) widening the conversation regarding infrastructure issues in the district. To seek confirmation if consideration has been given to shortening inspection times of rural roads. An all member pre meeting be held to consolidate issues to be brought forward.
- (ii) Request DfI to inspect and expedite required works at Raghey Road, Dungannon;

Councillor Quinn responded to Councillor Colvin's remarks and stated he knew he was a man of faith but an old document does not give Israel the right to expand illegally and take land they are not entitled to. He stated he was not against Israel but he was against decisions taken by their government.

C086/21 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered previously circulated report on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.

Councillor Kerr requested that Council submit a response to DAERA Disability Action Plan 2019-2024 as a comprehensive strategy was needed.

Resolved That Council submit response to Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Disability Action Plan 2019-2024.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to SEUPB PEACE PLUS Programme Public Consultation and highlighted that the bureaucracy of the last programme was dreadful and many groups returned money as what was being requested was unrealistic. He said that ICBAN had also done a detailed response and suggested that if officers could view this and work in tandem with it and bring a response to the appropriate committee.

The Chief Executive advised that officers were working on the response.

The Head of Democratic Services highlighted that the consultation closed on 12 May and Council would seek an extension but if this was not granted it may be apt to delegate authority to the Development Committee to agree the response.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That Council submit a response to SEUPB PEACE PLUS Programme Public Consultation. Council to seek an extension to response date and if not granted that Delegated authority be given to the Development Committee to submit the response.

Councillor Monteith concurred and stated that the PEACE projects were monsters to administer and you would need a degree to understand how to apply. He felt that unless a community group had the money to employ a consultant they need not apply. He said that the SEUPB needed to use plain English. He said statutory agencies could make their way through it as could professional community sector but ordinary voluntary sector was completely ruled out. Councillor Monteith concluded that the role Council had in helping the local voluntary sector was excellent.

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.

The live broadcast concluded at 8.52 pm

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That items C087/21 to C092/21 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 25 March 2021;
- (ii) Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 April 2021;
- (iii) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 April 2021;
- (iv) Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 April 2021;
- (v) Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2021;
- (vi) Document for Sealing: Supplemental Deed to lease of lands at Blackrock Road, Beaghmore, Cookstown, in connection with the Davagh Solar Walk.

C093/21 Duration of Meeting

18 – Council (22.04.21)

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 a roll call of members in attendance.

19 – Council (22.04.21)

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McPeake, Chair

Councillors Bell*, Black*, Brown*, Clarke*, Colvin*, Cuthbertson, Gildernew*, Glasgow, Kearney*, Mallaghan*, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, Quinn*, Robinson*

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Mr Bowman, Head of Development Management**
Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor
Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer**
Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer**
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer**
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

LA09/2020/1214/F Councillor Elattar***

* Denotes members and members of the public 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 S McPeake welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. The Chair, 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 also referred to addendum which had been circulated earlier in the day and asked if those joining remotely had seen this document and had time to read it.

Members joining remotely confirmed that they had seen the addendum and had time to read it.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake stated that as this was his last meeting as Chair of the Planning Committee he wanted to take the opportunity to thank Members and staff for their contributions and help during the past year.

P063/21 Apologies

None.

P064/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in agenda item 4.18 – LA09/2021/0129/O – Site for dwelling and double domestic garage at 40m NE of 2 Ballynagilly Road, Cookstown. Councillor Glasgow also requested to speak on the item.

P065/21 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

P066/21 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2018/0945/F Housing Development (79 no dwellings) to include 15 no. detached and 64 no. semi-detached dwellings at land to the SE of 1 Park Lane, Killyfaddy Road Magherafelt, for JFM Construction

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2018/0945/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/0945/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2018/1283/F Retention of engineering workshops, increased curtilage and hard standing at 200 Annagher Road, Coalisland, for McGrath Engineering

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2018/1283/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The Planning Manager also highlighted the previously circulated addendum which included additional conditions of approval relating to previous decision notices.

Councillor Gildernew stated he would not take part in a vote on this item as he had not had time to study the addendum.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/1283/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report and addendum circulated.

LA09/2020/0004/F New vehicle entrance to existing approved site to the rear of 17 Cullenfad Road, Dungannon, for Libby Campbell

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2020/0004/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0004/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0428/F 5 Detached Dwellings (Amended Plan) adjacent to 86 Coleraine Road, Maghera for Younger Homes

The Planning Manager referred to request for an office meeting in relation to this application. He further advised that due to error with press advertisement a decision could not be taken on this application tonight in any case.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0428/F be deferred for an office meeting.

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

Agenda Item 4.10 – LA09/2020/1308/F– 2 detached dwellings at lands between 8 and 12 Findrum Road, Ballygawley for Jonathan Kirkland.

Agenda Item 4.13 – LA09/2020/1615/F – Dwelling with integrated annex and garages at site adjacent to 18 Lowertown Road, Dungannon for Brian Wilson.

Agenda Item 4.14 – LA09/2020/1626/O – Site for dwelling and garage at approx. 30m N of 31 Gortinure Road, Maghera for Mr S McEldowney.

Agenda Item 4.16 – LA09/2020/1663/O – Infill site for dwelling and garage adjacent to 215A Mountjoy Road, Killycolpy, Dungannon for Marie Quinn Elliot.

The Planning Manager also requested that agenda item 4.7 – LA09/2020/1157/O – Site for 2 storey dwelling and domestic garage – 90m SE of 46 Airfield Road, Toomebridge for Centrum Farms Ltd be deferred for further information to be submitted.

The Planning Manager further requested that agenda item 4.17 – LA09/2021/0116/O – Dwelling and garage at lands E of 91 Creagh Road, Castledawson for Ciaran Devlin be deferred for further consideration.

Resolved That the above planning applications be deferred for an office meeting/ further information to be submitted / further consideration.

LA09/2020/0863/F Car parking and amenity space linking to existing river walk at lands approx. 100m SW of 39 Charlemont Street, Moy, for Hemel Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0863/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in this application.

Mr Marrion highlighted previously circulated addendum which added a further condition of approval to this application.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0863/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report and addendum circulated.

LA09/2020/0970/O Dwelling and garage at approx. 250m S of 25 Cloane Road, Draperstown, for Mark Quinn

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0970/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0970/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1157/O Site for 2 storey dwelling and domestic garage - 90m SE of 46 Airfield Road, Toomebridge for Centrum NI Farms Ltd

Agreed that application be deferred for further information to be submitted earlier in meeting.

LA09/2020/1171/O Site of 2 Storey dwelling and domestic garage. At 40m NW of 19 Tullyheran Road, Maghera, for Diarmuid Donnelly

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1171/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1171/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1214/F 2 storey extension to side & 2 new bays windows to front of existing dwelling at 1 Cordarragh Heights, Draperstown, for Mr Sean Kennedy

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2020/1214/F advising that it was recommended for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Councillor Elattar to address the committee.

Councillor Elattar stated she was speaking on behalf of Mrs Woods, resident of 2 Cordarragh Heights, who wanted to object to this application. Councillor Elattar stated that the main reservation in relation to the application is with regard to parking and referred to page 159 of the Creating Places document which indicates that a 4 bedroom semi detached house (which the property will become) would need to have at least 2.75 in curtilage parking spaces whereas Roads Service have stated that 2 spaces is sufficient. Councillor Elattar stated that there are 3 vehicles parked at the property at present and, should the application be approved, then one of these vehicles will need to park on the roadside and that this will severely impede access to and from 2 Cordarragh Heights. Councillor Elattar referred again to the Creating Places document in relation to extensions and alterations to a property which states that sufficient space should remain within the curtilage of the property for recreational and domestic purposes including the parking and manoeuvring of vehicles and that it is not believed this will be achievable if the application is approved in its current form. Councillor Elattar asked that the Committee take into consideration Mrs Wood's reservations in relation to parking.

The Planning Manager stated that the objector is correct in that the larger the house the more parking spaces however he advised that this is an extension to an existing dwelling and it would seem harsh to refuse the application when there are two parking spaces at the dwelling. The Planning Manager stated that Roads Service were consulted on the application and that they had no objections. The Planning Manager stated that the reason for consulting with Roads Service in this instance is in relation to road safety and that there could be parking on the roadside and confirmed again that Roads Service were satisfied.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1214/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1308/F 2 detached dwellings at lands between 8 and 12 Findrum Road, Ballygawley, for Jonathan Kirkland

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

LA09/2020/1325/F **Redevelopment of Phoenix Integrated Primary School and nursery unit to provide a 7 classroom primary school and nursery unit ; associated hard and soft play areas ground: mounted solar panels, retaining walls structures and new underground drainage system. Existing access point off Fountain Road, to be retained with reconfiguration of internal vehicular and pedestrian network including car parking , car drop off areas and zebra crossing points; temporary construction compound areas and ancillary site works at Phoenix Integrated Primary School, 80 Fountain Road, Cookstown, for the Trustees of Phoenix Integrated P.S.**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1325/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1325/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1473/F **Renewal of LA09/2015/0177/F at lands approx. 100m NW of 25 Tullyleek Road for Mr Michael O'Neill**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1473/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1473/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1615/F **Dwelling with integrated annex and garages at site adjacent to 18 Lowertown Road, Dungannon for Brian Wilson**

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

LA09/2020/1626/O **Site for Dwelling & Garage at approx. 30m N of 31 Gortinure Road, Maghera, for Mr S McEldowney**

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

LA09/2020/1634/O **Site for dwelling and domestic garage adjacent to 47 Mullaghnemoyagh Road, Portglenone, for Sean Convery**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1634/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1634/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1663/O Infill site for dwelling and garage adjacent to 215A Mountjoy Road, Killycolpy, Dungannon for Marie Quinn Elliot

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

LA09/2021/0116/O Dwelling & garage at lands E of 91 Creagh Road, Castledawson for Ciaran Devlin

Agreed that application be deferred for further consideration earlier in meeting.

LA09/2021/0129/O Site for dwelling and double domestic garage at 40m NE of 2 Ballynagilly Road, Cookstown, for James Harkness

Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in this item and withdrew to the public gallery.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2021/0129/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Councillor Glasgow to address the committee.

Councillor Glasgow stated that the applicant had contacted him in relation to the application as they had been struggling to contact their agent in order to request a deferral and to put a case forward. Councillor Glasgow felt that if the application was deferred there was also an opportunity for a site meeting in order to see the layout of the road as he did not feel one more dwelling would make a difference along this particular stretch of road. Councillor Glasgow requested that the application be deferred and that a site meeting be accommodated as he felt there is good learning in relation to this site before a decision is made.

Ms McCullagh stated that the officer had gone through all the policy considerations in relation to the application. Ms McCullagh stated that she appreciated the applicant had experienced difficulty making contact with their agent and it may be better making contact through the agent in the first instance rather than a site meeting.

The Planning Manager stated that the aerial photo only shows a lot of trees and that he would suggest an office meeting be organised as this provides the opportunity for the applicant to put their case forward.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0129/O be deferred for an office meeting.

Councillor Glasgow rejoined the meeting.

LA09/2021/0191/F Renewal of Permission for 17 town houses, 25 apartments with associated car parking and landscape enhancements, at 8 Killyneill Road, Dungannon for Mr and Mrs John Quinn

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0191/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Mr Marrion highlighted the addendum which advised that EIA Screening was carried out on 30 April 2021.

Councillor Glasgow stated he noted that one of the objections to the application related to fir trees and safety issues with the trees around the site. Councillor Glasgow sought clarification on whether it was within the planning remit to set conditions regarding the height of trees or whether trees should be cut down if there are safety issues.

The Planning Manager stated that there is a duty under law to consider the impact of development on trees but that this does not necessarily mean undertaking tree surveys for every case. The Planning Manager asked if a condition was being applied in relation to trees for this application.

Mr Marrion stated that there is a condition in relation to landscaping and retention of trees and vegetation. Mr Marrion stated that there is also high hedges legislation which would come into effect in relation to the height and maintenance of trees.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0191/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0196/O Dwelling and domestic garage at land between 1 and 3 Dunamoney Road, Dungannon, for Sean Mallon

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0196/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0196/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0202/O Site for dwelling and garage at lands adjacent & 30m N of 10 Tullydowey Road, Dungannon for Daniel Donnelly

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0202/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0202/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0203/O Site for dwelling and garage at lands adjacent & 30m S of 4 Tullydowey Road, Dungannon, for Daniel Donnelly

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0203/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0203/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0228/F Replacement dwelling at 12 Agharan Road Newmills Dungannon, for Brian and Pamela Brodison

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0228/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0228/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0387/O Dwelling and garage at 82m W of 64 Carraloan Road, The Woods, Magherafelt, for Mr John Gribbin

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0387/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0387/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0564/O Dwelling and garage at lands between 121 & 127 Thornhill Road, Pomeroy, for Cathal Hayden

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0564/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0564/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1192/O Dwelling on a farm at 70m NW of 90 Moneysharvan Road, Maghera, for Ronan Bradley

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1192/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1192/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1660/O Dwelling and garage adjacent to 135 Ballynease Road, Portglenone, for Jim McAuley

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1660/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1660/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0060/F Garage and store within the curtilage of the existing dwelling at 65a Lissan Road, Cookstown, for Paul Donnelly

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0060/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0060/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Matters for Information

P067/21 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 12 April 2021

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 12 April 2021.

Live broadcast ended at 7.36 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake 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 P068/21 to P072/21.

Matters for Decision

P068/21 Receive Report on Consultation from BT
P069/21 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

P070/21 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 12 April 2021
P071/21 Receive Report on DfC's Updated Definition of Affordable Housing in the Context of Our Local Development Plan
P072/21 Enforcement Cases Opened

P073/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.53 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the meeting of Mid Ulster District Council's Planning Committee in the Chamber, Magherafelt and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast feed. The Live Broadcast 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.

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 you are for or against the proposal or abstaining from voting
- For members attending remotely, note that by voting on any application, you are confirming that you were in attendance for the duration of, and that you heard and saw all relevant information in connection with the application you vote on
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting. When finished please put your audio to mute
- 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
- An Addendum was emailed to all Committee Members at 5pm today. There is also a hard copy on each desk in the Chamber. Can all members attending remotely please confirm that they received the Addendum and that have had sufficient time to review it?
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to so everyone has a clear understanding
- For members of the public that are exercising a right to speak by remote means, please ensure that you are able to hear and be heard by councillors, officers and any others requesting speaking rights on the particular application. If this isn't the case you must advise the Chair immediately. Please note that once your application has been decided, you will be removed from the meeting. If you wish to view the rest of the meeting, please join the live link.
- Can I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or the use of any other means to enable persons not present to see or hear any

proceedings (whether now or later), or making a contemporaneous oral report of any of the proceedings are all prohibited acts.

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.



ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 4th May 2021

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
4.2	<p>EIA screening carried out 29 April 2021.</p> <p>This application is for retention of development and conditions 1, 2, 3 and 12 should reflect this:</p> <p>1 This decision notice is issued under Section 55 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.</p> <p>2 Within 6 weeks of the date of this decision, visibility splays of 2m x 90m shall be provided in accordance with the approved Drawing No.1A bearing the date stamp 28th November 2018, or as may otherwise be agreed in writing with the Council. The area within the visibility splays shall be cleared of all obstructions to a height of 250mm above the adjacent carriage and be permanently retained clear thereafter.</p> <p>3 Within 6 weeks of the date of this decision the hard surfaced areas shall be provided in accordance with approved drawing No 01A bearing the stamp dated 28 NOV 2019 to provide adequate</p>	Members to note

	<p>facilities for parking, servicing and circulating within the site. No part of these hard surfaced areas shall be used for any purpose at any time other than for the parking and movement of vehicles.</p> <p>12 All hard and soft landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details on drawing No.1A dated 28th November 2018 and the appropriate British Standard or other recognised Codes of Practice. The works shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.</p>	
4.4	<p>Due to an error with Derry Post Advertisements the expiry date will not end until 25.05.2021 so a decision cannot be made until after this date.</p>	Recommend to Defer application
4.5	<p>EIA Screening carried out 30 April 2021</p> <p>Condition for HED to be added: A programme of post-excavation analysis, preparation of an archaeological report, dissemination of results and preparation of the excavation archive shall be undertaken in accordance with the programme of archaeological work approved under condition 2. These measures shall be implemented and a final archaeological report shall be submitted to Mid Ulster District Council within 12 months of the completion of archaeological site works, or as otherwise agreed in writing with Mid Ulster District Council.</p>	Members to note

	Reason: To ensure that the results of archaeological works are appropriately analysed and disseminated and the excavation archive is prepared to a suitable standard for deposition.	
4.19	EIA Screening carried out 30 April 2021	Members to note
	Letter dated 29 April 2021 to Ulster Farmers Union circulated	Members to note

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 May 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Quinn, Chair

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

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell**, Director of Leisure & Outdoor Recreation
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Dyson**, Head of Human Resources
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
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 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 in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

PR089/21 Apologies

None.

PR090/21 Declarations of Interest

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

PR091/21 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that this would be his last meeting as Chair of the Policy and Resources committee and thanked members and officers for their support throughout the year.

Matters for Decision

PR092/21 Requests to Illuminate Council Property: May 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;

- Foster Care Fortnight – May 2021 (Orange)
- International Nurses Day – May 2021 (Blue)

The Head of Democratic Services drew members attention to action already agreed for Brain Injury Week which coincides with the Foster Care Fortnight. He stated if Foster Care Fortnight was agreed tonight, then the Council would accommodate them a shorter number of days to what the group had requested.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to light up designated Council properties to mark –

- Foster Care Fortnight on a set of days between Monday 10th - 23rd May 2021 (Orange), avoiding any clash with the previously agreed illumination to mark Brain Injury Week
- International Nurses Day – Wednesday 12th May 2021 (Blue)

PR093/21 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR094/21 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 April 2021

Members noted Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 8 April 2021.

PR094/21 Elected Member Development Working Group

Members noted update of Elected Member Development Working Group meeting held on 10 February 2021.

PR095/21 Consultation on Draft Improvement Objectives 2021-23: Findings

Members noted update on the findings and outcome of the consultation undertaken on the proposed improvement objectives 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Councillor S McGuigan referred to third objective relating to Cleaner Neighbourhoods and felt that this was very timely considering that a meeting had taken place this evening. He said that the general feeling of the meeting was that some decisive action was needed on dealing with issues around littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling which reflected back on comments made by residents, with 94% in agreement. He stated that comments made enforced the opinion that we as a Council needed to take more proactive action rather than solely an educational one.

PR096/21 Council Statutory and Corporate Performance Improvement Standards: 2020-21 Update (Q1-Q4)

Members noted report which provided members with monitoring information on the review of performance against the seven statutory and three corporate performance improvement indicators and standards, along with an overview of the Corporate Health Indicators for the first twelve months of 2020/21.

PR097/21 Organisational Development Service Improvement Plan 2021/22

Members noted Service Improvement Plan for Organisational Development Directorate for 2021/2022.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Organisational Development Service Improvement Plan 2021/22.

PR098/21 Finance Service Improvement Plan 2021/22

Members noted Service Improvement Plan for Finance Department for 2021/22.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Finance Service Improvement Plan 2021/22.

PR099/21 IT Service Improvement Plan 2021/22

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the IT Service Improvement Plan 2021/22.

Live broadcast ended at 7.08 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Doris
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 PR100/21 to PR108/21.

Matters for Decision

PR100/21 Staff Matters for Decision
PR101/21 Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
PR102/21 Treasury Management Strategy
PR103/21 Capital Framework 2020-2024
PR104/21 Proposed Capital Project – Dungannon
PR105/21 Full Fibre Project Update

Matters for Information

PR106/21 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee
Meeting held on 8 April 2021
PR107/21 Staff Matters for Information
PR108/21 Contracts and DAC

PR109/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.10 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 11 May 2021 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt
and by virtual means**

Members Present

Councillor S McGuigan, Chair

Councillors Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Cuthbertson,
Graham*, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn*,
B McGuigan*, McNamee*, Milne*, O'Neill*, Totten*,
Wilson*

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services**
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services**
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health**
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services**
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control**
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

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

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McGuigan 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 S McGuigan stated that as this was his last meeting as Chair of the Environment Committee he wanted to thank officers and Members for their work and co-operation throughout the year.

E123/21 Apologies

Councillor Glasgow.

E124/21 Declarations of Interest

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

E125/21 Chair's Business

Councillor Wilson referred to email received by Members in relation to issues at Davagh, the Councillor stated he was aware some of the issues related to the contract which was confidential. The Councillor stated that at the last meeting he had asked if Council was in contact with the local mountain biking group and that

assurances were given that Council was however on reading the email received this did not appear to be the case. Councillor Wilson asked for a report on how many meetings have taken place between Council and mountain bike groups since it was agreed to do the trails.

Councillor Wilson also enquired what role Police and Council have with regards to Covid marshalling and referred to a number of incidents at the weekend regarding crowding in pubs. Councillor Wilson asked for clarification on this for the next committee meeting.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that there is a contractual issue in relation to Davagh and that an update would be provided later in the meeting. In relation to the number of meetings held with mountain bike groups, the Director stated he would refer this query to the Leisure and Recreation Directorate.

In relation to the reopening of premises at the weekend the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that officers were aware of issues regarding a number of commercial premises across the District and one in particular in Cookstown. The Director advised that Council had been in close liaison with the business prior to reopening and again since reopening in response to the issues highlighted. The Director advised that licensed premises are primarily the responsibility of the Police and that Council have worked closely with the PSNI in relation to the issues raised and that such incidents should not be repeated.

Councillor McNamee referred to his previous request for an inspection to be carried out in relation to Cookstown Public Realm Scheme to identify any defects and damage and asked if this had been completed.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated he would follow up on this issue with Councillor McNamee.

Matters for Decision

E126/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed Provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Church Street, Ballygawley

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Church Street, Ballygawley.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Church Street, Ballygawley.

E127/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed Traffic Calming Measures & Footway Extension for Favour Royal Road, Augher

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed traffic calming measures and footway extension for Favour Royal Road, Augher.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed traffic calming measures and footway extension for Favour Royal Road, Augher.

E128/21 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential Housing Developments within Mid-Ulster.

Site off Lurgylea Road, Dungannon

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to name development off Lurgylea Road, Dungannon as Glenburn View.

E129/21 Review of Policy on Street Naming and Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised on the review of the policy on Street Naming and Numbering.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed the policy with the amendments. The Councillor referred to some of the names submitted for housing developments in the past which no thought had gone into by the developer and stated he would be supportive of contact being made with community/historical groups in the locality regarding naming as he felt it is prime opportunity to bring old place names back.

Councillor McNamee seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal.

Councillor Burton stated that not every area would have a historical group and asked if community groups and other groups such as Chamber of Commerce could be included.

The Head of Building Control stated that the policy refers to historical or community groups and that most areas would have either one or both of these types of group. The officer stated it is difficult to specify the kinds of group but that the policy points in the direction of a group who could provide a developer with an effective input regarding the naming of a development.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the Policy on Street Naming and Numbering as reviewed and set out at appendix to report.

E130/21 Review of Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised on the review of the Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage.

Councillor Graham referred to the positioning of a second language on signage and that it is stated that this is at the discretion of Council on where it is placed. The Councillor asked who took the decision to place a second language above English and why. Councillor Graham stated that English is spoken, written and understood by everyone and that no one is taking away the right to display a second language, whatever the language may be but if it is the case of Nationalists being able to do whatever they want because they have the greater numbers on Council then she felt this was pathetic. Councillor Graham stated that all that was being asked was that English comes first and that the point of a second language is that it comes second to English.

Councillor Graham stated that Equality and Good Relations in relation to this matter seemed to be a joke and referred to the number of complaints she had received in relation to signage and the bad feeling that is being created between neighbours. The Councillor stated that she had recently seen five signs which had been defaced and that four had been sprayed green, white and orange. Councillor Graham felt that this is an attempt to intimidate and is similar to the continual defacing of signage for Londonderry on which the London is painted over. Councillor Graham stated she was aware of a housing development in a mixed area which had been surveyed in relation to dual language signage and that this had caused suspicion and upset, the Councillor stated that some saw this as a way of marking out territory and although the sign did not go up it has caused tensions in the area and that this is the reality of the policy. Councillor Graham stated that the policy does nothing to further community relations and costs a fortune in terms of both time and money and needs to be looked at again. Councillor Graham stated that in her opinion the simple solution would be to keep any second language second where it belongs.

Councillor Buchanan proposed that the Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage as reviewed is not approved as the legal opinion which was sought regarding the positioning of second language on signage should have been sought from an independent solicitor not from Mid Ulster Council's own solicitor. The Councillor stated that the interpretation of the word adjacent on the policy is wrong and means signs should be side by side. Councillor Buchanan referred to the Good Relations mitigation identified and that territory is being marked out similar to flags and emblems and is a form of cultural branding.

Councillor Buchanan stated that because there are no minimum percentages or quotas for having a dual language nameplate sign, these signs are being foisted on Unionist areas. The Councillor stated that the campaign is not driven by practical need, symbolic equality or human right being withheld but by political strategy. Councillor Buchanan stated that if British symbols were being placed in Nationalist areas it would be stopped by Council and branded as sectarian.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that the existing policy has been in place for some time and was previously drafted following a number of workshops and being brought to committee in various drafts before being adopted. The Director stated that as part of the original process Members and officers reflected on the legacy arrangements in place and that in Magherafelt a policy was in place where the Irish Language was placed above English on signage.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that Council's Solicitor is there to provide structured legal opinion to officers and that this is not an issue. The Director advised that if Members have an issue with this then it should be brought to the attention of the Chief Executive. The Director advised that the legal opinion provided by Council Solicitor is based on Article 11, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 which states that Council has the power to erect nameplate signage in such manner as it sees fit.

Councillor McNamee stated that the policy has already been ratified by Council and that Members were continuing to hear the hype and hysteria that the Irish Language is causing in communities. The Councillor felt this is outrageous given the continuous attacks on Irish Language signage with no condemnation. Councillor McNamee proposed the recommendation to approve the policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage and also asked for an update regarding access to the Electoral Office.

Councillor N McAleer seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal and stated it was very disappointing but unsurprising to hear the comments from some Unionist Councillors. The Councillor stated there was a lot of talk about signs being divisive but very little is said about signs being destroyed across the District. Councillor N McAleer referred to signage on the Mullanahoe Road which was destroyed, this was despite 72 surveys being issued and 64 being returned in favour, 7 being against and one invalid response. Councillor N McAleer also referred to signage on the Tullydraw Road which has been destroyed on several occasions again despite 77% agreeing to the signage being erected. Councillor N McAleer stated that Unionist Councillors needed to call out the destruction of signage instead of picking holes in the policy.

The Head of Building Control stated that officers have been in contact with the Electoral Office as regards getting access to information. The officer advised there is no indication of when staff will be able to access these offices however with ongoing relaxations it is hoped the offices may reopen in the coming weeks.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to comment in relation to legacy Magherafelt policy and stated that there was no previous policy in place in Magherafelt but rather a word of mouth arrangement. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he had made the request for the written legal opinion and would hold a similar view as Councillor Buchanan. Councillor Cuthbertson referred to staffing arrangements within the legal

team and asked if Council has its own solicitor at the moment and the potential need for independent legal advice. Councillor Cuthbertson also referred to the Section 75 screening and that anyone conducting such screening needs to have the proper training, the Councillor stated it is not clear who undertook the screening and suggested that such screening would be better done by a third party outside of Council. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the screening has revealed three minor marks and that there needs to be mitigation. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that when full legal advice has been obtained then further consideration can be given to the policy and figures which he felt are skewed in relation to surveys issued and responses received. Councillor Cuthbertson referred to condemnation of defacing of signs and asked where the condemnation was regarding the signs which were defaced with green, white and orange paint. Councillor Cuthbertson seconded Councillor Buchanan's proposal.

Councillor Graham stated that she had not mentioned Irish Language but had referred to a second language. Councillor Graham stated that Unionists feel there is no one listening to their views on this Council simply because the Unionist Councillors are outnumbered.

Councillor McNamee stated it is clear that it is the Irish Language Councillor Graham is referring to. Councillor McNamee stated that his party would condemn attacks on any signage.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that a Council Solicitor has been appointed and is in place and is providing full legal advice to Council. The Director referred to the Section 75 screening and that there are some mitigation measures that need to be considered within the Good Relations Working Group, the Director stated this group should be allowed to reflect on the matter and report back to the relevant committee. The Director advised that the policy before Members tonight is fit for purpose.

Members voted on Councillor Buchanan's proposal –

For – 6

Against - 9

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage as reviewed and set out at appendix to report.

E131/21 Bus Shelters Update

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

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan acknowledged that there is a reduced number of staff within the team and commended officers on keeping the work going.

Councillor O'Neill expressed thanks for getting the application for Annaghmore Road, Clonoe onto the list.

Councillor McFlynn stated it was her understanding that there are some objections regarding the proposed bus shelter at Eglish View, Ballinderry and this may need to be removed from the list until issues of concern are resolved.

The Head of Technical Services stated that consultation on the Eglish View bus shelter is due to close on 13 May and that so far a number of objections have been received and that these will be taken on board.

Councillor Cuthbertson expressed thanks to the Property Services team regarding assurances given for maintenance of bus shelters. Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the bus shelter for Moygashel had been ordered yet.

The Head of Technical Services advised he would come back to Councillor Cuthbertson on whether the bus shelter had been ordered.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to note the content of the report and the progress made on bus shelters within the district.

E132/21 Derelict Buildings and Dilapidated Structures

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which provided update on the legal powers available to Council for dealing with Derelict Buildings and Dilapidated structures.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that dereliction is an issue right across the District especially in conservation areas. The Councillor stated that those who own listed buildings may want to repair them but that there is little or no support for them in the form of grant aid to do so. The Councillor stated there is a high cost in relation to the upkeep of such buildings and that these buildings need to be fit for purpose. Councillor B McGuigan referred to partnership working and felt it would be worthwhile for Council to meet with Historic Environment Division (HED) in order to address issues of dereliction.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that this can be considered to see where it fits best with a view to putting a partnership in place.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had raised this issue following a fire at a derelict house in January. Councillor Cuthbertson felt there also needed to be a conversation with the PSNI in relation to derelict buildings as their opinion is that Council could board up a dangerous building and seek to recover its costs at a later date. The Councillor felt it would be beneficial to discuss this issue with PSNI so everyone knows what their responsibility is as regards derelict buildings.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to –
- Write to the Minister to seek clarification on the outcome of the 2016 consultation on Dilapidated / Dangerous Buildings and Neglected Sites and any proposed way forward.
 - Consider partnership working with Historic Environment Division in relation to derelict buildings.
 - Discuss measures to address issues regarding derelict buildings with PSNI.

E133/21 Office for Product Safety and Standards and the ongoing work on product safety

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which provided update relating to product safety work carried out by the Environmental Health Department, and update on expected continuing funding from the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to note the content of this report and move forward when a confirmed offer of funding has been received.

Matters for Information

E134/21 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 13 April 2021

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 13 April 2021.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to bin collections and that since the last Environment Committee a new policy has come into effect regarding collection of a second brown bin. The Councillor stated he had received a number of calls in relation to this and that people were angry and feel that the implementation of the new policy could lead to flytipping of green waste. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that it would have been useful to identify and notify those already getting a second brown bin collected of the consultation at the time. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the situation needed to be monitored to ensure there is no flytipping of green waste.

Councillor Burton stated she had also been contacted by a number of people with similar concerns. The Councillor asked how many households have a second brown bin collected and reflected that some people do not even use one brown bin and asked if there is any flexibility as it is causing angst in the community especially as people bought a second brown bin and it is not now being collected.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that there was a public consultation over 12 weeks last year and as a result the fee for collecting a second brown bin was reduced from £100 to £50 per year. The officer advised that a number of people

have paid this charge and got their sticker for collection of a second brown bin. The officer stated he did not anticipate this affects more than 100 households in the District and that if people have excess green waste and do not want to pay the charge then Council would provide a free home compost unit therefore it is not felt flytipping will become an issue.

Councillor O'Neill referred to a property at Coney Park, Clonoe which has not been used for approximately 8 years. The Councillor stated that the hedges around the property have become overgrown and are growing into other neighbouring properties, the Councillor stated that litter and rats at the property are also an issue. Councillor O'Neill asked what Council can do to protect the other neighbouring properties and residents.

The Head of Environmental Health stated she would contact the Councillor in relation to the matter.

Councillor Burton asked if there was any flexibility in relation to the collection of the second brown bin as flytipping of green waste can cause problems for animals and that not everyone is content using a home compost unit as it can attract vermin.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that garden waste in a home compost unit should not attract rats. The officer stated it was difficult to offer flexibility as a number of people have now paid the charge and there is the mitigation of a home compost unit for those who don't want to pay. The officer advised that the policy is being implemented as previously agreed and is not due to be reviewed until October 2022.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that the situation could be kept under review.

E135/21 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for October to December 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that it was pleasing that Mid Ulster Council had again achieved the highest recycling rate and lowest landfill rate and given the situation during the pandemic credit should go to the householders of Mid Ulster for continuing to recycle during this time.

E136/21 Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean 2021

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean Campaign 2021.

E137/21 Environmental Services Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22

Members noted previously circulated report which detailed the Environmental Services Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

E138/21 Property Services Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22

Members noted previously circulated report which detailed the Property Services Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

E139/21 Building Control Workload

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

E140/21 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

Councillor McFlynn commended staff who worked on the Big Spring Clean and provided assistance to groups. The Councillor felt this is an excellent project and can be built on for future years.

Live broadcast ended at 8.04 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill 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 item E125/21 (part of) and items E141/21 to E149/21.

Matters for Decision

E125/21	Chair's Business (continued)
E141/21	Extension of Waste Recycling and Processing Contracts
E142/21	Off street Car Parking: Future Provision Update
E143/21	Tender report for the appointment of a Vehicle Supplier
E144/21	Dog kennelling and related services
E145/21	Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan

Matters for Information

E146/21	Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 13 April 2021
E147/21	Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
E148/21	Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
E149/21	Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E150/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.52 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.

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 13 May 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Ashton*, Black, Burton*, Clarke*, Corry*,
Cuddy*, Doris*, Elattar*, Hughes*, Kearney*, Kerr,
Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Wilson*

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr McCreesh**, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Browne**, Head of Tourism
Mr Gordon, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill**, Head of Parks
Ms Linney**, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown**, Head of Economic Development
Mr Greer, ICT Support
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillor S McGuigan***

* 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 McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr McNamee 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.

D078/21 Apologies

None.

D079/21 Declarations of Interest

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

D080/21 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that this was his last meeting as Chair of the Development Committee and wanted to thank Officers and staff for all their help and support during what could only be described as a very difficult year. He also wanted to thank the Vice-Chair, Councillor Black and all members for their support as these meetings contributed towards plenty of good work being carried out for the good of the district and hoped that a corner was being turned for the better and wished the incoming Chair and Vice-Chair the very best for the year ahead.

Councillor Doris also thanked the Chair for his tremendous work throughout the past year during difficult circumstances and also the Vice-Chair and committee members for their valuable input.

Councillor Doris enquired if there was an update on the Ferry Bridge issue as this was something Sinn Féin had lobbied for a long time and was seeking to find out if the project had progressed any.

The Chief Executive advised that during a previous discussion it was agreed that Officers would go away and look at this as it was a legacy agreement and the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure had informed of a legal agreement between Craigavon Council and Dungannon Council in 2009. He said that it was his understanding that Craigavon were assuming the repair and maintenance responsibilities of the bridge, although it was agreed that any costs associated would be shared 50/50 with each of the two Councils being responsible for upgrading each of their own sides of the bridge by way of pedestrianisation, access and seating etc. with clarity being received by the Solicitor who had went through the legal agreement. Mid Ulster's side of the bridge had been looked at and the Head of Property Services was doing an exercise on terms of an upgrade and enhancement with any costings being carried out in conjunction with colleagues of ABC as there was an onus to have both sides of the bridge upgraded. He said that there was a hope that ABC would look at their side of the bridge and would encourage them to carry out a survey of the bridge to make sure it was still fit for purpose as they do need to be accessed every few years for health & safety and quality reasons. He said that he would be anticipate the Head of Property Services bringing back a report to the Environment Committee before the end of July as this was fairly imminent.

Councillor Doris thanked the Chief Executive and said that it was great to hear that progress was being made and also wanted to thank the determination of the local community on both sides of the bridge for their persistence on the matter.

Councillor Molloy enquired about the terms of ownership and whether there would be no transfer as Mid Ulster owns the Tyrone side of the river and anything would be transferred with no ambiguity there.

The Chief Executive advised that he had scanned the agreement himself, but the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure and the Head of Property Services were heavily involved in it and appeared that there was a clear responsibility for our side

and ABC for their side and a shared expenditure for any upgrade, maintenance and enhancement of the bridge.

Councillor Burton advised that she had raised this issue in the past regarding the bridge at Caledon from Craigavon side and had been approached by Caledon Regeneration Partnership who had asked her to raise the concern regarding the need for a general tidy up as it was in a dilapidated state. She advised that she had liaised with the Head of Property Services who indicated that he would go away and identify whose responsibility the bridge was and asked if there was any update and if there wasn't, could this be investigated as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive said that he would follow this issue up with the Head of Property Services as a matter of urgency and an update would be provided to the member.

D081/21 Deputation – Killeeshil and Galbally First Responders

Councillor Kerr advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the deputation from Killeeshil and Galbally First Responders could not make the meeting tonight to make their presentation.

The Chair asked that an invitation be reissued to Mr McCaughey inviting him back to a future meeting to make his presentation.

D082/21 Regional and Minority Languages Bursary Programme 2021/22 and Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22

The Head of Culture & Arts presented previously circulated report to:

1. Update Council on the proposed Regional and Minority Language Bursary programme 2021/22
2. Update Council on the proposed Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22
3. Seek decision from Council regarding approval to publicly advertise both programmes.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as there had been a lot of people disappointed last year as courses and activities were cancelled due to Covid and hoped this year all being well that these would now go ahead as people would be delighted to get back to doing residential courses and for groups to organise events.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second the proposal, but wanted to highlight the issue of anti-Irish racism and the continuous attacks on the Irish language signage across the community. He said that he didn't want to see this escalating as there was a small determined bunch of people intent on attacking Irish culture at every opportunity and said there was a need to send a message out that this would not deter the promotion of the Irish language as there was nothing to be ashamed of in promotion and something that this Council was very good at. He said that personally he would like to see more work done, but felt that there had been the right balance

struck and was important that every opportunity at committee meetings and full Council that a message be sent out that this hatred which fuels these attacks be called out at every opportunity as this will not win.

Councillor Ashton referred to the Irish Language Funding Activity Programme and enquired why it wasn't the Regional Minority Language Funding Activity Programme or was there a separate programme opened for the Ulster Scots activity.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that this was the Irish Language Activity Fund which was run every year as part of the Council's Irish Language Action Plan. Every year there was a public call for groups involved in the promotion and development of Irish language within the region to provide mechanisms where they could further develop the Irish language within their local community and this was what the activity funding was designed to support.

Councillor Kerr said that he wished to reflect on Councillor Monteith's comments and advised that he also was contacted on a weekly basis regarding the attacks on dual language signage and could nearly identify which signs they were as it seemed to be the same concentrated effort. He said that there needed to be maturity shown as dual language was not threatening anyone, because if he was to be offended by the English language, he wouldn't leave the house and would call on the people responsible to desist immediately and consider contributing something positive to society instead of attacking signs.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to:

- i) Publicly advertise the Regional and Minority Language Bursary Programme 2021/22.
- ii) Issue a public call for Expressions of Interest for support under the Irish Language Activity Programme 2021/22.

Councillor Ashton sought clarification regarding the Ulster Scots funding and whether there was an Activity Funding Programme and where this sat within this regional funding.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that this didn't sit within this funding programme, but in the past Ulster Scots was funded separately through Arts & Culture for example Ulster Scots Language classes delivered in the Bridewell, the Burnavon and other locations within the region.

Councillor Ashton enquired why the two languages were treated differently through the funding stream and asked if this was something that needed to be brought back to the Regional Minority Group on how the Ulster Scots programme was being delivered.

The Chair said that this was two separate activities as one was a language and one was not a language and more of a dialect and advised that there had been programmes around the Ulster Scots and this was just being done different.

The Head of Culture and Arts provided clarification to members on how the language bursaries were delivered and advised that these were broadened to extend to all Regional and Minority languages and this scheme was open to any individual who wanted to enroll on a residential course to learn a regional minority language, whether that be Irish or Ulster Scots. The Irish Language Activity Fund was exclusive for the promotion of the Irish language and part of the Irish Language Programme but the Ulster Scots Language Activity doesn't fit within our Irish Language Programme and therefore is delivered within the Arts and Culture Programme in partnership with organisations such as the Ulster Scots Community Network.

The Chair advised that this was part of the Council's Irish Language Policy.

Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and said that he had travelled extensively through Scotland and Wales where there was numerous Gaelic and Welsh signage across the board and heavily programmed as this was their first language of choice. He said that there needed to be an acceptance of the Irish language as ratepayers were paying the price for replacing signage which was damaged and this should not be tolerated any longer and now was the time for prosecutions.

The Chair referred to the Environment Committee where the number of reported damaged signage was brought. He said that this was criminal damage and was at a stage for PSNI to get involved due to high number of attacks involved right across Mid Ulster.

D083/21 Virtual Tours – Hotel Cluster

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to propose supporting the Mid Ulster Hotel Cluster with the development of virtual tours for weddings and conferences.

Councillor Doris said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as this had been a particular difficult year for the hospitality and events sector and Mid Ulster were fortunate to have an extensive range of venues. She said that anything that the Council could do to help the people in that industry should be encouraged and would like to take this opportunity to recognise the work done in providing video coverage of Coalisland Town Centre including Eden Blooms, The Perfect Gift, No. 5 Clothes Shop etc. which was absolutely fantastic with upwards of 3,000 views, which was brilliant advertisement for the town and great to see things reopening and felt that social media was the way forward and would be a great help to a struggling industry. She commended Officers for making the videos in Coalisland which were brilliant.

Councillor Burton said that it was important to promote other areas as there didn't seem to be much promotion in the South Tyrone side and felt that it was important to make it as wide as possible. She said that there were a lot of tourists travelling

through our area to Fermanagh and it would be important that they stop and spend time in our district. She said that she was aware of the nine hotels identified right across the geographical area but enquired about other venues like Blessingbourne as they also provide a venue for wedding receptions and asked if this venue was ruled out because it wasn't a hotel.

The Head of Tourism advised that this project identified the nine designated hotels and not venues like Blessingbourne as they were being supported through other programmes such as the Heritage Destination Programme which was funded through DAERA before Christmas. He advised that there would be opportunities for other establishments to avail of future initiatives but this was primarily for the hotel cluster.

Councillor Black stated that this was a good initiative and at the start he wondered if the boat was missed slightly, but now people can view wedding venues in person but if it was going to be used on website then it would be an abstainable option for many people who cannot attend in person and commended officers for their work. He enquired if there was any other support in the pipeline for hotels in particular.

The Head of Tourism advised that through the weekly webinars, hotels were supported and a specific cluster set up with various different speakers being brought in to help them in relation to funding and support.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to support the production of virtual tours for Mid Ulster Hotels.

D084/21 Community Development

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report:

1. Peace Plus Response – to agree the response to Peace Plus
2. Community Development – to note the community development update

She advised that grants had closed yesterday and would be brought to the next committee.

Councillor Molloy welcomed the report on the Peace as it was a good response across the board as it was in-depth and covered a lot of ground. He referred to connectivity relating to blueway/greenway and said he was aware of ongoing work with ICBAN in relation to this kind of a project, especially with Ulster Canal in particular, but seems to be a far off development at our end.

He proposed that options be looked at in conjunction with ABC to include River Blackwater alongside Ulster Canal to get some kind of a project together with a lobby group as there was a better chance of getting progress if working together in conjunction.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to second Councillor Molloy's proposal as there was a need to keep the pressure on with ABC to push this project forward.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to:

- i) To approve the Response to Peace Plus.
- ii) To note the community development update
- iii) Look at options in conjunction with ABC to include River Blackwater alongside Ulster Canal to get some kind of a project together with a lobby group as there was a better chance of getting progress if working together in conjunction.

The Head of Community Development advised that this was something that could be brought forward as this was originally in the lobbying group with the old Blackwater Partnership, with a lot of research and studies which could be pulled out again and brought forward.

Councillor Corry thanked the Head of Community Development on a very detailed and comprehensive report. She referred to 4.3 'Victims and Survivors' referenced within the document and asked what that meant.

The Head of Community Development advised that in the documents Peace Plus would always put in 'Victims and Survivors' as this would provide a strong support programme and then they are funded directly by SEUPB and not through any intermediaries. She concluded by saying that they were focused within the plan.

Councillor Kerr stated that it was a very comprehensive report but wished to raise a few issues on the following items within the report:

- 1.1 There was a need to include poverty as correctly identified. Poverty and the lack of opportunity is linked as people from lower economic and social status are not as likely to succeed compared to someone from middle or upper class backgrounds.
- 1.2 Agree with an organised community lead initiative which can help identify localised issues and with the correct resources can hopefully help alleviate the situation.
- 2.3 Absolutely agree with help developing and enhancing workers skills. He drew attention to comments within the report stating that Mid Ulster Council had a great number of private sector enterprises and felt the workers morale should also be encouraged. Access to trade union membership, employer's opting into living wage scheme, legislation which encourages labor representation at board of Directors level at the larger corporation as all wages were set by collective bargaining instead of individual lobbying. Private sector workers

should have the same entitlement as the public sector at a more local level to help workers and fight on their behalf as we seen in the recent global pandemic where workers were shafted at the first opportunity when trouble was looming. Some of these employers receive many grants and logistical support from regional and national bodies.

- 2.4 Would definitely support the transfer of regeneration powers and budgets from the Department to local authority as there were better feelings on the ground on what intervention and investment was needed. The enhancement of broadband was badly needed in all our areas as the global pandemic has exposed the weaknesses and shown light with home schooling and working from home, and said that this was now the time to move towards a universal broadband as this should be considered as a basic human right, same as access to water or housing. Fibrus was handed millions of pounds of public funding to upgrade the North's broadband but local residents in more rural areas have made contact with him saying that they have been charged double in comparison to the same packages in the Coalisland area. Affordable broadband should be available to all residents not some based on location.
- 3.3 Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing needs investment within this sector. We should be encouraging young people to talk, especially young men or adolescents. There is a need to try and change the mindset of young people especially around sexism, misogyny, relationships and respect for one another.

Councillor Ashton referred to the wider Community Development part on Grant Aid and said due to Covid, community festivals had to be suspended and as things were starting to lift, now was the time to try and get communities back engaging in community work on the ground and proposed to reopen the rolling grant, subject to Health & Safety and adhering to the Public Health message if ratified by the Executive on 24 May, we should see the commencement of public gatherings.

The Head of Community Development referred to latest guidance of over 30 and up to 500 based on a risk assessment and advised that some groups may be able to carry out a risk assessment and some may struggle and asked for some flexibility on the community grant if it is to be reopened to allow for both numbers and also other ways of doing it in the event of someone wishing to do a smaller festival alongside some internet provision that this be allowed for some flexibility.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second Councillor Ashton's proposal as she was 100% correct, despite restrictions easing up and weather permitting that events be held outdoor rather than indoor and with the restrictions the Head of Community Development was alluding to that this be opened out and be ready to engage with the communities to get them back out and doing their work.

He referred to the Peace Response and commended the report and stated that it was very well put together and commended the glaring omission where our officers pointed out on poverty not being mentioned what so ever where poverty was well rehearsed at numerous meetings by members around housings etc. and said that he personally would be very critical of Peace particularly in many of the working class communities. He said that whilst it served a function in some areas in some sectors, but the reality

on the ground was the same areas were experiencing very often the same problems 25 years later after 3 or 4 Peace programmes and grassroots feelings was that this was done to them and at them rather than them having any involvement in really what were the issues for them. He said that groups were forced to being something that they were not interested in being to qualify and the professional and voluntary community sector had hoovered up the money at every opportunity this point needed to be made. He commended the work which had been done on it but we do need to move from community initiatives to a household, family, individual based on targeting the ability and income of families where the income should be improved coming into the house, housing standard of the house, and holistic review of the education. He stated the houses were a major issues around the standard of housing with little or no money spent within the private sector or the public sector in improving the standard of living since the financial crash 2007-2008. He commended Officers on their efforts delivering the project but Peace did not do what it was supposed to do and lift people out of poverty.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to reopen Community Festival Grant, engaging groups back into community work, subject to Health & Safety and Public Health message.

Councillor Cuddy stated that some good points had been raised by previous Councillors regarding the Peace programme and the jury's out on whether it has made any difference. He referred to the period 2021-2027 and enquired what was going to happen after that date going forward.

The Head of Community Development advised that there was a commitment up to 2027 and after that date funders were already looking at a Shared Future Prosperity Fund where pilots were already being rolled out. She anticipated that the new set up would continue on after the Peace programme ended and looked to be a lot more flexible

Councillor Burton concurred with most of the previous comments and agreed that Peace done a certain amount of work but would wonder sometimes about the amount of money which had been spent and not anywhere near the improvements that it should have brought at this point years on. She stated that it seemed to a certain extend to be the same people who benefitted year on year and if it were to bring people together, it was the same people on the same trip which done away with what the Peace programme was all about. She said that hopefully the country was coming out of Covid and a lot of houses were not up the standard of living for families and felt that there should be a totally different way of looking at gauging poverty as there would be a lot of people out of work after this traumatic time goes by and people living in houses which still have wooden window frames watching their curtains blowing in the wind and yet have young children which have damp in their bedrooms. She said that she was aware of a mother with cupboards in her house that she cannot keep food in because they are that damp and also children developing asthma due to the

dampness of their home and felt that money should be targeted in a much better focused way to try and elevate genuine poverty.

The Chair said that some great comments were raised and wanted to refer to the administration part of Peace and for anyone who attend these meetings would see the unnecessary bureaucracy that there was all the time and leaving people waiting for months and months to be paid.

D085/21 Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan – Pilot Children and Youth Wellbeing Scheme

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report as part of the Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan, summer hunger and youth mental health are issues identified for action. To seek to address these issues it is proposed to deliver a pilot initiative for children and young people to both engage them in fun activities to support their mental wellbeing and alongside this, address some level of summer hunger.

Councillor Corry said this was an excellent scheme from Mid Ulster District Council and DfC to combat holiday hunger and was aware of a lot of members being vocal on that. She also referred to young people's mental health and wellbeing and how it was evident that this had increased due to Covid.

Councillor Corry sought clarification on the following:

- i) Pilot 1 – Children's Wellbeing plan – referred to where the five main towns and also Fivemiletown being included and asked if there was a possibility for other towns to be incorporated or if anyone can come in from other towns as poverty wasn't just in the five main towns and Fivemiletown.
- ii) Pilot 2 – Youth Wellbeing - enquired if the catchment area was the same as the previous of five main towns and Fivemiletown and if anyone can come into the towns from other areas also.
- iii) Soccer cages for smaller villages and towns - advised that Councillor Elattar and herself have been working with young people in the Draperstown's area due to some bother and part of this was down to boredom. She asked if there was any other activities that could be considered rather than football and soccer as some children were not interested in sport.

The Head of Community Development referred to Child's Play and advised that the five main towns were targeted to areas of high poverty and Fivemiletown was included due to distance, but said that the areas would be mainly estates because the numbers were restricted due to the capacity of play facilities and what they can accommodate as the estate areas which were being targeted would be difficult to bring in people from other areas for what was being planned. She said that it was anticipated that a number of summer schemes would be taking place in our local leisure centres and facilities and these would be promoted by the Head of Leisure who would be putting together a booklet on what other schemes were available. She stated that a number of schools would be picking up a number of summer schemes given the Education Authority funding that was issued and another fund which was promoted today by the Youth Service which was circulated amongst groups for summer schemes. The

summer scheme which was being brought forward was very much targeted at poverty and hoped that the others would pick up around it.

She referred to the youth vouchers and advised that these were not just for town based and being allocated across the whole district for any young person within that age group on free school meals and would be for each individual in receipt of a free school meal place.

Councillor Corry referred to soccer cages and asked if there were any other activities as some children were not interested in soccer, football or other sports.

The Head of Community Development advised that officers would try and establish what other summer schemes were happening in the community, but in relation to this programme this was the capacity which was being carried out this summer but there would be no way that all villages could be accommodated on this one. She advised that going forward there was going to be a lot of activity in relation to the current grants which have gone out as a lot of calls have been received already and it was anticipated that these would be promoted as far as possible through the community newsletter which should be off help.

Councillor Monteith said that this was a great initiative especially towards primary school age group, but would have slight concern regarding the older group identified regarding recruitment as it could be difficult to encourage the older children to avail of the services especially those living within socially deprived areas as a lot of those activities are not within those areas. He said that it was well known that young people from socially deprived areas do not usually go outside their areas especially during the summer and times like that and felt that officers should engage with the Education Authority to try and involve outreach and street workers to try and engage young people and make them aware of these facilities being made available and co-ordinate an approach to encourage them to avail of these as he would have a fear that the ones who want the most would be the most reluctant to come forward due the stigma attached. He said that the younger group of children would be more parent driven and the older the children would be more driven by the young person themselves so if they are not availing of it, discussing it or their peer groups not availing of it, there would be a difficulty trying to get them involved otherwise. He stated that there were hundreds of summer schemes and would be worthwhile working with them in conjunction with the organisers to see if some lunches or free packed lunches could be provided in some parks for an hour a day for everyone so that the stigma would not be attached to an individual person who was in receipt of free school meals. This would stop this stigma of deprivation as older children do not want to be different to their friends and it was important to engage with them to avail of this programme without feeling uncomfortable doing so. He said that there were opportunities here for the community to buy into the programme like pop up sandwich bars and a free packed lunch for anyone who wants it within those areas and may be some which do not fit the criteria for free school meals but this wouldn't be the end of the world if getting out to everyone and would take the stigma away from deprivation.

Councillor Doris said that she completely agreed with Councillor Monteith in terms of engagement with the older groups and was aware of the good working relationship Council had within her area and would be definitely be very important to engage with

them. She also agreed with Councillor Corry's comments regarding not all children/youth being interest in soccer, football or sports and advised that the ground work that the Youth Services carries out was absolutely invaluable and said that she would be happy to second the proposal as it was a brilliant initiative coming from DfC and was aware of how passionate Minister Harney was about this kind of thing. She concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments around the meals and advised that there had been an Honesty Café run by Dungannon & Coalisland Surestart at the Junction back in 2018/2019, which was a great initiative as people went in and donated whatever they could afford and no-one was aware of what anyone paid and this in turn addressed hunger without the stigma. She concluded by saying that this was a good report and would make a tangible difference for a lot of families within the area and would very much welcome it.

Councillor Kearney commended the report and said that the Head of Community Development had recently outlined this at the Education Skills Community Planning group and was very well received by the statutory agencies and showed this Council trying to do its best for the young people. He sought clarification on the 2–3 sessions in Maghera and said that this was obviously a restricted programme in relation to the three larger towns and asked if this was 2–3 sessions over 2 or 3 days or a 2 to 3 day spot.

The Head of Community Development advised that 2-3 days has been put in at the moment based on what can be received for the facilitation as a lot of the Facilitators were not beginning to get really busy, but hoped to carry out 3 sessions in ie. Coalisland, Maghera and Fivemiletown and proposed in the towns 2–3 sessions which would be replicated again in another week at a later period to pick up the numbers as it was anticipated to have higher numbers due to the concentration of the estates which were being targeted.

Councillor Kearney stated that he noticed that the Education Minister had allocated funding of £5,000 per week to certain schools and felt that there could be a certain crossover with schools, but felt that this was a great scheme and was aware of some Teachers being very keen to help out for two weeks and wanted to acknowledge that over the past number of years that the Education & Skills Group had really blossomed and a great buy in with permanent people coming to it. He wanted to acknowledge the work being carried out by the Head of Community Development and officers as it was a real hard task.

Councillor Burton thanked the Head of Community Development and her team on the work which has been put into this initiative. She wanted to mention that there was a Housing Estates Group in Fivemiletown and obviously the youth annex there and also a football team and asked if the Council were intent on linking in with those groups as part of the initiative and how the Council could work with that area.

The Head of Community Development advised that the proposal for Fivemiletown was to use the annex because they are partner with the Council's Leisure Department and there was the intent to target the estates and work through the Estates Group. She said that specialist play facilitators would be brought in as it would be too difficult to manage volunteers and would not be linking in with the Sports groups. Our Leisure

Services would be providing summer schemes and there is also an EA grant to support community summer scheme activity.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers:

- i) To agree to the proposal to deliver the pilot children's wellbeing play scheme.
- ii) To agree to the proposal to deliver the pilot youth wellbeing scheme.

In response to the Chair's comments around stigma for socially deprived areas, the Head of Community Development advised that her department had partnered with Leisure Services to develop the voucher in a generic format that is alongside the £1 programme scheme run by Leisure Services. The voucher can be used to accommodate friends and family, so not to differentiate between the person paying and the person not and there is nothing on the card to state "free school meals". All this programme would be known for was trying to engage our young people into the Leisure Centres through different promotional campaigns. In relation to play, there would be food provided to all. She said that there had been some thought about putting some healthy snacks into the Leisure Centres for the set times that the youth were using it (after lunch to early evening) whether a person was in receipt of a free school voucher or not.

She advised that the Council had worked with STEP in the past with regard to the Honesty Café and this was something that Officers could try and re-engage on. At the moment Council have been trying to link with the FareShare Programme with local schools and if the schools were going to be doing summer schemes, then officers would try and identify further links. She stated that alongside the FareShare Programme, promotion could be incorporated with the EA grant to encourage clubs to provide snacks to allow all children to participate. In terms of Honesty Café, other models would be investigated for Cookstown and Magherafelt also.

D086/21 Ballyronan Boat Club – Development Proposal

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to engage with Ballyronan Boat Club in relation to scoping the potential for Club House development proposals at Ballyronan Marina.

Councillor Clarke advised that by reading through the report he could see the longstanding set up in Ballyronan which was one of the most prime sites and well used over the years. He said that he was in Ballyronan last week and had seen the work which had been carried out resulting in an even better site and would be happy to propose the recommendation due to the scope of history and interest.

Councillor Kearney concurred with Councillor Clarke's comments and said that the Halloween event attracted thousands of people to the area and would be happy to second the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to progress discussions with Ballyronan Boat club and assist in creating a development proposal/concept plan for presentation to a future Development Committee meeting.

D087/21 Pricing Tariff for Ballyronan House Boats

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for tariff structure associated to the provision of new house boat accommodation units introduced to Ballyronan Marina for 2021-22 season.

Councillor Clarke advised that this was a wonderful development and passed on his credit to everyone involved in bringing this project forward as it was going to be outstanding.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers:

- i) To approve the proposed tariff structure as presented for the Ballyronan House Boat accommodation units at £120 per night, per boat for a minimum stay of two nights.
- ii) To approve the discretionary pricing flexibility as and when required under the Scheme of Delegation to the Director to allow scope for sales promotions, site specific usage trends, etc.

D088/21 Economic Development – OBFD

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

i) Mid Ulster Economic Development Action Plan 2021/22

Councillor Elattar congratulated officers on the amount of work they have carried out as there was some very exciting schemes to revitalise local communities when things open up again.

She said that she had one issue in relation to Appendix 1 – 5.4 – Mid Ulster Business Awards 2021 and wanted to ensure that an award would not be sponsored for an event which involved Dalradian.

The Head of Economic Development advised members that further information on the Awards had been sought from JPI Media, including details of funders and how the event would be promoted across Mid Ulster, especially in the Clogher Valley area. When such details are received, a report will be brought back to Committee for a decision on whether to contribute funding towards the event. Meantime, she said the Awards have been included in the Action Plan, in principle, to ring-fence funding until Members have all the information to make an informed decision.

Councillor Elattar said that she would be happy to propose the action plan.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar

Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve those projects and costs within the Economic Development Action Plan for 2021/22.

Councillor Wilson commended the Head of Economic Development on her very comprehensive report but wished to raise a few issues on the following items within the report:

- 2.3 Reducing Dereliction and Vacancy Levels in Dungannon Town Centre –
He was aware of concerns in Dungannon but felt this was unreasonable as this was also happening in other towns like Cookstown and Magherafelt. He felt that it was wrong to stick to one town only and consideration should also be given to other towns.
- 2.1 Provision of Wi-Fi in 5 main towns plus Bellaghy –
He felt that this was unreasonable for Bellaghy to be afforded the benefit of Wi-Fi as there were other areas like Coagh who should also benefit.
- 2.5 Small Grants Business Marketing Scheme –
He felt that £300 for digital capabilities was a bit tight and that £500 should be considered as it could attract more businesses and make it more worthwhile.
- 4.3 Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme (Year 3 of 4) 2021/22
He said that there were quite a number on the reserve list from the last time and asked if they would be moved up or would they have to reapply.

The Head of Economic Development responded to Councillor Wilson's comments:

- 2.3 Dereliction in Dungannon – She advised this related to a previous Council decision to provide funding to advance a Pilot Dereliction Scheme in Dungannon, subject to DFC providing match funding.

- 2.1 Provision of Wi-Fi in Bellaghy – She advised that no wi-fi signal was available in Bellaghy village and ahead of the official opening of the Heaney Centre, a wi-fi service was provided in the area and ongoing fees related to this are funded from Council's Economic Development budget, in addition to those relating to the district's five largest towns.
- 2.5 Small Grant Business Marketing Scheme – She advised that personally she would desire to develop this into a much larger scheme but currently a budget of £150,000 is all that is available from Council's Economic Development budget. Allocating a smaller grant of £300 would assist a minimum of 500 businesses, or alternatively offering a grant of £500 would assist 300 businesses. She stated that a number of requests have been made to DfC and DAERA for funding but to date no match funding has been provided but this would be kept under review.
- 4.3 Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme – She advised that 72 Letters of Offer to the value of £250,000 have been issued to traders for the current year (2021/22 – which is year 3 of 4 of the scheme). A reserve list of projects remains for Year 4. She noted if there was any funding slippage this year, then projects from the ranked reserve list would be moved up accordingly and funded. It is anticipated, those projects remaining on the reserve list, will be funded next year, subject to members approval of the economic development budget (2022/23).

Councillor Wilson disagreed with project going ahead in Dungannon as every town like Cookstown and Magherafelt had their own issues with dereliction and vacant properties and would be a useful exercise to see how much money was spent in each town. He said that he could understand the Heaney Centre availing of Wi-Fi and just because something was put in a small village, it was unfair that other small villages were being overlooked for the same opportunities.

Councillor Ashton enquired if officers had investigated an Online Job Fair for Employers.

The Head of Economic Development advised that prior to the pandemic a large Mid Ulster Job Fair was held in Cookstown Leisure Centre with up to 50 businesses from the area present, seeking to fill job vacancies as well as offering apprenticeship opportunities. The event was well attended by the public and students alike, seeking to find work. She said discussions are ongoing with DfC to determine the feasibility of co-hosting another Job Fair in Mid Ulster in 2021 as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week in November 2021. Discussions are at an early stage and Members will be kept informed.

Councillor Ashton enquired if officers had investigated a Job Fair for Employers.

The Head of Economic Development advised that prior to Covid an event had been ran in Cookstown Leisure Centre with up to 50 employers in a room advising and meeting the public and students on possible job opportunities. She said that these unprecedented times resulted in very different circumstances and discussions were ongoing with DfC to see if there were any possible opportunities or how it could be done but this would be down to government guidance. She advised if this did go

ahead that this event would tie in with Enterprise Week pending a risk assessment on numbers allowed to attend.

Councillor Ashton advised that ABC had ran a very successful virtual Job Fair recently and asked if something similar should be considered for Mid Ulster Council.

Councillor Kerr enquired if there was any update on meeting with Roads Service regarding the major resurfacing scheme to compliment the Public Realm Scheme in Coalisland.

He referred to the Spruce Up Scheme and said that he would again like to mention the boundaries which exclude businesses outside of these borders and would urge that this be looked at so all businesses could avail of the scheme.

The Chief Executive advised that the issue relating to the Public Realm Scheme had been referred back to the Environment Committee. He assured the committee that he would forward on an update to all members tomorrow as a matter of urgency.

In relation to the query regarding the Spruce Up Scheme, he advised that currently Council were in year 3 of a 4 year programme. He said he is aware of members views that should a future scheme be developed after this scheme ends, it should be open to all businesses across Mid Ulster, and said it shall be.

The Head of Economic Development referred to item 2.5 – Small Grants Business Marketing Scheme and sought clarity from Members on the grant level. The report proposes a grant of £300 to 500 businesses or whether Members wished to opt for Councillor Wilson's suggestion to increase the grant to £500, which would support 300 businesses.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to agree the recommendation of grants up to £300 to a minimum of 500 businesses for marketing and digital activities.

Councillor Burton said that she fully supported as many businesses as possible being included as it was important to broaden out the scheme as some help was better than no help at all.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Dungannon Enterprise Centre.

Councillor Molloy referred to Public Realm Scheme in Coalisland and stated that there were still concerns around Dungannon's scheme regarding issues around kerbing which still needed to be resolved and said that an update was required.

The Chair stated that there were similar issues in Cookstown regarding the Public Realm Scheme and suggested that a possible way forward would be to arrange a DEA meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that a Dungannon DEA meeting be arranged to raise concerns relating to issues around Dungannon Public Realm Scheme.

ii) Mid Ulster Traders Recovery Action Plan

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve Mid Ulster Traders Recovery Action Plan.

iii) Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 21/22

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve participation of MUDC in the 2021/22 Rural Micro Business Development Scheme (subject to approval of funding from DAERA).

D089/21 Railway Park

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to present to Members a Business Case concept for the addition of a 3G pitch to the previously approved Railway Park project.

Councillor Molloy advised that good work was being done in the background on scoping exercises to support the need for this project and was aware of this being discussed at ongoing DEA meetings regards Railway Park Development. He said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation and was aware about concerns regarding the risks around flooding as the area was prone to be a wetland, but if ongoing development was going to take care of that he was happy to support the recommendation.

Councillor Monteith said that the issues got a good hearing at previous DEA meetings and had to say he that this working group was one of the most beneficial DEA

meetings ever set up by the Council over the last 5 to 6 months. He said that this DEA Working Group had been very beneficial and not just to resolve issues relating to Railway Park but also the Walkway at Drumcoo and Windmill Wood. It was very beneficial and some good ideas came from Officers and a lot of positivity had come out of it as there has been good engagement with the community and the tide was beginning to turn. He said that the community have finally realised that the Council were serious about committing and developing the area and was a good idea as it could become a good working park for all sections of the community including people from disadvantaged areas trying to access facilities. He said that there should be no difficult in asking groups to help manage activities and ad hoc kick-a-bout sessions (recreational) as a diversionary measure from other things and felt that this project was something members both here and legacy should be proud off.

Councillor Monteith said that he may need to declare an interest as he was involved with some of the groups who may become involved with Railway Park Project in the future.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that Railway Park project had been discussed numerous times in DEA meetings. In regard to this Council going to spend £1m on this section of the Linear Park said it was a great step forward on a concept of a path around the whole parameter of Dungannon town which was something that members all signed up into in the old legacy Dungannon Council and now being taking forward by MUDC. He advised that 2/3 has already been completed within the last 10-15 years with some great sections, but have got nowhere near the final section as yet. He said that £1m spend on the area was very welcome but raised concern regarding the wetlands as when he was growing the land flooded like a lake and this could result in a major issue in the next 10-15 years when people do not clean out their drains, similar to the Linen Green and a park would recover very quickly but a 3G pitch wouldn't recover as quickly as an green open space.

He said that he was also concerned about the management of the facility as it was a £500k project for the 3G pitch plus expenses and felt that it would have been more beneficial to have been linked into a cluster. He stated that there was going to be a great project done by the Clarke's which was only a thousand yards away and through Neighbourhood Renewal spend upwards to £1m was agreed which would be a great facility and at the top of Lisnahull and a benefit to everyone in the area. He felt that the £500k being spent for a 3G pitch could've been spent on a linkup from the Donaghmore Road, Quarry Lane or from Milltown down to Dungannon Park and felt that there was a missed opportunity from Linear Park to around the town as there was an ambition for people to be able to walk or cycle around the parameter of the town and through other communities. He felt that the first £1m was great, but felt that this £500k was a step too far as this could have been spent on further sections around Dungannon town, but had no intention of voting against the recommendation as Dungannon DEA Councillors all work very well together and great to get the money, but felt that there was an opportunity lost here.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the Business Case concept for the addition of a 3G pitch to the Railway Park project and give approval for the development of this concept via an ICT team and the submission of full planning permission.

Matters for Information

D090/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 April 2021

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 April 2021.

Councillor Doris referred to D061/21 – Defibrillator signage at Canal Work and enquired if there was any update.

The Chief Executive advised that he would provide an update to the member first thing in the morning.

Councillor Doris referred to D063/21 – Brown tourism signage and advised that there was a proposal at the last Development meeting that a letter be issued to the Department of Economy in terms of lobbying for them to take this on in place of DfI Roads and asked if this was actioned.

The Head of Tourism advised that the letter was currently be compiled at present and the issue was raised at the last Tourism Development Committee meeting where they wanted to do this alongside what was being done at the moment. He said that this would go to the Chair of the Tourism Development Committee and then would be forwarded on to the relevant statutory agency involved for consideration.

Councillor Kerr referred to D063/21 – Washingbay Walkway – he enquired if there was any update on the situation of a gate at Washingbay Walkway and improving play provision for younger children. He advised that concerned parents had contacted him regarding the gate situation as it was in a very close proximity of a shoreline pathway.

He referred to D064/21 – Cappagh Public Realm Scheme and proposed that a report to be brought back on Cappagh Public Realm Scheme or that it be put this on the agenda for the relevant committee for a review.

He advised that at the last meeting it was stated that larger settlements within MUDC got priority and taking on smaller locations would be discouraged due to finance and manpower. The residents of Cappagh deserve to be treated the same as those living in larger settlements of Coalisland, Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Maghera and disparity needs to be looked at and was sure any extra cost wouldn't be large or resources to deal with this wouldn't be immense.

The Chair advised that the 2nd matter on Cappagh Public Realm would have to be referred to the Environment Committee.

The Head of Parks advised that officers were aware of a number of issues around Washingbay with some proposals coming through from a Councillor and a Community Group. He advised that due to the opening of Washingbay Play Park, a few different designs were being considered as the gate has to be self-closing and the larger the opening, the heavier the gate would be. He stated that the gate was 100m from the Loughshore and wasn't right on the edge but felt that the biggest concern would be traffic due to the site being really busy and officers were looking to see if it was feasible for cars to get that close to the playpark. He said that investigations would be ongoing on best method for the gate and would be put in place as quickly as possible.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Kerr's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that concerns in relation to Cappagh Public Realm be brought to attention of the Environment Committee.

Councillor Monteith referred to D061/21 – He referred to local fundraising and the drive for aid for East Timor and said at the last meeting it was discussed about having a DEA meeting with those involved. He said that this meeting hasn't happened and sought clarity when the meeting was anticipated to take place.

He also referred to D070/21 – He said that he had proposed at last month's meeting that an update relating to the Ann Street Development be provided and stated that to date there has been no update and asked officers when this was expected to happen. He said that there was considerable rumors going around and answers were not readily available for people and clarity was needed to be going out in the public domain and a DEA meeting arranged as soon as possible.

The Head of Community Development in referring to issues relating to East Timorese advised that within the last number of weeks officers had been trying to get the two or three groupings together, however this has not been possible. We are still engaging with the TAIS group and they are happy to meet however the other groups are not keen on formalised meetings, however officers were still liaising with all groups. She said that officers would still to pursue meeting engagement.

The Chief Executive in referring to Councillor Monteith's query on Ann Street advised that Mr McCreedy and himself had met with the Developers and updated them on the request from Council and sought an update on where they currently where. He said that it was proposed to hold a DEA meeting on week commencing 24 May for members on Ann Street Development and also invite Moorfields Developers to provide an update to all present.

D091/21 Facility Update – US Grant and The Bridewell

Members noted update on the enhancements to both US Grant and The Bridewell.

Councillor Burton referred to US Grant and wanted to record the appreciation from the local people especially on the upgrade to the playpark as this would be a great facility

going forward. She said that US Grant's was a great stop for tourists and there was a hope that people would be visiting from America which has already begun and hopefully this would work out in the long term.

She enquired if there were any future opportunities for funding through Ulster Scots as there were still some people lobbying in relation to some more material being provided in the park for older children as it seemed to be geared towards the younger children and asked if this was an option to be looked at going forward.

The Head of Tourism said that in regards to the funding there had been two lots applied to US Grants, with the Access and Inclusion Funding being the one that was actually used for the play area and the interpretation of the Ulster Scots for the two different lots of £30k. He advised that officers were working very closely with the Ulster Scots Agency with regards to the further marketing of that particular site plus others and currently liaising with them regarding further opportunities going down the line.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that if there was an opportunity for funding at US Grants that this be progressed as this needed to be as wide ranging as possible in terms of local people and for people coming on tours.

Councillor Corry thanked the Council on the work they have been doing on accessibility but advised that an a member of the public in the past had raised an issue in relation to the Bridewell regarding access, accessible toilet and changing places facilities because of the different level of need and didn't want to be taking up space for someone who may need an accessible bathroom. She enquired if people still had to purchase a key to use the changing places facility as it was unfair to ask people with a disability to pay to use the bathroom and said that it would be beneficial if the Council had a general key to give out to users without a charge.

The Head of Tourism advised that the changing places at the Bridewell was controlled by staff at the front reception with no charge or key to gain access to facilities.

D092/21 Economic Development Report – OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (MURDP)
- Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group
- Bank of Ireland (Dungannon) Branch Closure

Councillor Clarke advised that today there was the regular LAG/DAERA update meeting and DAERA officials came across very calm and reassured on the progress and delivery of Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme. He said that usually they

would have been a little excited coming up to the end of the financial year due to this unpredictable year, but the Council had no concerns as a very successful programme has been delivered with everything under control and wanted to take this opportunity to thank staff involved in delivering the programme based in Gortalowry House on how they have excelled in their role and brought this so far and so well through the programme and undoubtedly to a very successful conclusion. He said that job creation had been tremendous in the circumstances, taking into account the economic and Covid situation and so many jobs created in the times that we are in.

He stated that he had serious concerns about what the subsequent Rural Development Programme would be like as we are at the closing stages of the current programme and there was an understanding that there would be a follow up programme. He said that there was no format on knowing what this would be like and usually prior to this there would have been a lot of consultation, publicity and well known on how it was going to be run and delivered and priorities. We don't know how it is going to be delivered or whether it would be run by a local strategy partnership approach which has been tried and tested and indications are that DAERA may take this in-house or in some other form and felt that this was too slow in coming to a conclusion. He said that there was no idea on what level of funding that may be available and whether the new programme would address the concerns, issues and priorities of individual Council areas as the previous programmes had done. He said that he would be very afraid of the ability of DAERA to deliver an in-house programme due to the number of people employed as it was way below for the current operations that they were involved in and if we move towards DAERA, there were people who do not have the experience in delivering such a programme in which our officers have delivered in the last number of years.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that an urgent meeting be requested at a high level between our Chief Executive and Minister for DAERA to get clarity on how this was going to be progressed.

The Chief Executive advised that the committee over the last year had raised concerns both individually and through Council and more significantly through NILGA and Councillors Burton and Kearney had been at the forefront of committees in raising this at Stormont. He said that the Council had made it very clear regarding the loss of these programmes and match funding which the Head of Economic Development used for the delivery of her programme and over the last 4 and half years this has accounted for £28m across Mid Ulster and this was the amount of money levered in to match fund and invest in businesses and right across rural communities. He stated if this funding goes then this would leave a huge gap which needed to be plugged and as Councillors Burton, Clarke and Kearney had stressed previously at NILGA that the concern would be that this would not be plugged pound for pound by Central or UK Government.

He said that he agreed entirely with the second issue raised by Councillor Clarke and that the Council had a fantastic relationship with DAERA with many previous LAG members and Chairs on this committee who knew the feeling of scoring projects night after night with officers and the work that officers do with community groups, voluntary groups, sports clubs, farmers, businesses etc. and DAERA do not do that and they will not do that at a local level. He said that he would have the same concerns regarding a new form of this programme being moved away from the local LAG structure. The LAG structure was designed for one reason as it worked from the bottom up and that was why it worked so well in this part of the world because it was embraced and applied with the evidence speaking for itself. He said that he shared members concerns and would go with the will of the committee in seeking a meeting with the Minister and Senior Officials or whoever the new Minister may be as it was a very worthy request and so hugely significant for Mid Ulster, vastly more than any other Council.

Councillor Kearney said that he couldn't agree more with the previous speakers as he had an opportunity on behalf of NILGA to address the Finance committee at Stormont to warn them of our concerns. He advised that next year only £11m would be allocated cross the North which was a holding year before the shared prosperity fund which everyone was still planning about. He stated that the £11m would be shared amongst all the Councils compared to MUDC having £11m ourselves across the four years and felt that there were red lights flashing and would be concerned what was coming. He referred to all the work in which Council and officers had dedicated their time and all the jobs involved across the 11 Councils dispersing these funds and we now were at a crossroads and a need to take this on and have this crucial meeting to reinforce the points that Councillor Clarke and Chief Executive have raised.

Councillor Burton totally agreed with Chief Executive's remarks and felt there was a need to make our case be known as right across the whole of Mid Ulster which had benefitted from the Rural Development funding and we really need to ensure that going forward there was a bottom approach that people which knew best needed to be involved in the creation on how this money was going to be spent. She said that it was important that we make a case and have our voices heard.

The Chief Executive proposed that the best way forward would be to seek a meeting with the Minister as a starting part.

D093/21 Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2021/22

Members noted Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2021/22.

D094/21 Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy Update

Members noted update on Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy.

D095/21 Parks Service Improvement Plan 2021/22

Members noted Parks Service Improvement Plan 2021/22.

Councillor Kerr said that he had no problem with the report but wanted to propose that the Council encourage more disabled friendly park and picnic benches at their facilities. Recently a Council in the Belgian City of Bruges installed these picnic benches across its City which will make it more wheelchair accessible for users.

Councillor Molloy commended the report which included a lot of detail and referred to the Active Travel projects and asked if these were the six projects already seen going through Council and committees or were there proposals to be added to that.

The Head of Parks advised that these would be the current projects as this service improvement was for one year and would be trying to deliver as many of those six along with our partners in the 12 months if possible.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that a report be brought back to a future meeting to introduce a similar initiative for Mid Ulster District Council and to make street furniture, picnic and park benches all wheelchair accessible with a similar design going forward.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to second Councillor Kerr's proposal as this was something she was passionate about for people with disabilities have accessibility. She said that some really good work done on the park equipment had been done and was aware of disabled accessible picnic tables being available at Peatlands Park also.

She asked that when officers were looking into the furniture for Coalisland Public Realm Scheme it may be worthwhile investigating disabled accessible furniture also as there had been a lot of work in the town making it wheelchair accessible.

D096/21 Mid-South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal Update

Members noted progress on the ongoing work in relation to the Mid-South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal.

Live broadcast ended at 8.55 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved 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 D097/21 to D100/21.

Matters for Decision

- D097/21 Tender for Direct Debit Bureau Services to Include an Online Joining/Membership Platform
- D098/21 Tender to supply willow to Cookstown Leisure Centre
- D099/21 Gortgonis Project

Matters for Information

- D100/21 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 April 2021

D101/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.05 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.

Report on	Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower
Date of Meeting	27 May 2021
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report								
1.1	To bring to the attention of Members the opportunity to attend the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower								
2.0	Background								
2.1	Each year many people from across the world make a pilgrimage to the Somme Battlefields to commemorate those who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars. In 1921 the Ulster Tower Memorial was built on the Somme battlefields to commemorate the service and sacrifice of men from the island of Ireland at the Somme and the wider First World War.								
3.0	Main Report								
3.1	<p>November 2021 marks the Centenary of the Opening of the Ulster Tower. The Somme Association is inviting Members to commemorate the event by attending a 4 day tour. The tour will be fully escorted with specialist guides.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>18 November 2021</td><td>Travel from Belfast to selected UK Airports to join tour coach and travel to Dover for ferry crossing to Northern France.</td></tr> <tr> <td>19 November 2021</td><td>Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower</td></tr> <tr> <td>20 November 2021</td><td>Travel to Flanders and visit battlefields the Irish Regiments fought on</td></tr> <tr> <td>21 November 2021</td><td>Travel back to the UK and flight back to Belfast.</td></tr> </table>	18 November 2021	Travel from Belfast to selected UK Airports to join tour coach and travel to Dover for ferry crossing to Northern France.	19 November 2021	Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower	20 November 2021	Travel to Flanders and visit battlefields the Irish Regiments fought on	21 November 2021	Travel back to the UK and flight back to Belfast.
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19 November 2021	Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower								
20 November 2021	Travel to Flanders and visit battlefields the Irish Regiments fought on								
21 November 2021	Travel back to the UK and flight back to Belfast.								
3.2	<p>The tour costs is £549 per person and includes return flights from Belfast to the UK with one piece of hand luggage, 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast, specialist Battlefield guide, and excursions as detailed in the itinerary attached. Please note should the trip be cancelled due to Covid the tour provider has indicated that monies will be refunded.</p>								

3.3	Key visits will include Ulster Tower Centenary Commemoration; Thiepval Wood, Pozières Memorial to the mission; Thiepval Memorial to the missing, Messines Ridge, Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater; Tyne Cot Cemetery and Last Post Cemetery.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Cost for the four day trip is £549 plus return travel to Belfast and subsistence. This will be from Members individual conference budget which totals £750 per annum. Costs in excess of £750 will be allocated to party colleagues as per conference policy or alternatively met by Member.
	Human: Not Applicable
	Risk Management: With respect to the ongoing COVID pandemic should foreign travel be cancelled all monies will be refunded
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That approval be granted to those Members who wish to attend the event with costs attributed to individual Member conference budget.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Tour Brochure: Itinerary for Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower

Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower

18th November 2021

A fully escorted tour
with Specialist Guides

4 DAYS
from only
£549
PER PERSON

Includes:

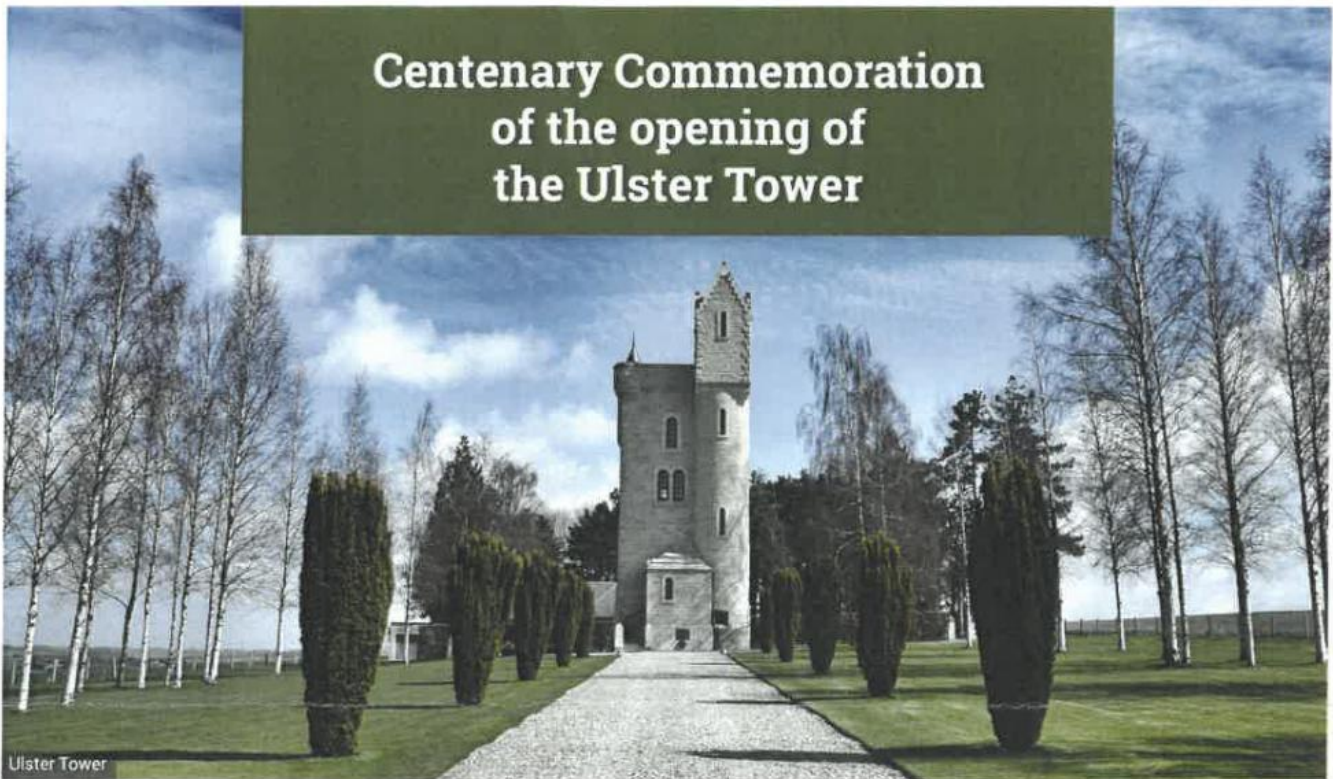
- Return flights from Belfast to the UK with one piece of hand luggage
- 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast
- Specialist Battlefield Guide
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary



Call today to secure your place
01709 786 674

leger
HOLIDAYS

Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower



Ulster Tower

November 2021 marks the centenary of the opening of the Ulster Tower Memorial on the Somme battlefields, a memorial commemorating the service and sacrifice of men from the island of Ireland at the Somme and the wider First World War. Travel with us to attend the commemoration service and visit some of the key battlefield sites.

Day 1: 18 November 2021

Fly from your local airport in Belfast to selected UK airports where you will join your tour coach and travel to Dover for the ferry crossing to France. We continue to our hotel in Northern France for three nights.

Day 2: 19 November 2021

Today is the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower. We attend the ceremony and events here, with time to visit Thiepval Wood. Later, we look at the fighting on the Somme, seeing the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing, the battlefield at Guillemont and ending at the impressive Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. B

Day 3: 20 November 2021

We travel to Flanders and look at the role of Irish Regiments here in the fighting during the Great War. On the Messines Ridge we visit the Island of Ireland Peace Tower, look at the battlefield where the 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions fought side-by-side in June 1917, seeing the Spanbroekmolen mine crater, the Lone Tree Cemetery and the nearby memorials at Wytschaete. After lunch we visit the battlefield at Hill 60, and then look at the Third Battle of Ypres seeing the areas where Irish Regiments fought and visiting the vast Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial, the largest British War Cemetery in the World. In the evening we have free time in Ypres, prior to attending The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, which is sounded at 8pm each evening. B



Thiepval Memorial

Day 4: 21 November 2021

We travel back to the UK and to your UK airport for the flight back to Northern Ireland. B

4 days from £549

Your tour includes...

- 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast
- Specialist Battlefield Guide
- Return flights from Belfast to the UK (supplements may apply) with one piece of hand luggage
- Battlefield visits as described

Key visits

- ✓ Ulster Tower Centenary Commemoration
- ✓ Thiepval Wood
- ✓ Pozieres Memorial to the Missing
- ✓ Thiepval Memorial to the Missing
- ✓ Messines Ridge
- ✓ Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater
- ✓ Tyne Cot Cemetery
- ✓ Last Post Ceremony



Messines Ridge



Tyne Cot Cemetery

Hotels will be min. 3-star & located within 60 miles of Ulster Tower Memorial. Flight supplements may apply. Prices based on 2 sharing a room. Single supplement £149. Terms & conditions apply.

017858

Report on	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
Date of Meeting	Thursday 27 May 2021
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	E Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report					
1.1	To consider approval of request(s) for civic recognition from members, in line with council's current <i>Civic Honour and Receptions Policy</i> .					
1.2	In the context of the Coronavirus outbreak in March 2020, the Council has been transacting essential business only from this period. Reports on civic recognition have not been considered over this period					
2.0	Background					
2.1	All requests for recognition are to be submitted with Democratic Services using the pro-forma, <i>Request for Civic Recognition: Civic Honour & Civic Reception</i> . Requests for recognition are reviewed against the categories and associated criteria contained within the policy as detailed at 2.2.					
2.2	<p><u>Recognition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Civic Honour: recognition will be permissible when the following has been achieved at an All-Ireland, European, International, or National level:<table><tr><td>Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table>Civic Reception: will be permissible for individual, groups or organisations when:<table><tr><td>Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level</td></tr><tr><td>Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table>	Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition	Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition	Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level	Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition	Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition
Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition						
Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition						
Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level						
Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition						
Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition						

2.3	<div></div> <p><u>Processing the Request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed against the policy/criteria • Reviewed to identify if recognition provided for similar achievement within 3 years prior to this • Requests meeting criteria will be recommended to Council for Civic Honour or Civic Reception • Requests not meeting criteria will be recommended to receive letter from Council Chair
2.4	Appendix A details those requests received for recommendation to and approval by council. The request have been categorised in line with the revised policy.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Implementation of the policy allows the Council in acknowledging the achievements of organisations and persons from the district, as put forward by members. Recognition requests received from Members since the meeting of Council in February 2020 have been categorised, details of which are set out within appendix A to this report.
3.2	Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Council has been transacting essential business only and reports/requests for same have not been brought to Council since the outbreak. It is proposed that requests as detailed in Appendix A, where agreed, should be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council that is, recipients will receive a letter together with award as appropriate.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members give consideration to approving civic recognition requests as presented and be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Civic Recognitions Recommended for Approval

Appendix A: May 2021 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Category: Civic Honour

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
None				

Category: Civic Reception

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
Chantelle McDonagh	Northern Ireland Executive Apprenticeship Award 2021	Cllr Kerr Cllr Doris Cllr Oneill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	Not Applicable
Oisín Gates	Springboard Future Chef UK competition Northern Ireland Region Future Chef of the Year	Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level 	Not Applicable
Draperstown Celtic	Irish FA Awards Inclusivity Project of the Year Club of the Year	Cllr Elattar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won First place at a competition 	Not Applicable

Other: Letter from Council Chair

Where it is deemed that conditions/criteria have not been met for a civic reception, civic award or chair & deputy chair reception a letter from the Council Chair is recommended. This may also be in instances where recipients have previously received a reception or award for the same or similar achievement.

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by
Stewartstown Harps	Winners of Tyrone League Grade 4 Minors champions	Cllr Dan Kerr
Edendork Saint Malachy's GFC	Tyrone Under 16 Grade 3 Football County Champions	Cllrs Monteith & Kerr
Ardboe GFC	Tyrone Under 16 Grade 1 Football County Champions	Cllr Kerr
Donaghmore GAA	Tyrone Under 18 Grade 2 County Championship	Cllr Kerr

Donaghmore GAA	Tyrone Under 16 Grade 1 County Championship	Cllr Kerr
Donaghmore GAA	Tyrone Minor League Grade II County Champions	Cllr Kerr
Oisin Ferrity	First place in first Round of Ulster Cycling Road Race and 2 nd place in Foyle Under 16s Road Race	Cllr Kerr

Report on	Correspondence to Council - May 2021
Date of Meeting	Thurs 27 th May 2021
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne & Down DC</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down DC has corresponded with the Chief Executive to give notification of passed by members on Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. Refer to appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from Commercial Field Officer, BT Payphones</p> <p>The Commercial Field Officer of BT Payphones has corresponded with the Council's Planning Department seeking comment on the request/proposal to remove the a the telephone kiosk at 1 the Diamond/Main Street, Pomeroy. The Planning Committee at its May meeting resolved that it had no planning concerns with regards its proposed removal. Refer to Appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from on member of public in institutional abuse</p> <p>A member of the public has corresponded with the Council Chair and Chief Executive on their experience of Mother & Baby, Magdalen Institutions and Workhouses operated in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and associated campaigns. Refer to appendix C.</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne & Down DC</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council has corresponded with the Chief Executive to give notification of a motion carried by members at their May 2021 meeting regarding Dental services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Refer to appendix D.</p>

3.5	<p>Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Omagh and Fermanagh District Council has corresponded with the Chief Executive to give notification of a motion passed by Members on the Protection of Native Honeybees. Refer to appendix E.</p>
3.5	<p>Correspondence from Chair, SOLACE(NI)</p> <p>The Chair of SOLACE, Northern Ireland has corresponded with the Chief Executive to provide him with correspondence she has received from the Department for Communities on the UK City of Culture 2025 Competition and arrangements being put in place the Dept. for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Refer to appendix F.</p>
3.6	<p>Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure, NI Executive</p> <p>The Minister for Infrastructure, Ms Nichola Mallon MLA has responded to the Council Chair on the Council's support for Derry City & Strabane District Council's motion calling upon the Restoration of the former Great Northern Railway. Refer to appendix G.</p>
3.7	<p>Correspondence from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>The interim Deputy Director of Community Planning has corresponded with the council on motion recently passed by its members on the challenges faced by school children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Refer to appendix H.</p>
3.8	<p>Correspondence from Minister of State, Irish Government</p> <p>The Minister of State at the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, Irish Government has corresponded with the Council in response to a motion carried in November 2016 regarding excavation works at Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin. Refer to appendix I.</p>
3.9	<p>Correspondence from Minister for Foreign Affairs, Irish Government</p> <p>The Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Irish Government has corresponded with the Council Chair in response to his correspondence calling upon his Government to raise the issue and concern of the demolition of Palestinian communities at the highest level at the United Nations. Refer to appendix J.</p>
3.10	<p>Correspondence from Minister for Further & Higher Education, Irish Government</p> <p>The Minister for Further & Higher Education, Irish Government has corresponded with the Council Chair in response to his letter regarding continuing support for ERASMUS. Refer to appendix K.</p>

	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A: Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>Appendix B: Commercial Field Officer, BT Payphone</p> <p>Appendix C: Member of Public on institutional abuse</p> <p>Appendix D: Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>Appendix E: Chief Executive, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council</p> <p>Appendix F: Chair, SOLACE (Northern Ireland)</p> <p>Appendix G: Minister for Infrastructure, NI Executive</p> <p>Appendix H: Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Appendix I: Minister of State at Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, Irish Government</p> <p>Appendix J: Minister for Foreign Affairs, Irish Government</p> <p>Appendix K: Minister for Further & Higher Education, Irish Government</p>

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Our ref: C/088/2021

15 April 2021

Mr Anthony Tohill CEO
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 DT

Dear Mr Tohill

RECEIVED
22 APR 2021
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Re: Notice of Motion – Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 7 April 2021, the following Notice of Motion was unanimously agreed:

"This Council recognises women's concerns across the UK and ROI after the disappearance and subsequent murder of Sarah Everard. It has placed a spotlight on the safety of women and girls. This Council is to:-

- **Request the Northern Ireland Assembly initiate a Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) strategy.**
- **Endorse and promote the Women's Aid petition calling for a VAWG strategy to be implemented.**
- **To form a task force to develop a publicity campaign promoting safety apps and engaging with the PSNI, Women's Aid and Soroptimists Great Britain and Ireland.**
- **Ask other Councils to do the same.**
- **We will write to the Minister for Justice begins work on developing a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, as a matter of urgency.**
- **In addition, this Council agrees to consider developing a financial support fund for women's groups across our district and declares its commitment to making our area a safe place for everyone and acknowledges that women should feel safe in in public places everywhere".**

Members of Newry, Mourne and District Council unanimously agreed to this Motion and urge your Council to support it.

Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0330 137 4000 (Council)
council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



Planning Department
Mid Ulster District Council
50 Ballygronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

20th April 2021

TIME SENSITIVE DOCUMENT – REPLY REQUIRED

Our reference: - JB-02887758200

Dear Sir or Madam,

REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAYPHONE:

I am writing to advise you that I have received a request to remove the kiosk at 1 The Diamond Junction Main Street Polmeroy BT70 2QP by Joanne McGurk of Mid Ulster Council. As a result we have completed an assessment of the area and the need for a payphone at this location. During our assessment we discovered that the payphone has received very low or no use during the past twelve months and we are proposing to recover it and permanently cease service at this site.

Our obligation to provide a Universal Service will be maintained, as there are other kiosks within the vicinity. The nearest alternative kiosk is at Gortindarragh Road Junction Pomeroy Road, Gortavoy Bridge. BT70 2TY.

Before we can remove a kiosk we have an obligation to consult with relevant public bodies on the proposed removal. As part of the consultation process it is a requirement that the Council reply in writing to BT after 42 days and within 90-days giving their comments or any objections received from the local community. Further information on the consultation process can be found at: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removals.pdf>

If you do not reply, it will be taken that the council and interested parties have no objection to the permanent removal of this payphone.

A notice of our proposal is being displayed in the kiosk and a copy is enclosed with this letter for your information.

If you require any further information or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email at btpcf@bt.com

Yours faithfully
Jim Blanch

BT Payphones - Commercial Field Officer

From Personal Details Removed/Redacted

Sent: 05 May 2021 18:03

To: mccoubreyf@belfastcity.gov.uk; lordmayor@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk; mayors.secretary@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk; mayor@derrystrabane.com; democratic.services@nmandd.org; committees@midulstercouncil.org; alison.mccullagh@fermanaghomagh.com; Mayors.Office@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Subject: Fwd: Institutional Abuse

Dear Mayor/Chair/Chief Executive

I am an adoptee, activist and advocate associated with the notorious Mother&Baby, Magdalen institutions and Workhouses which operated here in NI, as well as the Republic of Ireland and further afield, for over 150 years. There has been an ongoing campaign for variant justices, truth and disclosure as a result of myriad allegations of crimes and abuses perpetrated on a large proportion of girls, women and children who spent time in the institutions.

On the 12 th January 2021 the Republic of Ireland's Commission of Inquiry into Mother and Baby Institutions 2015-2021 published its long-awaited Report and then this was followed by a NI Government-Commissioned academic Report published on 26th January into same and other institutions. Contents of the Reports, which directly and inextricably affect the victims and survivors of both States, due to extensive and prolonged people trafficking across the two jurisdictions, highlight harrowing testimonies and present factual details of heinous human rights violations on many vulnerable women and children. The litany of crimes and abuses include arbitrary detention, physical/emotional and psychological maltreatment, forced and illegal adoptions, rape, harsh living and working conditions, little or no maternity care, lifelong servitude, forced unpaid labour even whilst heavily pregnant, high infant mortality rates, human trafficking etc etc.

The Roman Catholic Church, three main Protestant denominational Churches, Barnados, the Salvation Army, NSPCC, private adoption agencies, doctors, Solicitors, State agents/agencies were heavily involved in the vast network and system in running, managing, facilitating and funding the institutions which were also intricately connected to various children's institutions such as orphanages, industrial/reformatory schools and baby 'homes'. The Local Government Councils/Authorities were integral in the same system in terms of maintenance of the institutions and persons held within, whether under referral predominantly by social services, court and probation and police, family and clergy and themselves on occasion. Girls as young as 9 years old, women as old as in their eighties, were incarcerated, housed, worked and died in these institutions largely not by their own volition.

Too many babies, infants, children and women died under neglectful and inhumane circumstances that were avoidable, unnecessary and unjust. Many died and were buried without dignity, honour, humanity or religious ceremony that was denied to them in life. Many are disappeared. Many are unknown. Many are unmarked and unacknowledged in their resting place. The unknown and unanswered questions remain. The veil of secrecy around the dead, echoes the unjustifiable and unjustified shame, stigma and guilt corroding the hearts

and minds of those left behind. We are deserving of inalienable human rights to live, to identity, to heritage, to burial, to decency, to family and to humanity.

Victims and survivors have been given recent assurances by governors that we will be given a rightful and long-awaited place at the table of construction and design of a process to statutory investigation, customised in their framework of human rights and proper mechanisms to address the ongoing injustices that require urgent attention, given the complex and highly sensitive needs thus far dismissed.

We are courteously asking that the respective Councils step up to the mark and do their utmost within their remit and resources to support our valiant calls for every possible measure to be taken to assist the people affected. This invariably **means robust motions of support for the bespoke statutory investigation and requisite parallel legislation**, social and medical measures (including housing/renovation and surgical prioritisation), family tracing resources, release and access to personal and institutional records pertaining to individuals and essential bilateral cross-border co-operation on such matters, adoption legislative reform, **urgent legislation for comprehensive and forensic investigation of grounds of former relevant institutions** with necessary scope to excavate/exhume/identify/re-inter remains where possible and practicable.

We would also call on each **NI Council to issue its own sincere apology bolstered and legitimised with remedial proposals** to the victims, survivors and families associated with the institutions for the significant role played with the said institutions and their part in abdicating its responsibilities in duty of care, monitoring and supervision to those affected as made evident in the recent Reports. Each council should consider **local memorialisation** where appropriate and respectful of consultation with victims/survivors in order that the past, and the people subjected to gross uncivilised conduct, are acknowledged and remembered. This neglected history with perpetual hurt must be added to educational curriculum despite the shame and disgust of what occurred. Each contemporary Council area had several institutions within its geographical and council boundaries even under historical configuration. There are currently plans agreed and developments endorsed to build inappropriate facilities including children's play-parks on sites of former institutions despite the cruel and sinister history of child abuses and crimes i.e. Good Shepherd Convent/Marianvale, Newry. Is this really the society that we have now become so dehumanised and de-sensitised to past, present and future suffering, that money, profit and greed are supreme to civility and humility, respect and dignity. One in four families on this island are affected by the issues. Most do not know it...yet. Such were the levels of cover-up, illegality, criminality, secrecy, forgery and falsification of certificates.

Myself and/or others are also happy and willing to **present our noble cause to your council meeting** at a convenient time in the near future if you can see merit and value in hearing the voice too frequently unheard. Protestant and Catholic victims and survivors are united in this despair. Their grief, loss and pain does not discriminate. Give us hope, in a chance to represent and lead.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Third time lucky...

Respectfully

Personal Details Removed/Redacted

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Our ref: C/111/2021

7 May 2021

Mr Anthony Tohill CEO
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 DT



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Dear Mr Tohill

Re: Notice of Motion – Dental Services during Covid 19 Pandemic

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 4 May 2021, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"That this Council notes the severe impact that the Covid-19 crisis has had on people and communities across our district; offers our thanks and support to health service workers who have gone the extra mile to keep our communities safe; congratulates the Minister for Health on the successful implementation of the vaccination programme; expresses concern at the delay and disruption to routine health and dental services during the pandemic; further notes that women who have given birth have not been able to access the promise of free dental care in pregnancy and the 12 months following delivery of their child due to the cessation of dental services and; agrees to write to the Minister of Health asking him to explore an extension to the 12 month free dental care period for mothers who have given birth during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

This Council to also write to the other 10 Councils seeking their support for the Motion".

Members of Newry, Mourne and District Council expressed strong support for this Motion and urge your Council to also support it.

Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 7 May 2021

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

To: All Council Chief Executives in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

Re: Motion - Protection of Native Honeybees

At its meeting held on 4 May 2021, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council resolved that details of a Motion which it adopted at its April Council meeting, should be circulated to all Councils across the island of Ireland.

“Given Fermanagh & Omagh District Council’s commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Scheme, and noting previous Council decisions taken in relation to reducing the use of harmful pesticides, reducing grass and hedge cutting and encouraging protection and promotion of natural habitats for our bee population, this Council calls on the British Government, and on the relevant Stormont & Dáil Ministers, to oppose the importation of Italian honeybees onto this island, and to move to completely ban such actions in future.

The recently publicised move by a Kent bee keeper to avoid the import ban by importing 15 million Italian bees into Britain, via the island of Ireland, poses a serious potential threat to thousands of hives, to our native bee population and to its future viability.

The Ulster Beekeepers Association and Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association have expressed serious concern in relation to the small hive beetle and to the potential threat posed to native black Irish honeybees (which academic studies have established as the “best gene of black bees in Europe”). These worries have been echoed by beekeepers in Britain.

Mindful of such risks, FODC calls on the British & Irish Government, as well as on the relevant Ministers in Stormont, Dáil Éireann & Westminster, to stop the import of Italian bees into Britain via the North of Ireland, as well as onto the island of Ireland, North and South, with or without the intent of forward exportation”.

The Council trusts you will support the Motion and the actions detailed therein.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison McCullagh'.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

John Ball
Head of Arts Branch

Level 7
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028) 9051 5690
e-mail: John.Ball@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 11 May 2021

Mrs Jacqui Dixon
Chief Executive - SOLACE
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Mossley Mill
Carnmoney Road North
Newtownabbey
BT36 5QA

Email: jacqui.dixon@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Dixon

UK City of Culture 2025 competition

I am writing to you to inform you that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) are preparing the launch of the City of Culture 2025 Competition during week commencing 24th May 2021.

DCMS have provided the attached background information which includes high level detail on the approach to be taken this time around.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this as appropriate.

Yours sincerely

JOHN BALL

UK City of Culture 2025 competition

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is preparing to launch the 2025 UK City of Culture competition.

UK City of Culture is a UK-wide programme, developed in collaboration with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The competition is run every four years, inviting places across the UK to bid for the title and set out their vision for culture-led regeneration.

UK City of Culture is a transformational moment in a place's growth and this year's competition is an opportunity for places and communities to put culture and creativity at the heart of their recovery plans. The success of previous winners Derry/Londonderry, Hull and Coventry demonstrates how the title can drive positive economic and social outcomes, develop lasting local, national and international partnerships, and bring people together. It can also strengthen communities, build a sense of place and inspire local pride, celebrating and boosting local and grassroots arts and culture, and attract new investment and tourism.

We also know that the bidding process itself can have a positive impact on a place, by articulating a vision for the future, listening to local residents, bringing partners together, and establishing a cultural strategy that is integrated in local inclusive growth plans.

In response to feedback from previous competitions, this year we are introducing a lighter touch expression of interest. This phase will begin in late spring and invite places to set out their vision and how they would meet the core criteria. We know that places are already thinking about bidding for the 2025 title as a key part of their recovery plans and we want to encourage others to do the same. The Department and Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 plan to run an information workshop for prospective bidders in early summer.

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport will announce further details of the competition and workshop soon.

**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Cllr Cathal Mallaghan
Chair, Mid Ulster District Council

Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C060/21
Our reference: CORR-0657-2021
12th May 2021

Dear Cllr Mallaghan

Restoration of former Great Northern Railway between Strabane and Derry

Thank you for your email dated 7 April 2021, detailing Mid Ulster District Council's support for recent motions passed by Derry City and Strabane District Council to examine the feasibility of re-connecting Strabane to the railway network along the route of the former Great Northern Railway. I have already been in detailed correspondence with John Kelpie, Chief Executive of Derry City and Strabane District Council, on this matter.

You may be aware that in 2013 the Department for Regional Development held a public consultation on a number of future railway priorities, including re-opening former lines such as the Strabane-Derry line. Its conclusions, published in 2014 as The Railway Investment Priority Strategy, stated that it may not be economically viable to re-establish rail links in rural areas with lower population densities, but there could be the potential to extend the rail network in key locations.

Since becoming Minister for Infrastructure, I have been clear that my priority is addressing regional imbalance, better connecting communities and, importantly, ensuring that we shape our places around our people, for our people, and with our people. Putting more and more cars on the road is no longer a viable solution to our transport needs. In that regard, it is clear that our rail network, whilst relatively small, presents a unique opportunity to improve the sustainability of our transport operations, and I am heartened that the Council shares these values of sustainable transport.

An ambition to connect all areas of Northern Ireland through expansion of the rail network would require significant levels of funding well beyond that currently made available to my Department. While recognising the severe budgetary constraints at

present, I am clear, however, that this should not limit our ambition in planning to transform peoples' lives.

As you will be aware, the Department is currently preparing a new Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP) which will set out my priorities for future development of the main road and rail networks to 2035. This will include high level assessments on a variety of potential rail extensions and new routes, in association with Translink. I am keen to examine how best to optimise the existing network through increased frequency of services and reduced journey times; whilst also looking at practicalities of expanding the network. I expect to publish the Draft RSTNTP for consultation towards the end of this year and I would welcome your input into expanding rail services across Northern Ireland and the North West.

I am also of the view that Northern Ireland cannot operate in isolation as we seek to better connect our citizens. In that regard, I have reached agreement with Transport Minister, Eamon Ryan TD, to extend the feasibility study into high speed rail between Derry-Belfast-Dublin-Cork to a Strategic All Island Rail Review that will allow us to consider our rail connectivity across the whole of Ireland. This Review will consider how we connect all parts of Ireland through our rail network and will critically examine where we can make the greatest impact.

I am ambitious for our rail network and am keen to do all that I can to explore how we can progress rail improvements within the limited budgetary envelope that we have. I also want to ensure that any proposals for changes to the rail network include operational and financial viability and have a very clear focus on the part that rail can play in growing the all-island economy, improving the ability of people to connect with and access opportunities and addressing regional imbalance.

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

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure



ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE
50 Stiles Way Antrim BT41 2UB
T. 028 9446 3113

MOSSLEY MILL
Carnmoney Road North Newtownabbey BT36 5QA
T. 028 9034 0000

E. Info@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
@ANBorough

Dear Colleague

RE: Recognition of the Resilience and Bravery of Children during the Covid 19 Pandemic

I am writing in relation to a recent Council motion regarding the challenges faced by school children during the Covid 19 pandemic which asked officers to:-

"provide recommendations as to how we as a Council can show recognition of their bravery, determination and resilience during this difficult time."

Officers developed a range of projects to be delivered through Borough primary schools in June and brought these proposals to the April Council Meeting. At the meeting Members approved the proposals but also noted that there are school children resident in our Borough who attend schools in neighbouring Council areas, therefore they requested that I write to each Council suggesting that you might wish to consider a similar initiative to recognise school children.

Should you wish to find out more about our specific plans please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on Ursula.fay@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ursula Fay
Interim Deputy Director of Community Planning



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Our Ref : C/ CE - 2020/510
Your Ref : C232/20

18th May 2021

Cllr. Cathal Mallaghan,
Mid Ulster District Council,
Cookstown Office,
Burn Road,
Cookstown BT80 8DT
Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Cathal,

I refer to your request for excavation works at Kilmainham Gaol, to uncover remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly in the Invincibles Yard.

The Office of Public Works is aware of the current campaign led by the National Graves Association to exhume and reinter the five people known as the Invincibles in Glasnevin Cemetery. Requests such as this are of a very sensitive and delicate nature and there are a number of matters to consider, both in terms of the significant practicalities involved and the ethical issues. While the general area of the site of the graves in Kilmainham is relatively well known, there is no detailed plan showing definitively exactly where individuals were interred and even were it to be precisely located, there would be practical issues involved in positively identifying the remains. It is understood from contemporaneous accounts that after execution, the remains were buried in quicklime and this would render an exhumation and positive identification very difficult, if not impossible.

Kilmainham Gaol is a National Monument and an iconic and much respected site in the context of the national independence struggle in particular. The fact that it is also a grave location adds a significant resonance to its penal and historical significance and there is a strong opposing view to the current campaign that believes that the grave should not be disturbed and the remains should be left within the confines of the Monument.



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Finally, The Office of Public Works clearly understands that any move to undertake an exhumation and re-interment project would certainly not be undertaken unilaterally and would have to be considered and approved in the first instance as a policy matter, which is outside our remit.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick O'Donovan', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick O'Donovan,
Minister of State at the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief

From: eCorrespondence (Dfat) <Dfat-Correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>

Sent: 16 April 2021 16:21

To: Philip Moffett <Philip.Moffett@midulstercouncil.org>

Subject: Response to your correspondence - DFA-MCO-01792-2021

Reference No: DFA-MCO-01792-2021

Dear Cllr. Mallaghan,

On behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., thank you for your correspondence of 15 March 2021 which was transferred to this Department for attention by the Taoiseach's Private Office.

Recent demolitions and the overall human rights situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory remain a high priority for the Minister. Set out below are some of the actions that Ireland has taken on this issue.

On 26 January, Minister Coveney raised the issue of the demolition and confiscation of Palestinian-owned structures at the UN Security Council during a debate on the Middle East. Minister Coveney called on Israel to halt these demolitions and to allow for legal construction for Palestinian communities.

The full statement can be consulted at the following

link: <https://www.dfa.ie/pmun/newyork/news-and-speeches/securitycouncilstatements/statementsarchive/statement-by-minister-coveney-at-uns-c-debate-on-the-middle-east-including-the-palestinian-question.html>

On 5 February, Minister Coveney made a statement on the demolitions in Humsa Al Bqai'a (also known as Khirbet Humsa) in which he called on Israel, as the occupying power, to fulfil its obligations towards this community and to cease its harmful practice of evictions and demolitions of Palestinian property. The full statement is included below and can be consulted at the following link: <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/press-releases/press-release-archive/2021/february/statement-by-minister-simon-coveney-on-israeli-actions-at-humsa-al-bqaiia.php>

On 18 March, Minister Coveney met with the Israeli Ambassador on a range of issues, and conveyed in the strongest terms Ireland's concerns on demolitions of humanitarian aid and the issue of settlements. Minister Coveney has also raised the issue of demolitions directly with Israeli counterparts during his visits to the region. Irish officials continue to monitor the situation closely, and the Representative Office of Ireland in Ramallah has visited the site in recent weeks along with EU and non-EU representatives. Ireland's Ambassador in Tel Aviv raised this case with the Israeli authorities on 25 February. Ireland's concerns have also been conveyed to the Israeli Ambassador in Dublin. The EU's Spokesperson for External Affairs issued a statement on the matter on 9 February, which is available at the following link: <https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/92880/israelpalestine-statement-spokesperson-demolitions-palestinian->

Ireland, the EU, and the wider humanitarian community continue to support those impacted. The West Bank Protection Consortium (WBPC), of which Ireland is a contributing member since 2017, protects vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, through the provision of humanitarian assistance. Following recent events, the Consortium is providing emergency shelter and support to affected families. Ireland, through its programme of humanitarian and development assistance, will contribute â‚¬200,000 to the WBPC in 2021 to support the continuation of this important work. While our primary concern is the hardship and injustice that demolitions and confiscations cause for Palestinian families, the question of recompense for humanitarian relief is also being pursued through the West Bank Protection Consortium, including directly with the Israeli authorities.

Irish officials continue to raise this issue at the UN. On 25 March, Irelandâ€™s Permanent Representative to the United Nations reiterated our concerns at the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East. The full statement by Irelandâ€™s Permanent Representative can be consulted at the following link: <https://www.dfa.ie/pmun/newyork/news-and-speeches/securitycouncilstatements/statementsarchive/statement-by-amb-byrne-nason-at-unscc-briefing-on-the-middle-east-including-the-palestinian-question.html>

The Minister continues to raise human rights issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory directly with his Israeli counterparts when visiting the region. On 24 February, the Minister reiterated Irelandâ€™s steadfast support for the Middle East Peace Process in his opening statement to the UN Human Rights Council. Ireland will work to ensure that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains high on the international agenda, including during Ireland's tenure on the UN Security Council.

Yours sincerely,

Nora Delaney
Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



Cllr. Cathal Mallaghan
Mid Ulster District Council
Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

15 May 2021

Dear Cathal,

Thank you for your warm letter, which I was very pleased to receive.

I am happy to hear that the Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the continued participation of students in the Erasmus programme.

The scheme's positive impact and lasting legacy for students in your district area is welcome feedback.

I wish all the students from your district the very best of luck with their studies, and I wish you and your fellow councillors continued good fortune in the vital work undertaken on behalf of all living in Mid Ulster

Yours sincerely,

Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	Thursday 27 th May 2021
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments and statutory agencies, 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.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members review and note consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Education	Review of Pre-School Admission Socially Disadvantaged Circumstances Criterion	This consultation invites views on the current legislative requirement that all pre-school education settings must prioritise children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' in their admission criteria. It also invites views on the implications of standardising pre-school education session times.	16 th July 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/de-early-years-group/pre-school-education-review-of-the-statutory-admis		
	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
Dept. for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (NI Environment Agency)	Consultation on the Draft third cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027	The draft plan provides an update on the health of the water environment (the status of water bodies) and sets targets (objectives) and actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years. The draft plan covers the North-Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern river basin districts (RBD) and includes detailed status updates on each RBD.	10th October 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-3rd-cycle-river-basin-management-plan-2021-2027		

	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
Ulster Scots Agency	Disability Action Plan 2021-2025	This consultation seeks views on the Ulster-Scots Agency's draft Disability Action Plan.	3 rd August 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/oD73CJygnuZ3ngfVWy-c?domain=ulsterscotsagency.com/		
	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 Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs	Consultation on a proposal to revoke the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (Abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board)	This consultation sets out a proposal by the Agriculture Minister to revoke the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977, which would abolish the Agricultural Wages Board in Northern Ireland, subject to agreement by the NI Executive and passage through the Assembly.	8 th July 2021	
	Link to Consultation	http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/revoke-agricultural-wages-regulation-northern-ireland-order-1977		
	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	

