



28 January 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, 28 January 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. | Council minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2020 | 5 - 36 |
| 5. | Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 11 January 2021 | 37 - 52 |
| 6. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2021 | 53 - 62 |
| 7. | Policy and Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 13 January 2021 | 63 - 72 |
| 8. | Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 14 January 2021 | 73 - 86 |
| 9. | Conferences | 87 - 98 |
| 10. | Civic Recognition Nominations | 99 - 106 |
| 11. | Community Development Report | 107 - 110 |

Matters for Information

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-----------|
| 12 | Consultations | 111 - 116 |
| 13 | Correspondence | 117 - 130 |

Notice of Motions

14 Councillor Cuddy to move:

“This Council notes with concern the hugely detrimental impact that the trade border in the Irish Sea has had on supply chains between Great Britain and Northern Ireland; creating obstacles to trade where previously there were none; removing products from our supermarket shelves; putting extra pressure on struggling businesses and creating a trade imbalance between Northern Ireland and its biggest export market Great Britain; and notes with further concern that the free movement of pets between Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been restricted by the agreement reached between the EU and the UK Government.

This council regrets that the UK Government’s proposals of 2 October 2019, which included a border in the Irish Sea and border inspection posts, have led us to where we are today. The current situation is totally unacceptable and this Council should be sending a clear message to the EU and the UK Government that derogations should be in place for a period of at least one year to protect Northern Ireland’s economy.

In view of the very serious impediments to the Northern Ireland economy being created by the Trade and Co-operation Agreement and the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, this Council will write to the Secretary of State Brandon Lewis MP calling on him to recommend that the United Kingdom Government applies safeguard measures for a period of at least one year; and for the EU and UK Government to urgently engage to remove the barriers that are disrupting trade and could lead to further problems in the future.”

15 Cllr S McAleer to move:

“This Council recognises that hospice care is a vitally important part of our care system; considers it necessary that people approaching the end of life, their families and carers get the right care and support where and when they need it; notes that hospice staff deserve recognition for the world-class medical care and emotional support they provide not just to patients but also to their families; and looks forward to the hospice movement going from strength to strength in years to come.

Accordingly, this Council agrees to write to the Minister of Health, Robin Swann MLA, calling upon him to ensure fair and transparent funding in line with demand, and continued high quality palliative and end-of-life care.”

- 16 Cllr Quinn to move:
“This Council notes with alarm the Department of Communities Family Resources Survey 2018/2019 which show that 122,000 children in Northern Ireland live in relative poverty (24% of children) with 109,000 of those living in absolute poverty and expresses deep concern that these figures have increased significantly since the previous year and have not improved at all in the last five years. The rise of the Universal Credit claimant count and expected end of the furlough scheme could see a further increase in these numbers, with the two-child tax credit rule and benefit cap only adding to the pressure on families with children.
This Council calls on the Minister for Communities to immediately convene a child poverty task force, to set out how her department will reduce child poverty by next year and over the next decade.”

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

17. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2020
18. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2021
19. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2021
20. Policy and Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 January 2021
21. Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 January 2021

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 17 December 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan

Members Present Councillors Ashton*, 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, Director of Business and Communities
Ms Canavan**, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Cassells**, Director of Environment & Property
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
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.

C246/20 Apologies

None

C247/20 Declarations of Interest

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

C248/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan welcomed Adrian McCreesh as the newly appointed Chief Executive. He stated that Council had done well completing the selection process and making an appointment in the timeframe from the resignation. He commended Mr McCreesh on his appointment and looked forward to continuing to work with him in the future.

In response the Chief Executive stated he was an ordinary person who had worked in Local Government for 25 years and this post was an excellent opportunity to progress. He stated that Local Government had been a fantastic employer and thanked his family and the staff for their support. He concluded that he looked forward to the Christmas break then 'getting stuck in' to the role in January.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reflected on the reported deaths in relation to COVID 19 and the information being released with regard to further restrictions post-Christmas. He spoke of the important time that Christmas is for families and urged people to enjoy Christmas but endeavour to keep contacts down.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan spoke of Carál Ní Chuilín MLA standing down from the post of Minister for Department for Communities and put on record his appreciation of her work with Mid Ulster Council during her time in office.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan spoke of engagement with Fibrus with regard to broadband connectivity especially for those in rural areas. He emphasised the importance of keeping the dialogue live, spoke of the impressive presentation and stressed that Council would keep a tight eye on the situation given its importance for both Members and constituents especially those home schooling or working from home which was key in keeping the virus down.

Councillor Molloy acknowledged the work of David Flanagan a citizen who took it upon himself to clean road signs in Moy, Benburb and Killyman. Councillor Molloy stated this had improved both road safety and the appearance of the areas but had reflected poorly on DfI Roads on their lack of maintenance. Councillor Molloy requested that the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan send a letter of appreciation to Mr Flanagan on his citizenship.

Resolved That that Chair write to David Flanagan to express appreciation of his initiative to clean road signs in Moy, Benburb and Killyman.

Councillor Hughes highlighted the closure of Tempest in Cookstown and Rushmere speaking of the devastating blow to the local economy and proposed that Council write to the Minister for the Economy requesting a meeting with Members of Council to discuss the recovery strategy for the town centre businesses.

Proposed by Councillor Hughes
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with the Minister for the Economy to discuss recovery strategy for town centre businesses.

2 – Council (17.12.20)

Councillor Milne referred to the earlier comments regarding COVID 19 and the roll out of the vaccine through General Practise. He suggested that Council make contact with the Federation of GPs throughout the district to open conversations regarding facilitating the roll out of the vaccine.

Councillor Milne also spoke of the recent problems reported at Antrim Area Hospital and how the second wave of the virus was having a worst impact than the first. He proposed that Council write to the Northern Health Trust to ask for a breakdown of the plans for dealing with the post-Christmas impact.

The Chief Executive advised that both the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure and the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation were in liaison with the Health Trust and that with Council approval facilities would be available to be used for roll out of the vaccine.

Councillor Wilson expressed concern regarding the sound quality and proposed that Council should invest in headsets for Members in order to eliminate sound issues.

In response to Councillor Wilson's comments regarding sound issues the Chair summarised Councillor Milne's proposals.

Councillor Monteith welcomed the vaccination and stated that it had been agreed some six months ago that Council would assist the Health Trusts in relation to both testing and vaccine roll outs.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan

Resolved That

- (i) Council to continue to work with Health Social Care Trusts and Federation of GPs with regard to the feasibility of using Council infrastructure to rollout vaccination clinics; and
- (ii) Council to write to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and ask for the breakdown of a coping strategy for services post-Christmas.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan in relation to the proposal for headsets stated that authority should be delegated to the Policy and Resources Committee in January to deal with the issue in order that headsets could be provided prior to the Council meeting.

Councillor Wilson stated that the headsets should be purchased as soon as possible and stated permission should be granted now.

Councillor Kerr suggested that officers' benchmark with colleagues in Derry City and Strabane District Council.

The Chair in response to Councillor Wilson stated that costs would need to be ascertained prior to approval.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That Authority be delegated to Policy & Resources to approve purchase of relevant headsets for Members/officers engaging in virtual meetings.

Councillor Doris acknowledged the difficult times many were experiencing especially those who were vulnerable and how many in the community had come forward to help. In particular Councillor Doris highlighted Caroline O'Neill and Roisin Doherty, Caroline who had worked with various organisations and businesses and raised over £60k to help children throughout Mid Ulster at Christmas, Roisin who had raised money for Cool FM Cash for Kids to ensure every child receives a present at Christmas time. Councillor Doris concluded that there were too many individuals to name and requested that the Chair send a letter to the two ladies mentioned who had excelled in their efforts to help.

Resolved That the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan write to Caroline O'Neill and Roisin Doherty to commend them on their fundraising efforts for Cash for Kids

Councillor Clarke referred back to communication issues highlighted earlier and stated he had had his hand raised but not acknowledged. He stated that he could not be present at meetings and often had to stop using the video to save bandwidth and the situation was far from satisfactory.

Councillor Colvin stated that in the interim Members connecting remotely should use head phones as they would then be speaking directly to a microphone which would improve sound and that better broad band was required.

Matters for Decision

C249/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2020

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to C221/20 Chair's Business and the resolve to write to the Minister of Finance with regard to rates relief and expressed disappointment that no response had been received. He advised that some businesses had not received a penny in grants and spoke of one who had received an acknowledgement on 19th October but had heard nothing since. He stressed that Council needed to write again and continue to shout for local businesses.

Councillor S McAleer advised she had attended the November Council meeting but had been omitted from the attendance list.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Cuthbertson stating that Council needed to push for a line of communication and was emphatic that it was unsatisfactory that people cannot get speaking to a human being. He stated he too had people contacting him who had received acknowledgments but no money whilst others were told they would not get a grant as they had not been instructed to close. Councillor Monteith spoke of the news report which had highlighted that in Derry City and Strabane district half of the businesses had been turned down with no explanation. He concluded stating that communication was key and businesses deserved answers and the situation was not good enough.

Resolved That Council write to the Minister for Finance to seek clarification as to why businesses have not received the grants following the letters of offer and also the lack of communication available.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to C221/20 and highlighted that Noel Sweeney had received a coach and volunteer award from the IFA not a credit union award as detailed.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 26 November 2020 (C218/20 – C234/20 and C245/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C250/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 (P111/20 – P116/20 and P125 /20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C251/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2020

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 December 2020 (PR201/20 – PR208/20 and PR223/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C252/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2020

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E267/20 Deputation Tree Maintenance Campaign* and commended Helen Sweeney on her informative delivery and the bravery and character she is demonstrating through the campaign and emphasised that Council needs to keep up the support.

Councillor Doris concurred stating that she had worked with Helen’s father in the community.

Councillor Doris drew attention to *E278/20 Bus Shelters Update* and requested an update on Stewartstown bus shelter

In response the Director of Environment and Property stated that he would report to the Member directly regarding progress.

Councillor Burton requested the following amendments to the minutes: Amendment: E367/20 Tree Maintenance Campaign Pg. 71 last paragraph amend to read ...

Councillor Burton confirmed that NILGA had attained clarification that DfI Roads can request the landowner to make safe the trees, if they do not do so, DfI Roads have the authority to hire a private contractor to carry out the works and bill the landowner.

Pg. 72 2nd paragraph ...branches and that work was still ongoing. She concluded stating that as well as impacting NIE electric wires trees could also impact on BT telephone lines

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *E281/20 Environmental Services – Christmas Working Arrangements* and expressed concern that some constituents would be waiting three weeks for a bin collection. He said that the situation was not ideal especially in light of announcements regarding proposed lockdown and whether or not skip sites will be open. Councillor Monteith stated that Council through its communication channels needed to get the message out to constituents tomorrow and not just via social media.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 December 2020 (E264/20 – E287/20 and E300/20) transacted in Open
6 – Council (17.12.20)

Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C253/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2020

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 December 2020 (D194/20 – D208/20 and D216/20 - D217/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C254/20 Requests for Civic Recognition

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, as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Councillor Elattar proposed that St Colm’s High School be upgraded to Civic Reception status as the award they received was for the youth club connected to the school together with a local Fold, GAA, Workspace and the Men’s Shed. She highlighted that the award involved a great community effort which co-ordinated by the school group.

In response to Member’s query the Head of Democratic Services advised that due to the pandemic other priorities had come to the fore but the review would be progressed as soon as possible.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

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

C255/20 Conferences, Seminars and Training

Approval was sought for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

Conferences

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
Northern Ireland Planning Conference	Thursday 11 February 2021	On line	£145+VAT	

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That the attendance of Members, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

C256/20 Draft Consultation Response on Draft Modern Slavery Strategy 2021/22

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the response to the Draft Modern Slavery Strategy 2021/22 as detailed in the report.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That council approve the response to the Draft Modern Slavery Strategy 2021/22.

Matters for Information

C257/20 Correspondence

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

Councillor Kearney acknowledged the letter emailed to Members earlier in the day providing a response to concern expressed at the November Council meeting that all local elected representatives had not been afforded the opportunity to attend the photo call in relation to the opening of a stretch of the A6 from Randalstown to Castledawson. Councillor Kearney welcomed the explanation and looked forward to all attending the official opening in 2021.

C258/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered the previously circulated report.

Councillor Monteith proposed and Councillor Corry seconded that Council response to consultations listed (i) to (iii) below.

Councillor B McGuigan in relation to the Department of Health Substance Use Strategy suggested that a draft response be brought to the environment committee to allow for discussion prior to response being issued.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That Council submit responses to the undernoted consultations:

- (i) Department of Health: Substance Use Strategy “Making Life Better: Preventing Harm, Empowering Recovery – A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use” Liaise with mental Health support groups
Draft paper to be brought to January Environment Committee for discussion
- (ii) DAERA: Launch of the Clean Air Strategy;
- (iii) NI Assembly- Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland - Consultation on the creation of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland;

Councillor Doris proposed that either a draft response be brought to relevant committee or a workshop scheduled in relation to the consultation on *The Department of Justice: Consultation on Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders*.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor Doris’ proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That Council respond to *The Department of Justice: Consultation on Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders*
Either a workshop or report brought to relevant committee for discussion to prepare response.

C259/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Elattar moved the motion:

‘This Council condemns the British Secretary of State’s failure to order a full Public Inquiry into the assassination of Pat Finucane.

This Council believes that it is now time for the Finucane family to be told all the facts behind the assassination of their beloved husband and father and calls on the British government to immediately order a full Public Inquiry.

This Council believes that the Finucane family should be told the truth about the extent of collusion in Pat's assassination and the cover up that followed and calls on the British government to immediately order a full Public Inquiry.

This Council demands that any Public Inquiry must be truly meaningful and not restricted under the terms of the Inquiries Act 2005 which Judge Cory criticised as making 'a meaningful inquiry impossible'.

The failure to order a full public inquiry is no longer simply about one man but rather about the wider issue of truth and justice and so this Council calls on the British government to fully implement the Stormont House Agreement's legacy mechanism so as everyone who lost a loved one can get the truth of what happened to them.'

Speaking on the motion Councillor Elattar stated

"Pat Finucane's family has been shamefully denied a public inquiry and the justice and truth they deserve. In 2001 the British government committed to holding a public inquiry into the British state-sponsored killing of Pat Finucane. A former British prime minister previously acknowledged 'shocking levels of collusion in the killing' of Pat Finucane. Yet, the decision by the British Secretary of State, Brandon Lewis, to once again deny the Finucane family a public inquiry, places the British government on a long list of rogue states who are comfortable acting beyond the remit of the law.

The British government and the political establishment in Downing Street have again closed ranks to prevent a public inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane. It is clear that the British government has no intention of holding a public inquiry.

This is a cynical and shambolic political manoeuvre to deny accountability and facilitate impunity for state actors, particularly when the evidence speaks to an overarching state conspiracy in the murder of Pat Finucane. The decision is about protecting state agencies and those involved in RUC Special Branch from due process. It is a bad day for justice when those involved in state murder are further placed beyond the reach of the law. This is further evidence that the British government are intent on protecting those in Whitehall who were involved in collusion and state murder in Ireland. The British government has again shown that they have no regard or respect for the families of those killed by state collusion. Their cynical and calculated decision to resist accountability, simply facilitates impunity for those involved in state-sponsored killings.

The decision not to hold a public inquiry has wider implications for legacy matters and the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement. I would like to pay tribute to the courage, bravery and resilience of Geraldine Finucane and her family. Sinn Féin will continue to support them in the campaign for a full public inquiry and asks that this council does the same."

10 – Council (17.12.20)

Councillor Doris seconded the motion. The Councillor extended sympathy to the Finucane family and commended them on their resilience and bravery. She stated that the case was not in isolation as many families in Mid Ulster lost members due to collision. She spoke of the cruel tactic of delay of a public enquiry when all people wanted to know was the truth. In conclusion Councillor Doris quoted a family member of Pat Finucane “we know who pulled the trigger but we want to know who pulled the strings.”

Councillor Cuthbertson speaking on the motion said,

“Dealing with the past is deeply sensitive. It is important that a hierarchy of victims is not created. The murder of Pat Finucane, like all other murders, was wrong. 90% of deaths in the Troubles were attributed to paramilitaries. This Party condemns every murder. We must also remember that last year the police revealed there are some three thousand cases on file which are unresolved relating to the Troubles. All victims deserve justice. The link between Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA is not disputed. There are many sons and daughters in this Council area who grew up without a father or mother because of the sectarian murder campaign waged by the Provisional IRA. Those victims also deserve the truth and justice.

Sinn Fein councillors in this place claim that they want truth yet when Martin McGuinness was at the Saville Inquiry at a cost of two hundred million pounds, he stayed very tight lipped about the IRA. Indeed, he claimed he couldn't speak about it because of a PIRA code. When Gerry Adams spoke at Kevin McKenna's funeral last year, there was no sign of truth. Indeed, Adams boasted that the actions of McKenna, as an IRA Leader, would “never” be known. I am not a fan of public inquiries. They cost a lot, make lawyers very wealthy and rarely deliver the outcomes that victims really want. But when will Sinn Fein support a public inquiry into the Enniskillen Bomb, the 33 members of 8th Co Tyrone Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment and the many RUC officers and the many hard working family men murdered in cold blood in this Council area. Were their lives worth less than Pat Finucane? Where are the calls for truth and answers for Columba McVeigh's family, Jean McConville's family, and others who have been cruelly labelled as the 'disappeared.' The Finucane case is different, as there was a conviction and sentencing of a man involved in the murder. Everyone must also be aware that the Finucane family turned down a public inquiry because it was under the 2005 Inquiries Act. For Sinn Féin to say tonight that a public inquiry under the 2005 Act would not be meaningful and would be restricted is wrong. How come all other public inquiries, such as RHI, called by a then Sinn Féin Minister, and say the Grenfell case in England be acceptable. What we now need for all victims is a comprehensive legacy process to deal with all the outstanding cases. The Stormont House Agreement's six-year-old legacy proposals failed to gain sufficient support amongst innocent victims. As the recent NIO consultation demonstrated, it is time for a fresh updated approach. 18,000 responses to the consultation calling for a different approach. Would be foolish to ignore victims.

11 – Council (17.12.20)

The Government should bring forward proposals which can command support amongst the innocent victims of the Troubles. At the core of those proposals must be truth and justice. Chair we will not be supporting this motion and I call that it is not accepted but over ruled.”

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan, thanked Councillor Cuthbertson for his remarks but did not accept his proposal.

Councillor McFlynn spoke of the brutal murder and reflected on David Cameron's remarks in the House of Commons in 2012 when he said the country was entitled to know the truth and extended an apology to the Finucane family but that his remarks fell short.

Councillor Mullen left the meeting at 7.46 pm

Councillor McFlynn spoke of Patrick Corrigan for Amnesty International NI and the government's shameful refusal to open a public enquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane does a terrible injustice to his family. She further shared that Colm Eastwood speaking in the House of Commons had said that the Secretary of State has failed miserably to do right by the Finucane family.

Councillor McFlynn concluded that the SDLP sympathise with every family who lost a loved one and that a lot of families are waiting for truth which they deserve to know and that the SDLP would continue to support all families.

Councillor Wilson speaking on the motion said,

“The murder of Pat Finucane was wrong, it was unjustified and unjustifiable and must be condemned. There were over 3,700 deaths as a result of ‘The Troubles’ - 60% of all deaths were due to Republicans, 30% by loyalists and 10% by the police and army. Many of those impacted within the Mid-Ulster area and beyond are known to me, they have had no justice, no resources directed towards assisting their efforts, no Government backing, little understanding by Church leaders - there has undoubtedly been a hierarchy of victims with the loudest being appeased at varying levels whilst many of those who have carried themselves with a quiet dignity being increasingly marginalised. It has been said that Pat Finucane was a beloved husband and father, this I wholly accept but it is also extremely important to make the point that so too were many others. In this area I think of the following; Johnny Procter who was brutally murdered in the car park of the Mid Ulster hospital after visiting his newly born son, James Spiers murdered while working in his garage in Desertmartin, David Graham murdered while at his work outside Coalisland and then of course the eight innocents of Teebane. These families also seek justice, truth and accountability, they and so many others have saw little-no progress in their loved one's cases - where is the clamour for their families? Do the human rights of these families actually matter? They most certainly do to me. There have been other legal figures murdered Edgar Graham, Lord Justice Gibson and his wife, Judge Billy Doyle and Judge Staunton to name but a few. Do the NGO's and others who insist the need for a

public inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane actively support the families of these individuals who were practitioners of the law? The motion being talked about tonight refers to “truth and justice” but for all the murders carried out by the Provisional IRA, the victim’s families are unlikely to ever get it. The Provisional IRA has proven it doesn’t tell the truth - just look at the Smithwick Inquiry. Or Gerry Adams’ continued claims he was never in the Provisional IRA and of course the late Martin McGuinness hiding behind his Provisional IRA oath at the Saville Inquiry. There is a great deal of angst within the community presently concerning the two tier approach to examining events of ‘The Past.’ Tonight I have been clear that the murder of Pat Finucane was wrong, I ask this meeting to confirm with me that all criminal violence carried out over the years of ‘The Troubles’ was wrong. I am challenging Sinn Fein and other republicans to acknowledge that the murders of the innocents I have mentioned (and others like them) were unjustified and unjustifiable. The Provisional Republican Movement consists of Provisional Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA. Sinn Fein needs to talk to its’ military wing to establish what is known of the hundreds of unresolved crimes perpetrated by the Provisional IRA were ‘beloved husbands and fathers were assassinated’ and were prevented from ever coming home to their families. Dublin is not lilywhite either; it was not a mere onlooker. The Irish State also needs to disclose its’ role in the formation of the Provisional IRA, the importation of weaponry, training and financing it is widely believed that it was involved in furthering. The Republic of Ireland State needs to also come clean on what it knows about arms dumps, safe houses, extradition failures and cross border attacks.

The Stormont House Agreement or more accurately ‘DisAgreement’ is utterly discredited largely because of how imbalanced it has proven to be. The proposed Historical Investigations Unit would amount to a parallel police force and would rely on records, of which the State has millions, whereas terror groups will claim they have none. Just let me emphasise once again all murders must be condemned but every affected family has the right to truth and justice and there cannot be a hierarchy of victims. When is redress coming, how much further resource can be invested in a single case whilst those cases I have mentioned receive at best; the crumbs under the table? Enough is Enough, there must be equality of access to justice, truth and accountability for all innocents impacted.”

Councillor Graham speaking on the motion stressed that all lives matter and all murders are wrong and posed the question, what will a public enquiry achieve? Councillor Graham said that Pat Finucane was dead and no public enquiry would bring him back. She asked if Council called on the IRA to reveal where the disappeared are buried, as there were many grieving families who bear the scars of a terrible time who will never know the truth for Sinn Féin will take it to their graves. Councillor Graham reflected that the people were targeted shot and bombed by work colleagues, neighbours and strangers and if she didn’t bring this to attention she would let a lot of people down. Councillor Graham said the Council had a nationalist majority and the unionists would be voted down.

Councillor Kerr said he fully supported the motion and that the state had organised the assassination of Pat Finucane who had both loyalist and republican clients. He spoke on the statement made by government about solicitors and the role of Brian Nelson an Ulster loyalist paramilitary who had provided intelligence to the British. Councillor Kerr made reference the office of John Stephens being deliberately targeted and how the state would not share information to his enquiries into British forces and said that the hypocrisy of the British government was nothing new. He concluded that he fully supported the motion and the campaigns of all families who lost members due to the British state.

Councillor Quinn said that the debate had descended into lists and that for many collision is something that happened to someone else but for some it was a fact and relation. He reflected that for some of the Members present it was a very emotive debate.

Councillor Monteith said there are Councillors present at the meeting who had lost family members some years ago and some more recently and all needed to give cognisance to this. He reflected that there would be no one in the Chamber who didn't know someone and that he did not feel that lending support to one campaign would diminish another. Councillor Monteith stated that he would support anyone seeking truth and justice and that every family had the right to ask for it should the death be a result of a car accident or caused by conflict. He said the issue tonight was that of Pat Finucane and that public enquiries were not about bringing people back but uncovering truth. He spoke of the Hillsborough Tragedy and how the public enquiry had uncovered the negligence of the British State and the quest was to get to the core of the system yet the reality of Ireland was that voting would be predictable. Councillor Monteith clarified that he spoke as a republican but it was a reality that the British government at time pulled the strings of IRA activity also, as those working as British agents tasked republicans to carry out atrocities. He said there was not a body of evidence in every case but the public masters were deciding who lived and died on both sides. He spoke of the legislation moving through the House of Commons to give protection to agents on both sides who committed crimes for their agenda mentioning the revelation of MI6 involvement in crime. Councillor Monteith concluded that the State had been heavily involved in crime and murder against their citizens and the Brits needed to be made aware that all lives matter.

Councillor Cuddy commenting on Councillor Monteith's remarks about how members would vote stated that everyone was equal yet he hadn't heard republicans condemning the murders highlighted by Councillor Wilson. He said it may be good to discuss such issues but for unionist members they felt their people were not being listened too. In conclusion he expressed disappointment in the direction of the debate and said a line needed to be drawn.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated it was a difficult motion and acknowledged the feelings of all in the room. He said he had spent time at Omagh Court last week with the family of Pat McElhone and reflected that it was 46 years from his death and that the longer these situations go on people don't get the opportunity to come to terms with their loss.

Councillor McKinney said it was obvious that the motion would cause a stir but emphasised that all lives do matter and spoke of Desertmartin where Mr Spears had been murdered. He said he would not read out a list of names but every person was important to their own family, he also shared that when you carried friends or relatives down the road you felt the pain but stated that younger Councillors such as Councillor Quinn would not have had the experience. He said he did not want to get into tit for tat but both previous and current Members had lost family. Councillor McKinney said that Sinn Féin have elected Members of Parliament to Westminster but their plea has no teeth as they don't attend. He spoke of how some could go back 10, 20 years and longer how they all meet constituents effected by the troubles and were thinking of those not at the table. Councillor McKinney concluded that if Sinn Féin were serious they should tell their Members of Parliament to get to Westminster.

In response Councillor Elattar thanked everyone for their contributions and concurred that every family who had lost a loved one deserved truth and justice. She said there is no hierarchy to loss and referred to the last paragraph of the motion and said everyone should be treated equally including the Finucane family. She highlighted that the difference in the case was that in 2001 the government committed to holding the public enquiry yet 19 years on it still not had happened. Councillor Elattar said that what the British government had done was an act of terrorism and they had responsibility as state sponsored killing is terrorism.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan called for a vote.

For	24
Against	15

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared the vote carried.

Councillor Mullen returned to the meeting at 8.15 pm

C260/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor S McPeake moved the undernoted motion,

'This Council notes the centenary anniversary of the Westminster parliament's Government of Ireland Act. We note that the Good Friday Agreement caused this act to be revoked. We welcome this. We note the deep and wide divisions this has sustained and entrenched both within Irish society and in the relationships between the islands of Ireland and Britain, not least of those consequences has been the multi-layered generational conflict our society has endured.

We welcome and support the agreed framework provided by the peace process to address and deal with all of this by peaceful and democratic methods. We recognise that the outworking of this – the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in all its aspects – remains a work in progress. This includes – its core

15 – Council (17.12.20)

requirements for equality of treatment, parity of esteem and mutual respect and the provision for a referendum to give full effect to the exercise by the people of Ireland to the right to self determine our future destiny and the centrality to this of both the British and Irish governments. In the first instance in respect of rights throughout the island and in the second the particular responsibility on the British government to set a date for the referendum. This Council further recognises that a stark choice is opening up between the narrow, inward-looking vision of Brexit Britain and the open inclusive vision of a new Ireland.

Therefore we call upon this council to encourage space for debate to present experiences and perspectives, big ideas and a public discourse on our constitutional future which threatens no one and; this council call on both governments to expedite the delivery of their respective responsibilities contained within the Good Friday Agreement.'

Speaking on the motion Councillor S McPeake said,

“Much is being talked presently about how we look back and remember this particular period of centenary anniversaries which led to the creation of the northern state. Looking back and reflecting upon the circumstances that led up to this period in our history is something which none of us should shirk from and something which we should acknowledge as being a part of history where people will have varying different views and interpretations of the rights and wrongs of that era.

This Council has recently outlined how we intend to mark the period of 1921-22. We as members have just this week participated in an on-line workshop on our plans on how we mark this upcoming period in our history. The discussion, I am glad to say was mature, it was frank and it was respectful.

Council is planning to mark the upcoming anniversary period through a series of events, exhibitions, educational talks and support grants for communities to individually reflect on that period of time. This will be through looking at the historical facts, recognising the implications and consequences of what happened during that period of time and understanding the different perceptions and interpretations that exist, showing how events and activities can deepen the understanding of that period and all within the context of an 'inclusive and accepting society' All entirely laudable and which will hopefully lead to further mature discussion's on the implications of what happened in that period of time, what lessons can be learnt from the past and importantly how we should look to the future.

We can all examine the different perspectives that led to the imposition of the Government of Ireland Act in 1921 which was against the wishes of the Irish people, it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that this is not a period where nationalists would be 'celebrating' the imposition of partition within the island of Ireland. 100 years onwards, we who live within this state now have the opportunity not only to reflect on events in the lead up to the imposition of the Government of Ireland Act, but importantly to look forward to planning for the future. To begin the planning for a future where the people of Ireland North and South have a proper democratic say,

something that was ignored 100 years ago but can now be rectified through the enactment of the Good Friday Agreement and the facilitation of an Irish unity referendum.

Historically the need for a one Ireland, one-Island approach across our public services, our economy and our society generally has always been in my view the pragmatic and just approach to take. This small island with a population of around 7 million people is simply too small to have two competing governing administrations and sets of public services. The argument for a one-Ireland, one island, one economy approach has never been as strong as it is presently. In recent times the ramifications of Covid 19 has shown just how important it is to have a uniform and co-ordinated one-Island approach to tackling the pandemic. This also now coupled with the damage that Brexit is causing to our economy within the Island of Ireland is causing many to re-examine the present constitutional make-up of this place.

Again, the forced removal of the north of Ireland out of the European Union against the wishes of the majority here, goes to show once again (if it was ever needed) the lack of interest that Britain has in doing the right thing for the interests of the Irish people.

The Good Friday Agreement of 1998 provides a pathway towards ending of partition. There are provisions within the agreement for a unity referendum to be called to poll the people north and south for their support for Irish unity. In the present context of Brexit the EU has stated that the people of the north can again re-enter the European Union through the pathway of a United Ireland. 100 years onwards since the creation of this state through the government of Ireland Act, it is long overdue that the people of this island have an opportunity to re-address those injustices.

As stated in my motion I am calling on this Council to encourage space for debate in order to present the various experiences and perspectives. Hopefully the educational opportunities and planned discussions and talks around these centenaries events will also provide a stimulus for us to recognise the enormity of the mistake and the missed opportunity to which partition actually was.

The people of the north of Ireland regardless of their background have all suffered as a consequence of partition. Apart from wishing to control us Britain has never had any real interest in Irish affairs. We have been very much peripheral in British interests and on the receiving end of collateral damage as a consequence of the decision to divide our country through partition.

The recent Brexit vote illustrates this. Despite the majority of people here voting to remain within the EU, we are now having to exit the EU against our wishes. People across this island will be significantly worse off as a consequence of Brexit. This week I was amazed to hear an ardent cheer leader for Brexit, Department of Economy Minister Diane Dodds report to the Economy Committee that she is “disappointed” at the loss of £70m of EU funding and that her share of the Block

Grant for 2021/2022 will be cut 15% and the loss of £54m. Minister Dodds said and I quote “The loss of the European Funding represents a huge financial risk” for her Department.” This coming on the back of the Ministers own Permanent Secretary stating that Invest NI will have to stop taking on new businesses going forward - certainly not what the public wants to hear when we start to work our way out of a pandemic.

This unfortunately for us may only be the tip of the iceberg. In the time ahead we can expect further austerity cuts from a Tory government who have the little regard for the economic prosperity of the people of the north. The little Englander mentality will inevitably look after big business interests in the south of England long before us.

But it doesn't always have to be like this. There is a better way. It's is time to start planning ahead and for us to have the opportunity to eventually shake off the shackles of partition through the holding of a unity referendum. This requires preparatory work being done in advance. These preparatory discussions need to be mainstreamed into part of public discourse. Sinn Fein is calling on the Irish government to begin the conversations and planning in earnest around the subject of Irish unity. Sinn Fein has last month produced an 'Economic Benefits of a United Ireland' paper which shows not only the sustainability of a single island economy but that this economy would provide significant growth and prosperity for the people of Ireland.

The EU has stated that it will re-admit it the North of Ireland back into the European Union in the eventuality of a United Ireland. What could be a better stimulus or incentive than being provided the opportunity to vote to re-enter Europe through a united Ireland. What could be a better opportunity as we face the 100th anniversary of partition than to begin an inclusive process of examining what type and future Ireland we want for the next 100 years.

We have nothing to fear from using this opportunity to plan for a unity referendum. As we examine the past decade of wasted opportunity, we should commit ourselves to building a better and more inclusive society for us all.

Members let us begin that process.”

Councillor Brian McGuigan seconded the motion and emphasised its importance stated,

“My party colleague, Councillor McPeake has pointed to recent discussions within Council regarding seminal moments in Ireland's history that have still to be remembered as part of the Decade of Centenaries. This includes the Centenary of Partition which will be no celebration for nationalists, republicans, socialists and others who consider themselves to be progressives.

Councillor McPeake has described the discussions to date regarding upcoming centenaries as being mature, frank and respectful. I hope that we can continue to go forward into what is being framed as a 'Decade of Opportunity' with the same

spirit as we have conducted our discussions in relation to centenaries over recent weeks. Councillor McPeake's description of our discussions and decisions to date reflect the leadership this council has given since we began rolling out our Decade of Centenaries programmes and the many related funding opportunities overseen by relevant council officers and staff.

Tonight, I want to pay tribute to everyone within Mid Ulster District Council who has given great leadership and have worked in complete adherence to the framework for ethical remembering as presented by the Community Relations Council. I particularly want to thank our council officers and staff working in the fields of good relations and community development. Principles enshrined in the CRC framework will guide us as we proceed into 2021 with the Centenary of Partition. From commemorative events leading up to the centenaries of the 1916 Rising, the 1918 elections which saw votes for women and the election of Constance Markievicz as the first women elected to Westminster, as well as the establishment of the First Dáil and what academics refer to as Ireland's War of Independence, the right tone for commemoration and remembrance has been set, ensuring that our own programme of commemorative events and those organised by local community and voluntary groups - but funded by council - have been inclusive.

The events have been thought-provoking, but respectful of everyone living in our district. They have very importantly been challenging in terms of putting all narratives under the spotlight and they have presented great opportunities for learning in relation to the material conditions in which we find ourselves in Ireland today, north and south. Local groups such as the *County Derry Centenaries Group* have led the way during the course of the Decades of Centenaries when it comes to remembering within an ethical framework as well as adhering to principles developed by the Community Relations Council and implemented by our council staff - Council staff have had to deal, in a fair and impartial manner, with funding applications and event proposals from a whole range of groups and organisations, reflective of all our political traditions. The inclusive commemorative programmes organised by County Derry Centenaries Group have never been afraid to open up important "uncomfortable conversations" in relation to the Ireland of today which we inhabit or our ongoing relationship with our neighbouring island, Britain.

Our future post-Brexit, protocols with the European Union and in turn greater prospects for Irish Unity, national reconciliation and the promotion of a rights-based society - as well as the need for social and economic justice - have all featured as points for discussion at commemorative events. Concerns from unionists in relation to the right to identify as British, access to universal health care in the event of Irish Unity and other pertinent issues have all been discussed respectfully.

Platforms at these very well attended and engaging events have been shared by speakers from unionism as well as northern nationalism and Irish republicanism and key voices from the trade union movement and wider civic society. These

commemorative events have always benefited from having key figures from academia on platforms or as key note speakers. Academics noted for their fair, balanced, impartial and rigorous exploration of historical facts and the political legacy and many societal challenges that we now deal with as part of our daily lives -Debunking myths and setting the historical record straight! A good benchmark has been set in terms of how we proceed with the upcoming Decade of Centenaries events that have still to be organised, overseen and / or funded by Council.

I conclude my comments by stating that the Community Relations Council framework for ethical and shared remembering, which has guided council officers and staff to date, remains our best pathway for guarding against aggressive triumphalism when it comes to centenary events.”

Councillor Black speaking on the motion stated,

“This motion has little purpose and certainly has no coherent approach. It is simply a platform speech to grab a headline. We are in the midst of a pandemic, yet progressing the issue of a border poll is top of some people’s priority list. I would suggest, that at this time, it is certainly not at the top of the wider public’s priority list.

Mention is made of the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement. If people were serious about moving Northern Ireland forward, they would do better by working within the structures of this agreement and the later St Andrews Agreement to improve our political structures, our public services and the opportunities for our younger generation.

This has been brought into even greater focus by the current pandemic we are living through, and which threatens the prospects of a generation if we don't ensure that we find the economic and health solutions required to combat it. This is where our efforts should be directed and these are the areas that should be top of our priority list as community leaders.

It is unfortunate that some within the Nationalist and Republican community seem to solely focus on uniting land masses, with no regard for healing the divisions which still exist within our society and bringing our communities together. Rather than work within the structure of political agreements for the benefit of all our people, they are only being used a staging post. The drive remains full steam ahead to a divisive border poll, no matter the collateral damage to community relations along the way.

This motion mentions the prospect of an ‘open and inclusive’ New Ireland. As a Unionist, speaking on behalf of many in my community, no ‘All Ireland’ or United Ireland is a welcome prospect. The fundamental principle of being a Unionist is being part of the United Kingdom, so to remove this takes away our underlying core identity. That is something that can never be accommodated in a United Ireland.

20 – Council (17.12.20)

Being part of the United Kingdom also brings many benefits to all who live here, no matter their community background or belief. For example, whether it is being part of one of the world's strongest economies, or having the great benefit of the NHS, both of which have proven invaluable during the pandemic. No viable replacement of such great benefits has been suggested by those supporting a United Ireland, only unsubstantiated pipe dreams.

There was a Centenary forum convened by the NIO, which is intended to be inclusive and provide people with the space to have an open discussion, with an emphasis on mutual respect, equality and parity of esteem, which ironically this motion demands. We were very disappointed that Nationalists chose not to participate in this.

Therefore, it seems to us in this motion that Nationalists want the space to debate equality and history, but only as part of their wider United Ireland project, and only their perspective and narrative is welcome. It will be no surprise that we will therefore not be supporting this motion.”

Councillor Wilson speaking on the motion said,

“The Belfast Agreement legitimised Northern Ireland and settled our Constitutional future. We are part of the United Kingdom for as long as a majority of the people of Northern Ireland so wish.

Those who wish to leave the United Kingdom have never managed to secure even 40 per cent of the vote in any election and have no prospect of winning any Referendum.

No matter the spin or hype, the conditions simply do not exist that would allow any Secretary of State to call any such Border poll.

Those demanding a Border poll know full well that this course of action will destabilise politics and life in Northern Ireland with a fractious debate, rerunning old divisions, creating new enmities causing even more deeper division and seeking to capitalise on that politically. Instead, we want to focus on the practicalities of making Northern Ireland work for all of us who call this place home. Surely that is more in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Agreement?

Those of us who love Northern Ireland and cherish its place within the United Kingdom will quite rightly want to celebrate its 100th birthday and the Government's £3m of funding will help us do just that. Inevitably, there will be those who take a different view, and in a free society they are quite entitled to do so, but that will not detract from those of us who are proud to call this place home. As a people we have achieved much in the last 100 years. People from Northern Ireland have excelled in a wide range of fields, in business, politics, the arts and sport.

Much has changed in the past Century, and the people of Northern Ireland have endured good times and bad, triumph and tragedy. As we celebrate this Centenary, it is time to celebrate and also to take stock as we look forward to the future. Northern Ireland was created in 1921 as Europe was emerging from the cataclysmic effects of the First World War. Boundaries were being redrawn throughout Europe and new Nation States were emerging. Given the political upheaval on the island of Ireland, partition was a logical - even inevitable - solution to the stark divisions that existed between those who wanted to strike out on their own, and those who wanted to remain within the United Kingdom.

Partition was not our idea – it was republicans who wanted a new political arrangement – the original Brexit as it were, whereby they left the largest trading block on Earth at the time. Our forefathers did not seek Partition, but back in the post-war era it was the least worst option when it came to charting a way forward.

The so-called ‘conflict our society has endured’ is not due to Partition. Partition was a symptom not the cause. Republicans talk of 800 years of oppression since the Norman French nobles first came to Ireland, a long time before 1921. A stark choice is opening up between the narrow, inward-looking vision of Brexit Britain and the open inclusive vision of a new Ireland.

The UK is still the fifth largest economy on the planet. It has traded with the world for Centuries and nothing will change. If some people want to retreat from a global leader that is up to them, but we will not be joining them. And spare us the nonsense of a ‘new inclusive Ireland.’ We have seen how little respect there is for Britishness and Unionism in the Republic, where even an attempt to remember the RIC ended in outrage and failure. The Unionist population in the Republic was targeted post partition with events like Dunamansway buried.

Sinn Fein is still wedded to De Valera’s myth of a catholic Gaelic speaking Ireland which immediately excludes those who do not share the religion of that language and is the very opposite of ‘open and inclusive.’ Open and inclusive?? – There is a real irony in Sinn Fein – whose very name translates as ‘ourselves alone’, describing anyone else as ‘inward looking’ and themselves as ‘open and inclusive.’ Sinn Fein and the narrow, mono cultural Ireland they have always stood for is the very definition of inward looking and always has been, with the old racist mantra of ‘Brits Out’ the light to guide their way. The United Kingdom on the other hand is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-faith society. London is a world capital never mind European one. It is as open and inclusive as it gets and we in Northern Ireland certainly will not be volunteering to leave the United Kingdom any time soon. We will not be walking away from the fifth largest economy on the planet and the Nation which we and our forefathers have been part of for centuries.”

Councillor Cuddy reflected that the Good Friday Agreement was to improve the lives of everyone yet here Council was re-opening discussion on historic divided cultures in the midst of a pandemic, impacts of Brexit, poverty across all communities which will be felt in society for years to come. He stated that everyone needed to work on

improving the National Health Service and to understand the cause of poverty and seek ways to lift people out of it not discussing a border poll two days after the Christmas economy had been locked down again. Councillor Cuddy asked was some Members in a different planet from everyone else at present. He said that when COVID 19 was sorted the best friends Northern Ireland would have would be England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland but emphasised that to date Northern Ireland had received massive amounts of money from the South of England. Councillor Cuddy concluded he could understand why Sinn Féin would want a border poll but stressed that there were currently larger issues to be sorted.

Councillor McKinney reminded Members that when the Irish economy collapsed Britain lent them money and that when the 1 January 2021 dawns the Irish agriculture industry would suffer severely and whether it was liked or not Britain would be the 'bread and butter' of Irish agriculture. He further highlighted Altnagalvin Hospital and South West Hospital accommodating people living in border areas thus the British people were not as bad as portrayed and unless you had a personal hatred for them there is a lot of bigger issues. He concluded that the motion was good public relations exercise for Sinn Féin but said if Councillor S McPeake and Councillor B McGuigan stood at the queue of ambulances waiting hours to get patients into a hospital and asked about the border poll there would be realisation there are bigger issues.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred with Councillor Black and said that perhaps some had been sleeping the past ten months and highlighted that all support for businesses and the community had come from Britain. He said to align with the Republic of Ireland when out of Brexit would lead to a failed economy as Ireland could not stand on its own. Councillor Cuthbertson also said that each motion pushed through demonstrates the level of equality and respect shown to and highlighted that at the workshop to discuss centenary events some Members "would not agree to planting trees to celebrate the North of Ireland" which showed they could not even call the country by its name nor would some agree to a Centenary Celebration Concert. Councillor Cuthbertson concluded that he had never heard such hypocritical words in all of his life.

Councillor Corry said that the National Health Service was in the state it was due to British austerity and that an all Ireland approach could help alleviate this. She further reflected on the level of poverty in the United Kingdom being highlighted by UNICEF and Save the Children and with regard to Brexit and the European Union how Minister Poots had stated conversations were needed. Councillor Corry concluded stressing the need for ongoing conversations.

Councillor N McAleer stated as a young republican he had no problem with anyone marking the centenary of the creation of the Northern state but that it should not be whitewashed as a good thing as it had been anything but. He said that there is a growing support for a United Ireland and reflecting on earlier comments asked if the United Kingdom prosperity fund would replace the loss of EU funding.

Councillor Glasgow stated that Mid Ulster had been rated the happiest place to live in Northern Ireland, he shared other statistics such as the United Nations rankings for happiest countries when in 2020 the United Kingdom ranked 13th and Ireland 16th. He further reflected that the Taoiseach in October 2020 had said that a border poll was not on his agenda so who exactly did want it. Councillor Glasgow said that Council was sitting debating a motion when discussion would be better directed towards dealing with the current pandemic, the economy and the impact of Brexit.

He continued that the beef and milk industry in Northern Ireland is a leader in the UK market and has stood the test of time and will continue to do so even during Brexit. He also spoke of knowing many farmers who have recently went through the red tractor and farm quality assurance standards because they want to stay in line with the rest of the United Kingdom as after all Great Britain is their biggest customer.

Councillor Quinn stated he had sat in bewilderment during discussion. He said he would support the motion and acknowledged that Irish unity would not happen in the next decade and speaking as a proud republican he felt debate was needed prior to setting plans in motion as he did not want it to end up like Brexit jumping on a red bus and not knowing where it was going. He said the British government called for a referendum on the European Union and now down the road there was still no plan but thousands of jobs were lost and millions of pounds of funding. He further reflected on the Scottish referendum and said for Ireland what was required was a new entity something the world hadn't seen before. Councillor Quinn said he knew that the debate would fall into tit for tat and anyone listening at home he was sure was wondering what under god Members were talking about. He said as a party the SDLP supported many of the ideas in the motion but did not aspire to setting dates and really would want to get the result over the line with 60-70% wanting it. Councillor Quinn stated that there was comments that the United Kingdom was a world leader when in fact due to Brexit it had become a pariah and that to attain a United Ireland a plan was needed followed by a date.

In response to Councillor Quinn's comments the Chair Councillor Mallaghan stated that the debate around the partition of Ireland and Irish unity should not be dismissed.

Councillor Molloy reflecting on previous comments by Members said he saw no mention of a date for Irish unity and that many of the cheer leaders for Brexit had sat through the debate this past week in relation to the red meat industry that thrives in Mid Ulster together with the white meat industry, mushroom and vegetable industry which due to Brexit are now on their way out would welcome the debate for a new Ireland.

Councillor Colvin said there was a lot of doom and gloom about Brexit but he thought it would be a success if intelligent people would come up with a deal. He did acknowledge that a deal would impact on the Republic of Ireland as much of their trade depended on Great Britain. He said people should look at where our wealth lies and it is with England as the South had let Northern Ireland down and he would look forward to a referendum and indeed if Scotland had one it would get a nay.

Councillor Monteith said that the British rule in Ireland was no paradise that he was an elected Irish Republican and would take every opportunity to talk about it. He said he would be abstaining from the motion as although within his political remit there were aspects of the agreement which was fine other aspects of it hindered Irish unity and in plain English it was typical Connolly house double speak. Councillor Monteith said he would support Irish freedom and would love all to vote for it and that the Good Friday agreement promised many things but it did not create unity and spoke of the LGBT community endeavouring to get equal rights in the six counties. He also said that with the Good Friday Agreement 22 years later partition is as strong as ever due to it. Councillor Monteith spoke of legislation being put through by the British government yet the British Secretary of State would decide whether or not to bring it to Northern Ireland. He continued stating that he was elected as an Independent and sought 32 county Irish freedom and that an internal six county poll was not acceptable as the reality was it was full of British caveats. He spoke of decisions in 1918 and 1920 and how the partition had led to gerrymandering. Councillor Monteith concluded that it was vital that Republicans continue to question and he could understand that the Good Friday agreement benefited some it reinforced partition rather than securing Irish unity and that in his lifetime he looked forward to Irish Unity attained in a democratic manner. He said the motion did not call for a referendum and was a love letter to the Good Friday Agreement and thus he would not support it but abstain.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith and said he too would abstain from the motion as whilst some aspects of the Good Friday Agreement was good a lot was not and that it was undemocratic that one person, the British Secretary of State, can decide the future of Ireland as only he could grant permission for a border poll. He spoke of how the British misled the Scottish people in the recent Brexit poll and that to think Britain had no interest in Ireland was wrong and quoted that former British Home Secretary Jack Straw had said if Ireland was reunited it would lose its status as superpower and its permanent seat on the United Nations security council and the G8. Councillor Kerr said he too would abstain from the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said that the debate had been useful and whilst some would criticise the motion no one had taken their foot off the pedal for Brexit because of the pandemic why should the pedal be eased on Irish unity. In response to some comments he stated that in relation to the Irish state collapsing the United Kingdom national debt sits at £2trillion, the average earnings in the South was €53k per annum and £45k in United Kingdom. He stated that over the past two hundred years Britain had a major empire but over the years many countries had left but none had asked to re-join.

Councillor S McPeake said the debate had been useful and acknowledged that it would be 'close to the bone' but it was good to make the opportunity for discussion just like the out workings of Brexit was being discussed.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan called for a vote.

For 21
Against 15
Abstained 4

C261/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Kearney read the motion

“This Council notes with concern figures showing that over a quarter (27.5%) of those who died from covid-19 were people living with dementia and this is the most common underlying health condition associated with deaths from the virus. This Council welcomes the Minister for Health’s stated commitment to reforming Adult Social Care and urges his Department to heed Alzheimer’s Society’s “The Fog of Support: An inquiry into the provision of respite care and carers assessments for people affected by dementia” to ensure those living with dementia are better protected now and into the future, specifically allowing loved ones of care home residents to be given key worker status. This Council will commit to build on the work of Alzheimer’s Society of creating Dementia Friendly Communities by hosting a virtual ‘Dementia Friendly Workshop’ which will increase the awareness and confidence of our staff to better relate to, support and communicate with people with dementia to help tackle stigma, establish best practice and reduce barriers for our ageing population within our Council area.

Councillor Kearney spoke on the motion saying,

“People affected by dementia have been worst hit by the coronavirus pandemic – facing devastation at home, in their community and in care homes. Alzheimer’s Society published a report on Tuesday 29th September entitled “Worst Hit: dementia during coronavirus. The effects of the outbreak cannot be undone, but urgent action can be taken to better protect people ahead of the winter, and in the future. To make this happen, we need government to address the reality of lockdown for people affected by dementia. From the high death rate in care homes, to the significant cognitive decline for those who live in the community, to the rising mental health challenges for unpaid carers, the pandemic has had a severe impact, while exposing our fragmented social care system for all to see. Alzheimer’s Society’s new report shines a light on the impact of coronavirus on people who have dementia and those who care for them.

- Over a quarter (27.5%) of people who died with COVID-19 from March to June had dementia.
- The largest increase in excess non-COVID-19 deaths was in people with dementia
- For people who survived the crisis, the effects of social isolation were severe.

- Regular health and social care services were put on hold, creating a backlog of people who have missed out on essential support.

While this report is focussed on England and Wales, as the main requirements for respite care and carers' assessments come via the Care Act, which applies to those two countries, there's still significant learning in there for those with similar responsibilities in Northern Ireland. Alzheimer's Society have joined with many other dementia charities such as TIDE, John's Campaign and Alzheimer's Research UK to campaign as #OneDementiaVoice as people living with dementia in care homes need regular visitor contact as it's vital for their mental health and upkeep of communication skills. Family members often also can provide personal care and ongoing contact brings benefits to the carer as well as the person in the care home. Worryingly and separate from Covid-19 there has been a large increase in 2020 in the number of deaths of people who have dementia indicating that reduced social interactions is exacerbating the difficulties face by those living with dementia.

Alzheimer's Society can provide a Dementia Friendly Workshop to our Council's elected representatives and staff. Dementia-friendly communities are vital in helping people live well with dementia and remain a part of their community. This can be done virtually and lasts for around 1 hour. Too many people affected by dementia feel society fails to understand the condition they live with, its impact or how to interact with them. That's why people with dementia sometimes feel they need to withdraw from their community as the condition progresses. This isn't okay. People affected by dementia still have an incredible amount to offer to their community. If appropriately supported, they can continue to play an active and valuable role even years after diagnosis. The Dementia Friendly Communities programme challenges stigma and misconceptions about dementia, increases awareness and understanding in the community and improves access to community facilities for people with dementia.

According to the London School of Economics there are currently over 22,000 people living with dementia in Northern Ireland, this figure is projected to nearly double to 42,800 by 2040 and the cost to the economy of dementia in 2040 will be over £1 billion. The projections detailed in the opening paragraph have been robustly evidence based and were published in 2019 by the London School of Economics. Prior to Covid-19 through the Westminster All-Party Parliamentary Group on dementia "Hidden No More – Dementia and Disability" 2019 report we know that people living with dementia feel they are treated differently to people with other health conditions or disabilities. This is due to the progressive but 'hidden' nature of dementia, the individuality of dementia and its symptoms, and the stigma surrounding the condition.

There is a need for the Department to ensure all Trusts across Northern Ireland act in the same way as this will reduce people with dementia having to access acute care and also a collective approach will assist families and carers by providing consistent pathways - eliminating a postcode lottery approach. It has been highlighted how different Health Trusts handle dementia in a different way. In Mid

Ulster we share two Health and Social Care Trusts and the following Directorates lead on dementia diagnosis and care', Northern Trust - Mental Health, Learning Disability and Community Wellbeing Directorate; and the Southern Trust - Mental Health & Disability Directorate

Reform of Adult Social Care is important as we need to end the unfair daily injustice people with dementia and their families face in accessing and paying for the good quality care to which they are entitled which should be free at the point of need. We need a frank public discussion about the value of social care to society – not only to those who use it. Building understanding of dementia, as a serious and progressive health condition, and its impact on the person and on family carers, can tackle damaging and discriminatory practice. The Government must take action to ensure people with dementia and carers are given high quality care and support at every stage.”

Councillor Hughes seconded the motion and said that the current pandemic had proved a very difficult time especially for dementia sufferers, their care workers and families, she said that training would be imperative.

Councillor Wilson stated that there are over 200 subtypes of dementia, but across the types the impact can be debilitating. It can rob people of their memories, their personalities, their thoughts and cruelly their emotional connections with people that they knew for their entire lives. He spoke of families affected as they can only watch while their loved ones remain often physically fit and well but mentally slip away and as the population ages, there is no doubt that dementia problem will accelerate and now is the time to plan and prepare. Councillor Wilson spoke of countries across the world working to find out more about the condition, to find new treatments which delay onset, and ultimately maybe even one day to cure dementia but until there is more effective treatment, it is essential we take action now to prepare for what we all know will be an increasing reality for the next number of years. He said as such the UUP would strongly support continued efforts to dementia proof our health service and that should start with health service staff, so that they can spot the signals and perhaps pre-empt the very practical but important challenges of communication and surroundings. Councillor Wilson reflected on the growing body of evidence to suggest that it is possible to reduce an individual's risk of dementia with research, both in the United Kingdom and internationally suggesting that smoking, excessive drinking, and lack of physical activity for instance can all contribute to a higher risk of an individual getting dementia later in life. Councillor Wilson concluded that with this in mind, healthcare practitioners and public health bodies can aid the population to reduce or mitigate their risk of developing dementia.

Councillor Cuddy welcomed the motion and the Minister for Health Robin Swann MLA's commitment to the issue and said that everyone would know someone either friend or relative who had or would suffer.

Councillor Brown said it was a good motion and as councillors they would all be aware of people who have suffered with dementia, and it was essential that their families and carers who carried out a vital job in hard circumstances needed support.

He said whilst carers are hugely dedicated they were people with talents, ambitions and must be allowed to live their own lives.

Councillor Cuthbertson said this is a real crisis and at the present moment in hospitals he was aware of patients and their carer's are not allowed in to see them. He said he had been lobbying the Chief Executive of the Trust as there needed to be a plan in place to admit such carers as this settles the patients, and relieves pressure on nursing staff. Councillor Cuthbertson concluded that something needs to happen immediately.

Councillor Kerr said he fully supported the motion and spoke of the recent news reports from former rugby players linking blows to the head with dementia with football and American football also being highlighted due to blows to the head over long term.

Councillor Monteith said like Councillor Cuthbertson he too was dealing with people unable to visit relatives yet television crews could film and report on COVID wards. He said there was something badly wrong with regulations that permitted this. Councillor Monteith said what was happening to people unable to see their relatives was barbaric and inhumane devastating families. He spoke of dementia being one of the saddest conditions a family has to deal with and how heart-breaking it was when a loving relationship between two partners came down to clinical care. Councillor Monteith said many have experienced this and social care had been neglected and underfunded and whilst Councillors could pay tribute they must not ignore the neglect of underfunding especially in carers receiving the minimum wage, their lack of terms and conditions he said if workers are key workers they need to be such and society who have limited knowledge needs to know exactly what they are doing.

Councillor Burton said that just today on NILGA training there had been a member of Mid and East Antrim who discussed what they had done in their role as dementia champion, she said the lady was passionate about a joint up approach. Councillor Burton said that often people cared for loved ones at home and how so many suffered from exhaustion as their loved one was unsettled at night and often did not know who their family members were. Councillor Burton concluded saying that before physically losing a person the carer had lost their loved one mentally and commended Councillor Kearney on bringing the motion forward.

Councillor S McGuigan concurred with Councillor Burton and shared that he had a number of relatives with dementia and cared for his mother and without the support of his wife would have found it impossible. He was emphatic that Council should support carers as dementia detaches the sufferer from their own relatives. He thanked Councillor Kearney in bringing the motion forward.

Councillor McKinney stated he was happy to support the motion and highlighted that all must be mindful of those working in the National Health Service together with the need to support people dealing with family members with dementia.

The Chair, Councillor Mallagahn called for a vote

29 – Council (17.12.20)

The motion was carried unanimously.

Councillor Kearney thanked Members for their thoughtful comments and said that 22,000 sufferers from Northern Ireland in concerning.

C262/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Mallaghan moved the motion as undernoted:

That this Council notes at Mid Ulster Council Meeting 30th June 2016 we unanimously endorsed a motion moved by Ronan McGinley which asked the Minister for Communities to give consideration to putting in place arrangements that would assist councillors who required extended periods of leave due to maternity, paternity or sickness.

The current arrangements put unnecessary pressure particularly on women and those who are vulnerable due to illness.

This Council resolves to write to the current Communities Minister, Nilga and the NAC to restart the conversation on this issue so that our citizens continue to receive full representation and ensure that the health and wellbeing of members is given due regard.

Councillor Mallaghan said that when the motion was discussed before the NI Assembly collapsed soon after and much time has passed and Council should re-engage the conversation as it was vital if a Member was ill or on maternity that their constituents still had representation.

The motion was seconded by Councillor N McAleer.

Councillor S McAleer fully supported the motion stating that the lack of provision for maternity cover is an unacceptable inequality in the 21st century, she said elected representatives should have paid sick also and said that the lack of maternity was a clear deterrent for women in an age when there is supposed to be gender equality.

Councillor Cuddy stated that it is an area that needed to be reviewed and spoke of Ministers returning to Stormont immediately after having a baby and that the UUP would support the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said that judging by the comments a vote would be unanimous.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

Councillor Quinn highlighted that Mr Patrick McGlinchey a well-known personality in Coalisland, who had served on the old Dungannon Council for 10 years had passed away and requested that the Chair forward a letter of condolence to the family.

Resolved That Chair forward a letter of sympathy to family of former councillor on legacy council in Dungannon Mr Patrick McGlinchey

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 broad cast concluded at 9.43 pm

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Brown

Resolved That items C263/20 – C272/20 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Audit Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 24 November 2020;
- (ii) Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 26 November 2020;
- (iii) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 1 December 2020
- (iv) Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 December 2020
- (v) Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 December 2020
- (vi) Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 December 2020
- (vii) Receive a verbal update from the Director of Finance on Legal Issues
- (viii) Document for Sealing: Contract Award between Mid Ulster District Council and FIBRUS NETWORKS (FFNI) LTD
- (ix) Document for Sealing: Deed of Indemnity In Relation To Design, Support and Hosting of E-Tourism Related Website Platform
- (x) Document for Sealing: “Deed of Surrender; Lease of December 2013 between Mid Ulster District Council (as successor to Magherafelt District Council) and the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland with respect to Maghera Walled Garden”

C273/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 10.15 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 11 January 2021 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McPeake, Chair

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

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer**
Ms Donnelly, Solicitor**
Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer**
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer**
Ms McKearney, Senior Planning Officer**
Ms McNamee, ICT Support**
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Applicant Speakers

LA09/2019/1305/F Mrs Mary McElroy*
LA09/2019/1305/F Mr Aidan Kelly*
LA09/2020/0108/F Mr Gerard Scullion*
LA09/2020/0108/F Mr Eunan Cassidy*
LA09/2020/0108/F Mr Joe McErlean*
LA09/2019/0784/F Mr Chris Cassidy*
LA09/2019/0608/O Mr Martin Kearney*

Councillor S McGuigan**

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

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.03 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.

P001/21 Apologies

Councillor Gildernew.

P002/21 Declarations of Interest

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

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in agenda item 4.4 – LA09/2020/0108/F – 1 No. 1 2/3 storey dwelling house & associated screened utility yard at 50m N of 53A Ballymacombs Road, Portglenone for Eunan Cassidy.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in agenda item 5.1 – LA09/2019/0784/F – Farm shed to include feeding & shelter area, storage area and underground slurry tanks and new access to be taken from Drumlamph Lane at approx. 130m SE of 9 Drumlamph Lane, Castledawson for Cathal Shivers.

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in agenda item 5.5 – LA09/2020/0801/0 – Dwelling & detached domestic garage at site adjacent to & S of 19 Ballymaguigan Road, Magherafelt for Niamh Young.

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in agenda item 4.4 – LA09/2020/0108/F – 1 No. 1 2/3 storey dwelling house & associated screened utility yard at 50m N of 53A Ballymacombs Road, Portglenone for Eunan Cassidy.

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in agenda item 4.5 – Variation of condition 11 of previous LA09/2016/0470/F to allow extension scheme of time at 111 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland for Formac Limited.

Councillor McFlynn declared an interest in agenda item 5.5 - LA09/2020/0801/0 – Dwelling & detached domestic garage at site adjacent to & S of 19 Ballymaguigan Road, Magherafelt for Niamh Young.

In response to a potential Declaration of Interest request, the Planning Manager advised Councillor Cuthbertson that if he wished to speak in relation to an application he should not be making a Request to Speak as there was a difference as you cannot be part of the committee or general discussion otherwise.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that he wished to speak on agenda item 4.1 – LA09/2019/0152/F – Retention of the storage building for packaging and storage of handmade dog treats at 19 Major's Lane, Moy for Bernard Mackle.

P003/21 Chair's Business

The Planning Manager drew members attention to Planning Performance Figures on the Department's website which showed that MUDC's objectives were not achieved for the first 6 months of this financial year, but it did show that planning applications ranked one of the highest in Mid Ulster compared to other areas. It also showed that this Council and was 3rd highest in Northern Ireland and the 4th highest on performance of getting out our decisions which he was more than pleased to report. He said however, that he was not pleased about the accumulation of applications

which was not going to decrease due to Covid and restrictions being in place making it quite hard to make the progress that his department would like to make. He stated that in the meantime officers would manage to keep things going.

He referred to the addendum which provided information for members including the decision on Lough Neagh planning decision.

The Chair agreed that 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 4.6 – LA09/2020/0864/F – Car parking and block of semi-detached dwellings at lands approx. 50m W of 39 Charlemont Street, Moy for Hemel Ltd

Agenda item 4.7 – LA09/2020/0991/O – Dwelling and domestic garage at 200m W of 115 Clonavaddy Road, Aghnagar, Cappagh, Dungannon for Plunkett Nugent

Agenda item 4.8 – LA09/2020/0992/O – Dwelling and domestic garage at 115 Clonavaddy Road, Aghnagar, Cappagh, Dungannon for Plunkett Nugent

Agenda item 4.11 – LA09/2020/1082/O – Site for dwelling at 35m W of 33 Gortnaskea Road, Stewartstown for Dr Rogers

Agenda item 4.13 – LA09/2020/1115/O – Site for dwelling at lands NNW of 162b Washingbay Road and E of 152a Cloghog Road, Coalisland for Mr Brendan Corr

Agenda item 4.14 – LA09/2020/1140/O – Infill dwelling and detached garage between 104 Ballygawley Road and an agricultural building 100m NE of 104 Ballygawley Road, Glenadush for Bernard McAleer

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above for deferral be deferred for an office meeting.

Matters for Decision

P004/21 Planning Applications for Determination

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

LA09/2019/0152/F Retention of the Storage Building for Packaging and Storage of Hand Made Dog Treats at 19 Major's Lane, Moy for Bernard Mackle

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0152/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that it was previously stated that Roads Service had been consulted regarding this application and reading over the report tonight he could not see any advice received back from them. He said that this was an area which he represented and could confirm that Major's Lane was a small rural laneway on a small rural country road which now had a dog food factory which was been stated on the planning application and did not believe it was suitable for a storage site to extend the business which was operating. He stated that he would have a lot of concerns regarding the movement of traffic as this was consulted with Roads Service at the time the house was being built for a dwelling house, not for a dog food factory and by reading the planning history reports, a CLUD was granted for a dog food factory and felt that just because the business has become a success and a CLUD granted, it doesn't make it right that this business was allowed to extend on site. He felt that there were plenty of industrial estates which could accommodate a site, not a rural lane in a country setting on a small country road.

Mr Marrion (SPO) provided members with an overview of the resume of the application.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0152/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1305/F 8 Two Storey Apartments within 2 Blocks at 63 Thomas Street, Dungannon for Farasha Properties Ltd

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1305/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The Chair advised that a request to speak against the application had been received and invited Mrs McElroy to address the committee.

Mrs McElroy advised members that she lives at 6 Castlefields right beside the proposed site, lot 2 of the development and was also speaking for the residents of No's 1, 2 and 4 Castlefields. She advised that she would be disagreeing with everything that the Case Officer had said and felt there was a lack of integration to the surrounding area and the officer's report states that the proposed development was well integrated and this may be true of block 1 but certainly not true of block 2 which was their concern. The report focuses largely on block 1 but the surroundings of block 2 on Castlefields were entirely different to the rear of the site and physically more on the Castlefields laneway. It's different from block 1 as it was a stand-alone and would have a different postcode to block 1 and was at the rising point of the highest site and even with the reduction of roof height, it was going to be an overpowering building in terms of scale and height compared to all the bungalows within the environs. She advised that it fronts onto her property and backs onto No. 1 Castlefields and would disagree with the Case Officer as she felt that it would still overlook the residents to

the front side, resulting in a loss of privacy and light and potentially increase noise levels.

Mrs McElroy advised that Castlefields had seven single family dwellings with 5 being bungalows, so the nature of block 2 was entirely out of sympathy with its surroundings. She raised concern about the lack of parking provision, with the Case Officer reports indicating that the area was surrounded by carparks and that may well be the case but there were six and not a single one of them would be available to residents of that site and felt that 8 car parking spaces would not be inadequate when there could be potentially 32 people vying for parking on that site. She referred to Case Officer's report regarding the issue of on road parking and stated that this would not be an option as Thomas Street was a busy arterial route into Dungannon town centre which had the Crown Buildings directly opposite it and was always chock-a-block and a lack of available parking at normal times. Castlefields Lane is a cul-de-sac and has no viable turning area, inadequate lighting, no footpath, private roadway which has to be maintained by residents as the Council hadn't adopted it. She concluded by saying that although she was pleased that the fencing was increased, the residents of Castlefields would be of the opinion that there would be temptation to still park at the site.

The Chair advised that a request to speak in support of the application had been received and invited Mr Kelly to address the committee.

Mr Kelly said that the case officer had provided a good overview of the application but would like to reinforce the following couple of items:

- 1) Bungalows opposite are at a similar level to block 2 on the proposed documents and not at an elevated position as suggested
- 2) The proposed replaces a number of existing buildings including a two storey dwelling, a former surgery and outbuildings with access onto Thomas Street and Castlefields Road.
- 3) From the outset of our design process it has been proposed to close the access onto Castlefields that the site has the right to use.
- 4) All construction traffic and access for the development is proposed from Thomas Street, therefore there cannot be any over spill parking within Castlefields Road. During the process of the planning application he believed they have addressed any concerns raised by planning for the design of the project and endeavour to take into account local residents concerns.

Mr Kelly concluded by saying that they were happy to accept the conditions proposed for an approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Thomas Street was a major road into Dungannon and the main route coming from Cookstown direction and concurred with the objector 100% as there was no availability of on-street parking along that stretch of road. He requested a site meeting for this application as this Council had a property very close to the proposal (Ranfurlly House) and would like to see it turning into something bigger and better in the future and said that a site meeting would be beneficial but was aware of the restrictions in place presently and may be the case of waiting until February.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that a site meeting be held.

The Planning Manager stated that by listening about the issues raised which was all about the character of the area; two sets of issues, one was about car parking and the other about the character of the area. In relation to car parking for occupancy of a two bedroom flat so there could be an issue of requiring more than 8 car parking spaces and obviously in a town centre situation there is an ability to lower standards and no issue raised by Roads Service. The second issue was the keeping in character of the area and given that there is a dispute he felt that it was quite reasonable for members to go and have a look for themselves. He advised if members wished to go down the route of a site meeting then it would be wise to go after the mid-term break to keep in line with the current restrictions put in place.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked the two previous speakers which provided a bit more insight into this planning application and said that although it seems to meet all the criteria of planning policy and ticked all the boxes in terms of statutory consultees up until this point, the first thing that he sees when looking at the drawing was a problem with car parking. He said that first thing that was going to happen after the buildings were erected after a few years was disputes between neighbours regarding parking of cars and by reading the report he would agree that the applicant has went to great lengths to try and deal with objections brought forward and has made numerous changes to the application, but if the committee looks down through the report there is a drawing for 14 car parking spaces and that was something which has been changed due to not enough open green space on the site and appeared to him to be a better concept. He said that people which lived in 2 bedroom apartments didn't always require lots of garden space as they were there most likely for professional reasons. He advised that he wasn't opposed to a site meeting in this instance, but would be unsure whether it would show anything more from the drawing presently as this could be better and felt that the applicant could have possibly went too far with the open space to deal with the objections. The problem here for the objectors was it met the planning policy and something will be built here one way or another and objectors may never find anything acceptable about it, but something will be placed on the site eventually and thinks in this instance it was good but not great.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1305/F be deferred for site meeting with Members.

LA09/2019/1318/O Site of Replacement Dwelling and Detached Domestic Garage at 440m SE of 28 Leitrim Road, Castledawson for Mr R J Mawhinney

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1318/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1318/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0108/F 1 No. 1 2/3 Storey Dwelling House & Associated Screened Utility Yard at 50m N of 53A Ballymacombs Road, Portglenone for Eunan Cassidy

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake withdrew from the meeting and the Vice Chair, Councillor Glasgow took the Chair.

The Chair, Councillor Glasgow advised members that a late objection had been received and asked the Case Officer to update the committee.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0108/F which had a recommendation for approval but advised that a late objection had been received with issues raised which were mainly the same; farm business ID which has been addressed, sell off issues and an explanation as to why the dwelling cannot be linked to existing farm buildings, so overall it was felt that the dwelling provided adequate privacy to the objectors property and the criteria of CTY10 has been met entitling to them for a dwelling on the farm and has been recommended for approval with conditions.

The Chair advised that a request to speak against the application had been received and invited Mr McErlean to address the committee.

Mr McErlean advised that the applicant and himself have a good neighbourly relationship and when the proposal was first mentioned to him it was described as a small retirement house and when he saw the published initial plans this was not the case. He said that some minor compromise had been achieved and revised plans of July 2020, it was suggested that if the screened utility yard was moved to the North elevation of the proposed dwelling this would further the ridge height from 53C and position the house behind the trees, but both these suggestions were not accommodated. In accurate drawings the proposed dwelling was not sited behind the trees on 53C's southside and 8 metres overlooking a low hedge which were not illustrated in the current drawings. He felt that these drawings needed updating and 8 metres of trees removed which don't exist and if the proposed dwelling was sited correctly behind the trees then this would increase the distance from 23 metres to 31 metres which was more amenable. Privacy of a large first floor bedroom window with non-obscure glass directly overlooking 53C and felt that this window could be removed and the window on the south side extended as bedrooms were used extensively for homeworking and school remote learning, especially with older children. This window directly overlooks his kitchen, sunroom and patio where majority of the time is spent. Shading of photovoltaic panels due to the proposed dwelling residing at a higher altitude approximately 4 metres than his shed. This shed had eastern facing photovoltaic panels, these panels will lose sunlight particularly in the autumn and winter when the sun is lower and shading on any of these panels will mean that the panels will be at their lowest use capacity as it works on an array system. Ridge height of proposed dwelling is approximately 8 metres and closer to 53C than to 53A and felt that this was not acceptable and impedes his family's privacy and shading more than 53A. No building in the area of Ballymacombs Road or Forestry Lane is separated at a separate distance of 23 metres which was contrary to CTY14, Part 5.7.9. This proposal if permitted will result in three houses immediately adjacent to each other and

three separate entrances onto Forestry Lane and is contrary to ribbon development CTY14, Part B, the proposed dwelling is more prominent on the landscape and view of Ballymacombs Road or the Forestry Lane or either 53A or 53C which was contrary to CTY13 and CTY14. He advised that there were alternative sites on Mullaghnamoyagh Road which were visually linked to the original farmyard to comply with CTY10, Part C and had requested site visits in previous letters to explain concerns, but no communication has been received at all from any Planning Officer and asked that members vote for a deferral to provide an opportunity to meet with a Planning Officer at the site to explain concerns and not be discriminated and excluded from the decision making process. The latest letter submitted on the 18th of December was not published and asked if the Officers were aware of this letter and with Planning now being a local authority from 2015, there was an impression that the planning process was open and transparent allowing everyone's opinions to be considered. He advised that this process has caused a lot of stress over the past year and currently on the list for major surgery since December 2019 which has been delayed due to the pandemic.

In conclusion Mr McErlean said that he would kindly ask that his points are kindly considered during the committee's decision making process.

The Planning Manager advised that he had picked up on a couple of things which Mr McErlean raised and advised that when a planning application was made and an objection received a Planning Officer has to consider all aspects and this was what was happening here with things being open and transparent. In referring to the upstairs window he asked Mr McErlean in relation to his privacy, if the window was removed and the window in the hallway obscured glass would this elevate his concern.

Mr McErlean advised if the bedroom window was moved to the south side that would address his concern or semi opaque. He said that he had a further issue relating to the other bedroom window and in relation to the accuracy of the drawings as the trees were not 8 metres in size.

Mr Scullion advised that he didn't have a lot to add on from the Planners report and extensive goings on back and forth, with the objector writing in and the applicant and himself responding which the Planner has dealt with. He said the application was re-sited, rotated and altered so the corridor the other way with opaque glazing. In dealing with the privacy issue in regards to the CTY10, it meets the criteria for a dwelling on the farm, so he felt that he had nothing much further to add as it was an appropriate site and was supportive of the planning decision and the would be agreeable to removing the bedroom window as was suggested earlier.

The Planning Manager advised that the gable bedroom window was the issue which the objector had concern and that this window did not face his property. He asked Mr Scullion if he would be prepared to remove the window facing the property.

Mr Scullion advised that the applicant would be amenable to removing the small bedroom window but not the gable window.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0108/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor S McPeake returned to the Chair.

LA09/2020/0147/F Variation of Condition 11 of Previous LA09/2016/0470/F to Allow Extension of Time, at 111 Ballynakilly Road for Formac Limited

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0147/F which had a recommendation for refusal.

The Planning Manager said that it was his understanding that the work had been done for the new access and if this has been carried out to Roads Service satisfaction there shouldn't be an issue as it met the conditions. He suggested that the application be deferred until Officers check this out.

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0147/F be deferred for one month.

LA09/2020/0864/F Car Parking and Block of Semi Detached Dwellings at Lands approx. 50m W of 39 Charlemont Street, Moy for Hemel Ltd

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

LA09/2020/0991/O Dwelling and Domestic Garage at 200m W of 115 Clonavaddy Road, Aghnagar, Cappagh, Dungannon for Plunkett Nugent

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

LA09/2020/0992/O Dwelling and Domestic Garage at 150m W of 115 Clonavaddy Road, Aghnagar, Cappagh, Dungannon for Plunkett Nugent

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

LA09/2020/1055/F Renovation and Extension of Existing Clogher Workhouse Admin Building and Surroundings to Accommodate New Childcare Centre including the Demolition of the Existing Mobile Classrooms, Outbuildings and Walls at 6-7 Tullybroom Road, Clogher for Early Years

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1055/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1055/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1059/LBC Renovation and Extension of Existing Clogher Workhouse Admin Building and Surroundings to Accommodate New Childcare Centre including the Demolition of the Existing Mobile Classrooms, Outbuildings and Walls at 6-7 Tullybroom Road, Clogher for Early Years

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1059/LBC which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1059/LBC be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1082/O Site for Dwelling at 35m W of 33 Gortnaskea Road, Stewartstown for Dr Rogers

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

LA09/2020/1101/O Dwelling at 286m NW of 1 Loveshill, Castledawson for Noel and Marie Lennon

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1101/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1101/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1115/O Site for Dwelling at Lands NNW of 162b Washingbay Road and E of 152a Cloghog Road, Coalisland for Mr Brendan Corr

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

LA09/2020/1140/O Infill Dwelling and Detached Garage between 104 Ballygawley Road and an Agricultural Building 100m NE of 104 Ballygawley Road, Glenadush for Mr Bernard McAleer

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

LA09/2019/0784/F Farm Shed to include Feeding & Shelter Area, Storage Area and Underground Slurry Tanks and New Access to be taken from Drumlamph Lane at approx. 130m SE of 9 Drumlamph Lane, Castledawson for Cathal Shivers

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake withdrew to the public gallery and Councillor Glasgow took the Chair.

The Planning Manager brought members attention to the previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0784/F which had a recommendation for refusal and advised that there seems to be a lot of confusion on what was being asked as this application was for a small farm shed and farm sheds can be associated with ammonium nitrate. He said that the agent had refused to make a submission of any further information. In this case a determination of whether a full ammonium nitrate report had not been requested, what had was sufficient information to determine whether such a report was needed. He understood that the department had received some information and Ms McCullagh confirmed that the NIEA stated that it wasn't adequate for them to come back with a conclusion yet with the agent stating that he wouldn't send anything more in.

The Planning Manager asked if the agent would be happy to provide the necessary information required so that a decision can be made.

Mr Cassidy advised that he would be agreeable to the request to provide the required information.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0784/F be deferred until all the relevant information is received.

Councillor S McPeake returned to the Chair.

LA09/2019/1402/O Site for a Dwelling & Domestic Garage at approx. 50m NE of 45 Moneyneany Road, Draperstown for Mr Michael McWilliams

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1402/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Bell

Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1402/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0022/O Dwelling in an Infill Site at Land Adjacent to and S of 14 Drumkee Road, Dungannon for Mr Noel Stephenson

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0022/O which had a recommendation for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0022/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0608/O Dwelling and Garage at Site Adjacent to 9a Falgortrevy Road, Maghera for Shaun Kelly

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8.03 pm.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0608/O which had a recommendation for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request to speak in support of the application had been received and invited Mr Kearney to address the committee.

Mr Kearney said that the character of the Drumkee Road was that all the dwellings were positioned on the northern side of the road and standing at the crossroads between the Tartlaghan Road and Creenagh Lane is 9A is very much connected to the dwellings plus to the dwellings on the map labelled Milltown. The reasons why the lands between 9 and 9A were never developed was due to the fact that the majority of the lands were a large mill damn which a small pond still exists. In relation to the landscape the area shown on the overhead map to be heavily wooded to the side of 9A and to the north of No. 9 and No. 7, these trees provide strong character for which this target crossroads was a focal point. With the site being a triangle and a boundary of No. 9A and to the north west of the site No. 9 so cannot see how the site can be any less bound. As the policy states it doesn't have to be a development to be a building and does see that this old mill damn does constitute a historic development. He said that it was evident on the map that all the houses heading to the north of Drumkee Road, the area of the mill damn and the pond is all bound into the north by the GAA club for which the strip provides a strong focal point for the entire area and not only for a pedestrian and should be considered in the event of driving a car as speed was of now a different essence.

He referred to the neighbouring residential amenity and stated the power of full design was valued and believed that any worries or concerns can be dealt with either with reserve matters or full application and which all replacements would be key, however the high level design and added advantages of new buildings fences would also assist

the acoustic barrier towards this site and for this he would request either a member's site visit or to approve the site.

The Chair felt the site was well bound and said that he knew the general area but never looked at the specifics and felt that it may be useful for members to see for themselves.

The Planning Manager in referring to the presentation felt the agent may have focussed his attention on what wasn't the issue as integration wasn't the reason for the refusing of the application but more to do with the fact that an adequate reason hasn't been provided inside the countryside. The test that is being argued was that it was within an existing cluster and can see clearly by looking at the road that this doesn't rate as an existing cluster and the reason for that is that the existing cluster on the other side around the GAA club is that this is basically a field with a house on one side and enquired if there were buildings on one side or both sides.

In response Ms McCullagh referred to the overhead map and said that there was a dwelling to the left hand side and that was it.

The Planning Manager stated that test requires not only a cluster, be should be bound at the two sides and in terms of integration he couldn't see a huge deal but couldn't understand why anyone wished to live beside a main road with the noise of fast moving traffic was confusing for him.

He said that it was hard to link the site to the policy, but if it had a farm case source or another reason for exception, this would be a different matter.

The Chair said that looking back to the past there were a lot of similarities to this application and as it was coming out onto a little side road that it was not a major issue.

Councillor McKinney stated that he knew the lands well and not in his wildest dreams would he have envisaged anyone wanted to build a house at this location due to its closeness to the road and noise from fast moving and heavy traffic.

The Planning Manager said that although sympathy would like to be shown the application didn't meet policy.

Councillor Colvin agreed that the committee wished to show some degree of sympathy but concurred with Councillor McKinney's comments and proposed to accept the Case Officer's recommendation for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0608/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0801/O Dwelling and Detached Domestic Garage at Site adjacent to & S of 19 Ballymaguigan Road, Magherafelt for Niamh Young

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake withdrew to the public gallery and Councillor Glasgow took the Chair.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0801/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0801/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor S McPeake returned to the Chair.

LA09/2019/1484/O Dwelling & Garage 50m E of 91 Aughrim Road, Magherafelt for Keith Fulton

Ms McCullagh advised that due to a typo error the application should read LA09/2019/1484/O and not LA09/2020/1484/O.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1484/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1484/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Matters for Information

P005/21 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 1 December 2020

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 1 December 2020.

Live broadcast ended at 8.15 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor McKinney 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 P006/21 to P014/21.

Matters for Decision

- P006/21 Receive Report on Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh Council
- P007/21 Receive Response to Dfl's Consultation on the Draft Transport Study for Mid Ulster District
- P008/21 Receive Response to Derry and Strabane District Council's Consultation for the Submission of Counter Representations
- P009/21 Receive Report on Dfl Correspondence on Consultation from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- P010/21 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

- P011/21 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 1st December 2020
- P012/21 Enforcement Cases Opened
- P013/21 Enforcement Cases Closed
- P014/21 Miscellaneous Matters

P015/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.42 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 12 January 2021 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by virtual means**

Members Present Councillor S McGuigan, Chair

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

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
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 this was the first Environment Committee of 2021 and that it remains a difficult period for many, the Chair stated he hoped and prayed for better times ahead.

E001/21 Apologies

None.

E002/21 Declarations of Interest

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

E003/21 Chair's Business

Councillor McNamee referred to the future of cemetery provision for Cookstown and that Cabin Wood on the outskirts of Cookstown is the preferred site for a new cemetery. Councillor McNamee stated that future cemetery provision needs to be discussed sooner rather than later as the matter will take thought and preparation on

a number of issues, for example, planning, finance, access and the site running parallel to the route of Cookstown bypass. Councillor McNamee requested that a Cookstown DEA meeting be arranged to discuss new cemetery provision for Cookstown.

The Director of Environment and Property stated that officers have had some discussion on the matter and advised that there is still capacity at Forthill and it is intended to develop the current site to its full capacity. The Director referred to some of the work undertaken by the legacy Council in relation to a new cemetery and that he would be happy to facilitate a meeting with Cookstown DEA Members to discuss the matter.

Matters for Decision

E004/21 Results of a regional survey relating to the nutritional content of cheesecakes available from restaurants in Northern Ireland

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which advised of the results of a regional survey, which the Environmental Health department participated in, relating to the nutritional content of cheesecake available from restaurants and hotels in Northern Ireland. The survey was undertaken in 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the content of the report, and to continue to support the work of the Environmental Health Department in relation to any future initiatives undertaken in the area of nutritional content of foods, aimed at providing individuals with information and choice to improve dietary health.

E005/21 Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland - A Public Discussion Document November 2020

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which advised on the Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland; A Public Discussion Document November 2020. It was advised that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) launched this discussion document in advance of developing the first Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The Head of Environmental Health drew attention to draft response to consultation question 17 which relates to whether there should be a ban to the general public of unseasoned wood in Northern Ireland retail outlets. The officer advised that the draft Council response states that there should be a ban introduced in line with the rest of the UK and Ireland however she was aware that this may not be the view of Members and asked for their comments.

Councillor Glasgow referred to draft response to question 19 of consultation in relation to whether it was felt that the process in place to address ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland is appropriate. Councillor Glasgow stated he welcomed the wording of the response in relation to this question as Mid Ulster is a

rural Council that has farming as one of its biggest industries. The Councillor referred to the previous changing of thresholds in relation to ammonia which resulted in agricultural applications becoming stuck in the planning system, Councillor Glasgow stated that whilst this has since moved on he felt that any drastic measures in relation to ammonia should take into account the possible consequences within the District ie. Within the agri food sector. Councillor Glasgow again stated he welcomed the wording of the response in relation to this question and that there should be emphasis that current practices should continue to be looked at.

The Head of Environmental Health clarified whether Councillor Glasgow would like current practices to continue to be looked at to reduce ammonia from farming practices.

Councillor Glasgow stated he had no issue with practices being looked at but was aware of the approach of SES in the past.

Councillor Wilson referred to people who sell logs to retailers and asked if that practice is affected by the response to question 17.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that this practice would be affected by the draft response set out.

Councillor Wilson stated there are a number of people who make a living out of fallen trees and cutting them for logs and that he felt that there needs to be some education as to what unseasoned wood is. Councillor Wilson stated that whilst he felt that a ban on the sale of unseasoned wood is a good idea this ultimately would affect some people's livelihoods and that the wording of this response could be changed.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that the response could be amended to reflect that the small scale sale of unseasoned wood is permitted.

Councillor Wilson referred to smokeless fuels which he stated are more expensive and would be a struggle for some people to buy and felt that there should be some sort of incentive to switch to the purchase of smokeless fuels.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the draft response to question 15 in which Council are agreeing to a ban on the sale to the general public of smoky/bituminous/household coal in Northern Ireland. Councillor Cuthbertson felt that this required more thought as there are 3 importers of coal in the District that he was aware of who were major employers and also whilst there was a Gas to the West project this was not available to the majority of houses in rural areas. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he did not feel that Council should be agreeing to a ban on the sale of household coal.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that the response focussed on smoky/poorer quality coal and that there is a quality aspect which will help to reduce sulphur levels which come from burning coal.

Councillor Cuthbertson agreed with Councillor Wilson's comments that smokeless fuels are more expensive and stated that this may not be such an issue in bigger towns and cities where there is a gas supply but that he would still be against encouraging a ban on household coal.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that the response could be amended to reflect that in rural areas the ban should not be imposed.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated this would be helpful and referred to the coal importers within Mid Ulster and that there should be consultation with them as well.

The Head of Environmental Health advised she would make the amendments to the draft response as per discussion tonight.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to submit response to the Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland: A Public Discussion document as outlined in appendix 1 of report with amendments to be incorporated as per discussion above. Response to be returned to DAERA by the closing date of 15 February 2021.

E006/21 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report regarding the naming of new streets within residential housing developments within Mid Ulster.

Site off Killyman Road, Dungannon

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he did not feel any of the names put forward by the developer were great but proposed that the development be named Killycush Court.

Councillor B McGuigan seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Killyman Road, Dungannon as Killycush Court.

E007/21 Renaming and Renumbering Existing Streets

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised of a request for the Renaming and Renumbering of an existing street/road and subsequently to seek approval to undertake the surveys of all applicable residents on the street/road in question.

Councillor McNamee asked if the surveys returned need to be 100% in favour.

The Head of Building Control advised that current policy states that all residents on the electoral register for the street/road in question need to be in agreement to the change of name.

Councillor McNamee asked if there were any implications in that the legacy Council had previously erected signage with the change of road name.

The Head of Building Control advised that whilst a road nameplate was previously erected the change of road name was never progressed officially and that

information on the Pointer system still referred to the stretch of road as off the Stewartstown Road and not Moss Road.

Councillor Wilson stated that people may not be fully aware of what needs to take place if there is agreement that the road name be changed ie. Deeds of houses, mortgages, utilities etc would need to be changed. The Councillor stated he would have some concern just to put the matter out to survey without some sort of explanation on the implications.

The Head of Building Control stated that is why 100% agreement is required for the change to be made. The officer further advised that he had met with one of the residents on the road and that they were aware of the issues surrounding a road name change but that an explanation of the implications of agreeing to a name change can be detailed on the correspondence being sent to residents.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with the Street Naming Survey for the renaming of the relevant portion of Stewartstown Road, Coalisland to all applicable occupiers of each property as listed on the Electoral Register of the road in question, in accordance with the Policy for Street Naming and Numbering. Additional detail and explanation on the implications on a road name change to be included with the survey.

E008/21 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services presented previously circulated report which provided an update on current bus shelter status and stated that it is hoped that the revised procedural guide will be brought to the February Environment Committee.

Councillor Burton referred to bus shelter at Jordan Engineering and asked if the only hold up in relation to this bus shelter is that officers are awaiting a response from statutory agencies. The Councillor stated that it is good to have the site relocated away from businesses and that the bus is currently stopping at the proposed site but that with the recent weather it would be good to have the bus shelter on site.

The Head of Technical Services advised he would follow up with the statutory agencies to get the responses required to move forward.

Councillor B McGuigan commended staff on the work involved with reviewing the bus shelter policy and liaising with other agencies. The Councillor stated that for a long time there was difficulty in getting bus shelter approvals but that things have moved on leaps and bounds and there was now better focus and direction. Councillor B McGuigan also referred to the positive meeting yesterday in relation to the review of procedural guide for bus shelters. Councillor B McGuigan proposed the report recommendation.

Councillor Cuthbertson seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to put “On Hold” of the following from the Bus Shelter Register as they have not met the criteria in the Bus Shelter Policy (Section 1.2, Point 4):
- Main Street, Benburb
 - Tullyhogue village
 - St Colmans Park, Moortown
 - Cappagh village
 - Whitebridge, Ballygawley

E009/21 Consultation on Preventing Harm & Empowering Recovery: - A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure presented previously circulated report which advised of Council’s draft response to the Health Development Policy Branch in the Department of Health (DoH) Consultation on Preventing Harm & Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use.

Councillor B McGuigan stated he was happy to propose the response and that there had been a lot of good work had gone into the document and response. The Councillor stated he was very interested to hear that Mid Ulster Community Plan contained a commitment to the Planet Youth model and would like to see this model progressed.

Councillor Milne seconded Councillor B McGuigan’s proposal.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to respond to the Department of Health consultation on Preventing Harm and Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use as set out at appendix 2 of report. Response to be submitted by 5 February 2021.

E010/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed Extension to 40mph Speed Limit – Cloghog Road, Clonoe, Coalisland

The Director of Environment and Property presented previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed extension to 40mph Speed Limit at Cloghog Road, Clonoe, Coalisland.

Proposed by Councillor O’Neill
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed Extension to 40mph Speed Limit at Cloghog Road, Clonoe, Coalisland.

E011/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed Reduction to 30mph – Turnaface Road, Muff Road, Churchtown Road and Claggan Road, Cookstown

The Director of Environment and Property presented previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed reduction to 30mph at Turnaface Road, Muff Road, Churchtown Road and Claggan Road, Cookstown.

Proposed by Councillor O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed reduction to 30mph at Turnaface Road, Muff Road, Churchtown Road and Claggan Road, Cookstown.

Matters for Information

E012/21 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 December 2020

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 December 2020.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked for an update in relation to defibrillator provision and whether those previously agreed to be sited were now in place.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that a working group was set up after the last Council meeting to take forward this piece of work and that work is ongoing on the matter. The Director stated he would seek to provide an update to the next Environment Committee.

E013/21 Update on Houses in Multiplication (HMOs)

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the regulation of HMOs carried out on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in the 19/20 year, following the transfer of the function to Councils on 1st April 2019.

E014/21 10-year anniversary of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report which highlighted the 10 year anniversary of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

E015/21 Building Control Workload

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

E016/21 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E017/21 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

E018/21 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that again this month a survey had been requested and then no one had responded to that survey. The Councillor stated this was now happening month on month at a time when departments are stretched, Councillor Cuthbertson stated that this process was a waste of resources and a waste of staff time and proposed that requests for Dual Language surveys be put on hold until after a review of the policy has taken place.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed that the policy in relation to Dual Language Signage remains as is.

Councillor McNamee seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal.

Councillor Buchanan seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal –

For – 7

Against – 9

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan declared Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal lost.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the policy in relation to Dual Language Signage remains as is.

E019/21 NILAS Annual Report 2019/20

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the content of the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) Annual Report for 2019/20 as published by NIEA on 26 November 2020.

E020/21 Bin Ovation

Members noted presented previously circulated report which provided update on the usage of the Bin Ovation App and Report It Function.

Live broadcast ended at 7.42 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan 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 E021/21 to E030/21.

Matters for Decision

- E021/21 Updated Tender report for the appointment of Contractors to a framework for Construction works
- E022/21 Town/Village awards and Seasonal Planting Arrangements 2021
- E023/21 Contract for provision of Waste Related Consultancy Services

Matters for Information

- E024/21 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 December 2020
- E025/21 To update members on changes to Affordable Warmth Scheme in response to Covid -19
- E026/21 Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations
- E027/21 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E028/21 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E029/21 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update
- E030/21 Report on Improvements at Fivemiletown Recycling Centre

E031/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.12 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 Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present Councillor Quinn, Chair

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

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan**, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells**, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Hill, Head of Parks*
Mr Lowry**, Head of Technical Services
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing
Mr Moffett**, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr JJ 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 7.03 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.

PR001/21 Apologies

Councillor Gildernew.

The Chair passed condolences to Councillor Cuddy on the recent passing of his mother and offered his sympathy on behalf his party and this committee.

PR002/21 Declarations of Interest

None.

PR003/21 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR004/21 Ballyronan Wood – DAERA: Environmental Challenge Fund 2020/2021

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for Match Funding for offer from the Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs: Environment Challenge Competition 2020/21, successful application for the redevelopment of Ballyronan Wood and approve the allocation of match funding for the proposed project.

Councillor McFlynn welcomed this news and said it was a brilliant scheme which would bring huge investment to the Ballyronan area and would be happy to propose the recommendation.

She advised that she had been contacted by someone regarding surface water which comes of the Shore Road down into the woods and was her original thinking that it was the water from the Lough which was making the ground damp, but now it has come to light that this could be drainage coming of the Shore Road and asked if Council could investigate this and drain it if need be.

Councillor Elattar said that she would be happy to second the report.

Councillor Cuddy thanked the Chair and members for their expression of sympathy.

He said if 50% funding was received for a project then it was well worth doing, but the project had already started and enquired was it brought to this committee tonight to get the other £40k from the Capital funds and felt that this was the only reason it was in front of members tonight.

The Head of Parks confirmed that this project hadn't commenced yet but was on the same site but a different project and separate application. He confirmed that work had not started yet at Ballyronan Wood.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that it was a good project especially when it was going to get 50% funding.

The Director of Finance advised that Ballyronan Wood was never part of the contract award which was currently in situ with our contractors on site, but this was a separate piece of land adjacent to that particular piece of land and a separate procurement associated with it.

Councillor McLean said that he would like to be associated with supporting it as it was a good project but sought two issues for clarity.

Firstly, with all the issues relating to COVID and budgets naturally tighter than previous years and not far away from striking the rate for another year and sought clarification from the Finance Officer or Chief Executive on how this would sit within the Capital Budget process.

Secondly, can this scheme be run in tandem with the one already started on site.

The Director of Finance in relation to the financial aspects and its relationship to the budget stated that this particular Capital project was not anticipated to have any ongoing recurrent revenue costs associated with it, so would have no great impact on this year's rate setting process. Members would be aware there's a significant Capital fund set aside for opportunities like this and also fund the larger schemes that are already scheduled. The amount of money involved £81K although quite substantial from an individual's prospective was relative material to an Officer's context.

In relation to the second part the Director of Finance advised that there was a contractor on site which was working and in regard to the current COVID arrangements, operation on site was feasible as it was an adjacent site and in an ideal world when we would go through a procurement exercise the same contractor if they were successful would already be in situ and this would make it an efficient project but cannot clarify this at present.

He advised that COVID wasn't impacting on the job at the moment and on that basis it wasn't anticipated on this particular project, but with all things COVID related this could be subject to change.

Councillor McKinney welcomed this project coming forward as previously Ballyronan and Traad had been on the news for all the wrong reasons for the last few years and was good to see this moving forward. He enquired what the future service charge would be and asked if there would be an additional maintenance charge over the years and what the estimate was likely to be.

The Director of Finance advised plans for a multi-use 1km trail which would require some ongoing maintenance in terms of inspection and whilst it would be foolish of him to say that any inspection and any maintenance works on top of costs would have a level of additionality would be perceived to be immaterial in the rate setting. He advised that he had not been issued with definitive costing figures in relation to the issue and would anticipate that this would be picked up as an additionality within our inspection and maintenance regimes.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the allocation of match funding £40,500 to the Ballyronan Wood redevelopment from Council's Capital Programme budget allocations as part of the Councils Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.

PR005/21 Response (draft) on Consultation for a Bill of Rights for NI

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report and sought input from Members on the Draft Consultation response developed in response to the Consultation on the Creation of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and to seek their comment and approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft response to the NI Assembly's Ad-hoc Committee consultation on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

PR006/21 Policy on Room Hire – Draft

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to consider further the Council's current general Policy on Room Hire, with specific reference to a revised draft version following previous committee discussions.

The Chair said that this matter had now been before committee a number of times.

Councillor Ashton advised that she would have a slight concern under 5.3.3 if something was deemed by the Chief Executive to be controversial that it would be referred to the Chair of the Committee and obviously as it was regarding political events, perhaps it should go to the Party Leaders forum as Chairs of the Committees were made up of political parties and may be seen as possibly being swayed.

The Chair said this could be taken on board.

The Head of Democratic Services said that in regard to item 5.3.3, this was in the previously policy that we were currently working under and something that came out of the Council's Scheme of Delegation and advised if there were any diversions from that, then the Scheme of Delegation would need to be looked at.

Councillor Cuddy said they had looked at this from a party point of view and didn't see an awful lot wrong with the current policy. He felt that this Council was moving into a minefield and was important to keep our Council as neutral as possible. He said that irrespective of events being in the room things can be shared in social media very quickly leaving ourselves wide open to be challenged. He said that his party was not happy about the poppies being taken away but they were aware that it had to be done to show neutrality in the Council so people can come along and use the facilities and know that there would be no pressure. He felt the Council should carry on with the policy that we have currently because if a new policy was approved that it could cause major concerns.

The Chair said that outside the main political parties there were other political groupings pushing different political causes and asked if they fell under this policy or would they be treated differently.

The Head of Democratic Officer advised members that it would be his understanding that this would fall under this particular policy, however if there were any organisations deemed to be proscribed organisations then they would need to be looked at as it wouldn't be appropriate that they could hire any of the rooms or buildings to those types of organisations. He referred to 5.3.2. and brought members attention to sentence "*all political parties and independent representative irrespective if they have representation on Mid Ulster Council*" and this would be extended to Independent members. In

concluding he stated that this does extend to others, but not to those organisations which were deemed to be proscribed organisations.

Councillor Molloy thanked the Head of Democratic Services for drawing up the draft proposals but referred to an issue which perplexed him slightly on item 5.3.2 (v) that political party campaigning is accepted and asked why else would a party hire a room or an event if it was not for party political campaigning as that was what they do. He referred to Councillor Cuddy's comment regarding Council facilities being open to everyone and asked if there was an equality issue there as it could be seen if a party has a certain political point of view that the room shouldn't be used for discussing those activities or promoting a point of view. He said that it would be deemed as a private event so any other grouping can come along and hire a facility but if you were a political party or particular persuasion you couldn't.

The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that this matter was placed in the previous report which was brought to December committee and it was agreed that it be taken away and work up the wording and include them in the draft policy, so basically this was now in the hands of the committee on the final wording and inclusion with those elements included. In referring to Councillor Molloy's point about what happens within the room to mitigate on any concerns which people may have was addressed in point 5.3. of the draft *"that all banners, posters, leaflets or any other paraphernalia forming part of the event by displayed and made available within the room only under the hire within the facility"* and said that if it was for political party or election campaigning, it shouldn't be seen in any of the hallways or facilities as mitigated under point 3 of the policy.

Councillor Molloy said that after reading through the report he would propose the recommendation.

Councillor McFlynn seconded the recommendation.

Councillor McKinney said that he would not be happy at all with the circumstances and referred to Councillor Molloy's comments about being impartial to someone's point of view to use Council buildings. We all share a Chamber and could assure that Councillor Molloy's point of view and his would differ and this was acceptable, but more to do with the point of our actions that takes place within these rooms and told members that the committee had just approved the Bill of Rights which talked about fairness, equality and respect. He said that there would be some activities which now would take place, proposed and passed from some political organisations, no matter what party they belong to, whether a party inside the Council or a party outside the Council where absolutely no respect would be shown to this Council. In relation to fairness, some of the activities which would take place in these rooms and perhaps actions to take part wouldn't be very fair to individuals living in our Council area. In relation to flags, banners, emblems etc., these had to be carried into Council buildings and displayed and didn't believe that anyone here should be so naïve to believe for one minute that the decorations used for the rooms from whatever party they were from would stay within the rooms and how many times have people seen what goes on behind closed doors. He agreed with Councillor Cuddy's comment regarding social media with things being sent into the public domain before you get out of the building, whether it be chanting songs or singing things that are offensive, this is not fair and offensive to other peoples' way of life and an equality issue.

He said that it really saddened him to see this Council in 2021 taking a step back in time with members talking about the past conflicts, troubles amongst other things and now we want to bring organisations into buildings and pretend to ourselves that this would be carried out behind closed doors and asked if this was the best way forward for Mid Ulster Council in 2021. He felt it was unacceptable for this Council in 2021 to allow organisations to display their emblems or trophies all over the area which wouldn't be fair and disrespectful to our citizens and saddened him to say this was the way things were going forward and disappointing to see that there was a system in place which was working and no incidents in his term in Council and believed that this could soon change.

Councillor McLean said that he listened carefully to all the various comments made for and against the issue and stated that this proposal had come from Councillor Molloy and his party and asked what their rationale and their reasons for changing the policy, it could be seen as a detrimental step back or it could be seen as a leap forward in the sense that it was going to be properly used and not abused. He stated that those within the Unionist community do not have the numbers to oppose any change but would comment and state what he had always stated in the past, the proof of the pudding was the trustworthiness and honorability of it would be the use or the abuse in the eating and said if this was rubber stamped tonight and ratified in Council the outworking's of it would have to be closely monitored and if it was abused then it would be highlighted.

The Chair stated that he could understand some of the comments made tonight but would concur with Councillor McLean's last comment that we will have to wait and see what transpires from it. He said that he does have confidence in Council staff to monitor this policy and does have belief in political parties not to abuse that trust and the proof of the pudding would be in the eating and as we go forward with this policy would like to think that all political parties regardless of who they were to not abuse the policy and cause controversy.

Councillor Molloy agreed with Councillor McLean's comment about it being a step forward as it opened it up for political parties, whether it's Sinn Féin or any other political party he would not have issue for them having access to council facilities the same as any other general member of the public or grouping within the district. This will make available a number of further venues where there is already under provision. We have seen cultural events in a number of our facilities over the years with no issues relating to flags, banners and emblems displayed and he had no issue with that as it was open to everyone.

Councillor S McPeake concurred with everything that Councillor Molloy stated. He referred to Councillor McKinney's remarks looking at very much on the negative side and very much wrong. He said what was being asked for was equality for political parties as politics had got very bad press in recent years both locally, across the water and elsewhere and for us to see we were different or not worthy to avail of Council buildings says a lot and a huge negativity. He agreed with Councillor McLean that time would tell and could assure the committee that there were no hidden agendas other than to bring a bit of equality to the table as political system across the world had been downgraded and a lot of negativity around it that the existing policy perplexes that and this was only putting right what should be within a mature society.

Councillor McLean said as a point of clarity, that this would either be seen as a step back or a step forward but didn't say it would be a positive step forward. On the basis of how it would play out it would be a step forward if it was well used and not abused, but if abused it would definitely be a step back. He said that it was all about bringing clarity and wasn't saying that it was right or wrong at the minute as the proof of the pudding would be in the eating and as Unionists they don't have the numbers to stop this proposal.

Councillor McKinney advised that he would not be supporting this recommendation and asked for a recorded vote.

He referred to remarks from two previous Sinn Féin members and wanted to clarify that he didn't make reference to any political party and felt that this was a facilitation for Sinn Féin as how he sees it as there was no other party as keen to see the changes and was aware that SDLP had voted in favour of it. He felt that these organisations are struggling to find places to meet and felt that this may be a way forward for them, but he would still stand firm and acknowledges that Councillor S McPeake's thoughts on him being wrong, but felt that bringing this type of activity into Council buildings was a no way neutral and no way respect of equality and not a way forward for our Council.

The Chair called for a recorded vote to go with the recommendation as outlined in the report:

- 9 For (Doris, Elattar, Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, S McPeake, Molloy, Quinn and Totten)
- 6 Against (Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Forde, McKinney, McLean)

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the revised Policy on Room Hire, subject to amendments agreed at committee.

PR007/21 Member Audio Device Management for Remote Working

The Head of ICT presented previously circulated report to advise Members on the provision of Audio Device Management for Remote Working.

The Chair commended the ICT department on doing a fantastic job during these unprecedented times relating to the pandemic to get all members set up with adequate ICT facilities. He referred to announcement from Fibrus and hoped that IT facilities would get better over the coming years.

Councillor McLean said that he would like to concur with the report in front of members tonight as it was very well detailed and set out and also takes the cognizance of the evolving situation and would be happy to propose the recommendation. He agreed very firmly that Microsoft teams was a good platform as they had invested a lot of finance in better technology in the last number of months as a result of a lot of people averting to Teams as a process and seemed to be an easier process which much of the private sector had elapsed onto it and was working well. Councils were no different to any other business or manufacturing company as they all had to adopt and make the changes and

could assure members that no-one in that field was going out spending a six-figure sum to adopt their IT and was just a learning curve and continue to work at. He suggested to proceed on the basis of the proposal that those who need headsets get them and if training was required by some people, then funding be put into that and bring it forward on that basis.

Councillor McKinney wanted to thank the Head of ICT and his team for all the hard work that they carry out as the usage of laptops was now the age we were all living in. He said that he would have no problem with what was being proposed tonight but enquired who was paying for it as he would have thought that the headsets etc. should have been coming out of members supply.

The Head of ICT advised that ICT would purchase the resources for members but the cost (approx. £30 to £40) would be deducted from the digital allowance of £250 for each member if that was agreeable.

Councillor Ashton seconded the proposal and enquired if in-house training was available.

The Head of ICT advised that to his knowledge Organisational Development team and Learning & Development Manager had procured these sessions through a third party provider locally in the Dungannon area who would provide training remotely and could do it much better and more proficiently than the ICT team.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that it note the contents of the report and authorise the expenditure where necessary (see below) to provide Members with:

- (1) Suitable headsets and mobile devices – expenditure to be funded from previously agreed Council contribution towards cost of Members' IT devices and Member contribution as necessary; and
- (2) Additional training commissioned by the Organisational Development directorate for Members to increase skills necessary for proficient use of communications technologies and equipment associated with video conferencing deployed by the Council – expenditure to be funded where necessary from reserves (estimated cost maximum £700).

PR008/21 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR009/21 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 3 December 2020

Members noted Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 3 December 2020.

PR010/21 Marketing & Communications Update

Members noted update on key areas of recent Marketing & Communications activity.

Live broadcast ended at 7.55 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McKinney 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 PR011/21 to PR023/21.

Matters for Decision

- PR011/21 Staffing Matters – On Call Cemetery Cover for Weekends and Bank Holidays
- PR012/21 Staff Matters for Decision
- PR013/21 Dfl Active Travel Projects – Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme
- PR014/21 Peace IV Shared Space
- PR015/21 Land Acquisitions & Disposals
- PR016/21 Full Fibre NI
- PR017/21 Tender Report – Software Licensing Agreement
- PR018/21 2021/22 Rate Estimates
- PR019/21 Consultation Response on Proposed NILGOSC Pensions Reform

Matters for Information

- PR020/21 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 3 December 2020
- PR021/21 Staff Matters for Information
- PR022/21 Contracts and DAC
- PR023/21 Financial Report for 8 months ended 30 November 2020

PR024/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.50 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 14 January 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

Members Present	Councillor McNamee Councillors Ashton*, Black, Burton*, Clarke*, Corry*, Cuddy*, Doris*, 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** Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts** Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development ** Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Councillor McKinney*** Councillor S McGuigan***

Agenda Item 4 – Deputation - ICBAN

Chief Executive ICBAN, Mr Campbell***
Chair, Councillor McNeill*** (Armagh City, Banbridge and
Craigavon Borough Council)
Vice Chair, Councillor Maxwell*** (Monaghan County Council)
Co-Treasurer, Councillor Nicholson*** (Armagh City, Banbridge
and Craigavon Borough Council)
Immediate Past Chair, Councillor Treanor*** (Monaghan
County Council)

* 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.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee wished everyone a Happy New Year, he stated that last year was difficult but that there was now a vaccine and the infection rate was coming down and that he hoped the situation would improve in the coming months.

D001/21 Apologies

Councillor Elattar and Head of Community Development.

D002/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Ashton declared an interest in InterTrade Ireland.

D003/21 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee expressed condolences to Councillor Cuddy whose mother passed away over the Christmas period.

Councillor Cuddy thanked Members for their messages of condolence which were appreciated.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to Irish Language signage on Council property both internal and external which he stated was to go out to tender and requested update on same.

The Head of Culture and Arts stated that the tender process closed on 4 December and that the assessment panel had met and that a report will be brought to Committee in February seeking approval to appoint contractor to deliver road name signage and facility signage.

Councillor Doris acknowledged the good work done since the last Development Committee in relation to play parks across Mid Ulster and stated that the provision of disability equipment in the play parks is also appreciated. The Councillor also welcomed work carried out by Forestry Service at Drumcaine Forest. Councillor Doris referred to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and asked for update, she commended staff for the work carried out at Knockmany Forest which she stated is in immaculate condition but that it was frustrating to see a number of other areas which are not being used to potential. Councillor Doris also referred to previous discussion in relation to walking trails for Mid Ulster and proposed that a list of walkways be made available going forward as there are a lot more people out walking at present.

The Head of Parks advised that both the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Strategy have been approved by Council. In relation to the Parks Strategy the officer advised that the specification process was almost complete and the first year tranche was due to be released. It was advised that there has been quite a lot of activity in relation to Village Renewal Schemes which were also a large part of the Parks Strategy. The Head of Parks advised that the Outdoor Recreation Strategy was approved towards the end of last year and officers are working on year one feasibility studies for a number of locations and advised that a more thorough update will be brought to the next Development Committee.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that whilst there has been slippage in relation to play parks due to Covid it is important to keep focus on this programme.

Councillor Burton referred to constituent who is trying to get a UTR (Unique Tax Reference) number but that the National Insurance office has been closed since the start of the pandemic. The Councillor stated that in order to get the UTR number the person needs to have a face to face meeting but that this cannot be done at present. Councillor Burton advised that similar offices in England, Scotland and Wales are open and that in the Republic of Ireland similar meetings are taking place via Zoom. The Councillor stated that for an office to be closed for almost a year is something which needs looked at and asked that Council raise this matter with the Executive Office and HMRC.

The Chief Executive agreed to investigate the matter and revert back to the Councillor.

D004/21 Deputation - ICBAN

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive, Chair, Vice Chair, Co-Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair of ICBAN to the meeting and invited the board members to make their presentation.

Councillor McNeill thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak to them tonight and provide update on The Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region 2021 – 2027. Councillor McNeill thanked the Council for their support of the Framework document in the past and Mid Ulster Council representatives on ICBAN. Councillor McNeill also congratulated Mr McCreesh on his recent appointment as Chief Executive of Mid Ulster District Council and wished him well for the years ahead in his new role. Councillor McNeill introduced Mr Campbell, Chief Executive of ICBAN who would make the presentation to Members.

Mr Campbell provided presentation (appendix 1) on The Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region 2021 – 2027 and how it is hoped it will impact the Mid Ulster Council area which is one of the 8 local authorities in the ICBAN partnership. Mr Campbell stated that this Framework builds on and works with frameworks already in place and deals with the key issues now such as Brexit, Covid 19 and climate change. Mr Campbell took Members through the features of the Framework and explained the Regional Priorities and five Catalyst Projects which are in the early stages of development. Mr Campbell also stated that the Framework is a living document which can be added to and developed through time and as opportunities and challenges present themselves. Mr Campbell acknowledged the support of Council for the Framework document and asked for the continued support of Members by inputting into its development and engaging in advancing the priorities and catalyst projects of the Framework.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Mr Campbell for the presentation and invited Members who come forward with questions/comments.

Councillor Molloy referred to the blue/greenways and stated he would be keen to examine what is in it for Mid Ulster in that respect. Councillor Molloy stated there has been recent development of the Western Greenway and the Shannon-Erne linkages and asked if there was any proposed further development within ICBAN for the Ulster Canal route which will link in with the Blackwater catchment area and Coalisland. Councillor Molloy stated he felt there was huge potential for the development of this route and the benefits which could come from it.

Councillor Molloy referred to Peace Plus replacing Peace IV and asked if there are any projects which Mid Ulster could tap into going forward.

Councillor Treanor stated he was aware of the campaigns for a project on the Ulster Canal and referred to an announcement before Christmas of 7 million towards a project on the Canal from Clones to Lough Erne. Councillor Treanor stated that there is more money to come and that at least there is some movement forward. Councillor Treanor referred to past plans for the Ulster Canal and completing work in stages and appreciated that the project Councillor Molloy spoke of is a good example in which there could be collaboration to seek funding. Councillor Treanor referred to the Slieve Beagh masterplan which comes into the Mid Ulster area and is already in place and could go forward for funding. Councillor Treanor stated that there are a number of funding avenues for projects such as Peace Plus and including Shared Island Fund and Growth Deal Funds and if strong cases are put together then ICBAN can compete for funding.

Mr Campbell referred to the five catalyst projects mentioned in the presentation and felt these would be of interest to Mid Ulster and the other 7 Councils in ICBAN. Mr Campbell stated that it is hoped that a number of initiatives will come from these five projects and there will be opportunities for partnership working outside of each Council's own area.

Mr Campbell stated that Peace Plus is a real opportunity for local authorities to work together and is a mix of Peace monies and INTERREG monies. Mr Campbell stated that it is hoped the monies will amount to €850 million to €1 billion of funding for projects up to 2027. Mr Campbell stated that the funding will be for social and economic projects and that it is important for Councils to be ready and have projects to deliver.

Councillor Clarke referred to earlier comments in relation to the Ulster Canal and Lough Neagh and felt that as a representative of Magherafelt DEA he could also comment on what he felt was the jewel in the crown of Lough Neagh and the fantastic facilities at Ballyronan Marina. Councillor Clarke asked what support there has been from the Councils North and South to work together in the delivery of the Framework.

Councillor Maxwell stated that all political persuasions work together in ICBAN to come together to a common consensus of what is good for the region. Councillor Maxwell stated that all Councils needed to continue to work together to try to leverage as much funding as possible into the region.

Councillor McNeill stated that ICBAN met with the North/South Ministerial bodies before Christmas at which funding was discussed and the Regional Framework was provided to the representatives. Councillor McNeill stated it was good to see the ICBAN Board and all political persuasions working together for the betterment of the whole area.

Councillor Nicholson stated that the Framework document has got the full support of Councils, the Councillor stated it is a strategic document which gives a framework for all member Councils to move forward in collaboration. Councillor Nicholson stated that ICBAN has a proven record for delivering shared infrastructure projects and that he hoped opportunities would arise with the five catalyst projects being put forward within the Framework document.

Councillor Clarke asked if funding opportunities are available to deliver the overall Framework of Regional Priorities.

Mr Campbell stated that a number of sources are being considered for the funding of the programme and that ICBAN will seek to bring about monies to enhance the delivery of projects. Mr Campbell stated that one of the greatest resources to the delivery of projects is the time and effort of Councillors and officers across the member Councils working together in the development and delivery of projects. Mr Campbell stated that the catalyst projects identified within the Framework are the developing themes of Peace Plus funding and that he felt there are opportunities for funding from this source.

Councillor Cuddy stated he sits on the Tourism Forum of Mid Ulster Council and that Members have seen the success of the Wild Atlantic Way and Hidden Heartlands initiatives. Councillor Cuddy asked if ICBAN was involved with either of these projects.

Mr Campbell stated that ICBAN has delivered a number of tourism projects and that the Wild Atlantic Way includes the Council areas of Donegal and Sligo. Mr Campbell stated that there is currently a European Programme which looks at opportunities for delivering tourism across the ICBAN region and the West of Ireland. Mr Campbell stated that ICBAN could provide an opportunity to bring together all the tourism destinations within the regions ie. Wild Atlantic Way, Hidden Heartlands, Ireland's Ancient East, Embrace the Giant Spirit, Sperrins and Fermanagh Lakelands. Mr Campbell felt that the ICBAN region sits at the crossroads of all these destinations however this is something that is yet to be developed.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the Wild Atlantic Way initiative has been a tremendous success and that he felt any funding should be spread across as many Council areas as possible.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Mr Campbell and the ICBAN board members for their presentation tonight and that Council looked forward to working together in the future.

ICBAN deputation left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Matters for Decision

D005/21 Mobile Catering Concessions

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which sought approval to procure mobile concession Grab & Go catering services at selected council owned/managed venues and public Parks.

Councillor Corry referred to recent news reports regarding people gathering in parks and other outdoor locations with takeaway coffees etc and not enough social distancing in place. The Councillor asked that if catering services are approved can Council ensure that a similar situation will not arise at the locations being put forward. Councillor Corry also stated that there were more locations detailed on the original list and asked if this is a trial.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that the sites being put forward tonight were for trial and if successful then the list can be expanded to include other sites. The Director advised that Council will monitor situation with regard to compliance of contracts and health requirements and if there was found to be a breach Council would

have to deal with that as it saw fit. The Director advised that it was likely to be the summer before catering services were in place and hopefully the situation in relation to Covid would be improving by then.

In response to question from Councillor Ashton regarding catering provider at Dungannon Park the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there is currently no provider at Dungannon Park as the person who had the contract terminated their contract therefore there is no provider at that location currently and there will be no competition in relation to what is being put forward tonight. The Director advised that if Council were to re-tender the catering contract for Dungannon Park at the moment it was unlikely to get anyone due to the current situation and economic conditions.

Councillor Ashton referred to local hospitality businesses which have been badly affected by Covid and asked if there would be a push to market this opportunity to those businesses to ensure that Council would not be going into competition with them.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the catering services would be sought via public tender and everyone would have opportunity to apply.

Councillor Kearney referred to Portglenone Riverside Path and how well used that path is and that grab and go catering would be very much welcomed at that location.

Councillor Burton referred to facilities at Brantry and Round Lake which are both well used but are outside of a village/town and that she felt it this offered an opportunity for enterprise at such locations.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to procure mobile catering concessions for Grab & Go services across selected Council owned/managed venues for an initial period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further two, 6 month periods subject to satisfactory performance and subject to terms and conditions of a Catering Agreement.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to a member of the public who had been watching last month's meeting and had contacted himself after the meeting to state that he had a contract with Forestry in relation to Drum Manor Forest for the last couple of years and the next year and a half. The Chair stated he had been assured that all locations had been cross checked to ensure there are no contracts in place.

D006/21 Community Development Report

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which provided update in relation to the following:

- Community Grants; to agree the Grants Policy and budgets for 2021-2022
- Emergency Support Funding; to agree the allocation of additional DFC funding
- Community Development – to note the community development update

Councillor Doris stated she was happy to propose the report and commended staff who have worked unbelievably hard to get grants out on the ground throughout the year. The Councillor also thanked the Department for Communities and stated that the help was making an impact on peoples lives during this really difficult time.

Councillor Doris referred to the Free School Meals and that there are a number of children who are just above the threshold to receive these and that this is putting families under additional pressure. Councillor Doris stated that this is something Council should look into with the Education Authority.

Councillor Corry stated she would second Councillor Doris's proposal and also concurred with the comments in relation to the good work of the Council team and Department for Communities and also volunteers who have been working in foodbanks and other services. Councillor Corry also stated she was happy to see the inclusion of funding for mental health as Covid has taken a toll on mental health.

Councillor Ashton referred to appendix 1 of report and the Discretionary Grant and that it was noted there is no budget for this grant which will stop the grant from opening this year. Councillor Ashton stated she proposed a budget of £150k for Discretionary Grants which would allow this budget to open.

The Chief Executive advised that it is the intention to reignite that particular support programme for the forthcoming year as demand is significantly increasing and that officers would be keen to incorporate the Discretionary Grant into the programme for 2021/22.

Councillor Monteith stated he did not have difficulty with the thrust of the proposals but that he did foresee some issues as he believed there will be an outcry from families who only have children in primary school that are entitled to free school meals and that they would therefore not be eligible for fuel stamp support. The Councillor stated he understood there was a limited budget available but that he felt this matter needed some work and rejigging of monies to ensure support can be given to all families with children entitled to free school meals.

Councillor Monteith also referred to public confusion in relation to the Well and Warm Scheme which is being rolled out differently across Councils. The Councillor stated that the public were confused as to what they could be entitled to and that there was an expectation being created among communities. Councillor Monteith stated that if possible any surplus monies should be set aside to deal with demand.

Councillor Monteith proposed that the fuel stamp support be expanded out to include those who have children in primary schools that don't have children in post primary schools and are entitled to free school meals. Councillor Monteith also proposed that consideration be given at next Development Committee to the Anti Poverty Strategy as foodbanks and fuel stamps were becoming normalised and people who are working do not have enough to feed their family or heat their home. Councillor Monteith stated that there needed to be a society which pays people to work and provide for their family as reliance on foodbanks and fuel stamps is not normal.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and declared an interest in Coalisland Community Foodbank. Councillor Kerr also thanked everyone who donated to the Coalisland Foodbank following the Christmas appeal and the volunteers who worked

hard throughout 2020 and will continue to do so through 2021. The Councillor also praised the other community groups and individuals who assisted throughout the Council area in 2020.

Councillor Black stated he seconded Councillor Ashton's proposal in relation to Discretionary Grant.

The Chief Executive stated that no one would disagree with the desire to roll the fuel stamp support scheme out to all schools but that the difficulty is that there is limited monies available and that £50 would make a valuable contribution and impact to a family. The Chief Executive stated that the proposal as it stands would allow that impact to be made across 2500 individuals and if the scheme was to be expanded out there are in excess of 50 primary schools across Mid Ulster which would mean that the impact would be greatly reduced. The Chief Executive stated that the scheme is designed to have an impact and that is why it is targeted to post primary schools and suggested that the scheme be rolled out as proposed and that officers go back to the Department to request additional funding for similar roll out to primary schools. The Chief Executive stated that throughout Covid Council had led from the front and has demonstrated that it can innovatively deliver schemes and has been able to access resources time and again. The Chief Executive stated that there was a limited resource for this scheme and that if Council can demonstrate that the scheme can work efficiently and with impact as proposed it provides a good basis when making a request for further resources.

Councillor Monteith stated he accepted what was being said and that Council were dealing with a limited amount of money but that he felt it is a glaring omission to leave primary schools out. Councillor Monteith stated that whatever decision is taken tonight is not ratified until Council and proposed that officers approach the Department now with a view to getting additional finance and also engage with the primary school sector to ascertain the number of additional individuals there would be if the scheme were to be rolled out to primary schools even if this meant a reduced amount as it would still be better than nothing. The Councillor stated that this was no reflection on officers but that he just felt the matter needed a bit more work to make sure Council is being as fair as it can be with limited resources.

Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and that it would not be difficult to get the numbers receiving free school meals. Councillor Molloy stated that Councillor Ashton's proposal in relation to Discretionary Grants is important as a number of community groups and sports clubs have seen the effect of Covid on their activities and that changing facilities and toilets etc will need to be looked at in a different light going forward. Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Councillor Doris stated that everyone acknowledged that there will be lot will come from the funding as set out in the report with the additional tweaks mentioned. Councillor Doris asked if there was any merit in Council writing to the Education Minister to establish if anything further could be rolled out to primary schools.

The Chief Executive stated that the difficulty with writing to the Minister would be that it would open another channel which would take time to achieve any output. The Chief Executive stated that officers would do their best to increase the resource for fuel stamp support and would talk to the Department and schools on the matter and if this required revising allocations there would be no difficulty with that.

Councillor Hughes stated she was supportive of the report and the issues raised.

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in Rural Support.

Councillor Cuddy stated that at last night's Policy and Resources Committee Members were advised that Council currently have 80 staff furloughed and that whilst Council had offered its services to other Stormont departments nothing had been taken up. Councillor Cuddy stated that there was an opportunity to utilise Council staff within the community at this time and suggested that this be investigated.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he wanted to place on record his appreciation of the good work of the community development section in the roll out of grants over the past year.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) To agree the Community Grants Policy and budgets 2021 – 2022 as set out at appendix 1 of report with the addition of a £150k budget for Discretionary Grants to be included.
 - (II) That officers engage with the Department in relation to additional funding for the fuel stamp support scheme and rollout to primary schools. Officers to also engage with Education Authority on the number of individuals involved in the roll out of the scheme to primary schools with updated figures and allocations to be brought to the Council meeting.
 - (III) To bring report on Anti Poverty Strategy to next Development Committee.
 - (IV) To note Community Development update report.

D007/21 Sperrins Future Search Project Update

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which provided update and sought approvals in relation to the Future Search Initiative. The Head of Tourism highlighted that due to current restrictions it is now proposed to put the Launch Event on hold until a more suitable time.

Councillor Clarke stated it was good to see the project moving forward and noted that it is proposed to hold the launch event in the Alley Theatre in Strabane. Councillor Clarke felt it would be more appropriate for the launch event to be held at a location within the AONB.

The Head of Tourism stated he would raise this issue at the officer meeting taking place tomorrow.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To put the Launch Event on hold until a more suitable time.
 - To continue to support the delivery of the Sperrins Future Search initiative and collaborative projects.
 - To support the suggested project name going forward, that being, Sperrins Partnership Project.

Matters for Information

D008/21 Minutes of Special Development Committee held on 29 October 2020

Members noted minutes of Special Development Committee held on 29 October 2020.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that there have been a number of presentations made to the Development Committee recently and requested an update report on any follow up meetings with the groups.

D009/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 December 2020

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 10 December 2020.

Councillor Monteith asked if a date had been set in relation to meeting with the Department of Education with regard to special education and process of statementing. The Councillor also asked if there had been any feedback from the Timorese Community in relation to the issue with id and referred to agreement at last meeting to write to the Trust in relation to the Valley Care Home and if an update had been received.

The Chief Executive stated that he would seek clarification on the issues raised and come back to Members.

Councillor Doris requested update in relation to email previously sent by Linda Dillon MLA in which it was requested that Council investigate if lands at Derrylaughan side of Maghery Bridge could be transferred from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to Mid Ulster District Council.

The Chief Executive advised that the Director of Environment and Property was discussing the matter with his counterparts in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and that an update will be brought to the Environment Committee in due course.

Councillor Corry referred to email received from Draperstown Celtic requesting support from Council. The Councillor stated that this club does a lot of good work in the community particularly during the pandemic and referred to the pitch which becomes waterlogged and unusable during the winter months and that she hoped that Council would provide all the support it can.

The Head of Leisure stated that he had been speaking with the club this week and it is hoped a meeting will take place in the near future. The Head of Leisure advised that officers will work with the club to see what support and assistance Council can provide.

Councillor Kerr requested update in relation to Altmore/Cappagh projects and the transfer of licences from the Forestry Service regarding Drumcairne.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that Terms of Reference were issued before Christmas in relation to Altmore and Cappagh and are due back next week. The Director advised that the Forest Service have requested masterplans for these sites prior to them entering into a lease agreement and that this is in process.

D010/21 Ballysaggart Lough Enhancement Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on recent works to upgrade and enhance visitor facilities at one of Dungannon's best known local beauty spots, Ballysaggart Lough.

Councillor Monteith thanked officers for the work done and referred to previously held Member workshop in which it was his understanding that Council would be moving towards a masterplan for Ballysaggart Lough. Councillor Monteith stated that there needed to be more strategic discussion in relation to Ballysaggart Lough and proposed that a report be brought to the next Development Committee on the medium to long term future development of the Lough. The Councillor stated that the matter has been raised on a number of occasions and that there needs to be significant investment in the area as the potential is immense and the community are not prepared to wait any longer.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and asked that Ballysaggart Lough is added to the agenda for the next Railway Park meeting.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) That a report be brought to the next Development Committee detailing a strategic investment plan for Ballysaggart Lough and building towards a major capital investment in the area.
 - (II) That Ballysaggart Lough be put on the agenda of the Railway Park meeting to be held next week.

D011/21 Macmillan Move More Research Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on a research and evaluation report completed in partnership with Queens University Belfast and Macmillan, demonstrating how proactive the Macmillan Move More programme has been throughout the Covid pandemic. The initial findings of the research were circulated for noting at Development Committee in September 2020.

D012/21 Arts Council of Northern Ireland Survey on Arts and Culture engagement levels during COVID-19 Pandemic

Members noted previously circulated report which provided findings of research commissioned by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland that demonstrate levels of Arts and Culture engagement in Northern Ireland during Covid-19 Pandemic.

D013/21 Tourism Business Engagement Programme

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the business engagement work ongoing through the Tourism Forum, webinar series and Whats App group.

D014/21 Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report which provided the Minutes of the Tourism Development Group meeting held on 22 September 2020 and approved at Tourism Development meeting held on 9 December 2020.

D015/21 Santa visit to Primary Schools in the Mid Ulster District

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of a special visit from Santa to all the Primary School children in Mid Ulster, Christmas 2020.

Live broadcast ended at 8.43 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy 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 D016/21 to D018/21.

Matters for Decision

None

Matters for Information

- D016/21 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 December 2020
- D017/21 Sport NI EBA 2020 Programme
- D018/21 DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2020

D019/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded 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.

Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	28 January 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	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
2.0	Background
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2020-21 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members</p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to Members to attend training, conferences and seminars to better equip them in their role as elected representatives. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix A to this report is sought.</p>
3.2	<p>Officer Approvals</p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2019/20 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member</p>

	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	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A Members Conferences, Seminars & Training
	Appendix B Officer Conferences & Seminars

Appendix A

Member Training

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests

Conferences

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
NI Policy Forum Energy Conference	Monday 26 April 2021	On line	£185 + VAT	
IGPP Institute of Government & Public Policy – Energy & Sustainability of Public Sector	Thursday 13 May 2021	On line	£295 + VAT	

Next steps for energy policy in Northern Ireland

Morning, Monday, 26th April 2021

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Chair, Committee for the Economy, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy and setting a pathway 2050 climate and energy goals for 2050**
Thomas Byrne, Director, Energy Strategy, Department for the Economy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Approaches to meeting decarbonisation targets and the design of the Climate Change Bill**
Dr Inna Vorushylo, Project Lead, Zero-IN on NI Heat
- 9.45 **Commercialisation and the clean economic recovery - scaling up renewables deployment, developing emerging technologies, public and private engagement, and skills and R&D priorities**
Rachel Anderson, Chair, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group
Senior representative, trade association
Senior representative, gas
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, university
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Chair, Committee for the Economy, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 10.50 **Competitive and affordable energy markets - widening the supplier base, fair tariff systems and consumer costs, and next steps for tackling fuel poverty in NI**
Professor Neil Hewitt, Head of Belfast School of Architecture & the Built Environment, Ulster University
Senior representative, energy supplier
Senior representative, consumer group
Senior representative, energy efficiency
Senior representative, consultancy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 Break
- 11.50 **Improving whole-system resilience in NI - network capacity for distributed resources, non-generation technologies, and interconnection with ROI**
Terence Donnelly, Group Executive Chairman, Donnelly Group
Senior representative, system operator
Senior representative, distribution network
- 12.20 **Developing regulatory frameworks fit for the energy transition, market developments and a modernised energy system**
John French, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator
- 12.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
Jack Longman, Senior Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland
-

Key areas for discussion:

the new Northern Ireland Energy Strategy to 2050:

- policy needs for creating a holistic strategy:
 - identifying long-term requirements for electricity, heat, decarbonisation and infrastructure
 - what is needed from policymakers to develop support mechanisms
 - tying goals to climate trajectories
- widening collaboration between public and private stakeholders:
 - the future scope of government-led initiatives
 - opportunities for working with industry to reduce project costs
 - strategies for encouraging private investment and improving confidence
- priorities for new renewables capacity and options for the future of conventional energy sources:
 - addressing challenges to onshore and offshore deployment
 - increasing the share of clean generation in the supply mix
 - setting pathways for transitioning to low-carbon gas
- NI as a leader in new energy technology commercialisation - R&D priorities and innovation opportunities for emerging forms of energy, and how to accelerate manufacturing facilities
- the *Climate Change Bill* and working towards achievable energy sector decarbonisation:
 - whole-energy system emissions reduction - policy and investment needs for power and heat decarbonisation, industry incentives and pollution limits, and encouraging behavioural change
 - a clean economic recovery in Northern Ireland - ensuring low-carbon investments are leveraged across industry recovery plans, and new jobs and skills are prioritised in green sectors
- next steps for creating a competitive and affordable energy market in Northern Ireland:
 - establishing quality consumer services and greater supplier activity - options for reducing market barriers, widening retailer participation, and enabling smart-led services
 - balancing clean tariff and incentive scheme needs with avoiding added consumer costs - rethinking Renewable Obligation structures, and setting generator payment certificates that are proportionate to climate benefits, and protecting vulnerable consumers
 - tackling fuel poverty - examining further supplier-led obligations for household improvements, accelerating insulation and smart demand management rollout, and scope for the future of regulated price control interventions
- creating a modern energy infrastructure system and regulatory framework for Northern Ireland:
 - the electricity grid - ensuring network capacity is appropriate for integrating distributed energy resources, and can utilise non-generation technologies like energy storage and EVs
 - supply and resilience security challenges - looking at enhancing supply and demand balancing, interconnector pairing with ROI, and the Single Electricity Market
 - an agile and modern regulatory system - including measures to facilitate innovation, set rates of return that work for both grid operators and consumers, and set rules that support the energy transition

The policy context: *Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050* - from the Department for the Economy, with a consultation held last year and the full publication due later this year, which is expected to outline:

- the way forward for the energy system - and what is required for setting achievable decarbonisation targets and an energy mix appropriate for electricity, heat and transport
- futureproofing - infrastructure and demand-side management developments that are appropriate for changing consumer behaviours and long-term pressures on the energy system
- *Discussion Document on a Climate Change Bill* - Northern Ireland's first approach at setting climate legislation, with objectives of the Bill centred around:
 - potential scope and priorities for establishing climate objectives and legislation tailored to NI needs
 - identifying policy and legislative options for accelerating the economy's low-carbon shift and achieving a clean economic recovery
- *NI Renewables Obligations (NIRO)* - Northern Ireland Audit Office examination of:
 - the NIRO scheme providing financial incentives for renewable energy generators, and whether it distorts consumer prices through taxpayer burdens
 - the value which NIROs have presented for renewable energy rollout and decarbonisation of retail energy supply, and how some unnecessarily high consumer costs can be reduced
- the Utility Regulator's price control periods for electricity and gas networks:
 - the final determination for SONI's 2020 - 2025 Price Control Setting, and the ongoing consultation on price control for gas transmission:
 - the regulator setting a lower rate of return for SONI's equity allowances for the next control period, while expanding investment for grid infrastructure decarbonisation and modernisation, and reduced energy costs for consumers
 - consultation on how equity allowances can also be lowered for gas transmission operators, while ensuring business operations remain protected and that consumers pay less for heating
- Continued operation of the Single Electricity Market - the retention of the SEM for the island of Ireland following the end of the UK-EU Transition Period, ensuring cross-border trading of electricity can continue between the energy systems of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Booking arrangements

This is a full-scale conference taking place **online***** [\[back\]](#)

- full, four-hour programme including comfort breaks - you'll also get a [full recording and transcript](#) to refer back to
- information-rich [discussion](#) involving key policymakers and stakeholders
- conference materials provided in advance, including speaker biographies
- speakers presenting via webcam, accompanied by slides if they wish, using the Cisco WebEx professional online conference platform (easy for delegates - we'll provide full details)
- opportunities for [live delegate questions and comments](#) with all speakers
- a recording of the addresses, [all slides](#) cleared by speakers, and further materials, is made available to all delegates afterwards as a permanent record of the proceedings
- delegates are able to add their own written comments and articles following the conference, to be distributed to all attendees and more widely
- [networking](#) too - there will be opportunities for delegates to e-meet and interact - we'll tell you how!
- video recordings - including slides - are also available to purchase

Full information and guidance on how to take part will be sent to delegates before the conference

To book places, please use our [online booking form](#).

Once submitted, this will be taken as a confirmed booking and will be subject to our terms and conditions below.

You can also pay in advance by credit card on 01344 864796. If advance credit card payment is not possible, please let me know and we may be able to make other arrangements.

Options and charges are as follows:

- Access to *Next steps for energy policy in Northern Ireland* (plus a permanent record of proceedings) is **£190** plus VAT per delegate;
- Concessionary rate places for small charities, unfunded individuals and those in similar circumstances are **£85** plus VAT. Please be sure to apply for this at the time of booking.

If you find the charge for places a barrier to attending:

- please let me know as concessionary and complimentary places are made available in certain circumstances
- typical eligibility: individual service users or carers not supported by or part of an organisation, full-time students, unemployed and fully retired people with no paid work, and small charities
- concessions are not offered to businesses, individuals funded by an organisation, or larger charities/not-for-profit companies.

Please note [terms and conditions](#) below (including **cancellation charges**). [\[back\]](#)

Energy and Sustainability in the Public Sector 2021

Starts

13th May 2021, 9:00am

Location - Online via our live, interactive platform

9:00am Online Registration

9:30am Chair's Welcome Address

9:40am Keynote Address: Investing In Making The UK A Global Leader In Green Technologies Using A Ten Point Plan

- Setting firm foundations to bring together ambitious policies, significant new public investment and mobilise private investment
- Positioning the UK to take advantage of export opportunities presented by low carbon technologies and services into new, global emerging markets
- Delivering the Government's commitments to address climate change and cut emissions
- Key policy impacts and milestones for delivering each element of the ten-point plan
- Setting out key future strategy and legislation such as the energy white paper, National Infrastructure Strategy, Net Zero Strategy and Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, President COP26, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (invited)

10:00am Keynote Address: Supporting Governments And Local Authorities In Building A Sustainable Future

- Mitigating the effects and impacts of climate change by taking urgent action to cut carbon emissions
- Developing a credible and deliverable carbon reduction programme in local authorities
- Utilising a bespoke climate emergency local energy plan to take an integrated and long-term approach to decarbonisation locally
- Harnessing the economic benefits of decarbonisation through the creation of low carbon jobs and businesses and financial savings for residents, businesses and the council
- Providing sustainable travel by improving transport infrastructure and reducing emissions

Stew Horne, Head of Policy, Energy Saving Trust

10:20am Keynote Address: Developing A Collaborative And Cooperative Global Energy Innovation Community

- The increasing importance of innovation as we work towards achieving a net-zero economy
- The Innovation Measurement Framework: using a live and transparent dashboard to monitor innovation projects for the energy networks
- Developing a pioneering Innovator and Industry Charter to significantly strengthen engagement between the global innovation community and the UK energy networks
- Launching the Deployment Hub to bring together innovative products and services that have the potential to contribute to industry partners' business challenges
- Case study examples of current innovation projects in energy and utilities

Denise Massey, Managing Director, Energy Innovation Centre (EIC)

10:40am Questions And Answers Session

11:05am Break and Networking

11:35am Keynote Address: Using Government Funding To Finance Energy Efficiency Projects To Meet Government Green Targets

- Addressing the importance of taking action to address climate change as a core priority despite the impact of Covid-19 to the UK economy
- Using peoples' changes in working habits as a result of the pandemic to encourage change to benefit the environment
- Using the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills fund to help eligible public sector bodies develop bids and deliver projects for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
- Using the Low Carbon Skills Fund to engage specialist and expert advice to identify and develop energy efficiency and low carbon heat upgrade projects
- Assessing eligibility for applications to the Grant Scheme and navigating the application process

Jo Mills, Assistant Director of Programmes, Salix Finance

11:55am Case Study: Tackling The Climate Crisis Through Green Transport And A Zero-Emission Zone

- Putting in place a zero-emission zone in the city centre by summer 2021 and covering the entire city centre by 2022
- Investing in active travel and public transport and overhauling the council's fleet of vehicles

- Holding a citizens' assembly on climate change to gauge the views of residents and businesses
- Enabling the rise of new sustainable transport businesses operating in the city
- Promoting electric vehicle (EV) uptake by local businesses and the public and installing public charging facilities

Councillor Tom Hayes, Deputy Leader, Oxford City Council

12:15pm Case Study: Conserving And Managing Green Infrastructure Assets To Enable Sustainability And Resilience Of Rural And Urban Environments

- Tackling the human impact on natural systems to reverse global declines in biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Reversing the trends of environmental impacts associated with the loss of biodiversity
- Developing conservation and management strategies in order to build resilience and ensure sustainability
- Carrying out research on a range of themes associated with green infrastructure
- Case study examples of project in peatland conservation, wetland agriculture, invertebrate conservation and urban green infrastructure

Speaker, University of East London

12:35pm Questions And Answers Session

12:55pm Lunch And Networking

1:40pm Case Study: Developing An Action Plan And Target To Achieve Net Zero For Carbon Emissions By 2030

- Developing and implementing a structured carbon management plan and securing funding by Government agency SALIX
- Purchasing 100% renewable power for internal use and switching the petrol and diesel ground fleet to electric vehicles (EVs)
- Retrofitting buildings across the estate to boost energy efficiency and ensuring all energy supplied to its 15,000 homes is renewable
- Achieving a 55% reduction in the amount of carbon emitted by each resident between 2008 and 2018
- Cutting energy bills and boosting air quality through decarbonisation

Councillor Kevin Maguire, Cabinet Member for Safe and Sustainable City Environment, Norwich City Council

2:00pm Case Study: Using Low Carbon And Renewable Energy To Meet Energy And Sustainability Targets

- Developing a whole institution approach to the Climate Change Strategy vision to be carbon neutral by 2040

- Using a mixture of low carbon and renewable technology on campus including gas combined heat and power (CHP) and solar photovoltaics (PV)
- Renewable energy generation: procuring electricity through renewable sources which are REGO certified
- Solar energy: building a solar farm generating more than 1,4000,000 kWh of electricity a year and saving an estimated £200,000 a year in electricity costs
- Using gas-fired combined heat and power (CHP) plants as the main source of heat for heat networks

Dave Gorman, Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability, University of Edinburgh

2:20pm Case Study: Developing A Best Practice Approach To Meet National Policy Requirements On Sustainability And Carbon Reduction

- Working together with local partners in regional healthcare networks to drive the sustainability agenda more effectively across the system
- Empowering and motivating staff to take action for a better working life and greener NHS
- Ensuring all aspects of sustainability are captured in a flexible and integrated model that can be tailored to suit any NHS organisation
- Creating a Business Travel Plan and launching a Travel Bureau to assist staff and managers to reduce their business mileage and providing low emission pool cars
- Harnessing the positive effects of being more sustainable on mental health

Jim Thomas, Head of Logistics, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (invited)

2:40pm Break And Networking
3:00pm Chair's Summary And Close
3:00pm Consultation

Cost per delegate £295 + VAT

Mid Ulster District Council can receive 7 online discounted tickets. Online exclusive discount for this event ends Friday 29th January at 5pm. Simply use the code ESPS2021 at the checkout -

Approval - Conferences

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
NI Planning Conference	11/2/2021	1	E Conference	Yes
PWC Annual VAT Conference	3/3/2021	1	Webex	Yes

Report on	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
Date of Meeting	Thursday 28 January 2021
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	E Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	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 border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <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 border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level</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
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				

	<p>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</p> <p>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</p>
2.3	<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	<p>Appendix A details those requests received for recommendation to and approval by council. The request have been categorised in line with the revised policy.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>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.</p>
3.2	<p>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.</p>
3.3	<p>Members will be aware it has been agreed to review the existing Policy and associated arrangements. Meetings of the working group have taken place and a report will be brought to Committee in due course.</p>
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	That 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: January 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
Dr Edward Molloy	Irish Research Council Awards 'Maurice J Bric Medal of Excellence' "Top ranked post doctoral researcher in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences"	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Achievement 	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 Primary School Aaron Armstrong	NI Leaders Award Competition STEM Winner Status 2020 (Competition Jan 2020, winner announced Dec 2020)	Cllr Doris Received Civic Award January 2018 for Athletic Competition
St Patrick's College Dungannon led by Ms S O'Neill	BT Young Scientist & Technology Awards (NI) Best Project	Cllrs Kerr and Monteith Civic Reception awarded in February 2020 for same award
Rebecca Barker (Naomh Treasa, Dún Geanainn)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone Camogie Payer of the Year 2020	Cllr Monteith
Dalaigh Jones (Dungannon Thomas Clarkes GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star 2020	Cllr Monteith
Darren McCurry (Edendork St Malachy's GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star & County Player of the Year	Cllr Monteith & Cllr Dan Kerr

Ciaran Barker (Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star 2020	Cllr Monteith
Paul Donaghy (Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star 2020	Cllr Monteith
Emer Currie (Moy Tir na nÓg GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone Junior Ladies Footballer of the Year	Cllr Monteith
David Walsh (Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star 2020	Cllr Monteith
Niall Morgan (Edendork St Malachy's GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star 2020	Cllrs Monteith and Kerr
Mark McKearney (Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star 2020 and Player of the Year	Cllr Monteith
Conall Devlin (Dungannon)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Young Player of the Year – Tyrone	Cllr Monteith

Thomas Clarke GFC)		
Mickey Little (Eoghan Ruadh, Dún Geanainn)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone Young Hurler of the Year 2020	Cllr Monteith
Paudí McNulty (Dungannon Thomas Clarkes GFC)	Team Talk Awards 2020 Tyrone All Star 2020	Cllr Monteith

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	28 th January 2021
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh, Chief Executive Officer
Contact Officers	

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To agree the DFC Emergency Support Funding to tackle fuel poverty in partnership with schools.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>An update paper was requested at the Development Committee on the Emergency Support Funding to take account of provision of fuel support to both post primary and primary schools.</p> <p>DFC has confirmed the following update funding in a letter of offer to Council:</p> <p>Tranche III funding is now £134,105 not the original £150,000 as provisionally stated, this is due to final allocations as set per DFC budget.</p> <p>Warm, Well and Connected budget remains at £24,092 as previously noted to be included with Tranche III for allocation.</p> <p>Volunteer budget remains at £28,533, as previously noted.</p> <p>DFC has confirmed that all its emergency funding has been allocated to date as per their available budget.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Emergency Support</p> <p>Tranche III £134,105 (not £150,000) and Well Warm and connected £24,092</p> <p>It is proposed to allocate Tranche III and Warm Well and Connected, and the volunteer fund as follows:</p>

1. Counselling as per Development report January 2020 and allocation as agreed – this was £33,000 – this is now to be pro-rata at 90% of original award as per DFC Letter of Offer – expenditure now £29,700
2. Foodbank Support as per Development report January 2020 and allocation as agreed - this was £42,500 – this is now to be pro – rata at 90% of original award as per DFC letter of offer – expenditure now £39,755.
3. Fuel Stamps support funding budget is now £112,650 – as per the pro rata award (£88,650 and WWC £24,000), please see proposal below to include comments from members regarding the provision for primary schools.

Proposal

Post Primary & Primary School Fuel support

Fuel stamps to be allocated in partnership with schools to young people on FSMs. One allocation of stamps (£40 in value) per family in school. In discussions with schools, this is estimated at 60% of total school numbers.

Post Primary

3200 FSMs (as of 2018-19 most up to date formal statistic of EA)

Value of vouchers £40.00

Total number vouchers/families supported 1920 (60% of 3200)

Budget required £76,800

Primary School Fuel Support Project

3468 FSMs

Value of voucher £40.00

Total number of vouchers and families supported 2080 (60% of 3468)

Budget required £83,200

Total budget £160,000 – To propose to offset the allocation of PPE as per previous £28,533, as there is funding grants open at the moment to support groups actively working on the ground with such items.

Deficit £18,817 (to seek to get within budget savings and continued liaison with DFC)

Note for members: all consultation with those working in the poverty sector would state this level of funding of £40 would be a minimum allocation per household to have an impact on accessing fuel (generally a minimum oil fill of £100).

Note for members: All approvals for emergency funding are based on proposals to DFC and their final approval.

Note for members It has been confirmed that CWSAN allocation of Community Well Warm Programme is currently being progressed - warm home packs have been allocated, and the remainder to be focused on the wellbeing and connection with community groups.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Emergency Support Funding – Tranche III £134,105 & Warm, and Well, Warm, Connected £24,092, volunteer fund £28,533.</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To consider and agree the DFC Emergency Support Funding to tackle fuel poverty.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	None

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	28 January 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster 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 Health	Introduction of a Statutory Soft Opt-Out System for Organ Donation	Department of Health public consultation on the introduction of a statutory soft opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland.	19 February 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Yes. Should a response be required, the consultation closing date occurs prior to February Council	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	Discussion Document on Environment Plans, Principles and Governance	Seeks views on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental Improvement Plans, which would require DAERA to produce long-term strategic plans for the environment; 2. A policy statement on the application of environmental principles, currently contained in EU treaties, by all Departments when making policy; and 3. Arrangements for independent environmental oversight, a role currently undertaken by the European Commission. The Office 	5 February 2021	

		for Environmental Protection (OEP) will be established under the Environment Bill and (subject to the Assembly's approval) extend to NI.		
	Link to Consultation	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/environmental-plans-principles-and-governance		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	Yes. Should a response be required, the consultation closing date occurs prior to February Council meeting.		
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Health	Public consultation on legislative options to inform the development of an Adult Protection Bill for Northern Ireland	The Department of Health is undertaking consultation on legislative options to inform the development of an Adult Protection Bill for Northern Ireland.	11 March 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doh-1/legislative-options-for-adult-protection		
	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 Infrastructure	Consultation on Draft NI Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-2027	The Department would like your views on the published draft second cycle Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-2027 and associated environmental reports, before they are finalised. This draft Plan sets out Objectives and Measures for the second	25 June 2021	

		6-year cycle, between 2021 and 2027, primarily focusing on Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk in Northern Ireland.		
	Link to Consultation	https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-flood-risk-management-plan-2021-2027-second-cycle		
	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 of Health	Draft Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031	This co-produced draft Strategy sets out a vision for mental health in Northern Ireland, as well as 29 high level actions to take forward significant strategic change over the next decade. We would welcome your views on the draft Strategy to improve mental health outcomes in Northern Ireland.	26 March 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/mentalhealthstrategy		
	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
NIHE	Draft Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan	This Draft Action Plan sets out the Executive's proposals to address issues related to Cavity Wall Insulation installations in its stock. Feedback gathered from this consultation exercise will be used to create a	31 st March 2021	

		final action plan, which will be released in Summer 2021		
	Link to Consultation	http://www.nihe.gov.uk/Documents/Asset/Cavity-Wall-Insulation-Action-Plan.aspx		
	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
DAERA	IEA Public Consultation on Regulatory Charging Policy for 2021 - 2023	The purpose of this consultation is to seek your comments on the proposal to extend the current Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Regulatory Charging Policy 2016-2021 by a further two years until 31 March 2023. During this two year extension period the NIEA will undertake a comprehensive review of the current policy and develop a new policy in line with the legislative framework. This is in line with the Regulatory Transformation Programme.	15 March 2021	
	Link to Consultation	Public Consultation Paper Extension of the existing NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)		
	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	

Report on	Correspondence to Council – January 2021
Date of Meeting	Thurs 28 th January 2021
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	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 Office of the Minister of State, Irish Government</p> <p>The Minister of State at the Office of Public Works & Flood Relief of the Irish Government has corresponded with the Council Chair in response to the motion carried by the Council regarding excavation works at Kilmainham Gaol. Refer to appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne & Down DC has corresponded with the Chief Executive of the Council regarding the coronavirus impact on Further and Higher Education Students and its unanimous support for a motion carried by Fermanagh & Omagh DC. Refer to appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>The permanent secretary for the Department for Infrastructure has corresponded with the Chief Executive of the Council providing an update on the Dungannon Bypass. Refer to appendix C.</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from Northern Health & Social Care Trust</p> <p>The Chief Executive of the Northern Health & Social Care Trust has corresponded with the Council Chair providing an update as to arrangements in place and activity to deal with demand on their services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and winter pressures. Refer to appendix D.</p>

3.5	<p>Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council</p> <p>The Principal Planning Officer of Fermanagh & Omagh DC has corresponded with the Council to give notification that their Local development Plan 2030 - Draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents have been submitted with the Department of Infrastructure on 18 December 2020. The council's Planning section is aware of same. Refer to appendix E.</p>
3.6	<p>Correspondence from Department for the Economy</p> <p>The Director of Tourism and Telecoms Division of the Department for the Economy has corresponded with the Chief Executive of Council to provide an update on and address queries on the roll out and implementation of Project Stratum. The correspondence makes reference to an Annex A detailing premises out of scope. Given the size of the file this can be provided on request by contacting Democratic Services. Refer to appendix F</p>
4.0	<p>Other Considerations</p>
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: not applicable</p> <p>Human: not applicable</p> <p>Risk Management: not applicable</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: not applicable</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p> <p>Appendix A: Office of the Minister of State, Irish Government</p> <p>Appendix B: Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>Appendix C: Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Appendix D: Northern Health & Social Care Trust</p> <p>Appendix E: Fermanagh & Omagh District Council</p> <p>Appendix F: Department for the Economy</p>



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Our Ref : C/ CE - 2020/510

10th December 2020

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

Dear Cathal,

I refer to your recent 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.

Once enquiries have been completed in the matter you have raised, you will receive a substantive response.

Yours sincerely,

PP Derek Donohue P.S.

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

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



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

Our ref: C180/2020

15 December 2020

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

Dear Mr Tohill

Re: Coronavirus Pandemic impact on Further and Higher Education Students

At the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 December 2020 the Notice of Motion from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council was tabled and Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council unanimously agreed to fully support the Motion:

“Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic Fermanagh and Omagh District Council recognises the unprecedented strain that further and higher education student from our district are facing”.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Received
- 5 JAN 2021
Chief Executive



From the Permanent Secretary
Katrina Godfrey

By email:
Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council

Room 701
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175
Email: katrina.godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: PSDFI 3/21
7 January 2021

Dear Adrian

DUNGANNON BYPASS

Thank you for your letter received 11 December 2020 regarding a bypass of Dungannon. First I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chief Executive of Mid Ulster District Council and wish you every success in that role

As you may know, we are currently preparing a Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP) which will set out future investment and improvement for our strategic transport networks, by road, rail and bus, to 2035; and reflect the Department's commitment to improving connectivity for the benefit of our economy and communities across Northern Ireland. It will also help to inform the priorities for future development of the main road networks, including the A28/A29 Link Corridor running from Newry to Coleraine.

We recognise the congestion that occurs as a result of the volume of traffic passing through the towns/city along this corridor, in particular Armagh, Dungannon and Cookstown. We are keen to investigate ways to create more livable places that are not adversely impacted by heavy through traffic. This will be carefully considered as part of the RSTNTP proposals and the Minister intends to publish her draft plan for public consultation in late 2021.

We will be meeting with the Council in the coming months as part of our wider engagement under the Roads Order and this would be a good opportunity to provide an update on the draft plan. In the meantime, and particularly in the context of our work on the Mid South West Growth Deal, we will continue to keep in touch to ensure a fully integrated approach to land-use and transport planning.

Yours sincerely

KATRINA GODFREY

Chief Executive

11th January 2021

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Chair
Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Councillor,

With reference to your correspondence of 6 Jan 2021, I share your concern at the delays experienced at Antrim Hospital and at other hospitals across Northern Ireland in recent weeks. You will appreciate that this is a symptom of system-wide pressure and is a result of normal winter pressures combined with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I can assure you it is never our intention to delay the transfer of patients from ambulances into our Emergency Department (ED). Unfortunately, patients delayed in ED awaiting admission to a ward is not a new situation and has happened on many previous occasions, particularly during winter pressure periods. Pre-COVID, we were able to cohort patients in ED awaiting admission, which allowed the department to maintain flow more efficiently. The complication that has arisen due to COVID is that patients suspected of being COVID positive who require hospital admission must remain isolated in ED until a side room in the hospital becomes available or there is laboratory confirmation of the patient's COVID status to allow us to place patients in cohorted wards.

Antrim Hospital in particular has experienced high levels of COVID admissions from early November and those figures have continued to rise throughout the second and now third surges of COVID-19.

You are no doubt aware of the current modelling from the Department of Health, which indicates a likely third peak of COVID-19 in mid-January. As we prepare for this scenario, we are taking a wide range of actions. These include:

- An increase in our ICU capacity in Antrim Hospital from 7 to 14 beds
- A phased increase in COVID inpatient beds to accommodate the projected growth in demand across Antrim and Causeway hospitals
- Additional piped oxygen capacity for our acute inpatient wards

Bretten Hall, Antrim Area Hospital Site, Bush Road, ANTRIM, BT41 2RL
Tel: 028 94426273

jennifer.welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net



- Improved responsiveness of our lab-based COVID testing and the securing of new point of care testing equipment to facilitate rapid reporting to assist us in the safe placing of patients in hospital wards and to inform timely discharge
- Increased COVID step-down capacity in our community hospitals and care homes
- Additional rapid response domiciliary care capacity to facilitate discharge from hospital
- Redeployment of staff from lower priority areas to support ICU, inpatient wards and other key services
- Ongoing support for care homes to help protect the most vulnerable in our society with daily surveillance across the 125 privately-run care homes in our Trust area and the provision of Trust support where required to assist the care home sector
- Implementation of the Phone First model across the Trust area to assist the public in navigating access to the most appropriate service
- A range of support measures for managers and staff to maintain physical and psychological wellbeing through this very difficult period
- A vaccination programme whereby we have given a first dose to 2,000 care home constituents and 2,700 care home staff along with over 7,000 Trust staff
- Delivery of the regional Nightingale enhanced therapies and rehabilitation unit at Whiteabbey Hospital.

The situation we find ourselves in as Health and Social Care providers can only be described as unprecedented and we are working extremely hard to maintain services for those most in need. Our staff, many of whom are your constituents, have risen to all of the challenges that this year has brought us and continue to provide the best possible care and treatment to all of our patients and clients.

I trust this provides some assurance of our active preparation for what is likely to be a very difficult month of January. We appreciate the ongoing support from our local councils, and would welcome any assistance you can provide, including promoting Phone First before attending our Emergency Departments, encouraging your constituents to adhere to the lockdown guidance, and availing of their vaccination when offered, thereby helping to protect us all.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Welsh
Chief Executive

Bretten Hall, Antrim Area Hospital Site, Bush Road, ANTRIM, BT41 2RL
Tel: 028 94426273

jennifer.welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net



From: Development Plan <developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com>

Sent: 12 January 2021 12:55

To: Mid Ulster Info <info@midulstercouncil.org>

Subject: [Mimecast - Suspicious Message] The Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Plan Strategy – Submission to Department for Infrastructure and Availability of Submission Documents

Your Ref

Our Ref: ES13 Submission for IE

Date: 12th January 2021

Email: developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com



Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

Planning Department

Mid Ulster District Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: The Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Plan Strategy – Availability of Submission Documents

As a statutory 'consultation body', I write to you to advise you that in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 20 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the council submitted the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents to the Department for Infrastructure on 18 December 2020, for consideration as part of the Independent Examination process.

In accordance with Regulation 21 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, I also write to notify you that the Draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents are available for inspection. The Draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents submission are available on the Council's website at www.fermanaghomagh.com.

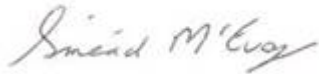
In light of current COVID-19 restrictions, the submission documents will not be available for public inspection at our offices at this time. When restrictions are relaxed, we will facilitate inspection of documents by appointment only between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday at Strule House, 16 High Street Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT78 1BQ and County Buildings, 15 East Bridge Street, Enniskillen, Fermanagh, BT74 7BW. If you wish to register for an appointment to view the documents when circumstances allow, please email

developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com or telephone 0300 303 1777 for an appointment.

There is no opportunity to make any representations at this stage.

Should you have any queries regarding this notification, please contact the Local Development Plan Team at the telephone number above, or email developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sinead McEvoy'.

Sinead McEvoy
Principal Planning Officer (Development Plan)

GERALDINE FEE
Director, Tourism and Telecoms Division



Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90529577
email: geraldine.fee@economy-ni.gov.uk

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
DUNGANNON
Co. Tyrone
BT71 6DT

E-mail: Jennifer.Hobson@midulstercouncil.org

15 January 2021

Dear Adrian

PROJECT STRATUM

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 December 2020, regarding the joint DfE/Fibrus meeting with the Broadband Working Groups held on 7 December 2020. Apologies for the delay in responding.

You have raised a number of issues and I will respond to these in turn:

1. Premises Out of Scope

- (1.1) *The physical addresses and postcodes for the 354 premises in Mid Ulster.*

Answer: A data file is embedded at **Annex A** listing these premises. This includes Irish Grid references and latitude and longitudes.

- (1.2) *Digital GIS Shape files to allow Council to map exactly where these premises are located (as shown on DFE's map during your team's Powerpoint presentation on 7 December 2020).*

Answer: Unfortunately, we do not hold the data in the format requested. The maps were generated using specialist data tools in the 'R' computer language. Data has been provided as above and should permit a GIS specialist to generate mapping information.

- (1.3) *As DfE has removed these premises from Project Stratum, it is incumbent upon the Department to guarantee these premises will receive a future proofed FTTP solution too. Please confirm that this will be the case.*

Answer: As indicated during the discussion on 7 December, the Department will seek to ensure that no premises are left without a viable solution and it continues to be the aspiration of the Department to maximise NGA broadband coverage across the intervention area. Discussions have already been advanced with DCMS and now, with Fibrus Networks on board, we are working to identify the solutions and costs to bring those premises into this intervention, working within the rules and guidelines that permit government intervention in this industry sector.

2. Reduction in the Number of Premises in the Intervention Area

- (2.1) *Please provide a table, showing a breakdown by district council area where the 19,000 premises are located which DfE has removed from the “white postcode list”.*

Answer:

Local Government District	Number of premises reclassified in February 2020
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,394
Ards and North Down	1,264
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	2,458
Belfast	218
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,619
Derry City and Strabane	720
Fermanagh and Omagh	2,408
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,433
Mid and East Antrim	1,099
Mid Ulster	3,023
Newry Mourne and Down	2,759

- (2.2) *Provide evidence of how, when and by whom (provider) the premises in Mid Ulster removed from the “white postcode list” will be appropriately addressed to receive access to a minimum 30mbps service.*

Answer: A data refresh exercise was undertaken by Openreach on a national basis through December 2019 and January 2020. Openreach provided new information to the Department on 27 January 2020, shortly after the launch of the Invitation to Tender process for Project Stratum.

The information indicated that the initial data provided by Openreach in response to the Open Market Review and State aid public consultation was no longer up to date.

The Department took the opportunity to revise the Speed Coverage Template at that time, to ensure that all eligible NGA 'White' premises were accurately captured, and to ensure that suppliers bidding for the contract were not disadvantaged. The revised target intervention area was, therefore, finalised to coincide with the ITT phase of procurement. We also invited other bidders participating in the process to provide updated data related to the target intervention area, but the vast majority of the premises affected were related to the national data refresh exercise conducted by Openreach. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/economy/addendum-to-omr-response-project-stratum.pdf>

The implication for Project Stratum was that there were a significant number of premises categorised as 'White' that the refreshed Openreach data suggested could already access broadband services of 30 Mbps or greater, or would be able to do so within the period of the OMR. Therefore, in line with State aid guidance, those premises were re-categorised as 'Grey' or 'Black' and removed from the intervention area as part of the OMR process.

(2.3) *Will such premises in Mid Ulster be guaranteed a future proofed FTTP solution?*

Answer: These premises are outside the scope of Project Stratum and fall within Openreach's own commercial deployment. It is for Openreach to comment on the technology deployed or to be deployed to provide Next Generation Access services to those premises, which the supplier has indicated is currently available or will be provided within the required period.

3. Remaining Premises in Mid Ulster without Superfast Broadband after Project Stratum

(3.1) *Please provide DfE's definition of NGA Coverage.*

Answer: Based on the EU Broadband Guidelines and clarified by BDUK (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-nbs-tech-guidelines>), Next Generation Access networks rely wholly or partly on optical elements and are capable of delivering an enhanced broadband capability compared to existing basic broadband networks. Current qualifying NGA technologies are fibre-based networks (FTTx), advanced upgraded cable networks (DOCSIS 3.0) and certain advanced wireless access networks capable of delivering reliable high speeds.

(3.2) *Does DfE hold any information on the location of the 0.6% of premises in Mid Ulster, not included in Project Stratum. If so, Council would request this information be shared with us, to identify the locations of the remaining addresses (including postcodes) requiring intervention.*

Answer: See answer to 1.1

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geraldine Fee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a distinct 'F'.

GERALDINE FEE

Director, Tourism and Telecoms Division

