

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 4 November 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

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

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Mr Browne**, Head of Tourism
Mrs Donnelly**, Council Solicitor
Mrs Dyson**, Head of HR
Mr Gordon**, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance
Mr McCance**, Head of Culture and Arts
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr Scullion**, Assistant Director of Property
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and 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 7.00 pm

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

PR200/21 Apologies

Councillor McLean.

PR201/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Cuddy declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 14 – Dungannon Lands.

PR202/21 Chair's Business.

None.

PR203/21 Update on Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22

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

- Provide members with an update on the 2021/22 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme
- Provide members with the list of projects approved for funding by Department for Communities
- Seek approval to set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for each project where required
- Seek approval to utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required
- Seek approval to initiate a tender process to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to install automated doors at the five locations as identified within section 3 of this report

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted:

(i) Update on the 2021/22 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme

Noted.

(ii) List of projects approved for funding by Department for Communities

Noted.

(iii) Set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for each project where required

Resolved To set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for each project where required.

(iv) Utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required

Resolved To utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required, to deliver the projects identified.

- (v) **Initiate a tender process to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to install automated doors at the five locations as identified within section 3 of this report**

Resolved To initiate a tender process to appoint a suitably qualified contractor for the installation of automated doors at the following five locations - Bridewell, Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Maghera Leisure Centre, Cookstown Leisure Centre and Tobermore Golf Club.

PR204/21 Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report to provide information to members on a paper which was approved at the Development Committee in October 2021 and to seek a budget allocation of £55,000 towards Cahore Playing Fields.

Councillor Cuddy advised that there had been a discussion at the last Development Committee regarding this and whilst he didn't vote against it, felt it was down to the process again. He said that he didn't realise until towards the end of the meeting that there was other funding coming from other Departments which was good to see but would still be concerned about Council improving pitches which could be developed into 3G pitches anyway.

Councillor Cuddy enquired how much the landlord was being paid for the site in the first instance as he would have concerns about the process as quite a few pitches which the Council own was well below standard. He was aware of the Pitch Strategy 5 Year Plan and said it important to avail of any investment that was coming from anywhere but felt that it was important to treat everyone the same as there were other pitches identified long before this one which hadn't availed of any support.

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing advised that full costings and details were outlined within the appendix but stated the Landlord rental costs were £7072.65 per annum but anticipated that there would be a saving to be derived with the leasing and a potential payback within a four year term. He said that it was worth noting that whilst Officers were seeking approval for £55,000 tonight, only a proportion would be spent at the start on the GAA pitch with or without leasing as these works were likely to be required. He advised that this was being brought ahead of the Pitch Strategy as this proposal was brought before the commencement of the Pitch Strategy and also to help the local soccer club with their bid into a funding scheme to help develop a floodlit 3G pitch as proof of tenure likely to be a requirement but Officers would be working hard to make sure there was a mechanism within the Pitch Strategy to deal with other requests throughout the District. He stated that a good workshop had taken place last Monday night and hoped to convene another workshop with members in the coming weeks with a view to bringing forward the Pitch Strategy early in the New Year and hoped that this would outline a mechanism for future upgrades for the remainder of the assets across the District.

The Chair referred to comment about savings and asked how this payback over 4 years was going to come into place as this would be very welcome.

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing advised that currently Council were paying rental costs to the Landlord, ongoing maintenance fees, staff costs, equipment, cutting and maintenance of the three pitches and also the pavilion. In addition there was staff costs every time the pavilion was opened and closed and each time the pitches were facilitated for bookings, so by moving towards the leasing model where the clubs would be taking on responsibility over the opening, closing, staffing, supervision and general upkeep, this would negate the need for Council staff to attend site as this would be facilitated by the two local clubs. Taking all this into consideration this would be the basis where annual savings would be made and also generate some income derived from the LPS valuations which the clubs agreed to meet and income from the hire of the pavilion on an annual basis also.

Councillor S McPeake stated that he would have no hesitation in proposing the recommendation as works at this site was long overdue. He referred to the workshop last Monday night which had taken place and advised that the request for this site was made some time ago. He said that he knew the pitch well and the difficulties for children to play on it within the last year as it was well below standard and stated that the Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing had outlined the savings well which were going to be accrued over the next number of years and the fact that the Clubs were going to take it on with LPS valuations and take all the maintenance and work out of our hands which could only be beneficial to the Council.

Councillor Cuddy said that by listening to comments tonight, it was his understanding that Council staff would not be involved in the cleaning and maintenance of the pavilion and asked if this was the case.

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing advised that outside of Councils statutory duties around legionella, etc that's all that would be proposed by Council staff. The opening, closing and cleaning of the pavilion would be the responsibility of the two Clubs which would be managed on an account management basis to ensure that the terms of the agreement were carried out as required. He clarified that the Council would have little to no involvement moving forward.

Councillor Elattar said that she would be happy to second the recommendation as it was a good idea. She referred to last Development Committee where the issue was raised and commended Officers on outlining the case very well and advised that this project would be a huge benefit to the community and a good payback for Council.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Proceed to progress to the next stage by drafting, agreeing and executing terms with the successful submissions in line with LPS valuations for pitch 1, 2 and 3 for a period of 25 years with option to extend
- (ii) Proceed to engage with the landlord and extend the term where relevant to ensure agreements are co-terminus
- (iii) Assign a rental value of £1,000 per annum to the pavilion for a separate key-holding agreement – subject to annual review and monitoring

- (iv) Agree budget allocation of £55,000 for the upgrade of the pitches to an acceptable standard.

PR205/21 Sport NI Multi Facility Fund Application

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report to update members of the progress of the Sport NI Multi Facility Fund Application and to seek approval for match funding allocation from the Council's Capital Framework 2020-2024.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the progression of the project and to grant approval for Council to provide match funding of £1.6 million as part of the Council's Capital Framework 2020-2024.

PR206/21 Elected Members Development Working Group

The Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance presented previously circulated report which asked for members to consider meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on 26 October 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Elected Member Development Steering Group meeting and actions contained, held on Tuesday 26 October 2021.

PR207/21 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR208/21 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 October 2021

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 October 2021.

**PR209/21 Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues:
Subscription 2021-22**

Members noted update on request from the Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues for annual subscription for period 2021-22.

Live broadcast ended at 7.16 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
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 Member consider items PR210/21 to PR223/21.

Matters for Decision

- PR210/21 DFI Roads – Wayleave Agreement – Play Park
- PR211/21 Augmented Reality and Trail Interpretation for Davagh Forest (Cookstown), Slievemore (Mayo) and Ballyronan Marina (Magherafelt)
- PR212/21 Cookstown – Lands
- PR213/21 Dungannon – Lands
- PR214/21 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR215/21 2022/23 Rate Estimates
- PR216/21 Banking Services

Matters for Information

- PR217/21 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 October 2021
- PR218/21 Financial Report for 6 months ended 30 September 2021
- PR219/21 Contracts and DAC
- PR220/21 Leisure Services VAT Update
- PR221/21 Rate Support Grant Update
- PR222/21 Staff Matters for Information
- PR223/21 Recovery of Building Control Fees

PR224/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.20 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.