

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 11 January 2023 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Buchanan, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Cuddy*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, Kearney, S McAleer*, S McGuigan*, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Quinn*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)**

Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP)

Mrs Dyson, Head of Human Resources (HoHR)**

Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E)

Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Corporate Service and Finance (AD: CS&F)**

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD:PS)

Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CS&F)

Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT (HoICT)

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

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor S McAleer who was attending virtually, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Buchanan took the Chair.

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

PR001/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

PR002/23 Apologies

Councillors Doris and Totten.

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer thanked the Deputy Chair, Councillor Buchanan for standing in to Chair the meeting tonight as she could not attend in person.

PR003/23 Declarations of Interest

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

PR004/23 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR005/23 Policy Amendment – Employer Discretions under Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) 2014 Regulations and other related Regulations

The Strategic Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (SD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the revisions to Council's Policy Statement in respect of Employer's Pension Discretions (LGPS), within appendix A of this report.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the revised policy that now reflects the:

- Updated necessary annual monetary amendments as referenced at 2.2 above to Pension Discretions 1 and 2 as notified by NILGOSC.
- Changes to Pension Discretion 6 to allow the Council to enter a Shared Costs AVC arrangement, with it being the option for relevant employees and Council to participate in an HMRC approved scheme.
- Annual revisions to the pension contribution bands from 1 April 2022 as contained within the Council's Policy Statement Employers Discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) 2014 Regulations & other related Regulations, as notified by NILGOSC.

PR006/23 Request to Illuminate Council Properties

The Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- NI Chest, Heart and Stroke

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties on Wednesday 1 February 2023 – NI Chest, Heart and Stroke – Red.

PR007/23 Member Services.

None.

Matters for Information

PR008/23 Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 1 December 2022

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 1 December 2022.

PR009/23 Performance Improvement – Local Government Auditor’s Audit and Assessment (Section 95) Report 2022-23

Members noted update on the key findings of the Local Government Auditor’s Audit and Assessment Report 2021-22.

The Chair advised members that he had just been made aware of the sad news of the passing of one of our Auditors, Ms Dawn Johnston and asked that members keep her family in mind at this sad time.

The Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CSF) advised that Ms Johnston was a Senior Officer with Deloitte who supported the NIAO in audit and regularly attended the Audit Committee to make presentations. She was someone that the Audit Committee worked with over a relatively long period of time and he stated that he felt that it was appropriate for the Chair to bring her passing to members’ attention.

Councillor McLean enquired if it was in order for Council to pass on our condolences to Ms Johnston’s family.

The SD: CSF advised that Officers had already done so informally.

Councillor McLean felt that it would be appropriate to pass on the condolences of this Council to the family of Ms Johnston.

Councillor McLean, referring to audit matters, said that by looking at the report that nothing was jumping out as a matter of concern and sought clarification from the SD: CSF if this was the case.

The SD: CSF advised that the aspiration of auditees is to get a clean/unqualified audit report and this Council certainly got that. He said that, like most bodies audited, there were matters which come to the attention of the Auditors; these have been fully discussed with the Audit Committee and he was satisfied and happy to confirm that there was nothing that needed to be brought to the attention of this committee.

Live broadcast ended at 7.09 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McLean 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 PR010/23 to PR

Matters for Decision

PR010/23	Staff Matters for Decision
PR011/23	Refurbishment of the War Memorials in Dungannon & Moy
PR012/23	Access route options for lands at Desertcreat and Site Acquisition
PR013/23	Drumcoo Lands Access and Accommodation Works
PR014/23	2023/24 Rate Estimates Update

Matters for Information

PR015/23	Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 1 December 2022
PR016/23	Staff Matters for Information
PR017/23	Calculation of holiday pay to recognise regular overtime worked by part time contracted staff
PR018/23	Financial report for 8 months ended 30 November 2022
PR019/23	Contracts and DAC Registers – Update

PR020/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.05 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

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