

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 7 December 2022 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present	Councillor Clarke, Chair Councillors Ashton, Black*, Burton, Corry*, Cuddy, Doris* Elattar*, Kerr, McNamee*, Martin*, Milne*, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn*, Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure Wellbeing Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development Ms McKeown**, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Mr Ciaran McKeown, ICT Support Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Others in Attendance	Councillor McKinney*

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

D185/22 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

D186/22 Apologies

None

D187/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Clarke reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest drawing attention in particular to agenda item on grants. He stated that if Members had already declared the interest it did not need reiterated. Councillor Burton declared an interest in Agenda Item 16 Agewell Project

D188/22 Chair's Business

None

Matters for Decision

D189/22 Social Inclusion – NIHE Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23

The AD: Development presented previously circulated report and sought approval for Council's response to NIHE's Consultation on their Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the penultimate paragraph of the response in relation to the methodology of 'Latent Demand Testing' and proposed that the paragraph should include that it was not serving its purpose and should be discarded.

Councillor Kerr seconded the proposal and said that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had failed in providing homes for people in rural areas and that all Councillors would concur that they were contacted regularly by residents about repetitive issues.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the penultimate paragraph be amended include that latent demand process and not fit for purpose from delivering for rural communities.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Wilson

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council's response NIHE's Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 with the addition of referencing latent demand process and not fit for purpose from delivering for rural communities.

D190/22 Development Report

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated and sought approval for the following:

- Rolling Community Grants
- PEACE IV Connecting Pomeroy Project – modification to the Programme Partnership Agreement
- Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) – Storage Scheme Support
- Good Relations Funding
- Development Department Update

It was

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

- **Rolling Community Grants**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Community Festival & Good Relations Grants.

- **PEACE IV Connecting Pomeroy Project – modification to the Programme Partnership Agreement**

The AD: Dev drew attention to detail in the report advising that one partner had withdrawn.

Councillor Monteith sought clarity regarding Peace Funding and said that community groups were confused as to why they were being consulted regarding capital projects if they could only be built on council lands.

The AD: Dev outlined that there is three areas to the plan and currently Council was consulting on all to identify programme themes. The community led projects including their shared space capital projects would be under the regional grants programme, which will be opened by SEUPB, two bodies are being identified to deliver this and support groups with applications, An Phobal and another partner to be identified. She said that Council would advise the community groups when the grants would open and funding would include capital projects, health and wellbeing, cultural diversity. As above Council will advise community groups when these open and direct them to the identified bodies who will support them through the application process.

Councillor Monteith said that the community was not capturing the facts explained and said they had the impression funding could only be spent on council lands. He said he would redirect groups to officers for further explanation.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the update to the Peace IV Connecting Pomeroy Partnership Agreement.

- **Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) – Storage Scheme Support**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the contribution to the VPRS Storage Scheme.

- **Good Relations Funding**

The AD: Dev advised that a further small amount of funding had become available and clarified that as raised by a Member the previous month an additional partner was now included.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the allocation of the additional Good Relations funding to the CAP Debt Management Project.

- **Development Department Update**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note update from the Development Department.

D191/22 Liaison Agreement for the Investigation of Work-Related Deaths within Northern Ireland

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report and sought Council agreement to the updated 'Investigation of Work-Related Deaths – Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison' arrangements.

Councillor Cuddy proposed the recommendation saying that there had been work related deaths across the province and with the industry in Mid Ulster this would be a good approach.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Burton

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the 'Investigation of Work-Related Deaths Agreement for Liaison' between Council, Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland, Police Service for Northern Ireland and the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

D192/22 Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group Request

The AD: HL&W presented previously circulated report to bring Members attention to request from the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group and to seek Member's opinion as to whether to grant permissions for FSNI and Woodland Trust to enter into licence agreements with Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group for the management of red squirrels and the control of grey squirrels within Derrynoyd, Moydamlaght, Iniscarn, Davagh, Knockmany, Brantry, Glenone, Pomeroy, Drumcairne and Cabin Wood.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke asked if the group would be active in other forests throughout the district that Council did not hold licence agreements for.

In response the AD: HLW said that it was his understanding that the Mid Ulster group is to spread awareness and raise the issues with others.

Councillor Molloy said he had met with the group recently and that people were aware of the plight of red squirrels and the invasive greys and this approach would help the situation across the district.

Councillor Wilson said he was happy with the approach and asked how the group propose to get rid of the grey squirrels. He said he would welcome an increase in red squirrels especially in Cabin Wood.

Councillor Clarke made reference to pine marten which was a known predator of the grey squirrels.

Councillor Quinn asked if there was plans to introduce more pine martens in the area and said it would be good to establish if more was to be introduced in the district.

Councillor Kerr proposed that the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel group be invited to make a presentation to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group be invited to make a presentation to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the request from the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group and to grant permissions for FSNI and Woodland Trust to enter into licence agreements with Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group for the management of red squirrels and the control of grey squirrels within Derrynoyd, Moydamlaght, Iniscarn, Davagh, Knockmany, Brantry, Glenone, Pomeroy, Drumcairne and Cabin Wood.

D193/22 Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model

The AD: HL&W presented previously circulated report to inform Members about the Food Standards Agency's Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model and to seek any comments/amendments from Members on the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council draft response.

The AD: HLW drew attention to the content of response at question three and highlighted that Council was not in agreement as the proposed six and ten years was too long of a time frame without inspection.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to grant approval for previously circulated draft consultation response on the proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model, and to send the consultation response to the Food Standards Agency before the deadline of 9th January 2023.

D194/22 Sports Representative Grants

The AD: HL&W presented previously circulated to present to Members the proposed Community Grant Allocations for the range of:

- Sports Representative Grant – Individuals (November 2022)

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Wilson

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Sports Grant Allocations as listed in appendix A of the report.

D195/22 Economic Development Report – OBFD

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report to update on key activities as detailed below:

- Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt
- Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023
- Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23

- **Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt**

Councillor Ashton asked if the proposed changes was the best approach given the current pressures.

In response the AD: EDTSP said that the Bridewell currently hires the room based on an hourly rate and to bring it into line with other similar Council facilities, it is recommended an hourly, half day, full day and out of hours hourly rate is introduced.

Councillor Ashton said she appreciated the officer's comments but Council needed to be looking at what other Councils were charging and conduct a review prior to the rate setting.

Councillor Cuddy asked if occupancy had come back to pre covid levels.

In response the AD: EDTSP said she did not have the occupancy figures with her this evening and agreed to forward these to the Member.

The AD: Dev said in some other buildings room hire was reaching close to pre covid levels.

Councillor Wilson said that in light of the current pressures should this increase be postponed and a review conducted of all room hire charges.

The AD: EDTSP said if this is the will of Members a report could be brought to a future meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to review room hire charges across all facilities and postpone revised charges and mechanism for same at Bridewell, Magherafelt until the review is complete.

- **Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023**

Councillor Burton asked if there was a cost to Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce. She said she had previously raised the query did the two Chamber of Commerce organisations in the district work together and if they did work together was there a cost to Fivemiletown and did Council help with same.

In response the AD: EDTSP said that the NI Chamber have membership from a variety of businesses and organisations and provide a range of services to those bodies who pay an annual membership fee. She clarified that the local Chambers of Commerce operate differently and she did not know if they were members of the NI Chamber. She advised she had a meeting scheduled in the new year with NI Chamber to maximise the benefits of Council's corporate membership and she would raise the matter with them then, if Members recommend Council renew its membership subscription.

Councillor Burton thanked the officer and said that Fivemiletown feel they are on the periphery of the district and they have worked hard on Christmas lighting projects and do their best to keep businesses in the town.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Corporate Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce costing £3,000+Vat for the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

- **Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23**

The AD: EDTSP advised that TNI had made contact with Council and given that there was a substantial number of bids the maximum funding granted to each Council would be £33K. The officer advised that the projects outlined would be revised as undernoted:

- (i) Seamus Heaney Homeplace reduced to £10k and would focus on moss wall and remove headsets from the bid;

- (ii) Living History Banquet at Hill of the O'Neill reduced to £13k – will include the banquet but the number of props and accessories will be reduced;
- (iii) Development of video productions for OM has been reduced to £6k and the proposal for purchase of new telescopes has been removed;
- (iv) Outdoor Experience Headsets reduced to £4k.

It was noted that the Business support of £10k was now removed from the bid.

The AD: EDTSP said that if successful the works need to be completed by March 2023 and would enhance experiences across all the facilities.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- a) Retrospectively approve Council's funding bid to Tourism NI originally focusing on for the 5 tourism projects listed in section 3.3 of the report, now limited to 4 projects with reduced costs maximums as detailed below, to retrofit the revised funding limits which have been updated by Tourism NI; 4 tourism projects will include; as outlined by the AD: EDTSP;
 - (i) Seamus Heaney Homeplace - £10k;
 - (ii) Hill of the O'Neill - £13k;
 - (iii) OM - £6k;
 - (iv) Outdoor Experience Headsets - £4k.
 - b) Approve delegated authority be granted to Council's Chief Executive, to sign and return the Service Level Agreement to Tourism NI by 9th December 2022, in the event that Council is successful in its funding bid.

Matters for Information

D196/22 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 November 2022

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 November 2022.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to D169/22 Chair's Business regarding flooding at Kings Road/Ardskea and sought an update.

In response the AD: EDSTP advised that the matter had been referred to Technical Services and they would provide update to the Member.

Councillor Kerr sought an update regarding Gortgonis Project and the AD: Dev advised that the matter had been considered in confidential business and an update would be provided in confidential basis.

In response to Councillor Kerr's query regarding Altmore/Cappagh project the AD: HLW advised that the letter of offer had been received, the tender would be advertised and it was hoped to appoint an ICT team in January.

Councillor Doris drew attention to D169/22 Chair's Business – swimming lessons and said that whilst she had initially raised concerns about Dungannon she was now receiving queries regarding Cookstown.

In response the AD: HLW said that the matter was being given priority a recruitment exercise was scheduled, further training programme was in place and it was hoped to see developments in the new year.

D197/22 Leisure Disability Provision and Swimming Lesson Pilot

Members noted update on the current provision in Leisure Centres for those with additional needs and additionally on the progress of establishing a pilot programme offering swimming lessons to those with additional needs and requiring assistance to participate in water-based activities.

Councillor Corry welcomed the report and stated that it was a good piece of work and she hoped it would be successful and be subsequently rolled out across all facilities in the future.

D198/22 Positive Ageing Month Update

Members noted update on Positive Ageing Month October 2022.

D199/22 Economic Development Report – OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as listed below:

- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)
- MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)
- Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)

Live broadcast ended at 7.45 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D200/22 to D204/22.

Matters for Decision

D200/22 Agewell Project – Contract Extension

D201/22 Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan

Matters for Information

D202/22 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 November 2022

D203/22 Economic Development Report – November 2022 – CBF

D204/22 Mid South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal Update

D205/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.35pm

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 please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- 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.