

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 7 November 2019 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Colvin, Doris, Elattar, Forde (7.02 pm), Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR186/19 Apologies

Councillors Gildernew, Totten, Quinn.

PR187/19 Declaration of Interest

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

PR188/19 Chair's Business

No issues.

Matters for Decision

PR189/19 Working Group Meeting Group – Council Representation on Outside Bodies

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to ask for members consideration regarding the first meeting of the Working Group on Council on Outside Bodies held on Wednesday 9 October 2019.

Councillor Forde entered the meeting at 7.02 pm.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies held on Wednesday 9 October 2019.

PR190/19 Member Support on Member IT Allocation

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to seek consideration regarding the provision of IT equipment and allocations for each category IT provision.

Councillor Ashton referred to £12,000 in this Council term to accommodate additional digital requirements and enquired how much the actual cost was going to be within the next two years.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that no figures were available on the total costings for the next two years.

The Head of ICT advised that pressures were already being incurred due to the allocation of equipment for new members and legacy councillors having issues with devices which were outdated and unfit for purpose.

Councillor Colvin enquired how this Council benchmarked compared to other Councils.

The Head of ICT said that this Council was quite accommodating compared to some other Councils and that the Democratic Services team were constantly reviewing and keeping things running efficiently.

Councillor McKinney said that some IT equipment were coming to the end of their term but that not all Councillors would be requiring equipment.

The Head of IT said that he would encourage Councillors to avail of the allocation for equipment as the volume of papers which was now being distributed needed appropriate storage, capacity and speed which older equipment may struggle with.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the:

- Revised IT allocations, wording and monetary limits.
- Necessary release of monies from Council reserves to accommodate additional digital requirements within the current Council Term, noting that the first six months has been £12,000.

PR191/19 Report of Elected Member Development Working Group

The Head of Democratic Service presented previously circulated report to ask for members consideration regarding the meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on Thursday 3 October 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Elected Member Development Steering Group meeting held on Thursday 3 October 2019.

PR192/19 Council Meeting December 2019

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report and sought members approval to move the date of the Council meeting in December 2019 to avoid a clash with the General Election.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to move the date of the December Council meeting to Monday 16 December 2019 at 7pm in Dungannon.

PR193/19 Corporate Plan 2020-2024: Draft Report for Public Consultation

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report to provide a draft Corporate Plan for members consideration and agreement in advance of a period of public consultation beginning on 11 November 2019.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 7.13 pm and returned at 7.14 pm.

Councillor S McPeake said that it was a good report but would have concerns regarding the terminology “Customer-focussed” and asked that consideration be given to rephrasing the term to something more appealing like “Citizen-focussed”.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the agreed draft Corporate Plan Consultation Report proceed now to public consultation.

PR194/19 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR195/19 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 October 2019

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 October 2019.

PR196/19 Corporate Health Indicators: 2019-20 (Q1-Q2)

Members noted report on Corporate Health Indicators: 2019-20 (Q1-Q2).

PR197/19 Performance Improvement Update: Six Month (Q1-Q2) 2019-20

Members noted report on Performance Improvement Update: Six Month (Q1-Q2) 2019-20.

PR198/19 2019 Election Costs

Members noted report on 2019 Election Costs.

Councillor Ashton enquired about expenditure of £64,500 showing for election literature.

The Chief Executive responded to confirm that the expenditure showing was for literature delivered by Royal Mail available to all election candidates. He drew members attention to the election being delivered considerably below the set expenditure threshold, the fact the Count was concluded over one day being contributory factor in this.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn 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 PR199/19 to PR212/19.

Matters for Decision

- PR199/19 Land Acquisitions and Disposals
- PR200/19 Request for funding to undertake Asbestos Removal and Appointment of a Licenced Asbestos Contractor
- PR201/19 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR202/19 Transforming the Delivery of Leisure Services in Mid Ulster District Council
- PR203/19 Request that Council contribute the cost of Air Ambulance on recurrent basis

- PR204/19 2020/21 Rate Estimates
- PR205/19 Business Rates Collection
- PR206/19 Amendments to Senior Staff Structure

Matters for Information

- PR207/19 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 October 2019
- PR208/19 Staff Matters for Information
- PR209/19 Planning System Replacement Update
- PR210/19 Contracts and DAC
- PR211/19 Financial Report for 6 months ended 30 September 2019

PR212/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____