



24 June 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, 24 June 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

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| 4. Council minutes of meeting held on 27 May 2021 | 5 - 44 |
| 5. Annual General Meeting of Council held on 7 June 2021 | 45 - 58 |
| 6. Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 8 June 2021 | 59 - 80 |
| 7. Policy and Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 10 June 2021 | 81 - 88 |
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Matters for Information

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Notice of Motions

- 14 Councillor S McPeake to move
 "That in light of the recent NIAO Report into Broadband Investment in the North of Ireland, that we welcome the findings of this report, a report which is strongly critical of achieving value for money in delivering broadband provision for citizens of the North. We further note the findings within the report and request that any financial clawback's due from BT should be immediately redirected into Broadband provision into rural areas with poorest broadband speeds"
- 15 Councillor McKinney to move
 "That this Council recognises the important contribution of the hospitality and agri food sectors to the local economy; further acknowledges that many consumers take account of food miles in their eating choices; wishes to facilitate greater use of locally produced products by our hospitality outlets; and to that end establishes a dedicated website to connect the two sectors in a manner that results in mutual benefit."
- 16 Councillor D McPeake to move
 "That Mid Ulster District Council engage with colleagues in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and the Lough Neagh Partnership, with a view to re-energising efforts towards improving the management of Lough Neagh and securing it's the bed and soil. Given the recent focus and national reference to the strategic importance of the Ulster Canal then such efforts are critical towards ensuring that Lough Neagh makes its full contribution towards achieving the huge economic, tourism and environmental benefits that it would deliver to the wider Council areas."
- 17 Councillor Mallaghan to move
 "This Council recognises the brilliant work carried out by Mid Ulster Youth Voice with assistance from EA youth services and Mid Ulster District Councils Good Relations Department.
 Commends the Mid Ulster Youth Voice Executives policy papers and invites them to full council to present to us all. Endeavours through existing funds to support Mid Ulster Youth Voice on new projects and to increase their already diverse membership."

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

18. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 27 May 2021
19. Audit Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 1 June 2021
20. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 June 2021
21. Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 June 2021
22. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 15 June 2021
23. Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 17 June 2021
24. Mobile Catering Contract Award
25. Gifting of land situated at Milltown Park, Dungannon to Mid Ulster District Council
26. Document for Sealing:
Deed of Conveyance in respect of lands situated at Milltown Park, Dungannon

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 May 2021 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, Chief Executive
Ms Canavan**, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr Tohill**, Director of Finance
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.

C094/21 Apologies

None

C095/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillors Colvin and S McAleer declared an interest in agenda item 19 motion in relation to autism diagnosis, and advised as Members of the Southern Local Commissioning Group he would not vote on the motion.

C096/21 Chair's Business

1 – Council (27.05.21)

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said the news regarding the health crisis was improving and that there had been nine days in the north without a COVID death. He said Mid Ulster cases were now in the middle of the table which was good as for a long time it had been on the top end so this was all moving in a positive direction.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan spoke about the events in Gaza over recent weeks and like everyone else he was shocked at images and congratulated the Dáil who passed a motion in relation to the lands in Palestine that it was a good move for European countries to take an interest. He said all states should endeavour to bring a fair deal to those who live in that part of the world together with peace and it was his hope it was the start of something good.

Councillor Quinn said that the decision of the Dáil was a massive step. He acknowledged it had been proposed by Sinn Féin and said the matter had been discussed several times in the Chamber. He drew attention to a motion he had moved three years ago minute reference C145/18 and asked for an update on how the Boycott Divestment Sanctions Campaign had been implemented. He said that the world is watching in horror at the events in Gaza and Israel and said he did not take no sides but the innocent in Gaza were slaughtered on the streets. He said he was dismayed to hear America, Europe and Britain sidestepping and talk about this and he hoped the motion moved in Ireland would lead the way. Councillor Quinn concluded that all should acknowledge that Israel is wrong and the current situation must end.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer - that Council receive an update on the motion passed on 26 June 2018 Minute reference C145/18

Councillor Kerr concurred and said that Israel is a terrorist state and over 200 Palestinians had been murdered in their beds. He said that Israel uses biblical passages to say they are the chosen people but killing thousands is wrong, genocide is taking place and spoke of coverage that highlighted families had been given five minutes to leave their homes. He said Israel was committing a holocaust and was a racist apartheid state and Council must do all it can to stop it. Councillor Kerr proposed that Council receive a deputation from a local activist, Deirdre Murphy.

Councillor McLean said that he had not intended to enter the debate but said he believed that Council had enough to do dealing with Mid Ulster issues and as local councillors the remit was to ensure the streets was swept, bins were emptied and the dead buried. He said he believed in the Bible and was a born again Christian thus could not agree with murder irrespective of where it came from and acknowledged that Northern Ireland had had its fill of it. He reflected that Councillor Quinn had said he was not taking sides but had lambasted Israel. Councillor McLean said he totally disagreed with everything said by Councillor Kerr and if Council was receiving a deputation both sides of the story should be heard. Councillor McLean said that he concurred with Councillor Colvin's comments at the previous meeting that Israelites are God's chosen people.

Councillor Colvin said that Councillor McLean had highlighted how many do think stated that context had to be taken and asked how you could negotiate with people who were so 'blind and prejudiced'. He said realism was needed and as highlighted in Isaiah Israel is here to stay. Councillor Colvin said some of the language put forward was not helpful that this was an old conflict the Jewish people had been hounded and a lot of people held this view.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Kerr's proposal.

Councillor Monteith said that a number of people in the district were from Gaza and had deep concerns. He stated that the Israeli state had had its boot on the neck of Gaza for years and its actions had no place in modern society.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said when people gather on the streets here it is evident the situation matters to them.

Councillor McKinney said this was yet another 'lap of the race track' and tonight if you were looking at proceedings with neutral eyes this Council would show itself again it is one way or no way. He referred to Councillor Kerr's comments and those of Councillor Quinn and said over his lifetime he had seen many horrors. Councillor McKinney supported Councillor Colvin and associated himself with his remarks. He said this was not the United Nations it was Mid Ulster and the duties were more akin to those highlighted by Councillor McLean.

Councillor McKinney highlighted that the Chair had had a photograph taken wearing the chain of office in relation to Gaza and it was his role to be neutral but he did not appear to be.

Councillor Doris said she was a Christian. She said that Council had received a presentation and heard how the Catholic Church had used religion. She claimed that each should treat their neighbour as they wished to be treated and asked how it could be considered right what was happening to the people in Gaza.

Councillor Elattar said this matter was of great relevance to the people of Mid Ulster as many had relatives in the region. She said the Israeli state was a fine tuned war machine compared to the Palestinians and many families were lying together in one room so that if they were hit they would die together. She shared that her father had worked in Jordan and had met people who carried keys of their former homes which had been taken by the Israeli state. She said that it was an international issue and Council should give the Palestinian people its support.

Councillor Molloy referred to the remark that the land had been gifted to Israel and stated that it was not within the remit of those who gave it to do so. He said that Israel had encroached and stolen more land since then. Councillor Molloy said whatever the remit of Council was it right to let the injustice continue and this would happen if the world stayed silent.

Councillor Kerr added to his proposal that a letter be forwarded to the 26 county government asking the Irish Foreign Minister to lobby for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – that
- (i) Deirdre Murphy be invited to make a presentation to the relevant committee regarding the conflict in Gaza; and
 - (ii) Write a letter to Simon Coveney the Irish Minister of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ireland calling for the expulsion of the Israeli Ambassador

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said that in reference to comments about his neutrality the Council had twice carried motions in reference to Gaza and therefore he had carried out his role.

Councillor Quinn spoke of a tree planting exercise at Coalisland Canal and advised that the trees had later been ripped out and stolen. He said he had been contacted by many residents and clubs in relation to the matter. Councillor Quinn said while thinking about this he thought it may be a good idea to plant a tree for every citizen in Mid Ulster that he had discussed the issue with former Director of Environment and Property and if it had not been for Covid this would have brought it to the Council.

Councillor Quinn proposed to plant a tree if possible for each citizen in the district or alternatively each household and requested that a report be brought to committee exploring tying the proposal in with projects already in existence.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said there would be a significant cost and given the 0% rise in rates did not know if it would be possible unless there was grants.

The Chief Executive stated that the matter was not unrelated to a recent resolve to consider planting wildflowers under an environmental strategy and if the Member was satisfied the proposal could be considered within it.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – that in bringing forward the proposed Environmental Strategy consideration also be given to extensive tree planting throughout the district

Councillor S McPeake asked if the strategy should be discussed within the Climate Change working group.

In response the Chief Executive said it would be considered which mechanism was best placed to deal with the matter.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that there was now discussion about planting 146k trees but when it had been proposed to plant 100 trees to mark the Northern Ireland Centenary there had not been agreement. He also highlighted that Prince Charles had a tree planting programme with schools and council should explore same.

Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor Cuthbertson and said the hypocrisy of Councillor Quinn in his suggestion was staggering.

Councillor Wilson proposed that Council recognise Stuart Dallas from Cookstown who had won three top football awards at Leeds United and that although civic recognition was still not happening in person requested that a letter be sent from the Chair.

Councillor Cuddy concurred with this and said he was a Leeds supporter and it was great to see Stuart doing so well and that he was a great ambassador for the area. Councillor Cuddy seconded the proposal

Councillor Buchanan said he was a Leeds man and would associate himself with the remarks and reiterated that Stuart was a great ambassador for Cookstown.

Councillor Burton said she did not take much interest in football but that her husband and sons were Leeds supporters and she too would associate herself with the remarks.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan spoke of the virtual event held as a tribute to Mickey Harte and advised the film would be broadcasted in the incoming week and he would recommend it to all.

Councillor Kerr requested that the Chair send a letter to Coalisland Fianna member Padraig Hempsey who has been appointed Tyrone GAA Senior Team Captain.

Councillor Cuthbertson highlighted that asbestos had been dumped at Cottage Quinn and also on private lands at Milltown. He said Environmental Health and the NIEA were on the issue but considering recent anti social behaviour at the cemetery asked if officers would investigate the possibility of installing CCTV.

Councillor Burton requested that the Chair write to Ashbrook B&B, Aughnacloy who had been listed in the Top 100 attractions in Northern Ireland under accommodation category.

Councillor Kerr requested that the Chair send a letter of congratulations to Moortown St Malachy's GAA on winning the intermediate reserve Championship final and to Galbally GFC on winning the Ulster Translink Community Club Award for County Tyrone,

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said he had attended the HomePlace opening of the refurbished library and encouraged Members to take the opportunity to go and see it. He paid tribute to Councillors S McPeake and Burton who had seen the project through and said as venues opened the HomePlace would be busy as this would be the year of the staycation. He said it was hoped this would be a prosperous summer for tourism across Mid Ulster.

Councillor Kearney spoke of St Vincent de Paul and its close relationship with Council. He highlighted the book received by Councillors outlining their work and requested that the Chair send a letter to the President of St Vincent de Paul on their work throughout the pandemic.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – that the Chair send letters to:

- (i) Stuart Dallas for his recent achievements with Leeds United Football Club where he was awarded three top awards;
- (ii) Coalisland Fianna member Pdraig Hempsey who has been appointed Tyrone GAA Senior Team Captain;
- (iii) Ashbrook B&B, Aughnacloy listed in the Top 100 attractions in Northern Ireland under accommodation category.
- (iv) Letter of congratulations to be forwarded to Moortown St Malachy's GAA on winning the intermediate reserve Championship final.
- (v) Letter of congratulations to be forwarded Galbally GFC on winning the Ulster Translink Community Club Award for County Tyrone,
- (vi) Letter to the President of St Vincent de Paul on their work throughout the pandemic.

Remarks from Chief Executive – Remote Meeting Regulations

The Chief Executive said that “Members, would recall that last year, the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 were introduced to provide certainty that Councils could hold meetings remotely. I notified you at April Council that these Regulations would expire on 7 May 2021.

The Department for Communities advised there would be a break between 7th May until the new legislation was put in place to allow for the continuation of meetings in hybrid form. I took a report on this at April Council, where approval was provided for the implementation of the emergency provision of the Scheme of Delegation to allow for the operation of meetings to continue in hybrid/ remote form during this time.

This is just to remind Members that in order to limit any potential challenge made with regard to the operation of Council Meetings in hybrid form, all decisions until the new legislation is in place will be implemented by the Chief Executive, under

delegated authority. I further advise that this arrangement is likely to be required until the Regulations are in place, which may now run into late June.”

Matters for Decision

C097/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters in “Open Business” at the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 22 April 2021

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to his request that a copy of the policy document in relation to flags be forwarded to Members and stated that to date it had not been received.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the Minutes of the Special Council held on Thursday 22 April 2021 (SC010/21 – SC014/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C098/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 22 April 2021

Councillor Colvin proposed the minutes but referred to *C085/21 Correspondence* and stated that the minutes were accurate but in relation to the comments about the Israeli government blocking vaccines it would depend on what source you rely on for information. He highlighted that he had read that Palestine did not accept vaccines for Covid because the plane had landed in Israel first.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to *C076/21 Chair’s Business* when he had highlighted that all East Timorese groups throughout the district needed support but Council’s assistance had been directed at one group. He referred to a Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting the previous day when an independent member of the group had raised a similar issue in that a group had been offered support by Council then it had been withdrawn. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Council needed to reflect on what was agreed and meet and offer the same support to all groups.

Councillor Doris sought an update on C081/21 Development Committee minutes in relation to progress on planting schemes for Coalisland town centre as it had been previously indicated that this would be reviewed when the public realm scheme was completed. She also sought an update on use of lands at the old railway track in Coalisland for use for allotments. Councillor Doris spoke of visiting a similar facility in Newmills and it would be good to have it replicated in Coalisland. She requested that the matter be discussed at relevant committees.

The Chief Executive stated that reports would be brought to appropriate committees.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – Reports to be brought to future committee in relation to extended flower planting scheme and an allotment scheme at the former railway line in Coalisland

Councillor Kerr said that last year some people had tried to launch the Coalisland Bloom Initiative and it may be worthwhile to re-engage with this to expand flower initiatives and revitalise the town.

In response the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said that bloom groups are community driven and Council responds and supports but emphasised that it was community driven.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 22 April 2021 (C074/21 – C086/21 and C093/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C099/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 (P063/21 – P067/21 and P073/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C100/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 6 May 2021

Councillor Molloy referred to a Policy and Resources committee in January when the decision was taken to purchase branded face coverings. He stated that his intention was that it would be provided to staff but they had not received them.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan concurred that this would be done

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer That branded face-masks be provided to staff

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 May 2021 (PR089/21 – PR099/21 and PR109/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C101/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 May 2021

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E134/21 Minutes of Environment Committee* in relation to vermin and proposed that Council investigate the possibility of having a vermin/pesticide removal team in order that it can be more proactive in this area.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that with a zero rise agreed in the rates it would be difficult.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he had previously raised a similar matter in relation to wasp nests and beehives and asked that this be incorporated in the investigation.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to *E130/21 Review of Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage* and said it was his belief that the policy was not fit for purpose that there was confusion at the meeting with regard to screening and legal advice and he would propose that the Dual Language Nameplate Signage Policy is not adopted.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure to comment on aforementioned issues.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure said that in relation to the Dual Language Nameplate Signage the policy had been brought through committee, it had been agreed to report back to committee regarding screening, this had been duly done and the committee considered the matter then agreed the policy.

In relation to the proposal for vermin/pesticide removal the Director said he would bring a report to a future committee and highlighted that it would require a significant resource to deliver.

Councillor McKinney drew attention to previous comments regarding affordability due to a zero rise in the rates and asked the Director of Finance and Chief Executive if a 'few buckets of rat poison' could be paid for out of the Council reserves

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan highlighted that the Director had indicated it would take a considerable resource.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Cuthbertson's comments and stated that back in the day Councils did deliver such services and a lot of people were complaining about rats at the moment but more often it was wasps' nests and bee hives which were problematic. She referred to the comments about zero rise in rates and said that at a recent policy and resources committee the Chief Executive had been tasked to look at lands and properties which could be sold or leased out and sought an update on progress stating that monies raised could be used to finance a vermin/pesticide removal team.

Councillor Monteith seconded Council Kerr's proposal. He stated that no one had said the total service should be free of charge it could be income based as a lot of time it was elderly people making contact with Members and when advising them to contact private companies he had been made aware of imposters calling around doors and elderly people being robbed. Councillor Monteith stated that there is an expectation that Council can be trusted thus should go further in its current response and be in a position to point to reputable providers.

Councillor McLean seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal and highlighted that there was also a motion listed on the agenda for debate.

Councillor B McGuigan stated he was happy to second the minutes as presented.

Councillor McFlynn said she would support the need for a report on a vermin/pesticide team but stated that other bodies such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive should have a remit as well.

Councillor McKinney reiterated his earlier question and stated he had not received a response.

The Director of Finance stated there was two perspectives to the question yes it would be easy to fund a supply of poison but to adequately resource a service this would increase costs.

Councillor Burton asked if an update could be given in relation to excess lands and properties.

In response the Chief Executive stated that the matter had been discussed at senior management team and acknowledged it was a huge undertaking commencing with analysing the property portfolio. He advised that a report would be brought to committee in due course but assured Members it was an ongoing project.

Councillor Burton stated she was not pushing to sell assets but if properties and lands could be leased short term and monies raised highlighting the recent interest in lands in Cookstown.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that a strategy was required.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan called a vote on the proposal

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McLean

That the Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage is not adopted.

For	15
Against	25

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the proposal was lost.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11 May 2021 (E123/21 – E140/21 and E150/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C102/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 13 May 2021

The Chief Executive drew attention to D088/21 Economic Development – item 2.5 Small Grant Business Marketing Scheme and advised that an additional £100k had been secured thus making the total £250k which would permit a grant of £300 to be given to 833 businesses.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to *D089/21 Railway Park* and expressed concern in relation to the proposed 3G pitch. He stated that the size proposed would not allow for competitive sport, it was to be located on a flood plain and there would be no changing facilities at the site. He also said that Dungannon Park would be a better location for such a pitch as currently there is no provision for hockey and limited provision for rugby. Councillor Cuthbertson also highlighted that there was areas such as the Bush which had no play equipment and there was only limited provision at Tamnamore and Moy. Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that Council should wait on the outcome of the pitch strategy before progressing this pitch.

Councillor Cuddy concurred with comments and stated whilst work is welcome in the Railway Park area there is need across the town, he said that Neighbourhood Renewal was coming up trumps but emphasised that resources should be spread and not concentrated in one small area. He said he was from the Railway Park area of town but the balance needed to be right. Councillor Cuddy concluded saying that it was important that the network for the linear park around the town was completed but this was £500k of rates money that may be better utilised.

Councillor Molloy said that those who read the papers presented would be aware that officers carried out a scoping study which asked residents if this facility was provided would they use it and there was a resounding yes! He said he had also previously raised a lack of a pitch in Moy. Councillor Molloy stated that the recommendation alludes to the fact that there is a timeline to the work which would mean that the pitch strategy would be completed before works at Railway Park commenced thus it would all take care of itself.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Molloy and said he lived in the area and highlighted that the recommendation was conditional on issues regarding flooding being sorted out. He said he would have more sympathy if they objected to any planning issues regarding this and stated to call a spade a spade this scheme was balancing the neglect of over 20 years during which millions had been invested in Dungannon Park and Drumcoo but no capital investment in Railway Park which was the most densely populated area in the district. He concluded stating he had never spoke out against a facility going into communities and was flabbergasted that a Member in Dungannon DEA would speak out against this scheme and if changing rooms was needed down the line they could be provided just like they had been in Drumcoo and Dungannon Park when required.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Dungannon Park was a facility for everyone and his argument was the large amount of money being invested in a pitch that would not accommodate competitive sport.

Councillor Cuddy said he understood Councillor Monteith's point of view that he had done great work in the area and always had supported schemes throughout the town and his thoughts would be it is pure rates money and the resource should be spread around the town.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan sought clarity as to whether Councillor Cuddy was seconding Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Councillor Cuddy clarified that no he was satisfied there was to be further investigations.

Councillor Kerr sought an update on road improvements in Coalisland and advised he had been contacted by a member of the Community Group at Lough Neagh and they had extended thanks for the facilities provided at Washingbay.

In response to Councillor Kerr's query the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that a date had been secured in the Members diary for a meeting in relation to road improvements at Coalisland.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated he had been in the Washingbay this week and the area was stunning.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer, that the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 13 May 2021 (D078/21 – D096/21 and D101/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C103/21 Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which brought to the attention of Members the opportunity to attend the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated Members should register their interest with Democratic Services.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor and Cuthbertson

Resolved That it be recommended to Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That approval be granted to the following Members who wish to attend the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower with costs attributed to individual Member conference budget.

C104/21 Civic Recognition Nomination

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, and as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for

Senior Officer that approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report and be dealt with as previously resolved by April 2020 Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate

Matters for Information

C105/21 Correspondence

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

Councillor Quinn drew attention to the motion carried at Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to dental services during Covid 19 pandemic particularly in relation to access to free dental care for 12 months post pregnancy and proposed Council support this.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to letter received from Department for Infrastructure in relation to the railway network and suggested that Council include the restoration of the network in its response to the Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan consultation. Councillor Quinn also proposed that Council give consideration to recognising the resilience and bravery of children during the Covid 19 pandemic as highlighted in correspondence received from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposals and speaking of the railway network said Council should request that the Tyrone railway network be restored.

Councillor Monteith also drew attention to correspondence received in relation to the former mother and baby homes and said that these groups should be invited in to allow Members to learn more about the situation. He also said he did not know if local government had any role in the administration of the homes in days gone by but if they had Councils should apologise.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said that Council was participating in a campaign via social media to encourage people to come forward.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and said Council should have a meeting with these groups. She said the issues raised regarding these homes would bring a tear to anyone's eye. She welcomed any action on it and acknowledged that governments had apologised and so should Councils if formerly they had played a role.

Councillor Ashton referred to correspondence received via email from officers earlier in the evening, in particular she highlighted the letter from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to the refusal by Stormont to permit a stone sculpture to mark the Northern Ireland centenary. Councillor Ashton asked if the letter, not included within the papers could be considered at the meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan clarified she could continue.

Councillor Ashton proposed that Council write to the Speaker and support Ards and North Down stating that the decision should be reversed and an opportunity had been missed by Sinn Féin to demonstrate that Northern Ireland was inclusive.

Councillor Burton seconded the proposal.

Councillor Monteith concurred with comments in relation to the railway and stated that if it reaches Caledon it would then progress through the Clogher Valley. Councillor Monteith said Council should be engaging and moving this forward and said it was an act of vandalism that it was ever removed. He concluded saying over the years some hoped to turn the former lines into a cycling trail but was emphatic that if the government wanted cars off the road an alternative was required.

The Chief Executive stated it was included in the Mid South West growth deal.

Councillor Kearney highlighted the letter received from Simon Harris TD Minister for Further and Higher Education Research, Innovation and Science and said that some avail of the exchange programme.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to correspondence received via email from officers earlier in the evening, in particular he highlighted that Council had finally received a response from the Department of Finance but expressed his disappointment that many businesses such as garages and insurance companies were not receiving adequate help or a rates holiday yet their businesses were badly hit. Highlighting insurance companies he said many had lost out on business as people had went on line and this would ultimately lead to them vacating the town centres. He concluded expressing disappointment in the response.

Councillor S McPeake referred to Councillor Ashton's proposal issue of the memorial stone in Stormont and said he thought the right decision had been taken and that Stormont should be a neutral place for all and the proposal had not met the commission's standards.

Councillor S McPeake proposed that Council did not support Ards and North Down and should not write to the Speaker.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that because the correspondence had only been received by Council earlier in the day it had not met the three days requirement and should be considered the following month. He stated it had been circulated for information.

Councillor Ashton accepted the ruling but stated that she had asked at the outset if it was for consideration.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to correspondence received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in relation to a motion carried regarding the Protection of Native Honeybees. He asked if Council supported the Protection of Native Honeybees and was it committed to the All Ireland Pollinator Scheme.

In response the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure said he would report back to the Member.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That confirmation be provided to the Environment committee if Mid Ulster Council supports the All Ireland Pollinator Scheme as outlined in the motion adopted by Fermanagh and Omagh Council. Should it be found that Council has not registered its support that it does so.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer, that Council

- (i) support the notice of motion moved by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to the Dental Services during Covid 19 pandemic;
- (ii) include in its response to the Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan consultation by the restoration of Armagh/Dungannon and Clogher Valley Tyrone Railway network; and
- (iii) Council consider implementing in Mid Ulster the initiative adopted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council to recognise the resilience and bravery of children during the Covid 19 pandemic.

C106/21 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered previously circulated report on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.

Councillor Kerr proposed that Council submits a response to the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (NI Environment Agency) Consultation on the Draft third cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027

Councillor Monteith proposed that Council hosts a workshop to prepare a response to the Department of Education Review of Pre School Admission of Socially Disadvantage Circumstances. He said pre school places was a major issue for Dungannon and Coalisland and provision should be for all.

Councillor Clarke seconded the proposal to Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (NI Environment Agency) Consultation on the Draft third cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That Council submits a response to the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (NI Environment Agency) Consultation on the Draft third cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Monteith and said every child should be entitled to a pre school place and some parents were disadvantaged if they work. She highlighted that some private child care was in excess of £50 per day and parents were struggling. Councillor Burton concluded that the whole family should be considered.

Councillor Molloy said that he concurred with previous speakers as pre school places had become a postcode lottery saying that BT71 covers Coalisland to Benburb and children should get places in local facility regardless of background.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That Council hosts a workshop to prepare a response to the Department of Education Review of Pre-School Admission of Socially Disadvantage Circumstances.

C107/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor Doris introducing the motion said

“I have previously spoken to Council about the need to support victims of domestic violence with access to housing an essential part of helping victims put in place a practical policy that allows them to feel supported and to leave their abuser. The process of leaving a relationship from someone you loved and cared about is often the most dangerous time for victims. It is therefore essential that victims are assisted with this time period to allow time from work so they can be accommodated to seek

necessary counselling services, find housing or in many cases take time to provide support to their children who also suffer as a result of this. Women with careers must be supported as this is often a huge lifeline where they have a safe space and a form of independence. Economic abuse is a form of entrapment for victims.

Yet again I am asking Council to unequivocally condemn domestic abuse and calls on the Minister for the Economy to introduce legislation to support victims by creating a statutory entitlement and access to 10 days special paid leave.”

Councillor Doris moved the motion:

“That this Council condemns unequivocally domestic abuse; recognises that domestic abuse continues to be hugely underreported; acknowledges the important legislative progress promised by the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill; further acknowledges that domestic abuse often follows victims into their workplace; highlights the impact that domestic abuse can have on a victim’s employment through the impact on their physical and mental health; notes the existing Civil Service special leave policy which enables staff paid time off for domestic reasons including domestic abuse; and calls on the Minister for the Economy to introduce legislation to create a statutory entitlement to ten days of paid special leave for victims of domestic abuse.”

Councillor Elattar seconded the motion and said that domestic abuse had increased due to Covid and it was known that one in five of people abused had to take time off work. She said that at all times they should be met with an empathetic non judgemental approach and if such leave was an entitlement it would help alleviate stress and provide victims with flexibility.

Councillor Wilson supporting the motion said that most recent PSNI statistics from April 2020 to March 2021 highlighted 2111 reported instances of reports of domestic abuse in Mid Ulster. He said it is often not one incident and also takes many different forms. He said reporting the abuse does not end it but it is a vital step towards accessing support as domestic abuse impacts all areas of life victims often need emergency accommodation, time to attend court, may have to look new housing, seek non molestation orders all which impacts physical and mental health. Councillor Wilson said that if victims are employed they need time to access vital support and statutory leave would help them, it would also lessen the stigma in accessing support. He concluded saying he would support the motion.

Councillor Hughes said the SDLP would support the motion and highlighted that the 10 days would help support victims as they take the courageous step of leaving an abuser for whatever reason. She said it would help if a victim of domestic abuse did not have to take a financial hit in taking unpaid leave. Councillor Hughes concluded that domestic abuse could affect anyone.

Councillor Ashton said that

“We support Councillor Doris in the condemnation of domestic abuse. We have full compassion and empathy for anyone that finds themselves in this distressing position. Our grouping have been discussing this issue with the Minister for the Economy and she is fully aware of the need for society to support victims of domestic abuse including the workplace. During the progression of the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill taken forward by the Justice Minister the issue of paid special leave for victims of domestic abuse was raised, which the Economy minister agreed that this issue did need serious consideration. Our group will be supporting Councillor Doris motion however noting that any new legislation regarding the introduction of a new statutory employment right, meaningful engagement with relevant stakeholders would be required and cost implications for employers and government would need to be established and assessed. Our party would encourage all employers to support employees who are victims of domestic abuse with empathy and flexibility while this legislation is being worked on.”

Councillor Monteith said it was an excellent motion and every opportunity should be taken to call out the horror of domestic abuse. He said that sadly like others he had had to deal with situations like this and these two weeks would be such a help to those who find themselves in such circumstances. Councillor Monteith said it should be a basic right for all workers across both the public and private sector and he paid tribute to organisations who supported such victims highlighting in particular Women’s Aid. He also reflected that it was a sad society when the person incurring the abuse had to be the one to move as it should be the abuser but that debate was for another time. He concluded that he would support the motion.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan said at the beginning of his year as Chair he had made Women’s Aid a priority that he commended the motion and it was just one of many issues. It was also noted that non nationals receive no support at all.

Councillor Doris thanked everyone for their support and stated that it was good to work collectively on such issues but this is only one string of helping.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan affirming that it had received unanimous support declared the motion carried.

C107/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor McNamee referred to the undernoted motion:

“That this Council recognises that the discussions about a constitutional change is now well underway and this Council has a duty to consult with its ratepayers on this important issue and the implications for the Council area. Therefore, calls on the Council to establish a working group on Irish unity and to begin a consultation with ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change.”

Councillor McNamee said he was aware that two amendments had been lodged and in the spirit of compromise he would amend the wording from working group to workshops to include everyone in the process.

Councillor McNamee continued saying that everyone was aware of the human cost of partition and the decades of under investment incurred in the North. He said that it was the slowest economy across the islands and people deserved a modern Ireland with their civil and religious liberties protected whether they were Irish, British or other nationalities all should be protected under the law. He said he had brought the motion before the Council as conversations on unity are taking place everywhere and Council needed to commence its conversation.

The motion was amended to

“That this Council recognises that the discussions about a constitutional change is now well underway and this Council has a duty to consult with its ratepayers on this important issue and the implications for the Council area. Therefore, calls on the Council to progress workshops on Irish unity and to begin a consultation with ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change.”

Councillor N McAleer seconded the motion saying that all had seen through Brexit the disaster of constitutional change without discussion thus discussions in relation to this needed to progress.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that once again Sinn Féin were going out of the way to cause division, it was not within the remit of Council and this was a political stance. He said they would drag Council staff into the political arena and that the United Kingdom works for everyone and highlighted the point made when an RTE reporter had been interviewing Michelle O’Neill and it had been highlighted that in relation to the vaccine roll out it was better to be part of the United Kingdom. He also made reference to the fact that people in Northern Ireland were 20% better off mentioning the support received over the course of the pandemic and was it being said it is alright to pay for health care, prescriptions, increased road taxes and asked when Sinn Féin would face up to real issues. Councillor Cuthbertson said the DUP would oppose the motion.

Councillor Wilson said that Sinn Féin really needed to get a grip on reality as Dublin had no desire to take Northern Ireland back and this had been highlighted back in 1921 when the 26 counties left Britain and De Valera knew it would not work. He said that economically Northern Ireland requires £10bn from London each year, that the United Kingdom was a leader highlighted in 2010 when Ireland received a £3.25bn bail out from London. He also asked why anyone would want to exchange the health system and reminded Members of the billions received from London during furlough together with the benefit of the vaccine rollout. Councillor Wilson reflected that polls had never shown more than a 40% wish for a United Ireland and as such the Secretary of State had no reason to call for a border poll. He highlighted that Republicans would not engage with Britain to cement relations and thus should

not be surprised that Unionists did not want to engage in this process. He said many in Northern Ireland were Ulstermen and had British identity all of whom wished to be good neighbours and enjoy good relations and work together on neutral beneficial projects but did not want to be governed by Ireland. He concluded saying that the bloody deeds of the IRA campaign had cemented partition but Sinn Féin had a reluctance to speak of that.

Councillor Colvin concurred and asked what universe people were living when they issue statements like the people of the north have been failed. He said that any economist will tell you people in Northern Ireland are better off and read from a report penned by Dr Graham Gudgin stating “when the connection is made living standards again emerge as closer to 20% higher in Northern Ireland. This result is staggering it means that after 60 years as a tax haven and 48 years inside the EU if the Republic of Ireland has not managed to raise the living standards of its people to that in Northern Ireland, if the Republic of Ireland were to rejoin the United Kingdom it would be as the UK poorest region just as it was a century ago.”

Councillor Colvin continued saying that the South relies on international companies and spoke of the rates of corporation tax of which Northern Ireland already charged appropriate rates. He said that what the southern exchequer relies on could be pulled out from under them. Councillor Colvin concluded that in the words of Clinton “it’s the economy stupid, it boils down to money” and asked how Sinn Féin could ignore the elephant in the room.

Councillor Kerr expressed appreciation for the amendment and said that the conversations should be widened out to one universal health care system and affordable hoes. He spoke of other countries that had and do enjoy universal health care such as Cuba and Venezuela. Councillor Kerr said the problem of partition had been highlighted in the pandemic and that following an interview with Dominic Cummings many will have a different outlook when they realise that the government was responsible for the death of 1000s. He said that the huge majority supported a United Ireland and all should look to the future, help shape it and look for ways to smoothly unify the country.

Councillor Glasgow said he liked to dabble in statistics and highlighted that it was quite interesting that 63% in the Republic of Ireland did not want to pay for a united Ireland, 54% in the United Kingdom did not want to pay and Ulster simply did not have the money. He also said statistics showed that 68% in Ireland said the peace would be at risk and 63% in Northern Ireland felt likewise thus this talk is reckless and yet early in the agenda Israel was criticised yet they would risk the peace process. Councillor Glasgow said that the Minister for Health Robin Swan had not shied away from health issues and reflecting on comments of underspend said that when it came to allocating monies the particular party should stand up and put money into health. He reflected that the Republic would want the NHS and may be keener to join the United Kingdom and we should encourage that. In conclusion he highlighted statistics in relation to vaccine roll out noting that the Republic were far behind.

Councillor Monteith welcomed the motion and the opportunity to discuss the unification of Ireland. He thanked Councillor McNamee for the voluntary amendment which makes it inclusive thus he would not move his amendment. He said it would come as no shock that he got involved in politics for the reason of a United Ireland and reflected on the lies told by the United Kingdom during the pandemic as it had been told it would be herd immunity at all costs. Councillor Monteith said although they had changed their ways many were dead across the six counties due to the government. Councillor Monteith said that Irish unity is about moving forward as a positive nation he did not want to become part of the 26 county regime as the current situation does not serve people. He said that the British government had done much down the barrel of a gun and it was not a case that people wanted Northern Ireland but they were threatened with war by the British government by whom they suffered much. He said the reality is that all have to share this Ireland and what was needed was a republic based on democracy that the opportunity was there to create something unique.

Councillor McLean stated he was appalled by what had been put before the meeting and said if what the unionist people faced in Mid Ulster where Sinn Féin had undermined culture and creed is what will be faced in the new Ireland unionists did not want it. He said the message received is 'Brits Out' and stated he was a British subject and he did not believe the motion was legal and would ask the Chief Executive if officers could implement what was being put forward.

Councillor Quinn thanked Councillor McNamee for the motion and said that over the past 10 years there had been a shift towards Irish unity. He spoke of the vote in Scotland for pro independence and said that the union as it had been known was ending. He said the SDLP looked forward to discussions and had launched their new Ireland commission last month and encouraged people to take part from all backgrounds. He said it wasn't about joining the republic but about creating something new and all voices needed to be heard. Councillor Quinn said that any findings from discussions should be presented to the shared Ireland unit in Dublin who were actually investing in roads and waterways in the North. Councillor Quinn concluded that the SDLP supported the motion and said there was nothing to be feared from conversations that would include everyone.

Councillor Cuddy said that those who support Northern Ireland understand that the union is critical to a shared future after all the conflict suffered. He said that Northern Ireland is growing, boasted good education system, lower living costs and was one of the top ten digital centres. He said that Irish unification would end the £10b per year and drive up state debt, employment rates would fall and healthcare at the point of need would be lost. He said he could not understand those who portray Northern Ireland as dysfunctional as it had long since moved from having a poor international reputation. He said that all benefitted from being part of the United Kingdom and should want to rebuild and take pride in the place everyone calls home.

Councillor Corry said that much of what she wanted to say had been said but said that many talk of the £10b but if there was a united Ireland there would be access to the European Union and rights would be protected. She said she wanted health care

reform as a two tier system was creeping in and the underfunding during austerity was telling. Councillor Corry said everyone needed to be involved in creating a new Ireland for all.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said the motion was welcome and was a good opportunity to open discussions which were already taking place in peoples kitchens, clubs and churches. He said the economist John Fitzgerald had looked at this and highlighted the unification of Germany. He said there was much he did not like about the Republic of Ireland and also Westminster and thus it had to be something new and the reality was that you could be looking at the Dáil made up of 25% and at the proposed workshops unionist would have opportunity to highlight the benefits of the union but emphasised the need for responsible discussion. The Chair said that the Good Friday agreement assures a unity referendum will happen in the future and looking at Scotland it would be good to get out in front.

Councillor McNamee said that it had been a good debate and he hoped that the motion would be carried and that unionists would come to the table.

Councillor Cuthbertson reminded the Chair that Councillor McLean had asked for a ruling on drawing staff into the political arena.

The Chief Executive advised he could not comment unless he had a proposer and seconder.

Proposed by Chair Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson

That the Chief Executive be permitted to speak in relation to the motion

The Chief Executive referred to standing orders page 10, 16.1.2 that every motion shall be relevant to the local government residents.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated this did not answer the question about bringing staff into the political arena. The Chair Councillor Mallaghan said the motion, if carried, would not do that.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan called for a vote on the motion

For	25
Against	15

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared the motion carried.

Councillor McNamee called on all to participate in the conversation stating that Council.

C108/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor Cuddy speaking on the motion said he was seeking to get a way forward that would resolve the ongoing issue. He said the current policy leaves people behind and it was the job of unionists in the Chamber to represent the minority and sought a mature conversation. He said the Good Friday agreement called on respect for both communities and they had all expressed concerns on the damage being done to signs and no one was happy about that. He said unionist may be the smallest party but should still have a voice and appealed to the Chair to show leadership. Councillor Cuddy said that he looked forward to the day when all could enjoy language free from political pressure and said Council must find a way through the current situation. He continued saying that unionist feel the largest party is walking right over them and if the current situation continues more signs will be damaged and what he was endeavouring to do was find a way forward. Councillor Cuddy said that he understood it was difficult to take a step back but they were endeavouring to bring balance and appealed to Members to support the motion as the situation would not go away.

Councillor Cuddy moved the motion:

“UUP Councillors continue to receive representations on why English is not placed first on Mid Ulster road/street signs. The UUP ask Mid Ulster Council to review this section of the policy to put English first and then whichever languages are agreed next. This is how the original Local Government (NI) Order in 1995 was intended - to support by agreeing to include minority or second languages on new signage. We feel the current policy has not correctly interpreted the original Order. To be clear the issue is not another language on the signs – it is the ordering of the languages – English names should be first. English is the working language for us all. English is the language that all our new Nationals who have come to Mid Ulster to set up their homes and start a new life understand. English is the universal language and we all use the English Language all the time. The job of the Council is to act responsibly and find a consensus of agreement. The current policy leaves a large proportion of the people of Mid Ulster feeling left behind and could be easily resolved with this suggestion. We appeal to the Council to reconsider its position for the sake of harmony and moving forward together.”

Signed: Cllr. Walter Cuddy, Cllr. Mark Glasgow, Cllr. Meta Graham, Cllr. Robert Colvin, Cllr Trevor Wilson, Cllr. Derek McKinney. As required by Standing Order 24 (Rescission of a preceding Resolution)

Councillor Graham seconded the motion stating that she had continuously argued that English should be first and she did understand that the policy stated adjacent and this was at the discretion of the Council. She said that we live in a diverse society but everyone speaks English to some degree and the current situation was causing bad feeling and leading to division. Councillor Graham said that they were repeatedly accused of attacking the Irish language and each time the matter is raised unionists are outvoted and no one would listen. She concluded by saying that this time she would like a different outcome emphasising that they only asked that

English be the first language and that many times nationalist councillors in the chamber speaking on various topics had called for the use of plain English.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that the DUP has been consistent and have opposed the signs on the grounds of cost. He said the only purpose of the dual language signs was to mark out areas and raise sectarian issues. He proposed the following amendment:

“Further to this, that the use of the Irish language on Council Branding, external signage, and internal signage in Council buildings and facilities is also reviewed.”

Councillor S McPeake said “ On reading the wording of the Motion and listening to what has been said on how the Irish language and the visibility of that language is somehow something that is threatening or in some way is harmful to large sections of the community needs to be called out for what it is. This is complete nonsense and demonstrates both an inability to tolerate the language itself and to understand the rationale and the need for minority language policies in the first instance. Irish language is the minority language that is under threat here and that’s why specific measures are needed to protect the language. I don’t think anyone would for a moment believe that the English language is in any way being threatened with extinction, and that’s why there are specific measures proposed around increasing the visibility of the minority Irish language in order to promote it.

That said it is a pity that there is actually the need or requirement for policies aimed at preserving minority, indigenous languages in the first instance. But the reality of the situation is that the Irish language is no different from many other indigenous languages throughout the world or indeed throughout these islands in that languages such as Welsh, Scots Gaelic and Ulster Scots also require additional protections to stymie their demise. I am told that there are 6,000 languages throughout the world that need support and protection to ensure their continued existence and to allow them to flourish side by side with other stronger and more dominant languages. In the absence, to date, of a stand alone Irish language Act here in the north, there are already a number of statutory legislative instruments which afford minority languages some basic forms of protections.

The British/Irish Agreement Act (1999) established the North South Implementation Bodies and the North South Ministerial Council. Foras na Gaeilge was established as the Irish Language support part of that body and has the responsibility of promoting the Irish language here in the north and with a statutory role in advising public administration’s such as Councils’ as well as the private and voluntary sectors in all matters relating to the promotion and advancement of the Irish language.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) was adopted by the Council of Europe to protect indigenous, minority languages. Now I would guess that some within the chamber may not have great affinity to rules and treaties that emulate out of Europe, nevertheless I do and I am glad to say that this EU treaty was supported by the UK government in 2001 and Irish was ratified to Part 111 of the Charter along with Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. Ulster Scots was ratified into a

separate Section of the same charter with separate protection mechanisms built in for it.

When we in Mid-Ulster Council began to formulate our Irish Language Policy back in 2014/15 we looked at examples of best practice and what we should be doing to best promote the Irish language within a new languages policy. We listened to the community. We listened to the views of a vibrant and sizeable Irish language community that exists within our district. We consulted widely with the general public. We engaged with the Equality Commission and we took our own legal advice. We did Section 75 Screenings and Equality Impact Assessments. We engaged with Foras na Gaeilge, as I have already mentioned are the advisory body on the protection of minority languages and who provided us with best practice advice on the visibility on bi-lingual signage on any policies that Council may be providing.

That expert advice quite correctly stated that bi-lingual signage was a key tool in raising public awareness and the visibility of the minority language seeking promotion. The Foras na Gaeilge advice manual states that in regards to bi-lingual signage is that the minority language (in this case Irish) is positioned first (above or to the left) Because all Irish speakers can read English, the Irish text would be superfluous if it was to be placed second. Irish has equality with English so as not to suggest to the Irish-speaking public that their language would be in any way less important than that of English. We as a council have a duty to promote and protect our Irish language. I believe we have a duty to listen and to take on board best practice advice from groups such as Foras na Gaeilge on measures to promoting and develop Irish language. With minority languages rights being quite rightly adopted and promoted in other parts of these islands, such as Wales or Scotland, we then ask ourselves why is the north of Ireland different? Why is there intolerance towards Irish here? There can be no justification for this. I would call on all political parties to show leadership on this issue and to call out intolerances in whatever guises they manifest themselves including lack of respect for the rights of language minorities, similar to other jurisdictions. It is now time to show that leadership.”

Councillor Kearney said this is not the first time working parties and committees have discussed the issue since 2015 and highlighted that there was obligations towards the language and to date Council had shown civic and political leadership and should meet and exceed on its obligations. He said Council had been exemplar in its support of the Irish language. He reflected that the motion centres on the positions of the language and following comprehensive consultation they reflect the majority. He said in the legacy Magherafelt council this had happened and the languages sat comfortably beside each other. He said many travelled to Scotland and there is dual language signage and in Wales there is only Welsh. He said what is good for neighbouring nations is good for us and that in Mid Ulster many road and street names come from the Irish and the language is not in the possession of one side of the community highlighting that everyday people use Irish. He said some Scots brought Gaelic to Ireland and most of them were protestant. Councillor Kearney spoke of the efforts of people like Linda Irvine in promoting the shared heritage and the challenge for all nationalists of all shades was not to alienate. He said he did not

accept the damage of any sign and asked that people were not defined by opposition and said all could reconnect to their historical language and move on. He said that he had been granted the opportunity to learn and teach Irish and put simply in English 'a country without a language is a country without a soul'.

In conclusion Councillor Kearney quoted Seamus Heaney

“Not to Learn Irish is to miss the opportunity of understanding what life in this country has meant and could mean in a better future. It is to cut oneself off from ways of being at home. If we regard self-understanding, mutual understanding, imaginative enhancement, cultural diversity and a tolerant political atmosphere as a desirable attainments, we should remember that a knowledge of the Irish language is an essential element in their realisation.”

Councillor Kerr said that talk of English being universal associated with him their long history of colonialism and people barred from speaking their native languages or playing Gaelic music.

Councillor McKinney said he did not know what the nationalists have to fear for those anti-British anti English as when you travel on the road to Londonderry the word London was scored out so many times the sign had to be erected higher. He reflected on other signs that had English first and Irish below and said that yet again you could predict the vote 15 for 25 against.

Councillor Monteith stated that he did not believe the reversal of the language would make a difference as they were being stolen and Council should call out racism and fascism and call this the attack on culture that it is. He said that English is used predominantly because it was forced down the barrel of a gun right across the world and the colonial experience for all was taking all the good and the resources out of the colony for the central empire. He said he accepted the mover of the motion did not come from the stance of attacking the Irish culture but this is how it would be viewed.

Councillor Colvin said that across the world people in the commonwealth wanted to learn Mandarin as it was the top language. He said English was used in the airline and all they were requesting was that English gets its proper place and spoke of a sign in his DEA where people had had no opportunity to express their views as their opinion did not count. He said the policy needs to be reviewed it may appear democratic but it was not.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan sought clarity on the sign were people had not been asked for their views as this would be against the policy.

Councillor Colvin confirmed it was a group of houses which had a different name but shared the same road.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan thanked Councillors S McPeake and Kearney for their eloquent and factual contributions. He said he had learned Irish at school and

what was interesting now was how much came back to you when you drove past a sign and realisation that the learning had stayed with you. He said many appreciated Council's investment as they go about their daily lives and see their language visible.

The Chair stated that Councillor Cuddy had made a personal plea to him and as a group leader Sinn Féin come to Council as a group. He said that there is a settled view on the democratic decision making process and yet time and again unionist said the Irish Culture is being put down their throats yet there is more unionist flags on posts than ever thus he was sure their culture was safe and sound.

Councillor Cuddy said he had listened commenting that Councillor Kearney had spoken with a passion he understood. He said unionist were moving the motion as it was a clash of culture commenting that he did not learn Irish in the schools he went to but what he was asking was to be met halfway. He said he would love to see the day when people could enjoy the language free from political pressure and said to the Chair he was not just group leader he was the first citizen of the borough and 40% of those citizens would like to see him move on this. He said that a language act would most likely put English first and concluded saying he would accept the amendment proposed and add it to the motion.

Councillor Ashton seconded Councillor Cuthbertson amendment.

The amendment was distributed and shared on screen and accepted.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan called for a vote on the amended motion.

For	15
Against	25

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said the motion had fallen.

Councillor Cuddy expressed his disappointment and said he wished Council could find common ground reiterating that Unionist had nothing against any other language and in closing said it was his hope that in the future this could be resolved.

C109/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor Corry introduced the motion saying that

"I would like to begin by thanking the individuals and groups who have tirelessly worked and continue to work to eradicate discrimination and inequalities faced by the LGBTQ+ community. We owe you such a debt of gratitude and recognise that while we have come a long way there is still much to be done. Recently I and my party colleague Emma Sheerin MLA met with Mid Ulster Pride who are a young group and already doing great work in the area. We already know that by nature, the LGBTQ+ community is dispersed, often without a support network, and the very real dangers that have to be considered before any social life can even exist. This group of fantastic young people highlighted that, due to difficulty accessing transport, and

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logistics, the barriers for LGBTQ+ people in rural areas are even-worse, with rural isolation exacerbated by the issues that face our LGBTQ+ community everywhere. A big issue was on education in schools around diversity and inclusion, training for schools on sexuality, relationships, gender identity and sex education. I remember sex education in my own school days and it was basically non-existent. This needs to change the Education Minister must act to prepare our young people for going into the world and to be understanding and accepting of diversity and so that those who are LGBTQ+ can be free to embrace who they are openly without fear or having to hide who they are. The current stalemate in services for those within our trans community who are in the process of transitioning and being left without any health care as a result is unacceptable. The Brackenburn clinic is the only service for trans people across the north, and the waiting list for referrals hasn't moved in 5 years.

Meanwhile, those people who are in the 'backlog' are in crisis, with many being forced to go elsewhere for much needed healthcare and often getting into debt. In a recent session with Transgender NI, we learned that 48% of under 25s in the trans community have attempted suicide. The trans community are at risk, and there is an onus on all of us to step up and not just call out the abuse that they face, but do what we can to improve services. I would like to welcome the recent debate on banning 'so called' conversion therapies in the assembly and am delighted that my party colleague Deirdre Hargey is beginning the process to ban the practice of conversion therapy. I know that all MLAs, from across all parties, were overwhelmed with emails supporting the call to ban this harmful practice. The ban needs to be comprehensive, and outlaw all forms of 'conversion therapy', covering not just sexuality but also those targeting gender identity, in all settings, including faith. Last week we attended a zoom meeting organised by the rainbow project which included various activists, religious groups as well as individuals some who had been through so called conversion therapy, due to pressure from family members and friends, religion, cultural pressure or because they had no choice. In the 2020 GICT survey it revealed half of respondents were under 18 when offered conversion therapy including a 12 year old. To me that is just shocking. The survey found that most respondents who had been through the practice suffered severe mental health problems as a result including depression, anxiety, PTSD, self harm, suicidal thoughts and attempts and eating disorders. Many actually turned away from religion and relationships with family and friends worsened as a result. The therapy did not work there is no cure and no one needs to be cured for who they are. Some of the stories told of victims and survivors on the night and some which can be read on the ban conversion therapy website are horrific, telling of forced isolation, verbal abuse, beatings, sexual violence, force feeding and food deprivation among some tactics used to attempt conversion. Again and again the same words kept coming up about feeling shame, guilt, rejection, not good enough, self hatred, wrong, evil, sinful, unacceptable to God and that they would go to hell. Imagine being made to feel like that because of who you were born and who you are.

There is a lot of positive work now ongoing with religious groups including Global inter faith which is a broad church of church leaders from all backgrounds who have pledged an affirmation which includes if I can quote a little from it

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“We affirm that all human beings of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender identities are a precious creation and are parts of the natural order. All equal under God and therefore equal to one another and call for all to be equal under the law. Love and compassion should be the basis of faith, and hatred can have no place in religion. We call for attempts to change, suppress or erase a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression commonly called conversion therapy to end and for these harmful practices to be banned. That we should celebrate inclusivity and the extraordinary gift of diversity”. I feel this embraces what religion should be preaching and teaching. We are calling on our executive to commit to human rights and equality for all sections of society- a brilliant first step in this would be the long awaited establishment of a Bill of Rights for the north, first committed to in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Mid Ulster MLA Emma Sheerin chairs the Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights and the UUP’s Mike Nesbitt vice chair. I know that all parties involved in the process, have committed to sectoral groups from the LGBTQ+ community to establishing a broad Bill of Rights that will deliver for us all. I hope that I and the members here tonight can play a small part in the task ahead to end discrimination. To commit to equality, respect and human rights for all in our words and deeds and I ask you to support this motion tonight.”

Councillor Corry moved the undernoted motion -

“That this Council recognises the struggle for equality by generations of people who identify as LGBTQ+; acknowledges the successful work of LGBTQ+ activists in eradicating elements of institutionalised discrimination; condemns the continued inequalities experienced by those who identify as LGBTQ+; welcomes the initiative of the Minister for Communities in beginning a process to ban the practice of conversion therapy; calls on the Minister of Health to address the serious deficits in healthcare services for transgender individuals, particularly at Brackenburn Clinic in Belfast; further calls on the Minister of Education to ensure that sex and relationship education guidance for schools is inclusive and covers LGBTQ+ relationships and transgender identities; and calls on the Executive to commit to equality, respect and human rights for all sections of our society in its actions, words and deeds.”

Councillor D McPeake said that in recent times there was more acceptance for people of the LGBTQ+ but many had had to leave here to build new lives in more tolerant societies which was sad in 2021. He seconded the motion.

Councillor Forde said that the DUP believes discrimination past of present based on sexual orientation is totally wrong and did not support conversion therapy. She said that their approach to legislation would be in adherence and there must be a balance and safeguarding. She said there should be no restrictions on religious beliefs and expressed concern that some debate was proposing this and as such the DUP would not support the motion.

Councillor Hughes said that the SDLP had welcomed the banning of conversion therapy and that ministers had the responsibility to support the LGBTQ+ community. She stated that they would support the motion.

Councillor Wilson said they would support discrimination of any form and had shown clear commitment in their support of the LGBTQ+ community. He highlighted that the UUPs Robin Swann had delivered more support to this community than any other in Health.

Councillor Kerr said he fully supported the motion and much wider conversations were needed to ensure that from a young age mutual respect is taught.

Councillor Monteith commended the motion and said many lived lives of fear and Council should be sending out the clear message that people should be accepted for what they are not what others think they should be. He said discrimination in the community needed much more work and in talking to people many say it is harder for rural communities to fully identify. Councillor Monteith said it was important that people could be what they are and live and prosper in the district. He also proposed that Mid Ulster Pride be invited to make a presentation to the appropriate committee as a first step to engagement and engage with Council as to how they could be supported.

Councillor Corry agreed and stated that the Rainbow project had offered to do training also.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said it had been a privilege to stand with Members of Mid Ulster Pride in a silent protest a few years ago and spoke in relation to the 26 county referendum on marriage equality. He said that many had to hide their sexual identity from their families and had to move away thus anything Council could do to help educate it should.

Councillor Corry said that in the previous debate someone had mentioned that people irrespective of their identity were better off in the union but this was not true especially in this instance.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan called for a vote on the motion.

For	25
Against	9
Abstained	6

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared the motion carried.

Councillor Corry thanked everyone for their support and said people should not have to move away due to their sexual orientation and people should reflect on how much talent the district was losing. She also mentioned an event Mid Ulster Pride were planning for September.

C110/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor Burton moving the motion said that she welcomed the ongoing dialogue with fellow Council members at NILGA and said that the matter of rural roads was a corporate concern for council. She highlighted that many Mid Ulster roads were in a poor condition and there had been meetings regarding pot holes, dangerous trees, drainage and maintenance. Councillor Burton said the matter was regularly discussed both at Council and NILGA and all would acknowledge that between now and budget setting in February 2022 much work needed to be done to ensure that rural roads budget got a significant uplift and emphasised the need for all to work towards this.

Councillor Burton moved the undernoted motion –

“That this Council notes the poor conditions of our rural roads in Mid Ulster and joins with other councils through NILGA in respect of evidence based lobbying across local government in making joint representation to the Minister of Infrastructure to support an increased budget to improve maintenance in this and future financial years.”

Councillor Black seconded the motion saying that the issue was continuously raised in the chamber and Council should use every avenue at its disposal.

Councillor McFlynn stated that the SDLP would support the motion and requested an amendment that Council also write to the Minister for Finance along with the Minister for Infrastructure.

Councillor McFlynn said that the lack of an executive for three years had impacted the issue further. She said that the Minister for Infrastructure could only work within the budget granted and highlighted she had asked for an additional £15m but only got £2m. Councillor McFlynn commended the Minister for Infrastructure on what had been achieved highlighting the example of 20mph scheme outside 100 schools and the introduction of active travel. She concluded that they were happy to support the motion with the proviso amendment.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked Councillor Burton if she accepted the amendment. Councillor Burton stated she did.

Councillor Glasgow said the Minister should be congratulated on the work she had done and also for finding a bridge in Mid Ulster but highlighted she had failed to find the chamber.

Councillor Glasgow welcomed the amendment and said that the district was heavily reliant on its roads and bridges and without a good network rural districts would be cut off. He added if he wanted to go to Portstewart he would have to change bus four times. He said whilst the Minister doesn't control the budget she receives she does have the power to change policy and highlighted that in the draft consultation it acknowledges the 15mm is costing more money but there is no amendment to the

policy. He concluded that both the budget and the policies needed fixed and that the UUP were happy to support the motion.

Councillor Kerr said he fully supported the motion and like many other Councillors if you looked at his phone gallery it was full of photos of potholes and spoke of one incident when a health care worker was out of action for two days as her vehicle had been damaged.

Councillor Colvin welcomed the motion and said Councillor Glasgow puts the case eloquently saying that the people who work locally are as helpful as they can be but the budgets offered are ridiculous thus they cannot deliver what is required. He said it is frustrating when you see how hands are tied and what was required was effective decision making at Stormont especially when in Mid Ulster the industry depends on its roads of which many need resurfaced just like water and sewage infrastructure needed to be upgraded.

Councillor O'Neill thanked Councillor Burton for the motion and spoke of the motion he brought in 2011/12 to bring 20mph speed limits in and the DUP had voted against it and now supported such issues.

Councillor Milne agreed with the motion and referring to the amendment said if the Finance Minister put more money into roads which department should he take it off as currently health received 49% of the budget. He said Members must be real and the Department of Finance could only distribute what they received.

Councillor Gildernew supported the motion concurring that rural roads were in a serious bad condition and pressure must be put on the Department of Infrastructure to address issues and no more so than for the Clogher Valley.

Councillor Doris reminded Members that a few meetings ago she had asked Council to write to the Minister to deal with all of these issues. She concurred with the comments of Councillor Milne regarding the Finance Minister and Councillor Glasgow in relation to the Minister not being able to find the chamber. Councillor Doris said she would support the motion.

Councillor Clarke supported the motion and in relation to costs said that in some areas forestry was destroying rural roads with heavy loads yet make no contribution to repairs. He said they are private foresters for private firms and roads particularly those with poor foundations were falling into serious condition. He said they are making huge profits and should have to contribute to the public purse.

Councillor McLean supported the motion and said that in listening to comments whilst each party tried to protect their own ministers but if the Minister for Finance helps alleviate some of the problem it is worth asking. He said that it is not about being critical unless it is needed but it is about leveraging every opportunity possible.

Councillor McKinney in response to Councillor Clarke's remarks said each vehicle on the road paid the appropriate road tax.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan highlighted the recent meeting with the Department of Infrastructure which the Minister had deferred to officials and said that each time a discussion point was made they said it was policy and the Ministers decision. He said it was difficult to get an opinion across on paper but highlighted that every Minister had met with the Council over the past 12 months and expressed his disappointment that the Minister for Dfl had not done so. He said he supported the motion but highlighted that Councillor Milne had made a valid point and Dfl should see if money could be spent better. He thanked Councillor Burton for bringing the motion.

Councillor Burton thanked Members for their comments emphasising that all needed to work collectively and remarked that there was no mention of schools in the motion. She said the need was highlighted well with Councillor Kerr's comments about the health care worker. She said that the Minister of Dfl had done some good work and in particular highlighted active travel. Councillor Burton said that the Minister would be invited to the NILGA executive and collectively the points could be made and the ministerial team would have to make the decisions were to make cuts but said that public safety is a key issue.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked if there was any dissent.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the motion was carried unanimously.

That this Council notes the poor conditions of our rural roads in Mid Ulster and joins with other councils through NILGA in respect of evidence based lobbying across local government in making joint representation to the Minister of Infrastructure and the Minister for Finance to support an increased budget to improve maintenance in this and future financial years

Councillor Burton thanked Members for their support.

C111/21 Notice of Motion

Councillor Bell introducing the motion said that autism is a life-long disability which impacts communication and people relate to others and often is accompanied by sensory difficulties. He said there was a broad spectrum and people are impacted differently. Councillor Bell highlighted that 25% of people with autism also have a learning disability. He said that figures show it effects four males for every one female and that many adults had never had a diagnosis. Emphasising that early diagnosis is vitally important as early intervention was key to support. Councillor Bell said that Council and society could not let the situation continue that everyone was aware there was not enough support to deal with the difficulties and the current help only scratched the surface.

Councillor Bell moved the undernoted motion –

“That this Council is deeply concerned that at the end of 2020 almost 4,500 children across HSC Trusts were awaiting diagnosis for autism, some reportedly waiting more than 2 years; recognises the distress and harm this places on those awaiting diagnosis and tailored support services, their families; further expresses concern at the growing inequality of access to autism services and diagnosis; notes the stark difference in waiting times across HSC Trust areas; and calls for a longer-term strategy to be progressed urgently in partnership with those with autism, their families and carers, the community and voluntary sector organisations in order to ensure equality of care and services, free at the point of access based on need.”

Councillor Bell also added that he would propose to write to the Minister for Health to raise concerns and request that more of an effort is made to lessen waiting times and remove disparity across health authorities.

Councillor Milne said the matter was near to his own heart and he recognised the work of groups who provide support. He said there was no doubt massive steps had been taken in recent years but more must be done in relation to diagnosis. Councillor Milne stated that early diagnosis allows for reasonable adjustment to make daily life easier and give access to support and services. He said everyone should have the opportunity to reach their potential and that he realised the pandemic had had its impact but a vital plan was required to address issues and ensure access to services irrespective of postcode.

Councillor S McAleer said that when the SDLP MLA had piloted the autism bill in Northern Ireland in 2011 it ensured people were included in disability legislation and noted that it was good to see how far society had come dealing with autism and Asperger syndrome in Northern Ireland.

She highlighted that a report in 2020 had indicated that autism assessments had been reduced or suspended so this had also contributed to long waiting lists. Councillor S McAleer also said that the disparity of access to services had been highlighted in the NI Assembly and this needed to be highlighted when dealing with the issues. She concluded they would support the motion.

Councillor Wilson said the last 15 months had been a difficult period for all who take the comfort of routine and structure and paid tribute to groups and volunteers who have done a sterling job at this time. He said the problems were not new and autism had fell victim to under investment and strategic direction and emphasised that many with autism had great potential. He said that early intervention was key and would be more cost effective as timely diagnosis brings with it greater understanding for the child and the access to the support required yet all too often it was too little to late. He said that the current model of autism services is unsustainable the interim strategy will help but more investment was required.

Councillor Kerr supported the motion and said that one in 24 children tested were diagnosed in the North and many have experienced a total wipe out of services. He said that respite services needed to be co-ordinated and as the motion outlines the issues with diagnosis the issue of lack resources was also great.

Councillor McKinney concurred with what had been said and shared that he had been involved with young people in the Mid Ulster Autism group and when you attend such meetings you see the difficulties this is not a new problem. He said it was lack of funding towards autism services and that the collapse of government had played its part. He said he would support the motion but that all should go back to their MLAs and express their concerns and he could assure that Minister Swann would do all in his power to help. He said the Minister for Health had conducted himself in an exemplary manner even when under attack. He said if opportunity arises finance again will play its part. He also asked the mover of the motion to take back to his party that changing schools was a very big upheaval for people with autism and Asperger. Councillor McKinney concluded that the health service needed people to specialise and it needed to be addressed how people could be reimbursed to make it worth their while to stay.

Councillor Monteith commended the motion and said he had spoken on the topic often and that it would be very worthwhile to hear about the issues from families involved. He said it was a constant battle with officialdom and it was tough enough dealing with the child without having to deal with the red tape to access services. Councillor Monteith also reflected that early diagnosis was vital but many adults had no diagnosis and this was a tremendous difficulty for which there is little or no support. He concluded that a long term strategy was required as the needs at primary school were very different to that in late teens and adulthood.

Councillor McFlynn concurred that the Minister for Health Robin Swann had done a tremendous job. Speaking on autism she said the issue was huge and she had experience in her own family. She highlighted that Autism NI no longer existed she said that some Members had met with the Department for Education regarding a consultation on special needs and there was good input and a plan was being derived but had not been released. She said this was very much an education issue and that every child with autism is different and the condition was lifelong. Councillor McFlynn also asked the question where does a child go post 16 and stressed that education, social and emotional needs were paramount. She paid tribute to the group of families who set up an autism support group and said they had an office in Magherafelt that operated 24/7.

Councillor McFlynn proposed that Council should host a workshop to discuss what it could do and representatives from the Health Trusts and Department of Education should be in attendance.

Councillor McFlynn concluded highlighting statistics which demonstrated that prior to Covid 19 diagnosis showed out of 549 referred 279 had been diagnosed and recent figures showed 365 referred only 13 diagnosed emphasising the number waiting.

Councillor Ashton said time was ticking on and she would concur with Councillor McKinney with regard to the Health Minister and it was up to all to give the support and finance he needs to deliver.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan said all Members had engaged with families and knew the struggles they faced but that it was amazing when the right help was in place the difference it made and how it could turn many of these young people into huge successes. He asked Councillor Bell if he accepted the amendment to include a workshop.

Councillor Bell accepted the amendment and thanked everyone for their contributions and said it was worthy to note there was more that unites them than divides. He said if someone was a wheel chair user the disability is clear but autism was not like that.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan clarified that there was no dissent and declared the motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Bell thanked Members for their support.

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 broadcast concluded at 11.10 pm

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officer – That items C112/21 to C117/21 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council confidential minutes of meeting held on 22 April 2021;
- (ii) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 4 May 2021;
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 May 2021;
- (iv) Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 May 2021;
- (v) Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 May 2021;
- (vi) Document for Sealing: Substation Lease Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and NI Electricity Networks Limited in respect of lands situated at Gortgonis Leisure Centre, Coalisland.

C118/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 11.24 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 7 June 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan (Outgoing)
Councillor McLean (Incoming)

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell*, Black*, Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton*, Clarke*, Colvin*, Corry*, Cuddy, Cuthbertson*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, Glasgow*, Graham, Hughes*, Kearney, Kerr, N McAleer*, S McAleer*, McFlynn, B McGuigan*, S McGuigan, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, Milne*, Molloy, Monteith, Oneill*, Quinn*, Robinson*, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr A McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure**
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications**
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development **
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure**
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance**

* 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.

AC1/21 Apologies

Councillors McKinney and Mullen

AC2/21 Declarations of Interest

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

AC3/21 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan extended condolences to Councillor Glasgow on the death of his grandmother the wife of a former Councillor on Cookstown Council who had made a huge contribution to local government over a period of 43 years.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan invited outgoing Deputy Chair to speak.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Graham said,

“Although this really has been a year like no other due to Covid and the restrictions we have faced, it has still been a very rewarding year for me. I have met many community and voluntary groups and have learned about the many and various things they have done and still continue to do which has made such a huge difference to their part of Mid Ulster. It has been an honour and a privilege to fulfil my role in this Centenary year of Northern Ireland and to recognise the outstanding contributions made by Captain Sir Tom Moore and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh by opening books of condolence.

I want to pay tribute to all the healthcare and essential workers who have kept us all going throughout this year and I know that we all hope for better times ahead. It would be remiss of me not to mention all those who have suffered during this pandemic and my thoughts and prayers are with those families who have lost loved ones, especially those from Mid Ulster.

I would like to thank my party colleagues for their nomination, for the faith and the trust they placed in me and for their constant support. Also to the two Chief Executives and their staff, for all their help and support during my term and then to the Chair, who I have to say, while we don't always agree politically, I think we worked very well together and to give due credit you worked extremely hard. I would also like to thank the people of the Clogher Valley who elected me in the first place because without them, I would never have had this opportunity. As it was impossible to host any events this year, it was challenging to say the least, to try to think outside the box and to bring something to groups instead.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout my year in office, especially my family and to say how very much I have appreciated all the kindness and encouragement I have received. In closing, I would wish the incoming Chair and Deputy Chair a very healthy and successful year ahead.”

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reflected on his year saying,

“It is probably fair to say that this year has been like no other and the traditional role of the Chair turned on its head. But, while being Chair during a pandemic may have been a very different experience, it was no less rewarding and it's remarkable how we all adapted – as a council and as a community. I've been very impressed at how we as an organisation responded – our essential services have been delivered without interruption, no matter what stage we were at in the cycle of restrictions and reopening. It went to show just how vital many of our core services are and shone a spotlight on some of our employees who aren't often front and centre, but who deserve to be. I would place on record my appreciation of the depth of loyalty and service showcased by employees many of who had to redeploy or had to shield.

When some of our main facilities were closed, our staff responded by changing how they engaged with their customers and we had everything from virtual swimming lessons for children to online events and webinars. There were so many that stood out, but two in particular were my personal favourites – my job as Santa’s unofficial elf, switching on the Christmas lights in our main towns, and, of course, the tribute event to Mickey Harte which was broadcast last Thursday evening and has been the most viewed film on our YouTube channel ever.

One of the most important roles I’ve had as Chair is to support public health messaging at a local level, whether we were in lockdown or re-opening when safety had to be – and still is – a very real and necessary priority. Today for the first time in nine months there has been zero infection which is good news. I would also extended condolences to those who lost loved ones during Covid.

In my role as Chair I met dozens and dozens of local businesses and the level of resilience and innovation in our business sector has been second to none – from those who changed their business models to those who diversified into new areas of work, and all those who worked their way through some very tough times and didn’t let their heads drop, some in the district renowned for entrepreneurialism took the plunge and started new businesses. If the businesses didn’t flag, nor did we and a total of £1.3M in Covid recovery grants were delivered to provide much-needed practical support for businesses in towns and villages across Mid Ulster. At the same time, we adjusted our economic support arrangements and re-purposed our £1.1M suite of programmes to ensure we could tailor our offering to reflect the new economic landscape in which our businesses found themselves.

Not everything was about the pandemic, however, and it’s important to remember that we didn’t only react and respond – we also moved major plans forward and that’s also a credit to this organisation. We launched the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy, for example, with a level of investment and a vision for economic growth which will transform this region in the long-term with approximately £256 million investment. We continued with our own ambitious capital programme and I’ve lost count of the number of announcements about our investment in tourism, leisure, outdoor recreation and parks projects. When you look back at just some of them, the level of investment is substantial, from £700K on EU-funded shared spaces projects, an indicative £1M award from Sport NI for new facilities at Mid Ulster Sports Arena, the new Solar Walk at Davagh, valued at over £500K, the very real and positive impact of the rural development programme on the ground in Mid Ulster – where we very recently marked a total of £390K in 11 play areas alone under that programme.

I did plenty of visits to see work in progress too, but it’s been a real pleasure over the course of the last few weeks in particular to begin to see lots of those projects complete. We finally were able to open OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory last week, which is a real boost to what we’re developing in the Sperrins and the whole experience has been a real hit with visitors, which augers well for later in the year when we can have the full night-time offering available. And just a few hours ago, I launched, along with Marie Heaney, the new Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open

Ground experience down at The Strand at Lough Beg – if you haven't been, you should take the time to visit. It's one of 5 locations which are now linking the literature of Seamus Heaney with the landscape which so inspired his work. Like all projects, it's one to be proud of, and I couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable way to end my term in office.

In closing I would thank the Communications team for their level of commitment, Jennifer and Paula for keeping the diary, the Chief Executives Anthony Tohill and Adrian McCreesh who took over the role. I would also acknowledge Andrew Cassells who retired in April. I would especially thank my wife Louise and my daughters Aoife and Saorlaith, the pandemic certainly brought its difficulties when grandparents could not childmind. I would thank my Sinn Féin colleagues for giving me the honour of being the First Citizen and the opportunity of seeing what goes on in the district. I would highlight recent events such as Sperrinview Special School launching the healthy mile and Youth Voice event and meeting the young people who are our future. I would also thank Philip, Eileen, Martina and Leanne managing the meetings is quite a task and your work does not go unnoticed. To Members I thank you for your input to healthy debate and a special thanks to Councillor Graham for her help to me in the role of Deputy Chair. I wish the new Chair and Deputy Chair all the best you are taking on a great role, our council area is amazing and many others look to us for their lead.”

Councillor Molloy on behalf of Sinn Féin acknowledged the work of the Chair and Deputy Chair and spoke of how they had inspired communities throughout the district during challenging times. He commended them in carrying out their roles in face of the challenges of the Covid pandemic. He spoke of how the Chair had overseen the smooth transition of the Chief Executives and rose to the challenge of Chairing hybrid meetings. Councillor Molloy concluded in commending all those who had held positions of responsibility during what had been a challenging year.

Councillor Ashton on behalf of the DUP commended both the Chair and Deputy Chair on the successful roles they had played in challenging times. She highlighted that it was no easy task to Chair a meeting with people in front of you and many more 'on screen', she also highlighted that the Chair had given everyone an opportunity to speak. She further commended the Chair and Deputy Chair on their creativity in what was a very difficult year and asked fellow Members to join with her in giving a round of applause.

Councillor Cuddy on behalf of the UUP thanked the Chair for his management of the meetings throughout the year highlighting that although they had one blip on the whole there was a mature approach and understanding of the standing orders. He thanked Councillor Graham for the role she had carried out stated that she was a great ambassador for the Council. He concluded stating that both the Chair and Deputy Chair had completed a great year's work.

Councillor Kerr concurred with previous speakers and commended Councillors Mallaghan and Graham on their roles. He also extended his thanks to the Chair on the courteous treatment he had received and commended him on the articulate way he had managed meetings and had grabbed the role of chair by the scruff of the neck in what was a challenging year and displayed great leadership. Councillor Kerr

concluded by wishing the incoming Chair and Deputy Chair every success for the coming year.

Councillor Kearney speaking on behalf of the SDLP commended both the Chair and Deputy Chair on a good year's work during which they had led the Council forward. He applauded their adoption to new situations and the responsibilities of bringing hope to the community. He concluded by saying that hopefully better times were ahead and thanked Councillors Mallaghan and Graham for keeping everyone's spirits up.

The outgoing Chair Councillor Mallaghan thanked everyone for their warm comments.

AC4/21 Nominations of Councillors to hold Positions of responsibility for 2021-22 as confirmed at the AGM of May 2019

The outgoing Chair Councillor Mallaghan referred members to the meeting pack containing the previously agreed Positions of Responsibility for period 2019-2023, filled using the d'Hondt method.

	Year 1 2019/2020	Year 2 2020/2021	Year 3 2021/2022	Year 4 2022/2023
Council				
Chair	SDLP	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	UUP	SDLP	DUP
Audit Committee				
Chair	SF	SF	UUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	UUP	SF	SF	SF
Development Committee				
Chair	UUP	SF	SF	SF
Deputy-Chair	IND (Monteith)	DUP	IND (Kerr)	DUP
Environment Committee				
Chair	DUP	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	SF	SDLP	SF	UUP
Planning Committee				
Chair	SF	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	UUP	SF	DUP
Policy & Resources Committee				
Chair	SF	SDLP	UUP	SDLP

Deputy-Chair	SDLP	UUP	SDLP	DUP
Housing Council for NI				
1 Representative	SF	SF	SF	SF
Partnership Panel for NI				
1 Representative 4 year term	SDLP			
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for NI				
1 Representative	UUP	DUP	DUP	UUP
Policing & Community Safety Partnership - Mid Ulster (Note 3)				
10 Representatives 4 year term	SF		DUP	
	SF		DUP	
	SF		DUP	
	SF		SDLP	
	SF		UUP	

Councillor Ashton nominating officer for the DUP nominated Councillor McLean to take the Chair.

Councillor Mallaghan stood down from his position

The new Chair Councillor McLean took position at 7.24pm.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said that he hoped Members would bear with him as he endeavoured to keep a check on the screen, he continued stating, "I consider it a great honour, privilege and pleasure to have been appointed as Chair to this council on this the centenary year of Northern Ireland and my thanks to my nominating officer and my party for their support and their faith in me to represent the Council and all the residents of Mid Ulster in this special and historic year. Our wee Country is as it is often referred too is 100 years old, and whilst there are those who will talk that there is little or nothing to celebrate, it would be incumbent of me, if we did not mark the past, acknowledge the present and look towards the future.

Northern Ireland has had many achievements throughout the past 100 years, and indeed some of those life changing achievements have come from within the Mid Ulster Council area, whether it be through innovation and entrepreneurship in the business world; various sporting achievements, writing enchanting novels, music and singing, or gospel preaching and hymns; we have accomplished much, but there is

much more for Northern Ireland to do going forward, and our Council has a great part to play in that.

I've been here before, as some of you will well know, elected back in 1989, I've served as the Chair of the old Magherafelt District Council on two occasions in 2007 and again in 2012, so I think I know something of what I'm letting myself in for. Some of you will say I'm a glutton for punishment taking on this role for a third time in a much larger council.

And while 2012 doesn't seem that long ago, almost 10 years have passed, and plenty has changed – you only need to look at the past 15 months to know how rapid change comes and how challenging it can be.

While the outgoing Chair Cllr Mallaghan and myself have little in common in terms of our political aspirations and views; I believe it would be remiss of me not to comment on his fairness in this debating chamber – he made every effort to assure every councillor was given ample time to express their varied options and put over their various points of view. For this he is to be commended.

And again, whilst I didn't on many occasions agree with his decisions or the decisions of his party, I believe he represented this council well in what could only be described as probably the most unusual and difficult of circumstances that any of us have ever experienced as councillors.

Can I also pay tribute to the outgoing Deputy Chair Councillor Graham who supported the chair in the various responsibilities and used her office to assist the chairman, when he was unavailable to promote and represent Mid Ulster District Council. Cllr Graham has carried out that responsibility very well, and I know that as this year progresses, I will very much welcome the support of my vice chair, as we strive to represent Mid Ulster Council, on various platforms throughout the coming year.

It would also be remiss of me not at this time to mention the director team previously lead by Antony Tohill and in more recent days Adrian McCreesh and everyone of our valued workforce who excelled themselves over this past year in spite of all the restrictions to deliver what can only be described as an excellent service for the people of our district.

I am previously on record as stating that we the councillors are the front face of council but the staff and workforce and the engine that makes it all work.

I am fortunate in that I am starting my term of office in a period of positivity and cautious optimism, when restrictions are easing and our vaccination programme continues to be rolled out at pace, and when we can look forward to a more normal summer and the beginning of a return to a way of life which we enjoyed before the pandemic.

I would concur with others in paying tribute to all of the frontline services who have stepped up to the plate during this pandemic and our thoughts and prayers are especially with those who have been greatly affected by it.

That idea of positivity and hope is one which I trust will characterise my time as Chair – learning from our mistakes and focusing on the positives of our Council.

And there is much to be positive about in the weeks and months to come.

We are currently completing, for example, a major capital investment programme in leisure and outdoor recreation facilities worth over £5.2M. These projects are transforming places like Roundlake in Fivemiletown, Ballyronan Marina and Davagh Forest to name three of the largest, and the outcome will genuinely transform the overall visitor experience to each one, not to mention the MSW growth deal which this council is heavily involved in.

After all this is what we're about - making a difference to the lives of local people, whether by ensuring they have great walks, parks, open spaces, pitches and play areas for people to enjoy; by ensuring that we're supporting our local businesses with bespoke Covid recovery plans for our hardest-hit sectors or tailored business programmes to encourage innovation, build capacity, knowledge and skills; by ensuring that we respond to those who are in need by working to address those needs directly but crucially in partnership with other agencies, as well as with our voluntary and community sector.

That sector came into its own during the pandemic, as did an amazing network of volunteers, who stepped up to make sure some of the most vulnerable were looked after and cared for. We can't underestimate the value of this work and I look forward in the year ahead to meeting the many, many volunteers and community groups who are woven in to the social fabric of Mid Ulster.

I look forward also to working positively and constructively with all of you as council colleagues and with Adrian, the directors and the dedicated staff as we continue to meet whatever challenges lie ahead and deliver for the people of Mid Ulster."

The Chair, Councillor McLean sought a nomination from the SDLP for Deputy Chair.

Councillor Kearney nominated Councillor McFlynn saying that she had been a Councillor for thirteen years, was the most experienced Member in their grouping and was the second lady from the SDLP Members to hold the position and expressed good wishes for the year ahead.

Councillor McFlynn assumed the role as Deputy Chair.

The Deputy Chair, Councillor McFlynn expressed her sympathy to Councillor Glasgow and his family on the death of his grandmother. She spoke of his grandfather Sam and how she had worked alongside him on the former Cookstown District Council and extended her condolences to him also. Speaking on her appointment as Deputy Chair, she said,

"It's a privilege and honour to take up the position of Deputy Chair for Mid Ulster Council for the coming year to represent and support all our residents and

businesses. I'm looking forward to supporting our Chair Councillor Paul McLean and the Senior Management Team and to getting out and about across the district. Positivity and hope come to mind as we come out of Covid and try and rebuild our district for the future. Last year has been difficult for many people, isolation, loneliness and fear of the unknown were prevalent, you could see and hear if when you reached out to people. We have to have hope that the days ahead will be brighter and Mid Ulster Council will have its part in that. Council are currently working on projects which will improve our district and our mental health going forward. On Saturday myself and Councillor Martin Kearney and other councillors met with Mid Ulster Youth Voice 16-18 year olds. They were passionate and inspirational in their views on what this place should be like equality, employability, environment and the eagerness to promote Irish. It was brilliant to see youth from cross communities discussing important issues. Council need to engage and involve our youth more right across every department. Can I thank my SDLP colleagues for the nomination and putting their faith in me. I'd like to pay tribute to all our staff in every department and indeed every person who worked on the frontline in the past year sometimes in very difficult circumstances. I wish our outgoing Chair Cathal and deputy chair Meta good health for the coming year. Family is very important to me and all of us but I thank mine for their support every day."

The Chair invited party nominating offices to nominate Members to hold the following positions of Responsibility, as listed for 2020-2021 in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Positions of Responsibility	Party	Councillor
Council Chair	DUP	Councillor McLean
Council, Deputy Chair	SDLP	Councillor McFlynn
Audit Committee, Chair	UUP	Councillor Colvin
Audit Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor B McGuigan
Development, Chair	SF	Councillor Molloy
Development, Deputy Chair	IND	Councillor Kerr
Environment Committee, Chair	DUP	Councillor Brown
Environment Committee Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor McNamee
Planning Committee, Chair	DUP	Councillor Black
Planning Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor S McPeake
Policy & Resources, Chair	UUP	Councillor McKinney
Policy & Resources, Deputy Chair	SDLP	Councillor Kearney
Housing Council for NI	SF	Councillor Elattar
Partnership Panel for NI (term of Council)	SDLP	Councillor Hughes
Reserve & Cadets Association for NI	DUP	Councillor Brown

Policing & Community Safety Partnership (term of Council)	SF	Councillor Mallaghan
	SF	Councillor B McGuigan
	SF	Councillor McNamee
	SF	Councillor S McPeake
	SF	Councillor D Molloy
	DUP	Councillor Burton
	DUP	Councillor Cuthbertson (Chair)
	DUP	Councillor Forde
	SDLP	Councillor McFlynn
	UUP	Councillor Wilson

A5/21 Appoint of Councillors to Committees

The Chair, Councillor McLean invited Nominating Officers from parties to nominate Members to allocate Members to serve on committees. Nominations and changes made as notified by Nominating Officers.

Audit Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021-2022
1. Chair	UUP	Cllr Robert Colvin
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr Brian McGuigan
3. Member	SF	Cllr Cathal Mallagahn
4. Member	SF	Cllr Niall McAleer
5. Member	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton
6. Member	SDLP	Cllr Christine McFlynn
7. Member	IND	Cllr Dan Kerr
8. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

Development Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021 – 2022
1. Chair	SF	Cllr Dominic Molloy
2. Deputy-Chair	IND -	Cllr Dan Kerr
3. Member	SF	Cllr Seán Clarke
4. Member	SF	Cllr Cora Corry
5. Member	SF	Cllr Catherine Elattar
6. Member	SF	Cllr Niamh Doris
7. Member	SF	Cllr Ian Milne
8. Member	SF	Cllr John McNamee
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton

10. Member	DUP	Cllr Frances Burton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Kyle Black
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Kerri Hughes
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Walter Cuddy
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Trevor Wilson
16. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

Environment Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021- 2022
1. Chair	DUP	Cllr Wesley Brown
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr John McNamee
3. Member	SF	Cllr Niall McAleer
4. Member	SF	Cllr Brian McGuigan
5. Member	SF	Cllr Ian Milne
6. Member	SF	Cllr Sean McGuigan
7. Member	SF	Cllr Joe Oneill
8. Member	SF	Cllr Darren Totten
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Wilbert Buchanan
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Frances Burton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Clement Cuthbertson
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin Kearney
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Sharon McAleer
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Mark Glasgow
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Meta Graham
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Trevor Wilson

Planning Committee		
Position	Party	2021-2022 Membership
1. Chair	DUP	Cllr Kyle Black
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr Seán McPeake
3. Member	SF	Cllr Gavin Bell
4. Member	SF	Cllr Sean Clarke
5. Member	SF	Cllr Cora Corry
6. Member	SF	Cllr Cathal Mallaghan
7. Member	SF	Cllr Donal McPeake
8. Member	DUP	Cllr Wesley Brown
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Clement Cuthbertson
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Wills Robinson

11. Member	SDLP	Cllr Kerri Hughes
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Christine McFlynn
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Robert Colvin
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Mark Glasgow
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Derek McKinney

Policy & Resources Committee		
Position	Party	Membership 2021-2022
1. Chair	UUP	Cllr Derek McKinney
2. Deputy-Chair	SDLP	Cllr Martin Kearney
3. Member	SF	Cllr Niamh Doris
4. Member	SF	Cllr Catherine Elattar
5. Member	SF	Cllr Phelim Gildernew
6. Member	SF	Cllr Sean McGuigan
7. Member	SF	Cllr Sean McPeake
8. Member	SF	Cllr Dominic Molloy
9. Member	SF	Cllr Darren Totten
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Kim Ashton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Wilbert Buchanan
12. Member	DUP	Cllr Anne Forde
13. Member	DUP	Cllr Paul McLean
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Sharon McAleer
15. Member	SDLP	Cllr Malachy Quinn
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Walter Cuddy

A6/21 Chair of Mid Ulster Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

The Chair, Councillor McLean invited the nominating officer for the DUP to nominate the Chair of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for year 2020-2021.

Councillor Ashton nominated Councillor Cuthbertson.

A7/21 Nominations for representation on Outside Bodies

The Chair Councillor McLean drawing attention to the previously circulated report and giving no amendments to the membership notified the report was noted.

Matters for Information

A8/21 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule 2021-2022

The Chair, Councillor McLean drew attention to the previously circulated 2021-22 Schedule of Meetings for Council and Committee meetings

The Chair, Councillor McLean reminded Members that the Remote Meetings Regulations expired on 7 May 2021 and as Department for Communities had as yet not introduced new regulations all members would be accommodated in the relevant Chamber to attend committees in person from June onwards. Arrangements will also be in place that Members who vulnerable can use zoom to connect to the meeting. It was noted that the Council meeting on 24 June 2021 would be held in the Dungannon Chamber and virtually over zoom with restricted numbers present. Representation from each party will be based on D'Hondt therefore 5 Sinn Fein, 3 DUP, 2 UUP, 2 SDLP with a further 3 spaces to accommodate Independent Members. Working within this framework will permit 2 metre social distancing.

AC9/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.45 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 8 June 2020 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor Black, Chair

Councillors Bell, Brown, Clarke, Corry, Cuthbertson, Hughes, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Mr Bowman, Head of Development Management
Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer
Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor
Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer
Mr McGinley, IT Support
Mrs Grogan, 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 Black 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 everyone had seen this document and had time to read it.

All confirmed that they had seen the addendum and had time to read it.

P074/21 Apologies

Councillors Colvin, Glasgow and Robinson.

P075/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest in agenda item 4.18 – LA09/2020/1612/F - Learning and development centre comprising of several training buildings and structures and two small ancillary buildings; a number of training areas and props and a small network of roadways for training. Site development infrastructure works, landscaping enhancements and all ancillary development at lands S of Desertcreat Road, E of A29

Dungannon Road and NW of Downs Road, Desertcreat for Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

The Chair, Councillor Black declared an interest in agenda item 4.23 – LA09/2021/0118/RM – Two storey dwelling & detached double garage with loft room at Tulnacross Road, Doons opposite & S of 23 Tulnacross Road, Cookstown for Mr Kyle Black & Miss Adele Bradley.

The Chair, Councillor Black declared an interest in agenda item 5.2 – LA09/2019/0944/F – Infill dwelling and garage between 90 and 92 Iniscarn Road, Desertmartin for Mr Paul Bradley.

D076/21 Chair's Business

The Planning Manager advised that agenda item 7 – Planning Department Service Improvement Plan 2021-22 would now be brought forward as a decision immediately after deferred applications.

He brought members attention to the circulated addendum and late correspondence received from an objectors view point. He reminded members to be careful when dealing with objectors and applicants and best to listen and not getting involved with emailed correspondence etc.

He referred to energy and windfarms in Northern Ireland and advised that this was more to do with PAC, but DoE and SONI presently carrying out a consultation on achieving ambitious climate targets which would require significant levels of renewable deployment. They are keen to seek peoples' views on how the industry was approaching financing and deployment of renewable technologies and how this may change in the future. They feel that this would be critical to the delivery of a good service whilst minimising costs for consumers.

He sought members' approval to make representation on behalf of the Council to DoE and SONI on their consultation as the deadline was before the next Planning Committee meeting.

Resolved Agreed that the Planning Manager make representation on behalf of the Council to DoE and SONI on their consultation relating to Renewable Energy.

The Planning Manager referred to additional information received today relating to agenda item 5.2 – LA09/2019/0944/F and sought approval from members to defer the application for one month so proper consideration can be given to the late information received today.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0944/F be deferred for one month.

Councillor Brown raised concern about this application already being deferred on two previous occasions and was going nowhere. He stated that if the applicant had co-operated and put in the pipe required and provided the information sought that this would have been resolved. He said that this committee cannot continue to defer this application month on month and needed to be resolved once and for all.

The Planning Manager concurred with Councillor Brown but stated that this was a matter for the committee to decide. He said that it was irritating for case officers to continually seek information and not get it but when the applicant then realises that the application is being brought forward to committee for refusal, they make a commitment to provide the relevant information but never does so. He said that a deferral tonight was a safeguarding measure for this committee in the event of the application not being considered properly, being refused and then successfully appealed with the Planning Appeals Commission, resulting in this Council being liable for outstanding costs which could be huge if the case was successful.

Councillor Brown said that he understood what the Planning Manager was saying but enquired how long it was expected to get a resolution to this application.

The Planning Manager advised that correspondence would be issued to Rivers Agency tomorrow where they can hopefully make a determination to resolving the issue. If the Rivers Agency come back to say that the matter is resolved then we can proceed on with this, but in the event of no clear guidance from them, this would be referred back to this committee to make a decision as all the relevant information has been considered and not leaving this Council liable. He said that it took time to resolve these difficult issues and let each party have their say, but there was also a right for homeowners to enjoy their home surroundings as a basic human right.

The Planning Manager also referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred/withdrawn from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting/to receive relevant information –

Agenda Item 4.6 – LA09/2020/0896/O - Infill dwelling and garage at 20m West of 6 Five Mile Straight, Draperstown for Joe McWilliams

Agenda Item 4.9 – LA09/2020/1205/F – Farm Shed at approx. 150m NW of 53 Ballybeg Road, Coalisland for Tony McBride

Agenda Item 4.12 - LA09/2020/1476/O - Dwelling and garage between 21 and 23 Iniscarn Road, Moneymore for FJS Contracts Ltd

Agenda Item 4.13 – LA09/2020/1481/A - 3 Non Illuminated composite aluminium free standing signs located along a section of the Drum Road. Sign 1 90m E, Sign 2 148m and Sign 3 66m SE of 2 Teebane Road, Cookstown for Furniture Store NI Ltd

Agenda Item 4.14 – LA09/2020/1498/F - Retention of Gym and Wellbeing Facility currently under construction; car parking and associated drainage and septic tank at site adjacent to 99 Ardboe Road, Ardboe, for Mr Ryan Quinn

Agenda Item 4.15 – LA09/2020/1533/F – Retention of change of use to rear of existing public house to beer garden including steel framed building with cladded roof and sitting area with acoustic fence to perimeter at 9-10 The Square, The Moy for Barry McNeice

Agenda Item 4.25 – LA09/2021/0146/0 – Infill site for 2 Storey dwelling and garage between Oakland Villas and 167 Drum Road, Cookstown for Philip and Judith Mitchell

Agenda Item 4.27 – LA09/2021/0305/F - Dwelling & carport with detached garage & loft room at approx. 50m SSW of 31 Sherrigrim Road Stewartstown for Mr Daryl Morrison & Miss Rachel Mullan

Agenda Item 4.29 – LA09/2021/0331/O - Infill site for dwelling at approx 30m SE of 43 Ardagh Road, Coagh, for Pat McGuckin

Agenda Item 4.30 - LA09/2021/0333/O - Infill site dwelling at approx 20m NW of 90 Ballinderry Bridge Road, Coagh for Pat McGuckin

Agenda Item 4.31 – LA09/2021/0334/O – Infill dwelling and garage at 60m N of 88 Annaghmore Road, Magherafelt for Alexander Scott Esq (withdrawn)

Agenda Item 4.32 – LA09/2021/0381/F – Change of house type at approx. 110m SW of 125 Killycolpy Road, Ardboe for Mr R O'Neill and Ms L Donnelly

Agenda Item 4.33 – LA 09/2021/0495/O – Infill dwelling at site NW of 7a Killycurragh Road, Orritor, Cookstown (access via Craigs Road) for Mr Maurice Freeburn

Agenda Item 5.2 – LA09/2019/0944/F – Infill dwelling and garage between 90 and 92 Iniscarn Road, Desertmartin for Mr Paul Bradley

Matters for Decision

P077/21 Planning Applications for Determination

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

LA09/2019/1221/F 38kV substation to serve approved Wind Turbine at Beltonanean Mountain, Beltonanean, Cookstown for Graham Bell

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1221/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1221/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0248/F Retention of workshop, vehicles storage area and roadside fence at 15 Ballynargan Road Coagh for Billy Gibson

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0248/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0248/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0376/F Recreational water park consisting of water based inflatables and subsidiary water based activities, ancillary welcome building; changing buildings and toilets, soft landscaped space including inland beach, car & bus parking and all associated ancillary works including associated public road improvements at 140m NW of No.4 Maghadone Road, Moneymore, for Splash (Ireland) Ltd.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0376/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0376/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0712/F Retention of existing external smoking area in rear yard and retrospective change of use of ground and first floors from redundant bar and function rooms into 5 flats at 2-4 High Street, Moneymore for William Drennan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0712/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0712/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0723/LBC Retention of existing external smoking area in rear yard and retrospective change of use of ground and first floors from redundant bar and function rooms into 5 flats at 2-4 High Street, Moneymore for William Drennan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0723/LBC which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0723/LBC be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor McKinney left the meeting at 7.25 pm.

LA09/2020/0896/O Infill dwelling and garage at 20m West of 6 Five Mile Straight, Draperstown for Joe McWilliams

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2020/0896/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2020/0905/F Retention of change of use of former farm shed to engineering works, at approx. 40m S of 28 Slatmore Road, Clogher, for Wiltshire Engineering

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/20220/0905/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor McKinney returned to the meeting at 7.27 pm.

Councillor Brown advised that he wasn't familiar with this case but enquired if this application could be deferred for one month until the relevant information was submitted to address concerns which the case officer has.

The Planning Manager advised that the case officer had already requested the relevant information which wasn't submitted and was now before committee tonight for a recommended refusal and the applicant hasn't made a representation.

Councillor Bell advised that he would be happy to proceed with the case officer's recommendation of refusal.

Councillor Cuthbertson seconded Councillor Brown's proposal for a deferral.

Councillor Bell said that he would be content to defer the application for one month.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0905/F be deferred for one month.

LA09/2020/1093/F Agricultural general purpose storage shed adjacent to 68 Lurgylea Road, Dungannon for James Gerard McElroy

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/20220/1093/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor Mallaghan enquired if the applicant was aware that this was going as a refusal tonight.

Mr Marrion (SPO) advised that the Planning Department do not make contact with anyone including applicants, agents, objectors or supporters advising them that their application was being brought to committee for decision. He said that this would be within the best interests of those involved to be aware of applications being brought forward to committee for determination.

It was proposed by Councillor Mallaghan to defer the application for one month to provide the applicant with an opportunity to submit the relevant information and in the event of this not being provided, then refusal be recommended.

The Planning Manager said that he would be content to defer the application for an office meeting in this instance to identify what the situation really was.

Councillor S McPeake seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal for a deferral.

He enquired if everything else was in order in principle to demonstrate an active farming case with a building and integration.

Mr Marrion (SPO) stated that the case officer was not satisfied that the building would be required for the holding due to the size of it and looking through the photographs there were quite a few machines on site and stored in the open air. He said that if a farming case can be made to demonstrate that it was active and established then he would be confident that everything would fall into place behind it.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1093/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2020/1205/F Farm shed at approx. 150m NW of 53 Ballybeg Road, Coalisland, for Tony McBride

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2020/1205/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2020/1428/F Pitch observation stand & strength & conditioning gym; walking / running trail around perimeter of grounds. Minor alterations to existing changing rooms; internal reconfiguration of rooms and the alteration of existing shared toilets / showers to provide separate facilities at Club House, Monaghan Road, Aughnacloy, for Aghaloo O'Neill's GFC

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1428/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1428/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1443/O Dwelling on a farm adjacent to 34 and 36 Ferry Road, Derrylaughan, Dungannon, for Aodhan Corr

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1443/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1443/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1476/O Dwelling and garage between 21 and 23 Iniscarn Road, Moneymore for FJS Contracts Ltd

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2020/1476/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2020/1481/A 3 Non Illuminated composite aluminium free standing signs located along a section of the Drum Road. Sign 1 90m E, Sign 2 148m and Sign 3 66m SE of 2 Teebane Road, Cookstown for Furniture Store NI Ltd

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2020/1481/A be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2020/1498/F Retention of Gym and Wellbeing Facility currently under construction; car parking and associated drainage and septic tank at site adjacent to 99 Ardboe Road, Ardboe, for Mr Ryan Quinn

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2020/1498/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2020/1533/F Retention of change of use to rear of existing public house to beer garden including steel framed building with cladded roof and sitting area with acoustic fence to perimeter at 9-10 The Square, The Moy, for Mr Barry McNeice

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2020/1533/F be deferred for one month for consideration of further information.

LA09/2020/1550/F Two storey dwelling at 20m S of 2 The Brambles, Magherafelt, for P Ward

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1550/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1550/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1575/F Retention of existing wooden platform/decking and wooden building/cabin at 35m W of 74 Tullyodonnell Road, Tullyreavy Cookstown for Mr Rory McGarrity

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1575/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1575/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1612/F Learning and development centre comprising of several training buildings and structures and two small ancillary buildings; a number of training areas and props and a small network of roadways for training. Site development infrastructure works, landscaping enhancements and all ancillary development at lands S of Desertcreat Road, E of A29 Dungannon Road and NW of Downs Road, Desertcreat for Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1612/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1612/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1651/O Site for two storey replacement dwelling and double domestic garage at approx. 190m NW of 16 Soarn Road, Cookstown, for Ms Catherine McCrea

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2020/1651/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor S McPeake suggested deferring this application for one month to give officers an opportunity to go back to the applicant advising that this committee would be mindful of refusing the application unless a more acceptable proposal comes forward. He said that he totally agreed with the officer that the sites were set too high but felt that it may be a bit harsh to completely refuse the application altogether, but in the event of nothing more realistic coming forward, then a recommendation of refusal be applied.

The Planning Manager concurred with Councillor S McPeake's comments and said that it would be beneficial to write to the applicant advising that the application was brought forward tonight for decision and the committee were mindful to refuse it, but were also mindful of the view that a site could take a dwelling. He felt that there was also a need to change the description of the dwelling to suit their needs and change their plans.

Councillor Brown seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal for a deferral.

Councillor McKinney enquired if the applicant was not agreeable would the application be brought back to committee for consideration again or would the decision be delegated. The Planning Manager advised that it would be safer to bring back the application to committee within a very clear timeframe to give the applicant a chance to comply with the relevant requirements.

The Chair sought approval from members to defer for one month to explore the avenues discussed here tonight.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1651/O be deferred for one month.

LA09/2021/0075/F Change of house type from previously approved at 95 Creagh Road, Castledawson, for Ciaran & Roisin Higgins

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0075F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0075/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0080/O Detached house at 20m N of 66 Drumconvis Road, Cookstown for Nuala Ryan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0080/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0080/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0100/F Vary the wording of condition No.4 (parking and service areas) of approval M/2014/0567/F for an in vessel composting facility (IVCF) at lands at Northway Mushrooms 24m S of 17 Aghnagar Road, Ballygawley for Northway Mushrooms Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0100/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0100/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

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

LA09/2021/0118/RM Two storey dwelling & detached double garage with loft room at Tulnacross Road, Doons opposite & S of 23 Tulnacross Road Cookstown, for Mr Kyle Black & Miss Adele Bradley

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0118/RM which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Hughes and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0118/RM be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

The Chair, Councillor Black returned to the Chair. .

LA09/2021/0120/F Renewal of LA09/2015/1121/F between 9 Old Coagh Mill & Old Coagh Road, Cookstown for J & M Developments Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0120/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0120/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report

LA09/2021/0146/O Infill site for 2 Storey dwelling and garage between Oakland Villas and 167 Drum Road, Cookstown, for Philip and Judith Mitchell

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2021/0146/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2021/0224/F Dwelling at 80m W of 67 Dungorman Road, Dungannon Mr Paul Brannigan

The Planning Manager sought approval to raise this application in Confidential Business due to personal circumstances.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0224/F be raised in Confidential Business.

LA09/2021/0305/F Dwelling & carport with detached garage & loft room at approx. 50m SSW of 31 Sherrigrim Road Stewartstown for Mr Daryl Morrison & Miss Rachel Mullan

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2021/0305/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2021/0326/F Change of house type (from approved I/2007/0308/RM) at 300m SW of 16 Dirnan Road, Cookstown, for Colm Canavan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0326/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0326/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0331/O Infill site for dwelling at approx. 30m SE of 43 Ardagh Road, Coagh, for Pat McGuckin

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2021/0331/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2021/0333/O Infill site dwelling at approx. 20m NW of 90 Ballinderry Bridge Road, Coagh for Pat McGuckin

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2021/0333/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2021/0334/O Infill dwelling and garage at 60m N of 88 Annaghmore Road, Magherafelt for Alexander Scott Esq

Planning application LA09/2021/0334/O to be withdrawn from planning schedule.

LA09/2021/0381/F Change of house type at approx. 110m SW of 125 Killycolpy Road Ardboe, for Mr R O'Neill and Ms L Donnelly

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2021/0381/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2021/0495/O Infill dwelling at site NW of 7a Killycurragh Road, Orritor, Cookstown (access via Craigs Road) for Mr Maurice Freeburn

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2021/0495/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2017/0489/F Farm shed for the housing of animals and storage of farm machinery, 210m E of 91 Ballynakilly Road Coalisland, for Mr Gavin Quinn

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/0489/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2017/0489/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0944/F Infill dwelling and garage between 90 and 92 Iniscarn Road, Desertmartin for Mr Paul Bradley

Agreed earlier in the meeting that planning application LA09/2019/0944/F be deferred for one month.

LA09/2020/0234/O Dwelling and garage on a farm at 100m W of 63 Iniscarn Road, Desertmartin for Connor Monaghan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0234/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0234/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/1548/F Dwelling & garage, 40m NE of 59 Ferry Road, Coalisland, for Patrick McNeice

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1548/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1548/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/0006/F Roadside hot food sales and ancillary development (farm diversification Scheme) at 100m SSE of Knockaconny House, 37 Sandholes Road, Cookstown for IT and RS Mayne

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/0006/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/0006/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

The Chair advised that Agenda Item 7 would now be brought forward for decision.

P078/21 Receive Planning Department Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

The Planning Manager presented previously circulated report which provided members with a copy of the Planning Department's Service Improvement Plan (SIP) for the period 2021-2022.

The Planning Manager referred to the Service Improvement Plan and said that although we didn't reach our targets last year we did pretty well considering there was a pandemic and still managed to deliver a service and get things out in 16 weeks and commended all the officers on their hard work. He said however there was now a backlog and we were not through the pandemic yet and were juggling things in a very difficult situation. He referred to the Development Plan and advised that there was a re-consultation and when this was started, new regulations came out on the pandemic which also put things back. Looking at the way forward, there are targets that are there by law and these cannot be juggled to make them fit as targets for Development Management were set in statute. In relation to the Development Plan, the only part that's within Planning's control is the submission of the Development Plan which was anticipated to be complete by the springtime and pleased to say that this has now been submitted to the Department and target met. He stated that there was still a struggle in Development Management and realistically if we can get through this pandemic and get the backlog cleared, the real aim would be to meet the targets on a monthly basis come the end of the year.

He stated that there was an item which was not on the agenda but would like members and parties to think about it carefully regarding the amount of work which needed to be cleared, a lot of refusals which needs to be brought for a second time and now is not the time to do it because we want to give everybody the chance to have their say and bringing everyone into the committee would be awkward. He said that it would be wrong to have people sitting to speak at 11 pm at night and suggested that if it was anticipated to have a long meeting that we go back to the previous method of having a break at 9 pm for members to refresh themselves and clear any business which we can within the next half hour or so and be away by 10 pm, with any remaining business being brought to another meeting. He said that his problem was perceiving how long a meeting was going to take and we were lucky tonight as there were a lot of deferrals. He suggested if a meeting was anticipated to take longer than expected, then this should be split as it was unfair to have the public waiting too long and not fair to have staff going home late at night due to health & safety issues, particularly if they have to come in early the next morning for other meetings. He asked members to seriously think about this so everyone can move forward very sensibly.

He referred to a large item on the Service Improvement Plan which will change the way the service is delivered where everything can be done online i.e. submission of plans, submission of revisions, submissions of omissions and objections and is a major project for Mid Ulster as we are doing their own computer system and a substantive saving to the ratepayer, nearly 90% saving and in time we will be doing a better service as we won't be tied into something for 20 years. He said that this would improve development management on planning applications and also improve the development plan as there would be an opportunity to record and analyse decisions for the future i.e. how much retail is in the pipeline, how many houses in the pipeline and hopefully that information can be at our fingertips which is a huge undertaking. He suggested that a 10 to 15 minute presentation be made to the next meeting to make members aware of what the Planning Department were doing.

The Chair said that it was good to see the Development Plan moving forward and was interesting time for the Council. In relation to the Service Improvement Plan, it has obviously been very challenging this last year and wanted to place on record his appreciation to the Planning Manager and his staff on being able to perform the way that this Council has. He stated that he was aware of the work still to be carried out clearing the backlog and hoped that we will work constructively to best move this forward. He said it was very interesting to hear about the new portal and felt that this would be a very welcome addition as it would make the service even more efficient and looked forward to seeing it materialise.

Councillor S McPeake concurred with the Planning Manager regarding the backlog over the last 14 – 15 months which had accumulated, but was more curious about the longer applications which had been in the system for a number of years for some uncertain reasons i.e. lack of information and enquired due to the large amount should these not be focused on. He asked if these applications could be sifted out and refused if there were not going to meet any threshold.

The Planning Manager said that he was pleased to say that there were not many and we were lucky as some other Councils have huge amounts which they inherited from the Department. We did however inherit some awkward things relating to quarrying etc. and some of these applications do take years to deal with as they were complex issues relating to environmental matters. There were some that were deliberately put on the back shelf waiting on the progress of the Development Plan, but were only minimal and not hundreds and would not be worried. He said that there does come a point like tonight where there were people asked for information and these were deferred on the basis that a person is given an opportunity to go away and do something before next month or it would be refused and finds that if this is operated as a way forward that this would help to clear things. He stated that the thing he was most proud of about Mid Ulster was that if you speak to any agent or councils, they always indicate that this council was always seen as the most reasonable council because we work with people to make development sustainable and listen to people's arguments and views and try our best to try and find solutions for a favourable outcome.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to the Development Committee where there was a combination of deputations brought to an additional meeting that month to try and clear all those people who wish to talk to Council and try and get their ideas across. He agreed with the Planning Manager's suggestion of having a second meeting occasionally if there was anticipation that the cases were going to involve speakers and the application was going to make up to 25 minutes or longer to discuss and could be up to half a dozen or more could be set aside for a particular night and just get them cleared up. He stated that it was very difficult to estimate how long a particular case was going to take, some were known as going to be tricky ones and if already deferred a few times and site visits, then getting to this final point of last chance to speak on it and ultimately making a decision. He said that it would be worthwhile looking at this suggestion, even for a few months as it was better than sitting here to midnight and people sitting on a zoom link for four hours to have their say for a 3 minute opportunity to put their case across.

The Chair agreed that there was a need to clear the backlog and stated that there were some good sensible suggestions made tonight.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved To accept the Planning Department's Service Improvement Plan 2021-22.

Matters for Information

P079/21 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 May 2021.

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 May 2021.

P080/21 Receive Report on Appeal Decision

The Planning previously circulated report which provided members with Appeal decision dated the 18th May 2021 relating to an Advertisement consisting of a flat screen fixed to a gable wall with brackets at Walsh's Hotel, 53 Main Street, Maghera (sign to be displayed on the Coleraine Road side of the building). The appeal is allowed subject to conditions set out within the report.

The Planning Manager felt that this was an interesting decision as the key issue at this location was road safety and Roads Service has very much taken a view against these signs repeatedly and very difficult for officers and committee to sit down and say that we know any better because we are not road Engineers. It's right for a person to go to appeal if they were dissatisfied with a decision and their right to defend that appeal. He said that he wasn't annoyed with the decision but at Roads Service as the only thing they did to defend that appeal was to issue the same piece of paper and if he was representing something would not turn around and say that 'this is my opinion', but would provide his evidence to show statistics in terms of accident blackspots, accidents in terms of signs and the controls of illumination being affective. If there was no evidence, then guidance and policy should be consulted upon which sets out what was acceptable and what wasn't so that it was based on a wider public view. He said that Roads Service had nothing other than working on a policy which tells us that something would be refused if it was detrimental to highway safety and all we have was Roads Service opinion.

The Planning Manager stated that he had asked the Head of Development Management to send on his concerns to Roads Service and tell them if they wanted to do these appeals then they needed to do more on whether it was the right or wrong decision. He concluded by saying that if this site was dangerous and someone is harmed or killed, then this was not our fault as Roads Service should be better on their game.

Councillor McKinney advised that it was a long time before this decision had been taken. He stated that he totally disagreed with the decision and when a person was coming over the Coleraine Road at the 30 mph limits, the sign is real visible to the public eye and Roads Service has indicated that this was not intrusive amongst a lot of other things. He said that he would question whether the Commissioner was in the right town and cannot agree with what was said on a winter's day. He stated that two Sunday night's ago his son mentioned how the sign was very bright and felt that the decision was unacceptable and what was wrote within the report for anyone which knows the area, it doesn't match up and likewise for other signage which had to be taken down on protected routes and felt that this decision stinks.

The Planning Manager stated that a decision is a decision and we were faced on whether to proceed to a judicial review and his decision would be not too for the simple reason that the Commissioners took great play on how long it took Planning to make a decision and quite clear when you read the decision in-between the words that the view was taken that planning were quite happy to live with the sign for that long and his opinion that the sign had been up for long and no-one reported an accident. He said that after considering this correspondence, the opinions of the committee would be very weak, but felt that the decision to refuse was very reasonable.

Councillor Mallaghan said when he was reading through the report originally, he thought the committee's decision as upheld and had to read it again to see that it wasn't and was very surprised as usually the case would be when a planning application is considered unsatisfactory by Roads Service, then this is the final line and the committee don't question it, but finds it very surprising regarding this application. He stated that there had been so many of these signs appearing over Mid Ulster over a short period of time and Roads Service were quick to go around putting in lots of objections and would result in a lot of people who purchased these signs/tvs asking questions if they become aware of this application being approved. He said that this would make people think twice in the future when consultation is received back from Roads Service regarding these types of issues on how hard the line is held in future in terms of road safety as this Planning Appeals report has tainted this a little.

Councillor Mallaghan enquired if there was any cost to Council regarding this decision.

The Planning Manager advised that there was no cost as it was a reasonable decision. He stated that this was a very difficult when dealing with expert witnesses and would read it by our experience of dealing with the courts and where we have an expert witness and we go against them i.e. Roads Service or Rivers Agency, it is highly likely that a judge would quash any decision and put it back to Council as we would be asked to provide evidence on why we were going against them. The difference with the Planning Appeals Commission is that they are not a judicial body and use the term quasi-judicial as an administrative body, but still operate like a tribunal and similar to courts as they do not investigate, but considers the evidence which is set before them, they can be inquisitive but do not investigate, but Roads Service need to justify the position of their decision. He said that it would be his opinion that Roads Service invest some money and carry out some work on signage and not just looking at statistics which should be open to public debate and the way we wish to go forward.

The Chair concurred with comments and said that going forward there was a need for clarity on how these type of things were viewed when brought before committee in the future.

Councillor Cuthbertson enquired why it took so long to make a decision as he was aware of this being brought up in few times at committee and then ultimately forgot about. He felt there was a need to address this especially when there may have been a small bearing on the Commissioner's view and decision on how this sign has been here for a number of years. He said there was a need to take this on board going forward especially taking things back from deferrals which were continuously being deferred and it's up to this committee to make decisions and not keep putting them off.

The Planning Manager said that things happen which were different each day within Planning. He said that there were decisions he would make on signage and in some incidents could move to a straight prosecution as it was illegal to erect a sign without planning permission, but in this instance he didn't because there wasn't a discussion within committee regarding signage as such. The Council give Mr Walsh every opportunity rather than proceeding to prosecution and commended the committee on trying to give him a chance to resolve the matter as he was a key person within his community providing employment.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that there was a need to be careful and for example if someone erected a sign in Dungannon, it could take Mid Ulster District Council three years to make a decision, resulting in the sign being well paid for by that time.

Live broadcast ended at 8.22 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake 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 P081/20 to P085/21.

Matters for Decision

P081/21 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

P082/21 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4th May 2021

P083/21 Enforcement live Case List

P084/21 Enforcement Cases Opened

P085/21 Enforcement Cases Closed

P086/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.40 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the meeting of Mid Ulster District Council's Planning Committee in the Chamber, Magherafelt and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast feed. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will 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
- For members attending remotely, note that by voting on any application, you are confirming that you were in attendance for the duration of, and that you heard and saw all relevant information in connection with the application you vote on
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting. When finished please put your audio to mute
- 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
- An Addendum was emailed to all Committee Members at 5pm today. There is also a hard copy on each desk in the Chamber. Can all members attending remotely please confirm that they received the Addendum and that have had sufficient time to review it?
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to so everyone has a clear understanding
- For members of the public that are exercising a right to speak by remote means, please ensure that you are able to hear and be heard by councillors, officers and any others requesting speaking rights on the particular application. If this isn't the case you must advise the Chair immediately. Please note that once your application has been decided, you will be removed from the meeting. If you wish to view the rest of the meeting, please join the live link.

- Can I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or the use of any other means to enable persons not present to see or hear any proceedings (whether now or later), or making a contemporaneous oral report of any of the proceedings are all prohibited acts.

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.



ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 8th June 2021

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

Chairs Business - Wind energy subsidies - NIAO

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
4.1	The elevation of the substation is 260m, not 296m, as stated in report. Agent has withdrawn speaking rights.	Members to note
4.25	Supporting information submitted by agent	Members to note
4.31	Application withdrawn	Members to note
5.1	Condition 3 should refer to: drawing no 01 stamp dated 4 April 2017.	Members to note
5.2	Amendment to report in yellow, should read as follows; Rivers were re-consulted on the information submitted by the applicant in order to get the application deferred at April Committee. They replied on 23 rd May 2021. In terms of FLD1, the hydraulic model used to assess fluvial flood risk in the original FRA, dated 31st October 2019, has been independently assessed. This independent assessment has	Members to note

	<p>concluded that there is a low level of confidence in the model outputs. Consequently fluvial flood risk remains an unresolved issue.</p> <p>Updated Flood Risk Assessment received on 05th June 2021.</p> <p>Late Correspondence received from applicant</p>	<p>Members to note</p> <p>Members to note</p>
5.4	<p>Condition 5 should refer to: approved drawing no 01 received 12 April 2021.</p>	<p>Members to note</p>

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 June 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McKinney, Chair

Councillors, Ashton, Buchanan*, Cuddy, Doris* (7.07 pm)
Elattar*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Kearney, S McAleer*,
S McGuigan, McLean*, S McPeake, Molloy, Quinn, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Donnelly**, Council Solicitor
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance
Miss Thompson, 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 7.01 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.

PR110/21 Apologies

None.

PR111/21 Declarations of Interest

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

PR112/21 Chair's Business

Councillor Molloy proposed that a working group be set up to look at the Blackwater Valley/Ulster Canal/Coalisland Canal and the associated blueways and greenways. The Councillor asked that this working group include members/officers from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, ICBAN and other associated bodies who may have an interest in progressing projects.

Councillor Quinn seconded Councillor Molloy's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to set up a working group which will explore the blueways and greenways for the Blackwater Valley/Ulster Canal and Coalisland. Working group to include members/officers from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, ICBAN and other associated bodies.

Councillor Quinn referred to Joshua Griggs from Newmills who died tragically earlier in the week. Councillor Quinn stated he met recently with Joshua's father and could tell how immensely proud he was of his son. Councillor Quinn stated that Joshua was a talented athlete and was also working as a Blacksmith and that there had been incredible shock and outpouring of grief from across the local community on learning of his death. Councillor Quinn stated that Joshua's funeral service will be held at Brackaville Football Club tomorrow which was unique and shows how highly regarded both Joshua and his family are in the area.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney stated that the life of a child was very precious and the loss of the life of a child is tragic.

Councillor Cuddy referred to his previous request for LPS to make a presentation to Committee and that LPS had declined this invitation. Councillor Cuddy proposed that Council go back to LPS and seek a less formal meeting with LPS to discuss purchase/leasing of lands with Members.

The Chief Executive agreed to seek a meeting with LPS.

Councillor Doris joined the meeting at 7.07 pm.

Matters for Decision

PR113/21 Response (draft) to Consultation on DAERA Disability Action Plan 2019-2024

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which provided a draft response developed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in response to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Disability Action Plan 2019-24.

Councillor Molloy referred to issues regarding footpath links to settlements particularly in rural areas and rural transport. The Councillor stated that at a recent meeting with DfI it was shown that someone can walk between Portadown and Belfast without leaving a footpath and that such links between towns and villages in this Council area are very poor. Councillor Molloy asked that reference to these comments are included in the response.

The Head of Democratic Services agreed to include the points raised within the final response to be submitted.

Councillor Cuddy stated that Councillor Molloy raised a valid point as now was the chance to make a difference and that Council should take the opportunity when it is there.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney stated he agreed with the comments made and referred to the footpath link between Tobermore and Portrush.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve and submit draft response as set out at Appendix A to report to the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) with regard to their consultation on a Disability Action Plan 2019-24. Comments in relation to poor footpath linkages in the District and issues with rural transport as outlined above to be included within final response to be submitted.

PR114/21 Council Policy on Accessible Communications (Reviewed)

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Council's policy on Accessible Communications.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the revised Policy on Accessible Communications.

PR115/21 NILGA Consultation on Local Government's Vision & Development 2021-2023 - Response (draft)

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which highlighted consultation from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) on its consultation on Local Government's Vision & Development.

Councillor Kearney stated that as an office bearer of NILGA he acknowledged the work of this Council in preparing this document and that the work of this Council is held in high regard by NILGA.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the draft response as set out at Appendix B of report for submission to NILGA on its policy document - Vision & Development of Local Government 2021-2023.

PR116/21 Elected Member Development Working Group

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the report of a meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on 17 May 2021.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney thanked the Head of Democratic Services and officers for their work in receiving the Charter and congratulated those Members who have completed accredited courses recently.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the report of the Elected Member Development Steering Group meeting, and actions contained, held on Monday 17 May 2021.

PR117/21 Requests to Illuminate Council Property: June 2021

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered requests received to illuminate/light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness of and mark;

- 75th Anniversary of Northern Chest Heart & Stroke - 14th June 2021
- Motor Neurone Disease Association Global Awareness Day - 21st June 2021
- International Day of the Disabled Person - 3rd December 2021

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to light up designated Council properties to mark –

- 75th Anniversary of Northern Ireland Chest, Heart & Stroke – 14 June 2021 (colour red)
- Motor Neurone Disease Association Global Awareness Day – 21 June 2021 (colour blue)
- International Day of the Disabled Person – 3 December 2021 (colour purple)

PR118/21 Member Services

No issues.

PR119/21 Community Development

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure presented previously circulated report which sought approval to proceed with the Town Shared Space Awnings capital works.

Councillor Cuddy thanked officers for the work done to progress these works and that it will be good to see the area identified in Dungannon becoming more user friendly. Councillor Cuddy proposed the report recommendation.

Councillor Quinn seconded Councillor Cuddy's proposal and referred to the area in Coalisland and that it will be good to see this being improved.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the commencement of the towns shared spaces project.

Matters for Information

PR120/21 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 May 2021

Members noted Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 6 May 2021.

PR121/21 Annual Progress Return on Rural Needs 2020/2021

Members noted previously circulated report which set out Mid Ulster District Council's Annual Progress Report to Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the period 2020-21.

PR122/21 Somme Association: 2021-2022 Membership Subscription

Members considered previously circulated report which outlined correspondence received from the Somme Association on annual membership contributions payable for period 2021-2022.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to make payment of £1,200 to the Somme Association for 2021-2022 annual subscription.

PR123/21 Marketing & Communications Service Improvement Plan 2021-2022

Members noted previously circulated report which detailed the Marketing & Communications Service Improvement Plan for 2021-2022.

Councillor S McPeake stated he welcomed the plan and that going forward the use of social media will be hugely important. The Councillor commended the team for their work and in particular mentioned the monthly videos which he felt are very informative and highlight stories that could otherwise become lost. Councillor S McPeake proposed the report recommendation.

Councillor Kearney concurred with Councillor McPeake's comments and acknowledged the quick responses made to customer queries. Councillor Kearney seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor McKinney thanked the marketing and communications team for the work that they do.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the Marketing and Communications Plan 2021-2022.

Live broadcast ended at 7.26 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy 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 PR124/21 to PR132/21.

Matters for Decision

- PR124/21 Staff Matters for Decision
- PR125/21 ICT Update Report June 2021
- PR126/21 Members Allowances Update
- PR127/21 Rate Support Grant Update
- PR128/21 Economic Development Update – NIBSUP2'Go For It' Programme
- PR129/21 Estate and Asset Management

Matters for Information

- PR130/21 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2021
- PR131/21 Staff Matters for Information

PR132/21 Contracts and DAC

PR133/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.24 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 Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 15 June 2021 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Members Present Councillor Brown, Chair
Councillors Buchanan*, Burton, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Graham, Kearney, N McAleer, S McAleer*, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Milne, O'Neill*, Totten*, Wilson*

Officers in Attendance Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Fox, Principal Building Control Officer
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

Others in Attendance Councillor McLean

**Agenda Item 27 – Entertainment Licensing
Tropicana Inns
Mr Valera**

* 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 Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Brown 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.

E151/21 Apologies

None.

The Chair, Councillor Brown welcomed everyone back to the new term of the Environment Committee, the Chair also placed on record the work of the outgoing Chair, Councillor S McGuigan and Deputy Chair Councillor S McAleer. The Chair welcomed Councillor Kearney on to the Environment Committee who has replaced Councillor McFlynn.

E152/21 Declarations of Interest

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

E153/21 Chair's Business

Councillor Cuthbertson asked for an update on the rollout of defibrillators.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that the tender exercise for the purchase of defibrillators had now been concluded and is awaiting sign off. The officer advised that work has been ongoing in respect of electricity connections and also discussions with other parties who have defibrillators as to whether they can be relocated or made more accessible.

Councillor McNamee asked if officers had been able to get an electricity supply for a defibrillator at Lough Fea.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that officers have been pursuing this and would provide an update directly to Councillor McNamee in relation to the Lough Fea site tomorrow.

The Chair advised that agenda item 14 – Lands at Railway Yard, Molesworth Road, Cookstown and agenda item 23 – Bus Shelters Update would be brought out of matters for information and into matters for decision.

Matters for Decision

E154/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 40MPH Speed Limit – Castlecaulfield Road, Donaghmore, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit at Castlecaulfield Road, Donaghmore, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit at Castlecaulfield Road, Donaghmore, Dungannon.

E155/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 40MPH Speed Limit – Killeenan Road and Cloughfin Road, Cookstown

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit at Killeenan Road and Cloughfin Road, Cookstown.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of

Delegation for Senior Officers to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit at Killeenan Road and Cloughfin Road, Cookstown.

E156/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed Provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Leckagh Walk, Magherafelt

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Leckagh Walk, Magherafelt.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Leckagh Walk, Magherafelt.

E157/21 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 40MPH Speed Limit – Tullydraw Road, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit at Tullydraw Road, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 40mph speed limit at Tullydraw Road, Dungannon.

E158/21 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential Housing Developments within Mid-Ulster.

Site off Tullyodonnell Road, The Rock, Dungannon

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to name development off Tullyodonnell Road, The Rock, Dungannon as Carrick Heights.

Site off Moneymore Road, Cookstown

Councillor Wilson advised that he had been contacted by the developer who would prefer the name Linen Gate. The Councillor advised that the development will be gated and is beside the Weavers Nursing Home. Councillor Wilson proposed the name Linen Gate.

Councillor McNamee seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to name development off Moneymore Road, Cookstown as Linen Gate.

E159/21 Service Level Agreement - Structural Engineering Services

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which sought approval to sign a Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council for the provision of specialist structural engineering services for its Mid Ulster Building Control Service.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised he had received representation on this matter and declared an interest.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated this matter had been brought before Council in 2015 as an interim arrangement and should have been reviewed over the years. The Councillor asked if this arrangement is value for money for Council or if another engineer required at extra cost on occasions.

The Head of Building Control advised that the service that is provided by the engineer is required by Council in any case. The officer advised that the engineer has provided the service for several years and is in an ideal position to provide an assessment of calculations, it was advised that the engineer is also on call for structural issues. The Head of Building Control advised that an officer would still be needed to provide the service to the Building Control Department.

Councillor B McGuigan asked if the engineer only provides a service for Council property or projects or if it includes private property ie. dangerous structures.

The Head of Building Control advised that the engineer is on call and that Council can ask them to visit any site if there is an issue with a dangerous structure. The officer advised that the primary task for the engineer relates to the assessment of calculations but that they can be asked to carry out other functions within the Service Level Agreement.

Councillor Graham asked if the £45,000 cost outlined at 4.1 of the report is for each Council or if it is split over the two Councils.

The Head of Building Control advised that the cost is for each Council.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to sign the Service Level Agreement for provision of specialist structural engineering services for 2021/22 as set out at appendix to report.

E160/21 Application for Approval for Civil Marriages/Civil Partnerships

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which considered an application received from Killymoon Golf Club for the Place Approval for Civil Marriages/Civil Partnerships.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in this item as a Member of Killymoon Golf Club.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the application for the “Place Approval for Civil Marriages/Civil Partnerships” at Killymoon Golf Club, Killymoon Road, Cookstown with an advisory note attached highlighting the requirements of “The Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996”.

E161/21 The Roads Miscellaneous Provisions Act (NI) 2010 – Road Closures

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which considered an application for a Road Closure Order in connection with a special event to be held on 31 July 2021.

The Head of Environmental Health clarified that the £219 listed as a fee at 3.3 of report is for the cost of advertising. Members were advised that no objections have been received in relation to the application.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the Road Closure Order as set out at point 3.1 of report in line with DfI guidance subject to no objections being received during the consultation process and DfI consent being granted.

E162/21 Private Tenancies – update on current proposals

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which advised of recent communications from the Department for Communities regarding Departmental Response to the Review of the Private Rented Sector; draft Private

Tenancies Bill and regional Environmental Health response; and proposals to transfer registration of Landlords to councils.

Councillor McNamee proposed the report recommendation to write to DfC welcoming the proposals and to request funding be made available to Councils. The Councillor stated that there were some good proposals for tenants within the Bill namely, provision of smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, periodic electrical checks, restriction of rent increases and restriction on deposit amounts.

The Chair, Councillor Brown seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to write to DfC to welcome the proposals which strengthen the regulation of the Private Rented Sector, and request that the Department give due consideration to providing Councils with suitable funding arrangements to enable them to effectively implement any new legislative requirements which Council may be responsible for.

E163/21 Lands at Railway Yard, Molesworth Road, Cookstown

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report which provided update on the use of lands at Railway Yard, Molesworth Road, Cookstown.

The Chair, Councillor Brown asked if everything had now been resolved in relation to insurances following last year's fire.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that costs were relayed to insurers last year following completion of the works to the site and would check and come back to the Member to advise if everything was resolved.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the use of the site at Railway Yard, Molesworth Road, Cookstown as outlined in the report.

E164/21 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services presented previously circulated report which provided an update on current bus shelter status.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the bus shelter for Moygashel had been ordered and when it can be expected on site.

The Head of Technical Services advised that all bus shelters have been ordered and are in the process of being delivered. The officer advised he would get back to Councillor Cuthbertson with an expected date for the bus shelter to come on site.

The Chair, Councillor Brown referred to proposed bus shelters for Benburb, Innishrush and Bellaghy and that these applications had been considered previously prior to the review of policy and that following the review were then re-surveyed. The Chair referred in particular to surveys returned for Innishrush and Bellaghy which are at 50% and asked if there is anything further can be done in order to get these bus shelters over the line.

The Head of Technical Services advised that following the workshops held discussions indicated that 51% had to have no objections to the provision of a bus shelter and that is what is written into the guide. The officer advised that all Members were notified of this however if Members feel they want to revisit these applications then they can be put on hold.

Councillor Milne asked if it was not part of the policy that a DEA meeting could be arranged to discuss an application if there were issues. In relation to the application for Bellaghy, Councillor Milne stated that out of the 11 surveys issued and apart from the 4 responses received the rest of the properties are empty. Councillor Milne proposed that in light of the policy that a DEA meeting be held to discuss the Bellaghy bus shelter application.

The Head of Technical Services agreed to facilitate a DEA meeting.

Councillor O'Neill referred to application for Meenagh Park, Coalisland and that this had been voted against recently. The Councillor stated that the policy says that an application should not be coming back within 12 months and asked why this one had come back so quickly.

The Head of Technical Services advised that at the time the application for Meenagh Park was first presented it was agreed to put all applications on hold until the review of the bus shelter policy had taken place with a re-survey to take place after the review. The officer stated that this is now what has happened in relation to Meenagh Park and that it would now be taken off the list and can be revisited again if there is another application after 12 months.

Councillor Wilson stated that there were workshops held and a policy agreed in relation to process for bus shelters and 51% of surveys returned were to be in favour was agreed. The Councillor stated that he would have concerns and felt it would be a dangerous precedent to have a DEA meeting in relation to an application and that policy cannot be changed just for the sake of it. Councillor Wilson stated that it is the people who are surveyed and not Councillors.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that it was his understanding that at the workshops there had been discussion in relation to if there were issues with an application a DEA meeting may be helpful in solving the issues. Councillor B McGuigan seconded Councillor Milne's request for a DEA meeting in relation to the Bellaghy application and if issues cannot be resolved following this meeting then the application should be removed from the list.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that following the workshops it was felt there needs to be a mindset of trying to make things happen and that there was a reflection that Members would like to have the option of a DEA discussion if there was an issue with an application. The Director advised that he did not have a

difficulty with deferring a decision in order for further discussions to take place and come back to Committee at a later date.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the option of a DEA meeting is within the policy or not.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that it is up to Members whether they want to defer making a decision tonight.

Councillor Glasgow referred to policy which states that 51% of returned surveys must be in favour for a bus shelter to be installed otherwise the application is removed from the list and another application cannot be submitted for 12 months. The Councillor asked if it was in policy that DEA meetings be held otherwise Council could be going against its own policy.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that the process outlined in appendix one is a procedural guide not a policy.

Councillor McNamee advised that Councillor Molloy had been working in relation to the application for Benburb and that there was concern that some people had not received Council correspondence in relation to this. Councillor McNamee stated that Councillor Molloy felt there is a way forward for the Benburb application and requested that it be deferred in order for discussions to take place between Councillor Molloy and the Head of Technical Services.

Councillor Kearney stated that he was aware there were some tensions in relation to the application for Innishrush and that a DEA meeting may be helpful on this one.

The Chair, Councillor Brown asked if Members were content for the applications in relation to Bellaghy, Benburb and Innishrush to be deferred for further discussions.

Councillor Milne referred to previous discussions and that a bus shelter could be installed for a trial period.

The Head of Technical Services advised that there is an item within the procedural guide in that if a bus shelter is installed and there are reports of anti social behaviour then Council reserve the right to remove the shelter within a 12 month period. The officer advised that further discussion and DEA meetings can be arranged in respect of applications on list tonight which are not at an approval stage.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to put on hold the following bus shelter applications until further discussions/DEA meetings have been held -

- Main St, Benburb
- Innishrush, Portglenone
- Main Street/William Street, Bellaghy
- Meenagh Park, Coalisland

- Eglish View, Ballinderry

Matters for Information

E165/21 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 May 2021

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 May 2021.

Councillor Burton referred to discussions last month in relation to the charge for collection of a second brown bin and advised that she had received further representation on this matter. The Councillor stated that some people bought a second brown bin before the policy came into place and that the new policy is now causing an issue as people are trying their best to recycle what should go in the brown bin and ensure that it is dealt with properly. Councillor Burton stated that there have been instances of dumping into a neighbouring field which causes tensions between neighbours and that cattle and horses have died in the past due to eating cut grass. Councillor Burton stated during discussions last month it was advised that it would be 2022 before the policy could be reviewed and felt that something should be put in place for those who are struggling.

The Head of Environmental Services stated he understood the point being made but that no one was being forced to pay the charge and that excess garden waste can either be taken to a recycling centre or Council can provide a home composting unit free of charge. The officer highlighted that some have already paid the annual charge and therefore the earliest the policy Council be reviewed would be March 2022.

Councillor Burton stated that those who bought a second bin are not happy that one will not now be collected. The Councillor stated that food waste can attract vermin and in that regard some people do not feel a composter is an option. The Councillor stated that she uses her brown bin as much as possible but that she knows of some people who don't.

Councillor Burton requested that Council write to DfI/Rivers Agency in relation to White Lough, Aughnacloy. The Councillor stated that a lot of money has been spent at this location developing paths for walking etc however there is a high volume of litter with no bins currently. Councillor Burton felt that given the money spent there should be bins at this location whether these are bought and installed by the Department or Council installs the bins and charges the Department she felt it would greatly improve the facility.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to write to DfI/Rivers Agency in relation to the installation of bins at White Lough, Aughnacloy.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had also received further representation in relation to brown bins and that the question that he was being asked was whether excess brown bin material can be put into the black bin. The Councillor stated he recognised that this would have a negative effect on landfill figures and asked if officers would be happy with this taking place.

The Head of Environmental Services stated officers would not be content with excess brown bin material being deposited in the black bin. The officer highlighted the rationale for the charge which came about following a campaign to divert food waste from the black bin to the brown bin and to shift the primary purpose of the brown bin from garden waste to food waste. The officer advised that one brown bin should be adequate for food waste and waste from an average sized garden for a fortnight. The officer stated it was a matter for Members if they want to review the policy previously agreed.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that the policy is reviewed. The Councillor referred to the officers comments in relation to those who have already paid and that he did not imagine this would amount to too many people and that, depending on the outcome of the review that issue could be addressed.

Councillor Graham stated she had also received representation in relation to brown bins and referred to the officer comments that people have the option on whether they want to pay. The Councillor stated she disagreed with this as people have paid for an additional bin which now won't be collected and don't always have room for a home composter. Councillor Graham stated that pensioners may not be able to pay the additional charge and further to this may not be able to take their bins to a recycling centre for disposal. Councillor Graham stated she had also been asked that as black and brown bins are collected together what difference does it make what goes in either bin.

Councillor Burton seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that costings should also be included in the review.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that a review would be undertaken and addressed the point raised by Councillor Graham in relation to the collection of black and brown bin material. The officer stated that black and brown bin material is collected in separate vehicles and taken to separate processors therefore the material put in each bin did matter.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if it was possible for the review to come back to next month's committee meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Brown stated that the timeframe was tight before the next committee meeting but that officers would try.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to undertake a review (to include costings) of the policy in relation to the charge for collection of a second brown bin.

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

Councillor Wilson stated that under Chair's Business last month he had raised issue regarding Davagh Mountain Bike Trails and that he understood this matter would now be taken through the Policy and Resources Committee. Councillor Wilson

stated at last month's meeting he also asked for clarification on the role of Covid Marshals and what role they play.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised there were confidential issues in relation to Davagh Mountain Bike Trails and that he would deal with that matter later in the meeting.

In relation to Covid Marshalling, the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that Council works closely with the PSNI through a Memorandum of Understanding and that this arrangement has been working well. Members were advised that Council stays in contact with PSNI and that roles and responsibilities are worked through on a daily basis. The Director advised that the Environmental Health team have been upfront in dealing with businesses and providing as much guidance to them as they can with regards regulations and that this has been well received.

Councillor Wilson stated it was not a criticism of Environmental Health staff who have been excellent on the ground. The Councillor referred to the Director's comments in which it was advised there is a good working relationship with PSNI and that there have been a number of instances in which the Police have blamed Council on issues and that he will raise the matter further through the PCSP.

Councillor McNamee asked for an update regarding access to the Electoral Office.

The Head of Building Control stated that the Electoral Office have given an indication that their offices will be re-opening in early July but that the length of the appointment time will be short and it will therefore take some time for officers to get caught up.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that from 1 July there will be no one on the Electoral Register as there is a review happening and everyone will have to re-register.

E166/21 Update on prepayment system at Recycling Centres

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the operation of the prepayment system for the acceptance of commercial waste at Cookstown, Drumcoo and Magherafelt Recycling Centres.

E167/21 Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of a recent UK wide consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Waste by DAERA, DEFRA and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Councillor Glasgow stated he welcomed the content of the report but erred caution on the consequences that may not be seen. The Councillor stated that whilst there is income to be gained a watchful eye should be kept to ensure Councils are not left with materials no one else wants and will cost to get rid of.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated it was seismic what is being proposed and reference to businesses becoming responsible for single use cups and food packaging. The Director stated that this is a big part of the litter issue Council is trying to address on a daily basis.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that both consultations are game changers if they come into effect as outlined. The officer stated that the Extended Producer Responsibility is significant in that producers will become responsible for the costs of collection, sorting and recycling of packaging waste including litter collection. The impact assessment states that this could correspond to £35 million coming back to Councils as payments from October 2023. In relation to the Deposit Return Scheme, this relates to drinks containers such as cans, plastic and glass bottles and that a deposit can be obtained of approximately 20p per container. The aim of the scheme is to improve recycling whilst reducing littering. The Head of Environmental Services stated that there is some potential for downsides but that this needs to be weighed up against the money coming in from the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme.

The Chair, Councillor Brown asked if there was any cost implication to Council and when the schemes will commence.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme is proposed for 2023 and the Deposit Return Scheme for 2024. The officer advised that the cost will be borne by the producer which will ultimately be passed on to the consumer but that the benefit for Council will be the recycling payments from October 2023 if implemented as outlined in consultation.

E168/21 Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of a recent consultation on the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

E169/21 Building Control Workload

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

E170/21 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E171/21 Building Control Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

Members noted previously circulated report which detailed the Building Control Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

E172/21 Environmental Health Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

Members noted previously circulated report which detailed the Environmental Health Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

E173/21 Technical Services Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

Members noted previously circulated report which detailed the Technical Services Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

Councillor S McGuigan referred to the risk regarding staff shortages within the plan and stated he was aware of the section being a couple of members of staff short and asked if the risk was significant otherwise.

The Head of Technical Services advised that there was a small team dealing with capital projects and that two graduate engineers have recently left the section. The officer advised that the process is ongoing to replace these staff and it is hoped that the positions will be filled by August/September but that this is six months out of the 2021/22 year being two staff down whilst trying to deal with a large volume of capital projects.

Live broadcast ended at 8.04 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Graham 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 E174/21 to E185/21.

Matters for Decision

- E174/21 Confidential Chair's Business
- E175/21 Award of Contracts for Landfill Site Related Services
- E176/21 Installation of Memorial Tree on Council Property
- E177/21 Tender Report for Heating Upgrades at Council Properties
- E178/21 Entertainment Licensing – Tropicana Inns

Matters for Information

- E179/21 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 May 2021
- E180/21 Off Street Car Parking: Annual Income Update
- E181/21 Update on Former Railway Track Lands, Coalisland
- E182/21 Affordable Warmth SLA and Energy Efficiency Advice Service
- E183/21 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E184/21 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E185/21 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E186/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.45 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 the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 17 June 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke*, Corry*, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar*, Hughes*, Kerr, McNamee, Milne*, Monteith, Quinn, 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
Ms Linney**, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance**, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown**, Head of Economic Development
Mr Kennedy**, ICT Support
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor S McGuigan*
Ms Mezza - Head of Marketing and Communications**
Mr Glen Stewart – McCadden***

* 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 Molloy welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr Molloy 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.

D102/21 Apologies

None.

D103/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Broughderg Area Development Association.

Councillor Corry declared Greenfingers @ An Ráth Dubh and Moneyneena & District Development Initiative.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Ballysaggart Area Community Association, Dungannon Gaelic Forum and Thomas Clarke's GFC.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Pipe Bands and the Ambassador's Youth Community Group and Club and Cookstown District Lodge No. 3.

Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Cookstown Fr Rocks, Cookstown AOH and Cookstown Community Allotments.

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Community Food Bank and Coalisland Na Fianna GFC.

Councillor Ashton declared an interest in Crilly Cultural & Youth Group.

Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in Urban Regeneration.

Councillor Burton declared an interest as a Council representative on the board of COSTA, Caledon Regeneration Partnership, family link to Bawn Development Association, Volunteer in Caledon in Bloom and Community Transport.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Square Wheels Cycling Club.

Councillor Quinn declared an interest in Derrytresk Youth & Community Group and Muintir Na Mointeach.

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in Cookstown Multiple Sclerosis Group.

D104/21 Chair's Business

The Chair thanked his party for nominating him to Chair this committee and asked that anyone wishing to raise any issues under Chair's Business do so at least 48 hours before the meeting was due to take place. He said that he understood that some issues could arise at the last minute and he would try and accommodate those requests where possible.

The Head of Economic Development stated that a request had been received today from the MEGA Group which was funded by the Council and InvestNI to advise they are making a skills related funding bid to the Community Renewal Fund to assist businesses in Mid Ulster's manufacturing and engineering sector. The Group sought a letter of support from the Council Chair which was requested by tomorrow as this was the deadline in which the application had to be submitted

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that a letter of support from Council Chair be issued to the MEGA Group to allow them the opportunity to submit an application to the Community Renewal Fund by tomorrow's deadline.

Councillor Wilson stated that he wished to raise a matter which was only brought to his attention this afternoon. He wished to congratulate two Cookstown Hockey players on being selected to play for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland Hockey team, namely Ian Sloan and David Ames, both were double Olympians and felt it would warrant a letter of congratulations going from the Chair of the Council. He advised that both men were great ambassadors for Cookstown and carry out a lot of training with the youth and were a credit to Cookstown and their families.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to issue a letter of congratulations to Ian Sloan and David Ames, Cookstown Hockey players on being selected to play for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland Hockey Team.

Matters for Decision

D105/21 Ballygawley Playing Fields – Lease of GAA Pitch

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to provide information on correspondence from Errigal Ciaran GAC and to seek approval from Officers to enter into a new lease agreement.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to:

- a) Ascertain conditions and agreements associated with change of title from the Ballygawley Sport and Leisure Trust (BSLT) to Errigal Ciaran GAC and if permissible and agreeable to all parties, draft terms for a new lease of 25 years for 1 x GAA pitch with possibility of extension.
- b) Engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain current market value for rental/leasing options for 1 x GAA pitch and incorporate into a new lease with agreed rent review conditions.
- c) Subject to mutual agreement on above, that Council proceed to finalise the lease extension.

Councillor Burton advised that she previously had raised the matter of toilets in the surrounding area as the playing fields were very well used by people attending the playpark, football grounds, changing facility and Riverside Walkway. She enquired if there was any way of working with the person responsible for opening the Augher toilets as there were parents with children having picnics in the park and using the facilities at the location. She advised that there were two toilets in this area which were very rarely opened and would be beneficial to have them open, even if it was just during the day as this would be a step forward.

D106/21 Mountain Bike NI Consortium Proposal 2021-22

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2021-22.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the request to participate as a Consortium Partner with the Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £14,000 to 2021-22 campaign.

D107/21 Walk NI Consortium Proposal 2021-22

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2021-22.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the request to participate as a Regional Partner with the Walking NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £3,445.00 to 2021-22 campaign. The expenditure is budgeted from within current Parks Service allocations.

Councillor Kerr referred to Washingbay Walkway and the new pier which was recently added to the walkway to the shoreline path and stated that many locals and representatives from the community group weren't happy with the current layout and believed that it was very industrial looking and not in sync with natural surroundings and one comment indicated that it looked like a 'sheep pen'. He said that children and wheelchair users could not look over the fence and see into the lough as this was obstructing the views.

He proposed that a conversation take place on the design of the pier going forward and to re-engage with the community group. He said that he was aware of the Lough Neagh Partnership being interested in helping the Council to financially assist them with the design as the group had indicated they would like something similar to what was

implemented at Oxford Island with the nautical rope, nautical threaded bar or stainless colour the same as the lough.

The Head of Parks stated that the works were all near completion with regards to the viewing platform. He advised that the design features were consulted with the community group and signed off that everybody was happy which was now not the case. He said that this issue would now need to be taken up with the Capital Project team with regard to where the Council was contract wise in relation to any anticipated amendments or adjustments as this piece of work could possibly be concluded at this late stage.

The Chair concurred with the Head of Parks and stated that if the project was very advanced at this stage it may be difficult to make any changes, but suggested that it would be worthwhile if engagement took place to see what the issues were.

The Head of Parks said that officers would be happy to engage with the local community but may be too late to do anything under this current contract.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that a discussion take place on concerns of local residents and community groups regarding Washingbay Walkway and the design of the pier going forward.

D108/21 Halloween and Christmas Corporate Events 2021

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide an update on Halloween and Christmas Corporate Events and seek approval for recommendations.

Councillor Ashton said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation, but it would be important to have consultation with town centre businesses in the instance of big events not being able to run for Halloween and Christmas this year. She stated that this Council would definitely need to show a presence to try and help those businesses out as these would be big factors regarding the footfall.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve:

- a) Not to organise any Corporate Events inviting large numbers of people to gather in unmanaged sites or town centres where safe capacity numbers cannot be managed and maintained, as this could potentially encourage non-compliance to the current Government Legislation and guidance.
- b) That Council owned sites in each town to be identified where safe events could take place to celebrate Halloween and Christmas within the Mid Ulster District.

- c) That Town Centre activities to also be investigated which will not include large gathering of people but will enhance the atmosphere.
- d) The Events Team to compile an update report in September which would include proposals of events to celebrate Halloween and Christmas within the Mid Ulster District.

D109/21 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

The Chair commended the Head of Community Development and her team on the fantastic work which was done especially during the pandemic and also all the work which was done behind the scene to get these delivered and hoped any events which were planned for this year can go ahead.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Councillor Cuddy enquired if a member declared an interest in an item, could they then be then permitted to propose and second it.

The Chair stated that in terms of community grants and different bodies, felt that few members would be able to propose anything if that was the case. He advised that as there was no pecuniary interest or a personal gain then there was no issue regarding this.

(i) Community Grants – Community Development Grant Awards

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the Community Grant Awards as outlined in appendix 1.

(ii) Community Emergency Support Funding – Final allocations of Emergency Support Funding

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve Emergency Support Funding totaling £42,000.

(iii) Peace Update – note update

Noted.

(iv) Community Development – note update

Noted.

Councillor Ashton referred to grants and said that it was good to see some community groups starting to plan NI Centenary Events and she was always on the lookout for external funding. She said that there may be an opportunity for this Council to liaise with Northern Ireland Office (NIO) to avail of any grant aid to support activity being delivered as part of the Decade of Anniversaries Commemorations Action Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to liaise with NIAO regarding grant aid for groups in relation to NI Centenary Events to support activity being delivered as part of the Decade of Anniversaries Commemorations Action Plan.

D110/21 Economic Development - OBFD

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

(i) Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2021/22

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve:

- i) Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to accept the contract from DAERA for the 2021/22 TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme.
- ii) Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to issue individual letters of offer under the Scheme, with maximum grant awards up to £4,999, in order to have funding issued to successful businesses as soon as possible after assessment.

(ii) Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve:

- (i) That Mid Ulster Skills Forum act as the delivery vehicle to operate the local Interim Labour Market Partnership (LMP).
- (ii) Proposed revised membership as detailed in the report which includes 5 Councillors drawn from Council's Development

Committee using the D'Hondt calculation which provides the following political member breakdown;
2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP, 1 SDLP.

- (iii) A budget of £15,000 towards the preparation of an Interim LMP Action Plan for Mid Ulster for the period 2021-23. Proceed to seek competitive quotations from suitably qualified organisations to undertake this work and delegate authority to the Council's Chief Executive to appoint the successful organisation to allow work to be progressed over the summer months.
- (iv) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to accept the letter(s) of offer upon receipt, from Department for Communities / Department for the Economy for funding towards Mid Ulster's Interim Labour Market Partnership 2021-2023.

(iii) 4C Future Live Careers Event

Councillor Ashton said that she appreciated the reasons behind the identified schools because of the higher numbers, but it disadvantaged the smaller rural schools and felt that those children should also be entitled to the same and was unfair because they were living outside the big catchment areas. She suggested that something be looked at to widen out the scope, which may be a separate project down the line if this one was maximised.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Ashton and said that he would be of the same opinion as he could see quite a number of schools geographically missing out.

Councillor Kerr said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation but also agreed with Councillor Ashton's comments about widening out the scope and wished that there was something like this available when he was leaving secondary school as it was a very exciting initiative.

Councillor Monteith echoed Councillor Ashton's sentiments and agreed with her suggestion of taking on a second or third event to include all secondary schools as he was not happy in any shape or fashion about going forward with an event which excludes particular schools as all schools do a great job. He felt that excluding some schools was discriminatory, especially our Irish language community in the Dungannon area because of any parent wanting their child to be educated in secondary education would be in St Joseph's Convent, Donaghmore, therefore by virtue of parental choice these children were being discriminated against in relation to this. He agreed there was a need to relook at this and have the adequate number of events to include all secondary schools whether they wish to take part or not, especially if this was seen as a possible way forward. There was a need to make it clear to the organisers that it wasn't the role of the Council to pick one school over another in our local community and if the organisers wish to do it, then this was their imperative, but felt that this was a dangerous path for this Council to be going down to pick one school over another even with the methodology which was in place unless there was a guarantee from the organisers that they come back to organise future events to include all schools.

Councillor Burton concurred with previous speakers and said that perception was everything, with the perception being that everything ends at the 30 mph speed limit in

Dungannon and that was the general feeling of those living outside of Dungannon. She said that some of these schools were in very close proximity which ruled out St. Ciaran's Ballygawley, Aughnacloy College and Fivemiletown College and rural children should avail of the same opportunities and was unfair as it was harder for them to get involved in schemes like this due to their geographical area and lack of adequate transport facilities. She agreed with previous speakers that there was need to relook at this again to include all schools as £3,500 was coming from this Council and each school does great work under really strong constraints at the moment and was difficult for teachers to encourage children to stay at school. She felt there was a need for inclusivity for all schools.

The Chair said that spend of £3,500 being allocated from this Council should include all schools and this needed to be taken away and relooked at again.

The Head of Economic Development enquired if members would be happy to move with the aforementioned schools this year and advise the organisers of members' aspirations to have wider representation of schools, especially those in rural areas included future years. She stated that this event was not taking place until June 2022, however the organisers were seeking the Council to accept the partnership agreement at this stage to show our willingness to participate. She advised members that 4C Ur Future is delivering a NI wide programme of events to schools in June 2022 and as the proposal sets out, there is just one event to be delivered in Mid Ulster. She said that officers shared members' sentiments about inclusivity and had already raised the same views with the organisers. Their feedback outlined that only 7 post primary schools could be accommodated in the Mid Ulster event, as they want to target all 13 year old pupils (year 9) in the respective school year groups, to assist these young people make important GCSE subject choices. They also indicated it is important to have one large venue in close proximity to the participating schools so that pupils have a short distance to travel. In summary, she sought members views on whether it was possible to proceed in year 1 (June 2022) with the 7 schools listed and ensure the organisers focus on rural schools in year 2 (June 2023).

The Chief Executive said that taking into consideration the sentiments of members' tonight that officers go back and renegotiate the best package the Council can acquire for this year and next year for a mix of urban and rural schools and if need be this can be done over two years. He advised that an update would be brought back to this committee in July.

Councillor Clarke agreed that this needed to be widened out as there were a lot of schools excluded including St. Colm's High School, Draperstown, Clady High School and St. Pius X College in Magherafelt which were all missing out.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Ashton

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that officers go back to 4C Ur Future to renegotiate to see what the best package can be offered for this year and next year with a mix of urban and rural schools be included, with an update being brought back to July committee.

(iv) Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve:
- (i) A budget of £28,000 for the entire delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 from within the existing Economic Development budget 2021/22.
 - (ii) That Council proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management / Delivery Partner to manage and co-ordinate the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021. The costs for such to be apportioned from within the budget detailed above at point (i).
 - (iii) That the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful Management/Delivery Partner following the procurement exercise to allow work to commence over the summer months.

Councillor Burton referred to Mid Ulster Enterprise Week and enquired whether these events would be facilitated virtually or in a venue.

The Head of Economic Development advised that there was an aspiration to deliver the events in person but as we need to start to plan these events now we could not do so, if the events were held in physical venues, as Government guidance on indoor gatherings would be subject to change by the time November 2021 comes around. The proposal is to proceed with virtual events this year and perhaps next year, we could look at reverting to a mix of both physical and virtual events. She noted that feedback from businesses however, suggests they like the ability to attend the events virtually as it is less time consuming for them and they are able to attend more events during Enterprise Week.

(v) NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve that Council provide a letter of support to the NOW Group to accompany their bid to the Community Renewal Fund, and to release the letter on 18 June 2021, as this is the closing date for all submissions to the Community Renewal Fund. (Note, no financial support is requested from Council).

Matters for Information

D111/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 May 2021

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 May 2021.

Councillor McNamee enquired if there was any update on the Parks Strategy, where it was currently at and when it was anticipated to see the first start on the Parks. The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there were two bits to this. There was four bigger play parks which were going to be implemented and then there were a whole range of improvement works at smaller parks, with a framework having been identified where the Council could purchase the play equipment amongst other things and get the work completed. She advised that the specification has been prepared which was now with Procurement and was due to be issued within the next two weeks with anticipation of being onsite in August with work taking a few months and completion by early to mid-Autumn.

Councillor Kerr referred to D081/21 Chair's Business and asked that Killeeshil and Galbally First Responders be invited to a future meeting to make a presentation. He said that this was especially fitting due to the recent event of Christian Eriksen suffering a cardiac arrest during the Euros. He advised that it would be useful to get this group in as they carry out similar methods to resuscitation of what was carried out on the Denmark footballer to save his life.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that Killeeshil and Galbally First Responders be invited to make a presentation to a future committee meeting.

Councillor Kerr referred to D084/21 – Community Development – Peace funding. He mentioned youth mental health and wellbeing and asked that Council formally invite Mid Ulster Area Youth Service to make a presentation to a future committee meeting. Recently he had attended an event with the organisation at the Culloden Hotel where it was indicated that they would be keen to engage with Mid Ulster District Councillors to develop a relationship.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that Mid Ulster Area Youth Service be invited to make a presentation to a future committee meeting.

Councillor Monteith referred to matter raised earlier by Councillor Kerr regarding defibs and stated that although the information was out there, it was very haphazard and asked if the Council could be a convening body for centralising the information for the exact locations for all defibs. He said that there were lists out in the public domain which were

incomplete for different areas but it would be useful for the local community if the Council held the list and every so often done some publicity on it as he was aware of people trying to get up to date lists for different areas which were not easily found. He suggested that this be a role the Council take on through Leisure Services as it would be good to set a target to advise the community that people were so many miles from the nearest defibrillator.

Councillor Monteith referred to D089/21 and discussions which had taken place last week at the DEA meeting. He advised that the meeting was in relation to town parks in Dungannon and as a result of that a walkabout took place with some Dungannon Councillors and Officers and their intention of completing a walk around different pathways in the next few months. He said that one of the issues which came up was Drumcoo Playing Fields and although we have Dungannon Park which was an excellent facility with a clear plan and a clear sight to the role it plays and coming towards a similar issue for Railway Park where we are coming towards a clear vision where we see it in the near future, Ballysaggart Lough a little bit further down the line and how it was to be fitted in the urban area with Drumcoo being the next bit in the jigsaw. He said that it was now the time to look at Drumcoo's potential as there was a fantastic opportunity to transform the site to enhance the existing facilities and transform it into another excellent urban park as there was a large wave of land and public ownership both with ourselves and the Trust which was crying out to be developed for urban walks and connections.

He proposed that a vision on the future of Drumcoo be brought to the next committee meeting on Officers feelings at this stage and where we were currently regarding land ownership etc.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that options be brought to a future committee meeting if possible on the vision for Drumcoo and where the Council were currently at with land ownership.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that it was a good walkabout and a lovely day and was pleased to see that there was no litter lying about anywhere with the place looking extremely well the whole way around. As an independent member of the Enterprise Centre, work has been ongoing with the Council for some time on land and hoped that things would progress but stated that there were a few other ideas also in the pipeline but it was important that things are brought to the table to keep things up to speed. He stated that he wasn't against the initiative as there was huge potential in and around the area and no problem playing his part going forward.

Councillor Quinn referred to points raised by Councillors Kerr and Monteith regarding the defibrillators and stated that he had collated a list on the day after Christian Eriksen collapsed on defibrillators in the Coalisland/Clonoe area which was quite extensive, resulting in 23 altogether. He agreed that it was important to know where each defibrillator was but more important to know that it was connected to the circuit and was

confident that the majority were but there were some that weren't. He said that in the event of someone trying to memorise a list of defibrillators, all they have to do was call 999 with the emergency services being able to direct them to the next one. He felt that having all the defibrillators connected to the circuit would be very beneficial whether this be accommodated by the Council or a call going out to local groups.

Councillor Quinn advised that Councillors Hughes, McFlynn and himself had met with representatives from Mid Ulster Pride last night and stated that the group had a large event planned for September, Covid permitting. He said that the group would like to make a presentation to a future committee meeting and was alright for this Council to bring in LGBT groups outside Mid Ulster, but there was also a need to hear local people's views and what they were going through and face in the rural community and Mid Ulster.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that Mid Ulster Pride be invited to make a presentation to a future committee meeting.

The Chair said that it was his understanding that the Ambulance Service hold the network for all the defibs and some issues may be around community groups and personnel and contact changes which need to be renewed all the time and if Council could play any role in this he would be supportive of it.

Councillor Burton referred to D080/21 Chair's Business where she raised the issue of bridge at Caledon from ABC side and asked if there was any update as it was going on for a long time as the bridge was completely rusted and dilapidated. She said that it was one of our gateways coming into Mid Ulster and people in that area were absolutely ashamed, but was also aware that it would take some money to upgrade it. She said that it has been established that this Council does own it and up to us to try and maintain it.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that a conditioning report had been carried out recently which efficiently outlined what needed to be done and stated that the Head of Parks was working with the Council's Property teams to try and get this work done.

The Head of Parks advised that the most recent conditioning report was currently with Property Services in relation to seeking some accurate costings on work which was required and this was the exercise which was currently being undertaken at the moment.

Councillor Burton asked that costings be brought to the next committee as this was going on for quite a while and there was a need to see where we currently stand with it

The Chief Executive advised that costings would be brought to the Environment Committee for this type of work.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that costings on upgrade at Caledon Bridge be brought to the relevant committee meeting.

Councillor McNamee referred to the defibs where it had been mentioned at several Environment committees, where it was advised that a map situation was being looked at to make sure there was no duplication in different areas and also filling the voids i.e. where different areas were pinpointed where there were no defibs like Lough Fea and other places as there was no Council power source. He stated that a full map would be brought on where they were at in Mid Ulster in the next few months.

Councillor Corry said that she was happy to second Councillor Quinn's proposal regarding Mid Ulster Pride and stated at the Council meeting on the back of Sinn Féin's motion which was carried, the group would be joining the Rainbow Project to do training as well. She welcomed the forthcoming presentation especially on the forthcoming Mid Ulster Pride Parade in September.

Councillor Burton referred to lifebuoy rings on stands and said that they were an important piece of life saving equipment at our loughs. She stated that in recent weeks there had been some anti-social behavior going on in quite a few places, in Aughnacloy Eco Park someone had removed the lifebuoy from its stand and tied it up onto a branch of a tree and using it like a swing. She said that any life saving device should be monitored on a regular basis and stated that another ring had been thrown into the Brantry Lough also. She said that there were some people fooling about and jump into the loughs and may get into trouble and it was vitally important to try and keep people safe.

The Head of Parks agreed that this was a very important issue and vital. He advised that all Council owned sites were inspected on a weekly basis which included an audit on all the lifesaving equipment. He concurred with member regarding them being tampered with on a regular basis this time of year and stated that the equipment was replaced immediately if possible or within days if they needed to be replenished and stock kept for that sole purpose. He advised that some of the locations were not within our remit or inspection role but we do have a service in place.

Councillor Clarke enquired if defibs placed in Council premises were checked for life of batteries.

The Chief Executive advised that battery life on defibs were checked as a regular occurrence.

D112/21 Update – Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown

Members noted updated on progress of potential works to Cahore Playing Fields and the leasing request from a local club.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the procedure regarding leasing and said that it would make more sense for Draperstown Celtic Football Club (DCFC) to lease it from the landowner directly instead of leasing from the Council who was leasing it from the landowner.

The Head of Leisure referred to the previous paper brought to committee in February in relation to where there were two soccer pitches, GAA pitch, a changing pavilion and a carpark on site at that complex which may not be appropriate. He said if the soccer club wished to engage in a leasing conversation, then there was still a need to make available the facilities for community use.

Councillor Cuddy said that he was all for investment in any area but felt that this seemed complicated and a more simplified method would be better for everyone.

D113/21 Community Development Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

Members noted Community Development Service Plan 2021-22.

D114/21 Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

Members noted Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2021-22.

D115/21 Economic Development Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

Members noted Economic Development Service Improvement Plan 2021-22.

D116/21 Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan 2021-22

Members noted Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan 2021-22.

D117/21 Economic Development – OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 22.03.21
- Economic Development Achievements 2020/2021
- Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group
- Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey Report (May 2021)

Councillor Doris referred to Coalisland Town Centre Forum and commended all the Officers involved in Public Realm Scheme with a great response being received from businesses and the community and were delighted to have Sinn Féin Minister, Deirdre Hargey visiting on Tuesday. Unfortunately there was a less favourable meeting with Roads Service on Monday where a meeting was held with Coalisland Town Centre Forum in relation to Phase 2 of the Public Realm Scheme and felt that this may be an opportunity for funding coming through. Inequality issues have been looked at in relation to Sandy Row and Newtownkelly which had been caused by the government and now this needs resolved. She asked if the relevant Council Officers could explore funding as this could resolve some of the infrastructure issues within Sandy Row and Newtownkelly.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that the relevant Council Officers explore the option of seeking funding from the Department for Communities for upgrading of infrastructure at Sandy Row and Newtownkelly, with a proposal and update being brought back through the relevant committee and Coalisland Town Centre Forum.

Councillor Kerr said that he would be happy to second Councillor Doris' proposal as she made some good points regarding Newtownkelly, Knockmoy and Sandy Row where people had been left abandoned and let down, with some of the roads like something you would see in the 1950's and 1960's with the state of the infrastructure. He stated that if there was any additional funding being made available for infrastructure then it definitely should be pursued.

Councillor Corry referred to item 5.3 – Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group and advised that the answers were there for the written questions by Councillors but no answers to oral questions with the meeting which was held with the Department. She wished to thank ICBAN and Council members who were involved in today's ruling regarding BT Openreach investing £14m into rural areas. She referred to Fibrus and Project Stratum where the Council were trying to encourage people to register their interest in that project, but sometimes members felt that they were letting people down if they cannot be reached and wondered how members can elevate any fears the public may have. She asked if there was any indication of when answers would be coming back on oral questions asked.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor Corry regarding Project Stratum where the Council were supposed to be encouraging people to sign up to the service and felt guilty asking people to sign up from some of the reviews he had received back from some who already signed up. He said that he also received worrying reports that Project Stratum were bringing fibre up to a door and finishing it off with a copper wire from the road to a person's house which completely negated the whole point and exercise. He said that he was very open with the Council on the major concerns he had around Project Stratum and Fibrus delivering it and would look forward to the day he was proven wrong, but felt that there was an onus on the Council to continue asking the questions as it started in Torrent with the rest of Mid Ulster due to receive it over the next few years and there was a need to fix the problems which were evident now before it was rolled out for the rest of the district. He said that it was his understanding that money was granted by the Department for Communities over this last few weeks to include houses which had possibly been missed out (*he declared an interest as his house was one of them*) and felt that pressure should be kept on the providers from every possible angle including this Council.

Councillor Kerr said that he reflected on previous comments and dealing with Fibrus was like dealing with a two year old child as their approach was very amateurish. He stated when a member contacts the provider they put you through to the same customer care team as the public, but when you deal with BT, Water Service or Electricity Board they have a dedicated line for elected representatives and felt it may be worthwhile asking Fibrus to have a dedicated line for members as they were constantly letting people down

on their mispromises. He would like all comments and concerns referred back to the appropriate official or working group.

Councillor Doris advised that there was no secret that there was plenty of issues regarding Fibrus, but would like to commend the Council Officers which have been working on this project as they had kept on top of this at the get-go and good work carried out in terms of the surveys and relaying information back to Fibrus. She said that it wasn't on any want on behalf the Council as it has worked very well with Fibrus, but was less than content with the service rolled out by Fibrus so far. She stated that there was one thing she would like and that was that the Council liaise with Fibrus on the issue of Coalisland Men's Shed. She said that Francie Molloy MP, Minister Hargey, Linda Dillon MLA and herself had visited the Men's Shed on Tuesday and which was a credit to the men for the way it had turned out, but they had indicated that Fibrus had approached them and said that they would be interested in helping them to get wifi to their location and asked if the Council could follow this up to see when it was anticipated to install the wifi.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority under section 3.3 of the Scheme for Delegation for Senior Officers that the various issues raised by Members relating to the rollout of Project Stratum in Mid Ulster be recorded and forwarded to the DfE and Fibrus for investigation with a request they respond to Council on each of the issues raised.

Councillor Ashton said she was Chair of Broadband Working Group for Mid Ulster and advised that a very constructive meeting had taken place with the DfE and Fibrus along with MP's and MLA's for Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & South Tyrone and said that it was important for members which have issues to feed it back to our officers due to the fact of that members left the meeting on a positive note and a very much open line of communication. She felt that it was important that members keep the line of communication going due to the fact of it halting very quickly otherwise.

The Chair agreed and advised members that the Broadband Working Group was there to channel any issues through the group.

The Head of Economic Development advised that officers had supplied the information for members' attention this evening on the most up to date response which had been received from DfE. She also advised that the issues Members raised tonight will also be forwarded to DfE and Fibrus for their investigation and feedback to Council. In conclusion, she added that after feedback is received from DfE & Fibrus, it may be an opportune time to convene a further meeting of Council's Broadband Working Group.

Councillor Milne also referred to broadband and stated that the one of the bigger problems people were having in his area were poles which were placed in the ground. He said that there had been no consultation with the local residents on the placing of these poles as they were erected over peoples heads, driveways and placed where they impair people's vision emerging onto the main road and felt if this was the case for Planning Department for visibility splays for a new dwelling, it would be refused by Roads Service. He felt there was a need to have a discussion around overhead poles and underground ducting, and although he was aware of it being agreed to erect overhead

poles, but to install 400,000 poles in the North of Ireland to do this operation was a lot of material. He said that there was a need to take into consideration people's quality of life and this was why underground ducting was there for a good reason and areas where trees with birds nesting and felt that all these things had to be taken into consideration.

The Chief Executive advised that all the points raised would be collated as stated by the Chair of the Broadband Working Group, where these will be captured and relayed back to Council's Economic Strategies Manager and the Broadband Working Group. He asked that any concerns be forwarded on to officers where it would be fed back and suitably addressed.

D118/21 The Queen's Green Canopy – Platinum Jubilee 2022

Members noted update in relation to the Queen's Green Canopy Project – Platinum Jubilee 2022.

Councillor Ashton asked that the Community Development team circulate this out to our community database on how people can actually take part in the Platinum Jubilee.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that Community Development team circulate the information out to the community database of how people can take part in the Platinum Jubilee 2022.

Live broadcast ended at 8.12 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Black and

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 D119/21 to D125/21.

Matters for Decision

- D119/21 Tender for Supply, Installation and Servicing of a range of fitness equipment at Greenvale Leisure Centre
- D120/21 Mobile Catering Concessions
- D121/21 Update on Catering Provision at Seamus Heaney HomePlace
- D122/21 Tourism Destination Branding

Matters for Information

D123/21 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
13 May 2021

D124/21 Economic Development – CBFi

D125/21 Miscellaneous Matters

D126/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.20 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.

Report on	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
Date of Meeting	Thursday 24 June 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> <tr> <td>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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>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</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	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	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
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						
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						
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						

2.3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <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	Appendix A details those requests received for recommendation to and approval by council. The request have been categorised in line with the revised policy.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	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.
3.2	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.
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	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: June 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
None			•	

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
Watty Graham's GAC Maghera	Translink Ulster GAA Community Support Award Co Derry	Cllr B McGuigan

Killeeshil St Mary's GAA	Division 3 Champions Co Tyrone	Cllr S McGuigan
Gavin Hogg	Appointed Ulster Rugby Academy Manager	Cllr R Colvin

Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	24 June 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 2021-22 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 drawing particular attention to the NILGA Accredited Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i <i>The NILGA Local Planning Programme is an ILM (endorsed award), 7 Module Programme, commencing on the 24th September 2021</i> ii <i>NILGA is delivering CPD Standards, 8 Module Accredited Leadership Programme</i> <p>To date Mid Ulster Council has had 5 Members who have completed the Planning Programme and 4 Members accredited for completion the Leadership Programme.</p>
3.2	Officer Approvals

	There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2021/222 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member
	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

Mr Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

9th June 2021

Dear Adrian

Re: NILGA Regional Programme for Elected Member Development 2021-22

As you know, NILGA coordinates an all-council Regional Programme of Elected Member Development annually, complementing your Council's specific training, designed to provide the local government sector's elected members with a co-ordinated toolkit of learning, suited to today's responsibilities and challenges. This builds on the NILGA delivered - nationally accredited Charter initiative, has been co-designed by councils' elected member development groups, councils' member services and human resource officials, through the NILGA Elected Member Development Network.

As part of this, accredited provision is available to elected members related to (i) Planning and (ii) Leadership.

(i) The NILGA Local Planning Programme is an ILM (endorsed award), 7 Module Programme, commencing on the 24th September 2021 and will convene once every month as follows:

Module	Title	Time	Date	Venue
Module 1	Understanding Plan Making and the Role of Councillors	2-4.30pm	24 th September 2021	tbc
Module 2	How Local Development Planning is Linked to Community Planning and Regeneration Activities	2-4.30pm	29 th October 2021	tbc
Module 3	Understanding the Local Development Plan Process from Draft Stage to Adoption	2-4.30pm,	26 th November 2021	tbc
Module 4	Understanding Development Management: The Planning Process and the Role of	2-4.30pm,	17 th December 2021	tbc

	Councillors, Planning			
Module 5	Understanding the Statutory Appeal System and Best Practice	2-4.30pm	28 th January 2022	tbc
Module 6	The Statutory Enforcement Process and the Role of the Planning Committee and other Councillors	2-4.30pm	25 th February 2022	tbc
	Study Trip		3rd March 2022	tbc
Module 7	Maladministration Charges to the Ombudsmen and the Judicial Review of Planning Decisions	2-4.30pm	25 th March 2022	tbc

NILGA seeks three nominations from each council with scope to include a further eight members. Can you please put forward at the earliest possible full council meeting during the summer months to seek your core nominations (together with any additional potential participants) by the 31st of August 2021.

- (ii) NILGA is delivering CPD Standards, **8 Module Accredited Leadership Programme** for elected members which aims to develop the practical skills necessary for a strategic understanding of the context within which councillors work (people, place and systems) and the capabilities they need, using relevant models and concepts to help them improve their strategic leadership approach in a local political environment. The Leadership Programme will commence on the 16th September 2021 and will run each month up until April 2022, Again NILGA seeks nominations based on your own determinations, which we ask you seek at the earliest possible full council meeting during the summer months.

Module	Title	Time	Date	Venue
Module 1	Programme Induction	2-5pm	16 th September 2021	tbc
	The Roles of Councillors			
Module 2	Leadership of Your Local Area	2-5pm	21st October 2021	tbc
Module 3	Leadership of Your Local Community	2-5pm,	25 th November 2021	tbc
Module 4	Leadership with Partners – We are all in this together?	2-5pm,	16 th December 2021	tbc
Module 5	Leadership of Place	2-5pm	20 th January 2022	tbc
Module 6	Leading the Improvement of Outcomes	2-5pm	17 th February 2022	tbc
Module 7	Leading the Improvement of Efficiency and Service Delivery	2-5pm	24 th March 2022	tbc
Module 8	Developing your Future Leadership Role	2-2-5pm	21 st April 2022	tbc

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

Please note in both cases, there are costs per participant associated with this type of provision and I have attached an indicative costs model to assist in your consideration of participation, based upon previous delivery.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued positive approach and nominations for participation on the accredited Provision. Please feel free to contact my colleague Fiona Douglas (f.douglas@nilga.org) or myself if you or a senior colleague wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,



Derek McCallan
Chief Executive

CC. Eileen Forde

NILGA Accredited Learning Provision 2021/22 - Indicative Costs

NILGA Local Planning Leadership Programme 2021/22		
	30 Participants (Per Participant Cost)	20 Participants (Per Participant Cost)
Programme Cost	£215	£323
Accreditation Cost	£150	£150
Total Cost	£365	£473

NILGA Leadership Programme 2021/22		
	30 Participants (Per Participant Cost)	20 Participants (Per Participant Cost)
Programme Cost	£529	£793
Accreditation Cost	£103	£155
Total Cost	£632	£948

Please note that these are total costs required per participant from each Council excluding VAT.

Approval - Conferences

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
All Island Female Entrepreneur Conference	10/6/21	1	E Conference	No
All Island Female Entrepreneur Conference	11/6/21	1	E Conference	No

Report on	Correspondence to Council - June 2021
Date of Meeting	Thurs 24 th June 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 Regional Director, World Health Organisation</p> <p>The Regional Director of the World Health Organisation has corresponded with the former Chair of Council, Cllr Mallaghan following the Council's notification that it supported the motion passed by Monaghan County Council, Ireland around COVID-19 and vaccinations. Refer to appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from Director, Belfast Regeneration, Dept. for Communities</p> <p>The Director of Belfast Regeneration Directorate within the Department for Communities has corresponded with the Council in response to ongoing correspondence seeking a meeting between members and the relevant officials from the High Street Task Force. Democratic Services continue to follow this up and have reminded of the councils interest to engage. Refer to Appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure, Ardboe Aerodrome</p> <p>The Minister for Infrastructure has corresponded with the former Council Chair regarding the Councils request that DfI and her office begin to initiate discussions across the NI Executive and the Council on the future development of Ardboe Aerodrome. Refer to appendix C.</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from Minister of Health</p> <p>The Minister for Health has corresponded with the former Council Chair on the motion carried by the Council at its May meeting around Autism Services provision and support for families in Northern Ireland. Refer to appendix D.</p>

3.5	<p>Correspondence from Minister for Education</p> <p>The Minister for Education has corresponded with the former Council Chair on the motion carried by Council at its May meeting around sex relationship educational guidance for schools, inclusive of LGBTQ+ relationships and transgender identifies. Refer to appendix E.</p>
3.6	<p>Correspondence from Minister for the Economy</p> <p>The Minister for the Economy has corresponded with the former Council Chair on the motion carried by Council at its May meeting around paid special leave for victims of domestic abuse. Refer to appendix F.</p>
3.7	<p>Correspondence – previously Emailed/Notified to Members on 27 May 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Finance, Northern Ireland Executive on the administration of the Rate Relief Scheme for local businesses. Refer to appendix G • Chief Executive, Ards & North Down Borough Council on events to mark the Centenary of the foundation of Northern Ireland. Refer to appendix H
Other Considerations	
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 Recommendation(s)	
5.1	<p>That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.</p>
6.0 Documents Attached & References	
<p>Appendix A: Regional Director, World Health Organisation</p> <p>Appendix B: Director Belfast Regeneration DfC</p> <p>Appendix C: Ms Mallon MLA, Minister for Infrastructure</p> <p>Appendix D: Mr Swann MLA, Minister for Health</p> <p>Appendix E: Mr Weir MLA, Minister for Education</p> <p>Appendix F: Paul Frew MLA, Minister for the Economy</p>	

Appendix G: Minister of Finance, NI Executive

Appendix H: Chief Executive, Ards & North Down Borough Council
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Encl.:

European Programme of Work, 2020–2025.

Copy for information to:

Ms Nicky Shipton-Yates, WHO Policy Manager, International Directorate, Department of Health and Social Care, 39 Victoria Street, 5th Floor South, London SW1A 0EU, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

H.E. Mr Simon Manley, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Avenue Louis Casai 58, Case postale 6, Cointrin, Geneva CH-1216, Switzerland

H.E. Ms Emma Kate Hopkins, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Denmark
British Embassy, Kastelsvej 36-40, Copenhagen Ø 2100, Denmark



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

Department for
Commonities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Eileen Forde
Member Support Officer
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office

Belfast Regeneration Directorate
Level 4
9 Lanyon Place
Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LP
Phone: 028 9082 9274
email:
Ciaran.donnelly@communities-ni.gov.uk

Via Email: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Our ref: CORR-0957-2021

1 June 2021

Dear Ms Forde

High Streets Task Force

I write in relation to your correspondence of 18 May 2021 in which you request contact details for the High Street Task Force (HSTF).

Whilst you have been referred to the Department of Communities (DfC), which provides programme management and secretariat support to the Task Force, it is worth emphasising that the HSTF is an Executive Office led cross-departmental initiative.

The issues are much wider than the remit of any one Department and the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the resultant impact on town and city centres has reinforced the need for a coordinated strategic response to both the immediate and longer term recovery priorities for the town and city centres.

From a Local Government perspective you may want to note that the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) are participating on the HSTF.

You will be interested to note that The High Street Task Force (HSTF) has set up four sub groups which will take forward work in relation to priority themes, namely:

- Influencing Policy and Strategy
- Developing Capacity
- Developing and Promoting Good Practice
- Influencing and Shaping Intervention and Investment

The Chairs and members of the sub groups have recently been appointed and have begun their work. Each sub group has been asked to ensure contact is made at the appropriate time with stakeholders who have expressed an interest in engaging with them.


Your request has been passed to the HSTF Secretariat and in turn the sub groups, who will be in touch in due course to advise Mid Ulster District Council on how they can input to the work of the Task Force.

In the meantime if you need to contact the Secretariat you may use this email address:

DFC-HSTFSecretariat@communities-ni.gov.uk

I trust that this provides you with the information required and I would thank you for taking an interest in the work of the HSTF.

Yours sincerely



Ciaran Donnelly
Director / Belfast Regeneration Directorate



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Magherafelt Office
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C051-21
Our reference: INV-0198-2021
16 June 2021

Dear Councillor,

Ardboe Aerodrome

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May regarding the above, Minister Mallon has asked that I respond on her behalf.

Whilst I recognise the area was the location of a former Aerodrome, the Department does not have any responsibility for the site, nor would we have any powers for redevelopment or investment plans. To that end, it would not be appropriate for the Minister for Infrastructure to meet to discuss the future of the former Aerodrome.

KATHRYN MCFERRAN
Private Secretary to the Minister

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of

Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Councillor Cathal Mullaghan
Mid-Ulster District Council
Legal and Civic Services Department

Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: CORR-1982-2021

Date: 14th June 2021

Dear *Cathal,*

Motion: Autism Diagnosis

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 June 2021 in relation to the Motion carried at Mid-Ulster District Council in May.

I am acutely aware of the extensive waiting lists for autism assessments and the challenging circumstances this presents for children, their families and carers. I realise the impact this can have on their emotional health and wellbeing, on their personal development and on their education and I acknowledge that this is unacceptable.

My officials have been engaging with the Health and Social Care Board who are meeting with individual Trusts who have lengthy waiting lists to determine the factors which are contributing to them and there is no doubt that this is an area that will need redressed.

In recent months, mindful of the challenges that are being experienced by individuals and families who have an autism diagnosis, or who may be waiting for an assessment, I have taken a number of steps to address the need for early intervention and greater support.

You may be aware that on 8 March I published a cross-departmental Autism – Interim Strategy which sets out the key priorities which will be addressed in 2021 and 2022 with a focus on early intervention and improving pathways of care. The interim strategy is supported through a range of outcome based actions across government departments and our health and social care sector and aligned to our Programme for Government.

As part of this interim Strategy I am committed to listening to the voices of those who matter, that is autistic people, their families and carers. Underpinning this my Department has established an Autism Forum, comprised of people with lived experience and representatives from the community and voluntary sector organisations who represent them. A role of this Forum will be to inform and co-produce a longer term autism strategy and work on this will commence later this year.

However, improving support for autistic people and indeed those waiting for an assessment is a collective responsibility for us all.

In each of our Trust areas, multi-agency autism forums work in partnership to enhance understanding of autism within our communities and wider society to enable social inclusion for all. From these forums I am also aware that at least two of our Council areas, Mid and East Antrim and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (ABC) Council have been working closely with representatives from Autism Services in their respective Trust areas as they work towards creating autism friendly services within their boroughs.

Within the Western Trust area, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council are active participants in the Western Area Autism Forum. Indeed, in December 2020 my officials, alongside representatives from Autism Services in the Western Trust area participated in a week of events being held by the Council to raise awareness of disabilities, which included autism, by delivering a presentation on future priorities to be delivered through the Autism – Interim Strategy and supports available within the area, this was well received.

In acknowledgement of your intention to host a workshop with relevant stakeholders to explore how support can be delivered to autistic people and their families within the area, I would encourage you to establish a partnership with colleagues in the Western Trust, or indeed participate in their Autism Forum.

The challenges of an autism diagnosis upon an individual and a family cannot be underestimated and the prevalence of diagnosis within our society provides stark evidence that we must no longer expect autistic people to adapt to our society, we must seek ways of increasing understanding within our communities and services which can adapt to their needs and improve inclusion and support for all.

Yours sincerely



Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER



Department of
Education

www.education-ni.gov.uk

Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council

Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

private.office@education-ni.gov.uk

11 June 2021

Your Ref: C110/21
CORR-0977-2021

Dear *Cathal*

Thank you for your letter of 4 June regarding the Mid Ulster District Council's Notice of Motion asking that sex and relationship education guidance for schools is inclusive and covers LGBTQ+ relationships and transgender identities.

I thought it might be useful to provide some background on the current position of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) and the work my Department is currently taking forward to support its delivery.

To support schools in delivering the teaching of RSE in schools CCEA launched its online RSE Hub which provides a central repository of age appropriate information and value-based guidance on the topic of RSE. The LGBTQ+ guidance materials and resources aim to: challenge homophobic, transphobic or any other type of bullying; explore gender stereotypes; challenge gender inequality; promote respect and inclusivity; promote healthy and respectful relationships; value diversity and the uniqueness of individuals, including diversity in sexual attraction; provide information on the terms associated with gender identity and transgender; provide information on how young LGBTQ+ people can access support; and contribute to the development of young people's self-esteem and resilience. This approach is aimed at enhancing

teaching of RSE in schools by providing teachers with resources which increase their competence and confidence in teaching and which ensure that the wide-ranging needs of our young people are met.

In the current financial year I have provided funding to CCEA to support the development of further resources for schools. These will be subject to key stakeholder consultation, including LGBTQ+ organisations, before being posted to the RSE Hub. CCEA is currently developing a programme of Teacher professional learning related to RSE and a non-statutory progression framework which will set out in greater detail what should be taught at each Key Stage. I have committed further funding to support this work during 2020/21 and my officials are working with CCEA to develop a detailed programme of work.

In October 2019 CCEA published updated [RSE Guidance for Schools](#) which highlights that all pupils, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to learn in a safe and secure environment, to be treated with respect and dignity, and not to be treated any less favourably on grounds of their sexual orientation.

I hope you find this information useful and that it highlights the positive steps that are being taken to ensure that the resources being made available are inclusive, consistent and relevant to the needs of all young people.



Peter Weir MLA
Minister of Education

From the Office of the Minister
Paul Frew MLA



Cllr Paul McLean
Chair
Eileen Forde
Member Support Officer
Mid Ulster District Council
info@midulstercouncil.org

Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast BT4 2JP
02890 529202
email: private.office@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: CORR-0907-2021

Your Ref: C107/21

18 June 2021

Dear Paul,

RE: Paid Special Leave for Victims of Domestic Abuse

I am replying to the previous Chair, Cllr Mallaghan's correspondence of 4 June, asking my predecessor, Diane Dodds, to consider the motion calling for introduction of legislation to create a statutory entitlement to ten days of paid special leave for victims of domestic abuse.

I am very much aware that there is growing recognition among employers of the need to provide better support for employees who are victims of domestic abuse, and I would agree that this should be the case.

I understand that some progressive and compassionate employers already have pay and leave arrangements in place for employees who face this distressing circumstance. I do recognise, though, that this is not universal and there will likely be gaps in provision.

My immediate priority, however, for employment rights in this mandate is the Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Bill currently in the Assembly. With regard to the issue of statutory paid leave from work for victims of domestic abuse, I have instructed my officials to consider this important issue alongside a range of other employment related matters as part of developing a longer term vision for employment relations in Northern Ireland.

In the meantime, I would encourage all employers to support employees who are victims of domestic abuse with empathy and flexibility. The guidance produced by the DoJ and DoH entitled: '[Guidance for Employers on Developing a Workplace](#)

[Policy on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse](#)' should be used as a source of support and information in this regard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Frew', is centered on the page.

Paul Frew MLA
Minister for the Economy

From the Minister of Finance

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan

Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Private Office
2nd Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED
Tel: 028 9081 6216
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: *CORR-2849-2020*

Date: *25 May 2021*

Dear Councillor Mallaghan,

The Administration of Rate Relief and Funding to Local Businesses.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 8 December 2020 and 6 January 2021 regarding the Covid Rates Relief Scheme and other support schemes. I must apologise for the excessive delay in responding to your correspondence and hope that in the time elapsed many of your issues may have progressed to a satisfactory resolution.

Your Council asked my Department to review the criteria in relation to Department's 'Rate Holiday' relief scheme and stated that businesses such as insurance offices, reflexologists and small garages were excluded. In 2020-21, I introduced a 4 months (33%) rates holiday for all businesses and a targeted 12 months rate support for businesses identified as being in the greatest need of support. This was based on expert advice from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UU EPC). In 2020-21 this provided £288 million of additional support for businesses affected by the pandemic.

Building on this, my Department sought updated advice from the UU EPC and this year is providing a further £230 million of support to almost 29,000 businesses here. Given that the level of support now exceeds £0.5 billion over two years, relief has had to be targeted. Sectors such as financial services, personal health services, and garage workshops were not identified as being in the greatest need and therefore were not included in the 100% rate holiday. Retail businesses, including car showrooms, were identified as being severely affected by the pandemic and were granted the relief. That is the reason why the business premises you highlight do not qualify for 100% relief.

I also introduced a number of other rate support measures to assist businesses including: an 18% reduction on the non-domestic Regional Rate for 2020-21 and the freezing of that Rate at the reduced level for 2021-22; a two month deferment in the issuing of rate bills in 2021-22 so as to assist with cash flow issues; and continued support provided through the Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR), which automatically applies a minimum of 20% and a maximum of 50% rate relief to rate bills of small businesses here with Net Annual Values (NAV) up to £15,000.

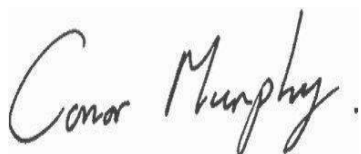
The financial support provided through Localised Restrictions Support Scheme (LRSS) has been a lifeline to businesses. It was at one stage providing up to £12.38 million in financial support each week to businesses here. As of 24 May, over £315 million in support has been paid out to over 15,300 eligible businesses. The legal authority to provide assistance given to my Department relates only to those businesses that are restricted by the Health Regulations; when business sectors come out of restrictions, my Department can no longer provide payment. Payments have now been completed.

LRSS was linked to the restrictions placed on businesses by the Health Protection Regulations, which changed several times since October 2020, making the LRSS increasingly complex to administer. I acknowledge that there were some delays in processing applications and making payments. I thank you for your offer of assistance; however, processing of the vast majority of claims has now been completed.. LPS has been regularly reviewing all approved applications to ensure the scheme is being administered in line with the associated regulations and to identify instances where incorrect payments have been made, including payments made outside of the scope of the regulations. This kind of 'post event assurance checking' is encouraged by the Audit Office in Covid funding schemes and it was always intended that we would do this.

As for applications which were rejected, I can advise that rejection e-mails, explaining the reason for the rejection, were issued in each case. I am sorry that some applicants had difficulty in getting someone to deal with their queries by phone. Regrettably, due to the number of enquiries received by the Department in respect of Covid grant schemes it was necessary to restrict enquiries to e-mail only. A number of mailboxes were set up to facilitate this process and full information was available on all schemes at www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-localised-restrictions-support-scheme.

I hope that you find this response helpful.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conor Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**CONOR MURPHY MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

SR/cd/NOM143/CS20.4.2021/21.10

24 May 2021

Mr Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown BT80 8DT

Via email: Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Adrian

I would advise you that at a recent meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council the under noted Resolution was agreed and ratified:

'That this Council deplors the refusal of the Stormont authorities to permit a stone sculpture to mark the Northern Ireland centenary to be placed at the seat of government; instructs the Chief Executive to convey our dismay to the Speaker of the Assembly and call for reversal of the decision so that due respect can be shown to those who value our constitutional position as a part of the United Kingdom; and that this council will commemorate NI's centenary with installations of stones depicting the map of Northern Ireland and 100 years celebrated and inscribed at Comber Square, Ards Conway Square, Bangor Castle, Donaghadee War Memorial and Holywood town centre, and asks officers to bring back a report outlining costs and possible inclusion in the centenary budget for same, and will write to all other councils to follow our example.'

The Council would welcome your response to this matter.

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN REID
Chief Executive

Report on	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	24 th June 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 District 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

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Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for Communities	Housing Supply Strategy: Call for Evidence	This Call for Evidence is the first stage in an ongoing public engagement process to help inform the development of a new Housing Supply Strategy being developed by the Department. The document sets out current understanding of the evidence available in relation to housing.	16 July 2021	Yes
	Link to Consultation	https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc-psu/housing-supply-strategy-call-for-evidence		
	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	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	Refurbishment of the Robinson Memorial Community Hospital	This consultation is in relation to the modernisation of the Robinson Community Hospital in Ballymoney.	20 August 2021	
	Link to Consultation	http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net/about-the-trust/involving-you/consultations/consultation-on-refurbishment-of-the-robinson-memorial-community-hospital/		
	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	Proposed amendments to The Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order (NI) 2011	This review relates to a proposed legislative amendment of the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order (NI) 2011 (The Exempted Activities Order)	30 July 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/proposed-amendments-marine-licensing-exempted-activities-order-northern-ireland-2011		
	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	Consultation on proposed changes to the Carrier Bag Levy	<p>This consultation seeks views on proposals to the current arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Removing exemption for bags which are sold to customers for a sum of not less than 20p each. •Removing exemption for gusseted liners used to line or cover boxes, crates or other containers of a similar nature. Removing the exemption for bags used on board ships, trains, aircraft, coaches, buses and in areas designated as security restricted (with the exception of Security Tamper Evident Bags). Removing the exemption for bags made wholly from paper with no gusset or handle and with max. dimensions of 175mm x 260mm. 	27 July 2021	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Removing exemption for bags made wholly from plastic, with no gusset or handle with maximum dimensions of 125mm x 125mm. •Removing exemption for bags made wholly from paper, with no handle with maximum dimensions of 80mm (wide) x 50mm (gusset width) x 155mm (height). •Introducing an exemption for bags of any material with no handle, to include a gusset width no greater than 50mm and mx. dimensions of 125mm x 155mm 		
	Link to Consultation	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposed-changes-carrier-bag-levy		
	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
NIE Networks	Facilitation of Energy Storage Services (FESS)	The Facilitation of Energy Storage Services (FESS) project is developing a framework to enable integration of customer owned energy storage into the NI network This puts forward questions that aim to gauge stakeholders' opinion of the specific solutions put forward in the FESS programme of work and of the project as a whole.	16 July 2021	

	Link to Consultation	https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/future-networks/level2/our-innovation-projects/fess		
	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	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
NI Public Services Ombudsman	Consultation on complaints handling standards for the Northern Ireland public sector	This consultation is seeking views on plans to improve complaints handling across the public sector in Northern Ireland.	2 September 2021	
	Link to Consultation	https://nipso.org.uk/nipso/publications/complaints-handling-consultation/		
	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	

