

# Report of Corporate Good Relations Working of Mid Ulster District Council- September 2021

Report of Corporate Good Relations Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber, in Dungannon (and accessed remotely via Zoon)

**Attendees** **Members:** Councillors J McNamee, S McPeake, C Corry, N Doris, M Kearney, I Milne

**Officers:** P Moffett, W Wilkinson, A McAleer

**Facilitator:** J Kremer (Good Relations Facilitator)

**Apologies** None

An overview of the meeting and Matters Agreed are set out below:

**Agenda Item 1: Introduction and Background:** P. Moffett provided an overview of the Corporate GR WG.

**Agenda Item 2: Equality and GR Update:** The CP& Equality Officer provided members with an update on the delivery and implementation of Council's Equality Scheme 2021-26 and it's outworking's.

**Agenda Item 3: Terms of Reference:** A copy of the Terms of Reference was provided to the members in attendance. The content was reviewed.

The aim of the group to 'agree the definition for Good Relations' was considered.

Agreed to accept the following Equality Commission of NI definition of Good Relations: "The growth of relationships and structures for Northern Ireland that acknowledge the religious, political and racial context of this society, and that seek to promote respect, equity and trust, and embrace diversity in all its forms." Equality Commission

**Associated Action:** Group to meet more frequently than the twice per year stated in the Terms of Reference. Date to be set for the next meeting in 4-6wks.

## **Agenda Item 4: Policy Referrals**

a) Dual Language Nameplate Signage Policy

Members communicated that the correct procedures have been followed during policy development and review and that require no policy amendments.

b) Notice of Motion- Constitutional Change (May 2021)

Agreed to consider the scope of the motion to open discussion across all communities regarding constitutional changes on the island of Ireland, past, present and future, and their

impact on life and work in the District; to aspire to make this proposed consultation process as inclusive as possible across a wide range of community/business/sporting and voluntary organisations in the District; to carry out the engagement in line with the Community Planning process.

**Associated Action:** Develop an options paper for consideration at next meeting.

c) Any other issues

Agreed that:

- This group should be used as a mechanism to hear minority voices in a positive way
- Relationship/team building activities would be helpful to as a mechanism for developing the work of the group
- Good Relations issues can be referred to the group via the equality screening process or directly from Members

**Associated Action:** Team Building exercises to be explored in conjunction with Elected Member Development Group.

**Agenda Item 5: Identification of Training:** The Corporate Policy & Equality Officer asked that Members communicate any specific equality and good relations training requirements that they may have or that they feel would be helpful or support the group in the discharge their duties.

**Agenda Item 6: Next Steps:** It was **agreed** to elect a Chairperson of the group at the next meeting and that Members should be encouraged to attend face to face for the next meeting.

**Associated Action:** Election of a Chairperson to be included in the agenda of the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 7: Date of the Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meet (in line with Equality Scheme requirements) was tbn in February 2022. However it was **agreed** to hold the next meeting in in 4-6wks time.

**Associated Action:** Date of a meeting in 4-6wks time to set and communicated to Members.

***Meeting concluded at 6.40pm***  
***Date of next meeting TBC***