

Report on	1. Dungannon Traders Association Proposal 2. Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) 3. Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events
Date of Meeting	16 February 2023
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</p> <p>Previously Council received a proposal from Dungannon Traders Association on the 23rd September 2022. The proposal requested that Council divert the budget allocated for the annual 'Heels on the Hill' to a new event called 'The Jingle Ball Run' to be held on 18 December 2022 in Dungannon Town Centre. Council subsequently approved this request on 27 October 2022.</p>
2.2	<p>Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2)</p> <p>As part of the Spring Statement 2022, the UK Government announced the second round of the Levelling Up Fund and published a refreshed Prospectus, inviting bids to come forward from all eligible organisations from Northern Ireland and across the rest of the UK. The Fund aims to prioritise places in need of economic recovery and growth, regeneration and improved transport connectivity.</p>
2.3	<p>Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events</p> <p>As part of the Economic Development Action Plan 2022/23, Council previously agreed to organise two events to celebrate International Women's Day in Mid Ulster.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="264 293 906 331">Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</p> <p data-bbox="264 369 1412 589">Due to issues the organisers encountered with securing Road Closure approval, 'The Jingle Ball Run' planned for 18 December 2022 was unable to take place. Dungannon Traders Association has advised Council (Appendix 1) they have secured a new date to hold the event, which is Saturday 25 February 2023 from 5.30pm. This date will allow sufficient time for the organisers to have all the necessary road closure documentation in place.</p> <p data-bbox="264 627 1385 734">'The Jingle Ball Run' will be accompanied by a craft fair at The Space@Market Square. The event will be widely promoted and will seek to attract additional footfall into Dungannon.</p> <p data-bbox="264 772 1377 880">Council had previously agreed to provide match funding of £5,500 towards the event so therefore, Council will divert its financial resources to Dungannon Traders Association to support the event on the new date, 25 February 2023.</p>
3.2	<p data-bbox="264 920 954 958">Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2)</p> <p data-bbox="264 996 1398 1216">The LUF is a UK government capital fund aimed at smaller infrastructure projects that have a visible impact on people and communities. The LUF was first announced at the 2020 spending review and is worth £4.8bn across the UK over four years. Of this £1.7bn was distributed to 105 projects through the first round in autumn 2021, which saw £49m awarded to 11 successful projects in Northern Ireland.</p> <p data-bbox="264 1254 1406 1361">The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) invited bids to the second round of LUF last spring and the closing date for submissions was Tuesday 2 August 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="264 1400 1369 1469">Mid Ulster Council submitted 4 bids to LUF Round 2 for the following strategic projects;</p> <ol data-bbox="312 1473 895 1619" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desertcreat Industrial Lands 2. Maghera Regeneration Project 3. Hill of the O'Neill / Feeney's Lane site 4. Gortgonis Health & Community Hub <p data-bbox="264 1657 1406 1803">DLUHC advised that they received 525 bids from across the UK last August and announced that a total of 111 areas across the UK will get a share of the £2.1bn from this second round of the LUF. In Northern Ireland, a total of £71m has been awarded to 10 successful projects.</p> <p data-bbox="264 1841 1409 2022">Mid Ulster Council was advised on Wednesday 18th January 2023 that it's funding bid for Maghera Regeneration Project was successful and received a financial allocation of £9,058,971, which is the 3rd largest allocation of the 10 successful bids in Northern Ireland (see Table 1 below). Council will be required to provide 10% match funding towards the overall cost of the project.</p>

The recent announcement for the second round means that there is £1bn left in the LUF and the UK government has confirmed there will be a third round of funding.

Table 1 - Northern Ireland LUF Round 2 Successful Bids:-

Applicant	Bid Name	Bid Value
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio Extension and Alterations	£3,573,604
Bangor Marine Limited	Marine Gardens Public Realm project	£9,829,424
Belfast City Council	Northern Ireland Last Picture house: An Arts Centre for Belfast	£4,094,000
Belfast International Airport Ltd	Belfast International Airport Decarbonisation Project	£2,327,928
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Ballycastle Leisure Centre	£8,142,850
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	Lakeland	£20,000,000
Mid and East Antrim Council	Carnfunnock Country Park	£6,100,018
Mid Ulster District Council	Maghera Regeneration Project	£9,058,971
Newry Mourne and Down District Council	Camlough Lake Recreation Centre	£2,820,555
The Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union	Club Capital Improvement Project	£5,125,023
Total		£71,072,373.00

3.3

Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events

Mid Ulster's two International Women's Day Events will take place as follows;

- **Date: Wednesday 8 March 2023, 7pm**
Venue: Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt
- **Date: Wednesday 15 March 2023, 7pm**
Venue: Ryandale Hotel, Moy

These will be high quality events, with a drinks reception on arrival, and will incorporate a range of inspiring speakers, with a buffet at the end of the evening. Each guest will also receive a free small gift bag containing a number of artisan products from local suppliers.

The event will be ticketed at £5 per head with proceeds being donated to Women's Aid. Each venue can accommodate approx. 100 guests. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

	The Council Chairperson will officially open each event and will be issuing an invitation to all members in due course.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
4.1.1	Dungannon Traders Association Proposal Dungannon Traders Association proposal was approved in October 2022 to match fund the Jingle Bell Run in December 2022 to the value of £5,500. Council funding (economic development budget) will now support the event on the new date of 25 February 2023, as advised by Dungannon Traders Assoc.
4.1.2	Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Council will be required to provide 10% match-funding towards the Maghera Regeneration Project. A further report will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in due course.
4.1.3	Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events Events will be funded from existing economic development budget as previously agreed.
	Human: Officers time
	Risk Management: Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures. Project Governance Structure will be put in place to tightly manage the project. A comprehensive Risk Register will also be prepared for the project.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
4.2.1	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Equality and Good Relations screening will be carried out prior to project commencement.
4.2.2	Rural Needs Implications: Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Rural Needs screening will be carried out prior to project commencement.

5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members:
5.1	<p>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</p> <p>Note change of date of 'The Jingle Ball Run' in Dungannon to 25 February 2023. Council previously agreed to provide match-funding of £5,500 towards the event and this funding will now support the event on its new date.</p>
5.2	<p>Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2)</p> <p>Note update on Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund and Mid Ulster Council's success in attaining £9,058,971 funding for Maghera Regeneration Project.</p>
5.3	<p>Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events</p> <p>Note Mid Ulster Council will host two International Women's Day Events on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 8 March 2023, 7pm in the Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt and; • Wednesday 15 March 2023, 7pm in the Ryandale Hotel, Moy. <p>Invitations will be extended to all Members from the Council Chair.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 – Correspondence from Dungannon Traders Assoc re Jingle Bell Run