Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

10 December 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 10 December 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

In accordance with the spirt of the recent COVID restriction, Members are strongly encouraged to join virtually as the preferred option. Should you need to attend in person then provision will be made at the Council Offices, Dungannon. Please notify Democratic Services in advance if this is the case.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Acting Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
   Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputation - Deputation - Sharon Cassidy Raising Awareness of Homeless Issues

<u>Matters for Decision</u>

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Matters for Information

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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

16. Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21 additional projects
17. Seamus Heaney HomePlace Library Refurbishment Tender Report
18. Drum Manor Play Park – Inclusive Play
19. COVID 19 Business Grants - Tranche 2

Matters for Information

20. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 November 2020
21. Contract Performance Review: Transform Programme

Report on	Draft Response to the Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations and SEN Code of Practice
Date of Meeting	10th December 2020
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Contact Officer	Martina Totten Community Planning Co-ordinator

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 agree the draft response to the Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice.
2.0	Background
2.1	The draft SEN Regulations and draft SEN Code of Practice are one part of a new SEN Framework the first element being the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (the SEND Act). The SEND Act introduces new duties for Boards of Governors of grant aided schools and the Education Authority, provides for greater cooperation with health and social care authorities and brings in new rights for parents and children. (Relates to consultation above). Many of these new duties and rights have not yet been introduced, as they need to be supported by new SEN Regulations and the new SEN Code of Practice
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Please see attached draft response in Appendix 1
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u>** None **<u>Professional Support</u>** None.
4.2	**<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>** None

4.3	**<u>Risk Management Implications</u>** None
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	To agree Draft Response to the Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations and SEN Code of Practice.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 Draft Response to the Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations and SEN Code of Practice.

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council

Appendix 1

Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations and Special Educational Needs SEN Code of Practice.

Mid Ulster District Council Response

December 2020

Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the development of the Draft SEN Code of Practice and Draft SEN Regulations and the opportunity to comment on them.

Roles & Responsibilities

MUDC welcomes the clarity the SEN Regulations and SEN Code of Practice bring to the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) support for young people.

The publication of the Education Authority's Plan of Arrangements for Special Education Provision is well received. Parents and teachers have often criticised the lack of information from the EA on the detail of such provision and its availability. The Regulations should make it clear what special education provision the EA intends to make for children and young people with SEN. Reviewing it annually should also ensure that the effectiveness of the provision is studied, and adjustments made where evidence requires. MUDC would have apprehensions however, an annual cycle can lead to a tick box exercise and not a comprehensive plan for provision based on sound evidence and need.

MUDC particularly welcomes the importance of a whole school approach, ensuring that SEN is not the sole responsibility of one teacher, but rather all staff are working together for the best outcomes of the child/young person. The inclusion of the roles of the Board of Governors and the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) (previously known as the SENCO), within the SEN Regulations, making them a statutory requirement for all schools, is very positive. However, the Regulations falls short, by

not placing the role of the LSC within the senior management team of the school. The NIAO audit report outlines instances where SENCOs have been compromised or inhibited in their ability to perform their duties effectively due to a lack of support from Senior Management.

The inclusion that an LSC is to have at least of 3 years full time experience of teaching children with SEN, is positive addition. This ensures that LSCs are properly trained and experienced to, not only support the child with SEN, but to expertly assist the wider school staff to support the child also. However, MUDC would prefer that the SEN Regulations go further, by implementing the long-standing recommendations made in various SEN reviews, for all teachers and all student teachers be trained in SEN.

The Three stages of Special Education Provision

MUDC are in favour of the reduction from 5 stages to 3 stages in Special Education provision. Each stage in the Code of Practice appear to be clearly structured and outlined, for all parties involved in a child's Special Education provision, to follow and adhere to.

However, many children face substantial delays in accessing additional support from the EA because of the Time Allocation Model used to allocate Education Phycology time to each school. The allocation of time per year, calculated using a complex regionally based formula which takes into account the size of the school, educational attainment and a social index of need, is having a severe disadvantage to many children. Schools are forced to prioritise a small number of children every year, regardless of the true need in the school, leaving children waiting long periods or even having their need unmet altogether.

The waiting times for additional services is also a matter of great concern for MUDC. NICCY have reported a **'bottle neck'** in accessing such support **with demand exceeding supply**. MUDC is also concerned what impact moving from 5 to 3 stages will have on these already oversubscribed services. Timeframes for these services should be detailed within the Code of Practice and Regulations, like those detailed for the Statutory Assessment process.

In addition, the NIAO report notes the concerns raised by NICCY that, **the support provided at stage 3 does not last long enough to yield positive lasting results**. NIAO point out that, as a result **the length of time spent waiting to access the stage 3 support may in some cases be longer than the period of time for which the support will then be provided.** MUDC would concur with these concerns and does not believe this has either been addressed or resolved in the new Code of Practice. MUDC supports the NIAO recommendation to produce **an evidence base as to which types of support have the best outcomes for children to ensure resources are used to best effect.**

MUDC welcomes the improvements made to the timeframes for a Statutory Assessment in the SEN Regulations, in particularly with regard to the maximum timeframe for Valid Exceptions of 34 weeks. However, it is well documented that the EA have consistently missed the current timeframe of 26 weeks (85% in 2019/20), MUDC fails to see any assurances, within the SEN Regulations and SEN Regulations, these revised timescales will be met.

Personal Learning Plan (PLP)

Personal Development Plans should be an important part of any child's SEN provision, in order to record the measures and interventions put in place and to track progress and outcomes. However, MUDC is fully aware of a number of reports that have found the current Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to be inconsistently applied across schools and at times ineffective in improving outcomes. One of the major causes of this is the schools lack of resources to implement meaningful interventions. MUDC would strongly advocate for the proper resourcing of all schools, to fully implement the interventions identified by the PLP, and required by the child, to improve their educational outcomes.

Another downfall of the current IEPs is the lack of monitoring and evaluation in assessing a child's progress. In order to improve the success of the new PLP, MUDC would seek support the NIAO recommendation that **the Department and the EA must assess the quality of SEN support provided in mainstream schools by formally evaluating it in terms of the progress made by children. This would**

allow resources to be focused on types of support, which maximise progress and improve outcomes

Concluding Remarks

Mid Ulster District Council is pleased to see the Department's commitment to fulfilling the Northern Ireland Executive's New Decade, New Approach 2020 pledge, **to deliver a new special educational needs framework to support young people with special needs to achieve their full potential.** However, there have been a number of substantive reviews of SEN provision produced within the last 12 months, the EA's internal audit (January 2020), NICCY's "Too Little Too Late" Review (March 2020) and the NI Audit Office Impact Review of SEN (September 2020). All these reviews have underlined considerable failings in the delivery of SEN provision across Northern Ireland. Whilst MUDC can see positive contributions that the new Regulations and Code of Practice makes to addressing some of the recommendations made in these reports, there are still some important recommendations that do not appear to be implemented. MUDC would urge the Department to consider all of these reviews in detail and ensure that they implement all the recommendations made in order to provide the highest standard of SEN provision for the children and young people of Northern Ireland.

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	10th December 2020
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan – Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Martina Totten Community Planning Coordinator

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	Community Support – proposal for additional DFC Food Funding
1.2	Peace IV – to note the Peace IV update
1.3	Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community
1.4	Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex
1.5	Community Planning -proposed Community Forum
1.6	Community Development – to note the update
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Support – Council has received a number of funding allocations from DFC to support people in poverty, a further allocation of funding for food poverty has been provided.
2.2	Peace IV – Council delivers on the Peace IV Action Plan through guidance and engagement with the Peace IV Partnership.
2.3	Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community – Council has been engaging with the East Timorese community, following their presentation to the Special Committee of 29th October 2020.
2.4	Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex – Council has been engaging with a number of groups and organisations regarding flexibility of funding to allow for the sustainable development of community support and community facilities.
2.5	Community Planning – Community Plan Review: As part of the community planning process which Council facilitates, a review of the community plan must be carried out.

	Proposed Community Forum – Also as part of the community planning, a community engagement plan is required which is regularly reviewed.
2.6	Community Development includes the following areas: Community Support, Good Relations, PCSP, Connecting Pomeroy and facilitation of Community Planning.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Community Support – proposal for additional DFC Food Funding As part of DFC funding support to people experiencing food poverty during Covid 19, Council has been provided with a number of tranches of funding to date, as per the update report to Committee in October 2020. A further allocation of funding is being proposed of up to £100,000 (final allocation amount to be confirmed). DFC is seeking to support people in food crisis over the Christmas period and into the first period of 2021. A final position will be known on 7th December. As per the report in October, Council has allocated funding to the foodbanks and SVP's across Mid Ulster. Through engagement with them over the last 6 weeks this is greatly appreciated and is going to support people in need. Additional funding is greatly appreciated as other means of fundraising currently are limited. It is proposed given the additional funding that a further allocation of funding is provided to the foodbanks and SVP to allow them to deal with financial crisis for people particularly at Christmas and into 2021 to seek to alleviate stress and debt where possible. The additional funding will provide for additional food packages and food vouchers to people presenting in need over this period. The additional allocations will be as follows based on need and people presenting for emergency food support and spend on food support, which is monitored monthly by Council. The proposal is based on confirmation of the funding from DFC as of 7th December 2020. Expenditure £90,000 Dungannon Vineyard Foodbank & SVP £20,000 Magherafelt Hope Food bank & SVP £20,000 Cookstown Foodbank /SVP £20,000 Coalisland Foodbank / SVP £10,000 Clogher Valley RBL Food Bank / SVP £10,000 Maghera Foodbank & SVP £10,000
3.2	Peace IV
.	SEUPB is currently considering the proposal from Council, to address Peace underspend, for the town centre outdoor spaces as places for people to come together. Further detail has been provided regarding the proposal however a decision is not expected to end January 2021.
3.3	Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community Council members and officers had a follow up meeting with the East Timorese community to follow up on issues identified at the Special Committee meeting.

	It was agreed that Council would communicate with the Home Office, East Timorese and Portuguese Consulates, MLAs, MEPs and MPs regarding the issue of East Timorese residents of Mid Ulster not having access to services to update their passports or apply for a passport which is required for settlement status; this is going to be a crisis issue at the 1st January when the UK leaves the EU. A letter of special circumstances is required, due to Coved 19, for flexibility regarding this until the situation can be resolved. A commitment will also be sought from the consulates that they will come to Mid Ulster to provide consulate support, and Council will provide relevant facilities to accommodate this. Alongside this, to review if long term consulate support can be provided through a partnership with other consulate offices. Council to write to businesses in Mid Ulster to promote and encourage all relevant employees to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme for Settle Status. Council to work with the East Timorese group to identify suitable community premises that could be used for their support services and community activities. An issue was raised by Council regarding the Group struggling to open a bank account; it was noted that a number of groups are finding similar experiences at this time. It was agreed Council would engage with the local banks and credit unions regarding community groups being able to open and hold bank accounts to identify what services are available. A further meeting is to be held in December to follow up on other issues that are arising for the East Timorese community of Mid Ulster.
3.4	Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex Council currently has a service level agreement with Fivemiletown Community Annex for the provision of leisure and sports facilities for the Clogher valley area; including a swimming pool. Due to closures and social distancing from April 2020, original targets and income for the facility has not been met. The management of the FMT Annex has sought to keep costs to a minimum whilst keeping the facility open, as per guidance with social distancing provision. Council agreed in July 2020 (as part of the Head of Leisure Services report) to provide the same SLA funding to all of its partners; including Fivemiletown Community Annex. This support and flexibility for Covid 19 constraints will help provide for the sustainability of the facility to allow it to remain viable until it can operate at full capacity. The budget remains as is at £50,000 and verification of the funding allocation to expenditure will take place as normal. Officers are working with the management committee of the Annex to regularly monitor costs to ensure the facility can be sustained and the committee are engaging the EA regularly also.
3.5	Community Planning

	Community Plan Review: As part of the community planning process which Council facilitates, a review of the community plan must be carried out. In addition to the legislative requirement, the ongoing pandemic and its impact on our economy, health, education and communities, has reinforced the need to reassess our actions and determine their relevance in a Covid19 environment. A review of all actions has been completed by officers, detailing which actions are complete, should be paused and should be brought forward. These proposals have since been brought to and discussed by community planning partners at the latest round of thematic meetings in November. Final proposals will be brought to the Community Planning Strategic Board in January. It is proposed to hold a workshop with members in January to update them on the Community Plan review. Proposed Community Forum: Also part of Council's facilitation of community planning, community group engagement within the process is essential. Council established a community panel in 2017, of representatives from community groups across Mid Ulster; alongside a range of communication mediums and events to ensure the wider community are engaged. As part of the community planning process, regular reviews of the community engagement are must be undertaken. A review of the current community panel, through discussion and survey of members, has highlighted that due to the strategic level of discussions within the community planning process, the input from local groups from specific areas is not always relevant and further it is difficult for smaller groups to have the forums and networks to feedback to the wider community group sector. In light of this, it is proposed to establish the following engagement forums to allow for involvement of community groups from across Mid Ulster: 1. To hold annual DEA meetings with groups alongside members on issues that need raised or addressed. There would be 7 planned as a minimum each year, with further arranged if these are required. 2. To host a forum of the Mid Ulster Community support groups, bi annually, to allow them to engage with the community planning process. These groups would include: COSTA/CWSAN, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Mid Ulster LGBT Group, STEP, Women's Group (representative), Mid Ulster Carers Network, Mid Ulster Youth Forum, Mid Ulster Seniors Network, Loneliness Network, Community Transport, Shopmobility, Volunteer Centre The Forum would also provide a structure for Regular ongoing engagement e.g. for consultations that arise where community group input would be of value.
3.6	Community Development Community Support – The Community Support team is supporting groups both to access funding and to maximise Council grant awards. Good Relations – Good Relations continues to deliver the updated Plan through innovative and flexible models in line with social distancing requirements.

	The teams are continuing to support in the development and delivery of Mid Ulster poverty initiatives. The PCSP team has commenced delivery of the action plan in alternative formats as agreed by DOJ and NIPB. All of the partnership meetings are continuing via Zoom to accommodate members and external partners.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u>** DFC funding allocation of up to £100,000 **<u>Professional Support</u>** None
4.2	**<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>** None
4.3	**<u>Risk Management Implications</u>** None
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Community Support – To consider and approve proposal for additional DFC Food Funding support, pending confirmation and letter of offer.
5.2	Peace IV – To agree the Peace IV Update.
5.3	Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community – To agree the proposals of support.
5.4	Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex – To note the update on the sustainability of the facility.
5.5	Community Planning – Proposed Community Forum: To agree the new community group engagement process.
5.6	Community Development – to note the update report
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	None

Report on	Community Development – All Ireland Health Campaign
Date of Meeting	10th December 2020
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officers	Martina Totten Community Planning Coordinator

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	All Ireland Health Campaign – to agree to support the campaign
2.0	Background
2.1	At the special meeting of Development Committee on the 29th October, it was recommended that Council agree, in principle, to support the campaign for an All-Ireland National Healthcare Service. The matter was to be brought to the next Development Committee meeting for decision, once members had an opportunity to read the report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the special Development Committee of 29th October, Mr Conor Redding of the All Ireland Health Campaign gave a presentation to members. A copy of the presentation providing information on the campaign is attached at Appendix 1. Summary responses from Mr Redding as taken from the meeting minute were: Reference made to the Covid19 crisis and stated that the early stages of the pandemic saw hospitals across the island on verge of being overwhelmed and this was not just the result of an exceptional set of circumstances. Covid-19 was the perfect storm that highlighted long running deficiencies in healthcare systems with the HSE and NHS now operating in state of "permanent crisis" – shortages of beds, longer waiting times and understaffing. Funding for such a health care system would be shared between governments, with the majority being HSE due to population. The Bengoa report and the Slaintecare report were important documents that require consideration in moving forward and it is hoped such a new system would allow these to happen. He noted that it was a new campaign and therefore the response from governments and key agencies had not been fully sought; however the communications campaign

	currently taking place was to allow for this. It was noted that there are 2 political parties and a couple of councils that have endorsed to date. He stated that the main principle is to move towards a system of quality healthcare that is available to all and localised; the aims would impact on the HSE 2 tier system and some of the private health provision developing within NHS and some of the specialist development which is reducing localised healthcare delivery. Issues raised by members: Issues were raised regarding the importance of the implementation of the recommendations of the Bengoa Report to address health care issues in the NHS, and seeking to ensure any future system would preserve the ethos of health care available to all, based on quality provision. The issue of privatisation growing in both the NHS and HSE managed health regions and how this was leaving many people vulnerable; and the importance of a health care system which is free at the point of delivery was referenced. How an All Island healthcare system that is reformed to build on the good practice of both health jurisdictions would be beneficial in reducing waiting lists and investing in areas such as social care which were under extreme pressure and this became more apparent due to Covid 19. Reference was made to joint working currently and even sharing of ICU provision during Covid19 in response to demand, and given the size of the population of both health jurisdictions, a one All Island health system would seem practical and viable. Also the joint regional centres of excellence that are shared currently e.g. cardiology and that there is room for more specialised shared health.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u>** None **<u>Professional Support</u>** None
4.2	**<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>** None
4.3	**<u>Risk Management Implications</u>** None
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	All Ireland Health Campaign – to consider the request to agree to support the campaign.

6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	All Ireland Health Campaign presentation

No Going Back

The Case for An All Ireland National Health Service

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Thursday 29th October 2020

Covid Crisis Casts a Light…

- Early Stages of Pandemic saw hospitals across island on verge of being overwhelmed
- This was not just the result of an exceptional set of circumstances!

- Covid-19 was the perfect storm, that highlighted long running deficiencies in healthcare systems.
- HSE and NHS now operate in state of "permanent crisis" – shortages of beds, longer wait times, understaffing.

- In South, potential for crisis so great that state was forced to take control of private hospital capacity.
- Some private capacity used in North too.

Since then – very little done to increase capacity in long term sense.

Belfast Telegraph Subscribe

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland health service 'at point of collapse' as waiting lists hit record high

Warning as new figures reveal critical state of health service

Members of the Unison trade union began strike action over unsafe staffing levels and the lack of pay parity with NHS workers across the rest of the UK.

By Lisa Smyth
November 28 2019 10:00 PM

A Crisis In Care

- Nursing homes were devastated in the most acute phase of the pandemic
- ~60% of Covid-19 deaths in South, 20% of all residents infected, 50% of care homes not compliant with infection control protocol.

- Speaks to a deeper crisis in care…

- In South, system majority is mostly private – less nursing staff, a reliance on agencies and problems procuring PPE.
- In North, system mixed but greater percentage public – <u>but</u> **public homes run "efficiently" meaning they mirror problems of private.**
- **<u>Key takeaway:</u> Conflict between market efficiencies and our health**

Healthcare Workers Lead The Way

- Historic actions by healthcare workers North and South last year – direct demands for better pay, conditions and staffing.

- But they were fighting for something more fundamental too – a turning of the tide and a system that values care instead of rationing it.

- Faced with resurgence of Covid cases, record-breaking waiting lists and the Winter – will we listen to them or stick to the status quo?
- Healthcare worker and public health demands best met in a well-funded public system.

Lessons from the NHS

- The foundation of the NHS after the Second World War was a revolution half made but still shines as an example of how we should treat healthcare and how change can be won.

- "Free at the point of access from the cradle to the grave and funded by general taxation"

- Strong emphasis placed on "prevention" and public health – contrasts with today's approach where you avail of healthcare when you are sick.

- Originally locally managed and planned, some democracy in administration.

THE NEW

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Your new National Health Service begins on 5th July. What is it? How do you get it?

It will provide you with all medical, dental, and nursing care. Everyone—rich or poor, man, woman or child—can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a "charity". You are all paying for it, mainly as taxpayers, and

What We Stand For

- In this exceptional moment we believe change is not only possible, but necessary.
- Health is a social right and a prerequisite for a decent society – our health depends on the health of others, we have a shared interest in a system that guarantees free access to healthcare for all.
- We believe the way forward is a well-funded, democratically managed, secular healthcare system, integrated across the island and committed to treating people based on medical need, rather than ability to pay.

- The Campaign For An All Ireland NHS is a broad alliance of healthcare workers, trade unions, political parties, NGOs, academics and public figures.
- We aim to mobilise workers, health campaigners and communities across the island to improve access to healthcare and to win people to the idea of an All Ireland National Health Service.

Support The Campaign

- Sign our open letter and share it with those you know who might be interested.

- Attend and promote our events.

- Join a local campaign group, or set one up in your own area.

- Get in touch about our Campaign Organising Committee

Follow us on Social Media:

@CampaignAINHS

Report on	1. Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2. Collaborative Digital Transformation Business Programme
Date of Meeting	10 December 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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	**Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce (Jan-Dec 2021)** The NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry has a business network with a membership circ. 1,200 businesses representing over 100,000 employees. Mid Ulster District Council has been a member for the last four years.
2.2	**Collaborative Digital Transformation Business Programme** Members are advised that Invest NI has invited local Councils to submit a collaborative bid for remaining funds under the ERDF Local Economic Development Measure. The overall resources available are in the region of £1.1million (based on £660,000 ERDF; £220,000 Invest NI and £220,000 match funding from Councils). Funding allocations are likely to be committed over two financial years.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce** Membership renewal is now due for the period January 2021–December 2021 at a cost of £2,500+Vat. The renewal request invoice is attached in **Appendix 1**. The benefits to Council for renewing membership are: • Being part of a global network and its business membership of circa 1200 members. • Regularly actively represents members interests at the highest political levels

	• Provides a quarterly magazine of current affairs • Monthly newsletter update on what is happening in business in NI. • Organises monthly business events throughout NI • Helps promote Mid Ulster Council events to its membership • Opportunity to host NI Chamber event in Mid Ulster bringing approx.100 business people into this area (many for the first time).
3.2	**Collaborative Digital Transformation Business Programme** Following discussion in relation to shared priorities, it has been agreed that the proposal should be focused on Digital Transformation. This programme will be additional to any current digital support programmes which Councils are delivering and will seek to complement the proposals under any future Mid South West Growth Deal. Based on preliminary findings, it is proposed that this programme will be focused on a relatively small number of businesses. These businesses will have the potential to embrace a digital transformation of their business. Another potential work strand will focus on increasing the number of companies that can engage with the range of Challenge Funds that are likely to emerge as part of some of the Growth Deal's work. Currently, the number of NI companies engaging in these initiatives is relatively limited and the uptake of funds from organisations such as Innovate UK is low compared to other UK regions. In order to move forward, assistance is required to draft the technical application to Invest NI and it is proposed to appoint a consultant, the indicative cost of which (£9,000) is proposed to be shared across the Councils. This contribution will form part of the Councils collective match funding required as part of the overall £1.1 million programme. A further report will be presented to members in due course providing the detail of the programme, once the consultant has worked up the specific detail. Members will also be aware of the Complementary Fund of £100 million linked to the Growth Deals announced earlier this year. It is proposed that this fund could facilitate a relatively small-scale proposal (£3-4 million) to establish a flexible support fund providing capital grants for SMEs seeking to invest in digital transformation, for example new equipment, software etc. This opportunity whilst distinct from the collaborative ERDF application, has the potential to add value by providing a mechanism to address financial barriers to digital transformation. It could also substantially enhance the leverage that could be brought to the ERDF application and is likely to increase the chance of securing approval from Invest NI.

4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: **Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce** Annual corporate membership of £2,500 (+Vat) for Jan-Dec 2021. **Collaborative Digital Transformation Business Programme** Councils are requested to provide £820 each towards technical assistance costs to prepare a detailed and comprehensive Digital Transformation Business Programme application to Invest NI. Funding can be provided within the Council's existing economic development budget.
	Human: Officer time
	Risk Management:
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
	It is recommended that Members:
5.1	**Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce** **Approve** Mid Ulster Council's annual Corporate Membership Renewal with NI Chamber of Commerce, costing £2,500+Vat for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2021.
5.2	**Collaborative Digital Transformation Business Programme** **Approve** the development of the Collaborative Digital Transformation Business Programme and provide a contribution of £820 towards technical assistance costs to prepare a comprehensive bid to Invest NI.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	Appendix 1 - NI Chamber of Commerce - Membership Renewal Invoice (2021)

APPENDIX 1

Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry

40 Linenhall Street
Belfast
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Mid Ulster District Council
Magherafelt Office
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Account Number	ORG2016821151
Date	10/11/2020
Invoice Number	INV2019259778
PO Number:	

INVOICE

Transaction Date	Charge Reason	Charge Details	Membership	Net
10/11/2020	Membership	Commencing 1 January 21	Corporate	£2,500.00

Terms & Conditions - 30 days from renewal date

Pay by Electronic Transfer:
Danske Bank
Account No: 11136488
Sort Code: 95-01-21

Pay by Debit/Credit Card Tel: 028 90244113

Total Net	£2,500.00
VAT	£500.00
Total Gross	£3,000.00

Communications Partner
Patrons

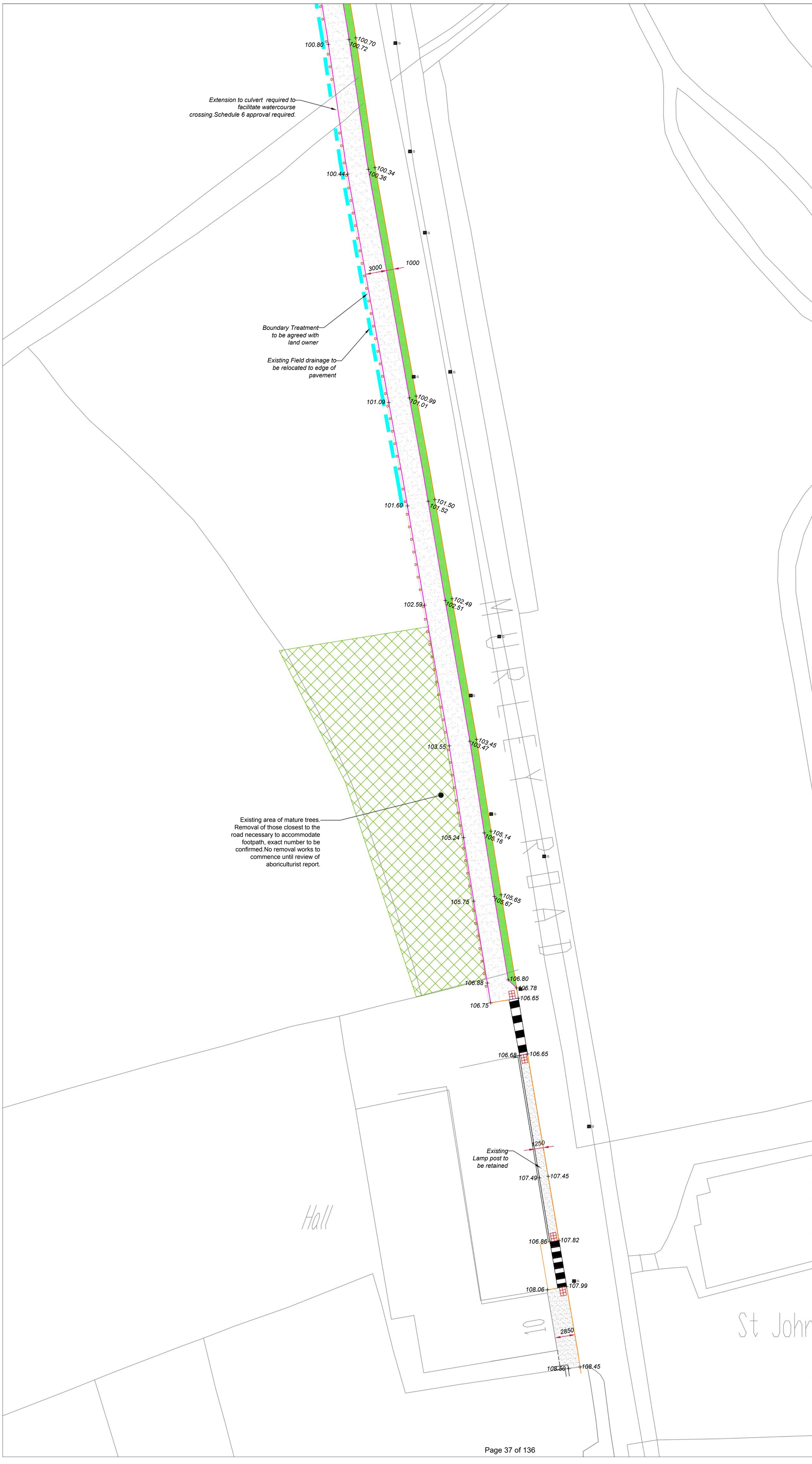
Report on	Round Lake, Fivemiletown, Development
Date of Meeting	Thursday 10 December 2020
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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	To report on and seek approval to enter into an agreement with Blessingbourne Estate to lease lands on the Murley Road, Fivemiletown.
1.2	To report on and seek approval to extend the current Mountain Bike Trails lease agreement with Blessingbourne Estate to include the walking trails.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Round Lake Caravan Park is currently leased from Blessingbourne Estate. Current lease was executed on 31 March 2015 for 25 years.
2.2	The Mountain bike trails are currently leased from Blessingbourne Estate. Current lease was executed in January 2013 with a remaining term of 13 years.
2.3	Council are wholly responsible for the management and maintenance of both of these active leisure and visitor amenities.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	As part of the Round Lake development, there are plans to extend the pedestrian and cycle access from the village of Fivemiletown along the Murley Road to the Round Lake site (Appendix).
3.2	This strip of land along the Murley Road to the Round Lake site belongs to Blessingbourne Estate. The land has been subject to a survey by Land and Property Services (LPS). Area of land is approximately 400m x 4 m. LPS have returned a valuation of £200 per annum or £4,000 for 20-year lease and a peppercorn rent.
3.3	Negotiations between Council and Blessingbourne Estate has presented an option permitting the transfer of the strip of land on Murley Road in return for Council's consideration to extend the current management agreement to include the public walking trails, which are adjacent to the mountain bike trails. The public walking

	trails cover approximately 6km of off-road walking trails (Appendix). In return, the Blessingbourne Estate would not receive payment for the land detailed above.
3.4	An audit of the walking trails has taken place. The trails are in good condition and require minimal directional signage improvements.
3.5	Blessingbourne Mountain bike trails are inspected on a daily basis by Parks Service. The maintenance responsibility is placed within the remit of the Council's Property Services Department.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Signage improvements associated to walking tails – approximately £1,000, can be accommodated within current revenue budgets. Annual Maintenance: maintain bike trails – maintenance currently undertaken by Property Services. Paths maintenance likely to cost approximately £500 per year.
	Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project. No additional staffing resource required.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Council approval is sought to review current lease agreements with Blessingbourne Estate, Fivemiletown.
5.2	Seek agreement for the lease of lands on Murley Road from Blessingbourne Estate to facilitate improved public access to the Round Lake.
5.3	Amend current Mountain Bike Trail lease agreement to include the addition of walking trails including liability, management and maintenance.
5.4	To cover all reasonable legal costs incurred by the other party.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.2	Appendix Drawings of proposed footpath and cycle way along Murley Road
6.3	Appendix Map of existing mountain bike trail and walking trail Blessingbourne Estate



N
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LEGEND:

- Round Lake Recreational Site
- Existing footpath
- Proposed shared use path
- Widening of existing footpaths to 3m
- Grass verge
- Relocated Drainage Ditch
- Boundary Treatment TBC
- Proposed flush pin Kerb
- Proposed drop kerb
- Proposed flush edging kerb
- Proposed tactile paving
- 101.63 Proposed levels
- Existing Gullys

1. All dimensions are in millimeters unless stated otherwise. All levels are in meters referenced to AOD.
2. This drawing should be read in conjunction with all relevant drawings (Architectural and Engineering).
3. OSNI mapping for reference only and may be outdated, topographical survey required to confirm layouts and dimensions.
4. Proposed levels are indicative only, all levels should tie in with existing surfaces.

Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Ckd	App
-	-	-	-	-	-

Client: Mid Ulster District Council

Project: Round Lake, Fivemiletown Village Extension Programme

Drawing: Murley Rd Footpath Extension sheet 2

Scale: 1:250 @ A1

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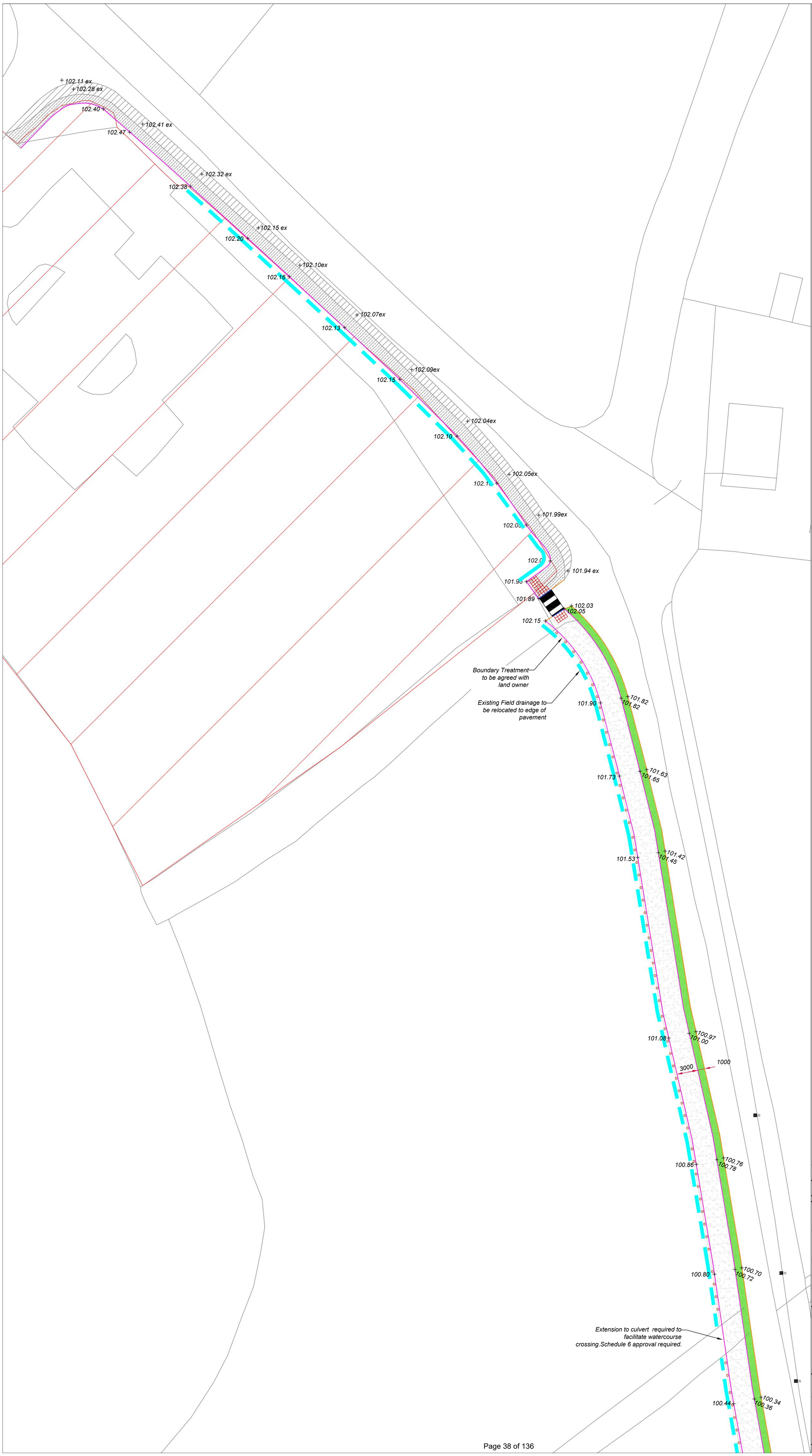
Drawn	R Malone	Checked	K O'Sullivan	Approved	K O'Sullivan
Date	04/10/2019	Date	04/10/2019	Date	04/10/2019

Project No	Drawing No	Revision
E2178	8502	

All dimensions are in millimetres. Figured dimensions to be taken in preference to scaled dimensions. Dimensions to be checked on site. © 2010 McAdam Design Ltd



N
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LEGEND:

- Round Lake Recreational Site
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Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Ckd	App
-	-	-	-	-	-

Client: Mid Ulster District Council

Project: Round Lake, Fivemiletown Village Extension Programme

Drawing: Murley Rd Proposed Layout & Levels sheet 1

Scale: 1:250 @ A1

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Drawn	R Malone	Checked	K O'Sullivan	Approved	K O'Sullivan
Date	04/10/2019	Date	04/10/2019	Date	04/10/2019

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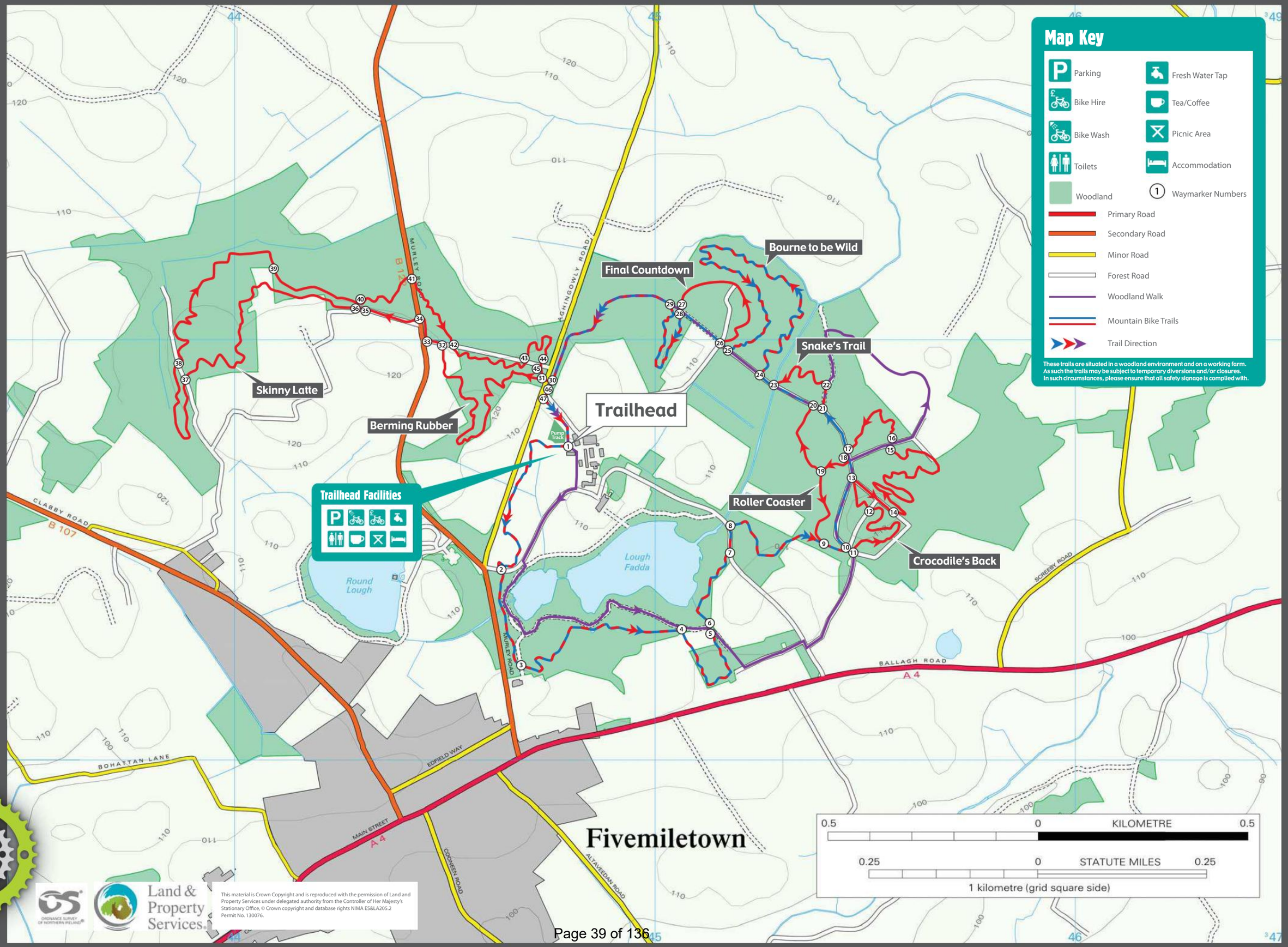
All dimensions are in millimetres. Figured dimensions to be taken in preference to scaled dimensions. Dimensions to be checked on site. © 2010 McAdam Design Ltd

Blessingbourne Trails



MountainBikeNI.com
MTB Trails Northern Ireland

Report on	Mobile Catering Concessions
Date of Meeting	Thursday 10th December 2020
Reporting Officer	Nigel Hill, Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill, Head of Parks

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 seek member's approval to procure mobile concession Grab & Go catering services at selected council owned/managed venues and public Parks.
	Background
2.1	Mobile Catering is recognised as the act of selling prepared food or drink from a vehicle or trailer and is often referred to as street food. Mobile catering can offer a wide range of hot/cold food, confectionery/ice-cream and drink options to the passing public. Mobile catering has become especially popular at outdoor venues and green spaces such as town and country parks and in normal times, can provide support of festivals or other events that require a food or drink source for visitors.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Café and catering concessions across the council parks service collapsed as a result of Covid-19. Catering entrepreneurs have responded to current opportunities with pop-up mobile catering units in public spaces offering Grab & Go services. This approach complies with Covid-19 restrictions as they generally operate in outdoor environments and have the capacity to ensure effective social distancing. Council have been approached by a number of potential providers in relation to offering mobile concession services in public parks. Parks Service have had on hold plans to roll out mobile catering concessions. Taking into consideration current and medium term options for public facing services it is now considered a feasible approach towards fulfilling a current service gap across selected public parks and visitor destinations.
3.1	Mobile caterers are regularly inspected by their local environmental health service to make sure they comply with food safety and food standards legislation. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has produced guidance on food safety management systems for mobile caterers to ensure compliance with food safety legislation and the achievement of best practice.
3.2	It is proposed to seek the appointment of a number of mobile service providers for public facing catering services through an open public tender exercise based on current procurement policy and in line with food safety regulations. Catering providers will be

	required to comply with current Access NI checks as a condition of the procurement exercise.
3.3	Individual Mobile Catering Contracts will be valid for an initial period of one year with an option to extend for a further two, one-year periods subject to satisfactory performance. Tendering parties will be invited to make submissions for either single or multiple venues. The council are proposing to offer mobile catering contracts across significant footfall venues, sample locations as listed, subject to amendments. • Dungannon Park • Ballyronan Marina • Railway Park • OM Dark Skies Park/ Davagh Forest • Knockmany and Pomeroy Forest Parks • Lough Fea • Brantry Wood Trails • Round Lake, Fivemiletown • Coalisland Canal • Glenone Riverside Trail • Washingbay Wetlands Park • Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon • Meadowbank, Magherafelt • Fairhill, Cookstown • Drum Manor • Polepatrick • Walled Garden, Maghera
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Income generation opportunity by way of annual rental of £5000 per annum.
	Human: Effective communication with the concession providers will ensure that services are monitored regularly and delivered to the required standards.
	Risk Management: Parks Manager will monitor services with the catering providers and address any inconsistencies with a view to these being resolved promptly. An evaluation process will be built into service delivery to ensure that performance feedback is regularly received to address concerns (if any) immediately. Successful tenders will be required to enter into a catering agreement for each site location with Mid Ulster District Council.

4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In line with current Mid Ulster District Council policies.
	Rural Needs Implications: In line with current Mid Ulster District Council policies.
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1 5.2	Members are requested to note the content of this report. Members approval is sought to procure mobile catering concessions for Grab & Go services across selected Council owned/managed venues for an initial period of one year with the option to extend for a further two, one year periods subject to satisfactory performance and subject to terms and conditions of a Catering Agreement.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	N/A

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 12 November 2020 in the Council Offices Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present	Councillor McNamee Councillors Ashton*, Black, Burton*, Clarke*, Corry*, Cuddy*, Doris, Elattar*, Kerr, Hughes*, Kearney*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith, Wilson*
Officers in Attendance	Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr M 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 Greer, ICT Support Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Deputation - Tyrone Ladies GAA Councillor McFlynn* Councillor Gildernew*

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance
** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

D168/20 Apologies

None.

D169/20 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in ICBAN and Lough Neagh Partnership.

Councillor Elattar declared an interest in Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

D170/20 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that there would be a change to the agenda proceedings tonight as item 17 - Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group would be taken immediately after item 10 – Economic Report.

Councillor Elattar said that she wanted to welcome the announcement from Minister for Communities Carál Ní Chuilín about the future of social housing in the North as it was apparent for some time there has been housing stress as the number of new build houses hadn't been keeping up with demand either for social or affordable housing. The reclassification of the Housing Executive would enable it to grow and provide citizens with the help with building new homes again and can look forward to more promising times ahead especially for the Housing Executive to be able to build new homes again. In Mid Ulster there was a shortage of affordable housing in smaller rural areas and continue to look at ways in which this can be resolved so local people may be able to live in areas they grew up in rather having to move to neighbouring towns. The existence of smaller local schools, sporting clubs and local communities depend on young people and their families being able to live there. New protection for tenants is also an important factor in the transformation going forward and due to the shortage of social and affordable housing at the moment, a number of families would continue to rely on private rental sector for quite some time to come and they deserve to have the same standard of accommodation and protection as those living in social housing. She said people were looking forward to the largest housing project in decades and being able to provide stable security and affordable homes for those who need them and commended the Minister for her commitment to this project and the innovative ideas for social housing in the North being made more accessible for people in the future.

Councillor Monteith also welcomed the launch and discussions around the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as it was a great step forward as many years ago the Housing Executive had lost the ability to build new houses, but would have some concerns about ideas talked about and when the opportunity arises this would be fed into once the consultation once it happens.

He said that he would be slightly concerned about separating the section of the Housing Executive to allow it to borrow money which sounds very like a large housing association as this was the rationale given away at the beginning that the only way of doing social housing was in this way and whilst a lot of good work had been done by many Housing Associations down through the years, the simple fact was that Housing Association property was not affordable for some people. He would be concerned if this was the direction of plan which the Housing Executive was guided down and where private finance has an influence with rent setting and this would be a major issue for himself and was vital that affordable means affordable and what may be affordable for one family may not be for another. He advised that there was a need to go down the route if a family needs a home then they should be eligible for one and rents set accordingly on the ability to pay and this should be the radical approach compared to one size fits all attitude. He said that he would have a concern around the potential for privatisation around social housing but would welcome the fact that we were moving towards a more robust public sector intervention into social housing programme for the future.

He said that he attended a meeting during the week primarily about Dungannon and felt that it would be beneficial to run a workshop before the consultation was launched to gather up the experience from the people which were stuck on private rent, substandard accommodation or waiting lists and have this evidence ready for the consultation. He felt that this was something Mid Ulster Council have uniquely placed at the forefront on perspectives and was a great opportunity to put forward the experience of the urban setting and the major housing crisis which was in Dungannon along with other urban settings in Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera. He said that there was a need to put forward a very strong case for social housing in rural areas which has always thought was a very flawed system as they would say there was no need for housing in particular rural areas and then developers come in and build 40 – 50 houses in villages and they are snapped up very quickly. He advised that there was a need for this particular argument to be shouted high and loud that there was a need for social housing in rural areas just as much as urban areas as the rationale in the past had failed miserably.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That officers draw up a few of these issues and arrange a workshop to take this forward on behalf of our citizens to get social housing right once and for all.

Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that before the consultation, Officers from the Development Department arrange a workshop on issues so this can be brought forward on behalf of local citizens to get social housing right once and for all.

The Chair stated that at the beginning of the New Year people should be sitting down and looking at all of this and said that Councillor S McPeake had done a lot of work around this when he was Chair of Council. He said that there was no housing for the ordinary person like a single person who may wish to leave home and maybe on a list for the next 10 to 20 years and young couples having no choice but going into the private sector as there was physically no houses for the people and there was a requirement for a massive build project going forward.

Councillor Elattar said she wished to come in on Councillor Monteith's point and that no one wished to see the Housing Executive being privatised and would be certain that this wasn't the way it was going as people fought against that for a long, long time. She agreed with Councillor Monteith's comment 'one model does not fit everyone' so it would be a good idea to sit down and consider all the challenges that may be faced in Mid Ulster with social and affordable housing which needs to be affordable for all and doesn't think in the briefing that the Minister gave emphasised that need for rents remaining low for people. She felt that in the New Year as the Chair previously stated it would be a good idea to sit down and go through all these issues and issue a good response from Mid Ulster District Council.

The Chair advised that a report was being brought tonight on Cross-Departmental Actions for Vulnerable Children and Young People during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period.

The Director for Business and Communities advised that members may recall that at a previous Council meeting, a member asked that a policy response be drawn up and he sought approval from the Development Committee for submission and stated that a draft response was in front of members tonight for consideration. This response focused around four areas and deals with: Increased temporary accommodation places for victims of domestic violence; Families facing financial hardship and/or in food poverty; Children facing educational disadvantage due to school closures and Children/families unable to access services due to reduced service provision and/or social distancing requirement. Also addressed was the educational disadvantages of children through school closures and school meals. He said that a key area which has been raised in the Community Plan was the issue of reduced service provision for children with special needs pre Covid but in particular during Covid where many of them felt abandoned from mainstream support.

He said if members were relatively content that approval would be sought to submit the response and if members had anything to add that this could be done by tomorrow before submission.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to submit response on Cross-Departmental Actions for Vulnerable Children and Young People during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period. Any additional comments to be forwarded tomorrow before submission.

D171/20 Deputation - Tyrone Ladies GAA

The Chair welcomed representatives from Tyrone Ladies GAA - Ms Rita Hannigan, Ms Donna McCrory and Mr Paddy Hunter and invited them to address the committee.

Mr Hunter advised that Tyrone Ladies Football was formed in 1991 in association with the LGFA, with the first season commencing in 1992 with 8 clubs. The club were All Ireland champs at several levels and continue to progress. Today there are 41 clubs, 39 competitions and almost 4000 registered members, with 38 clubs being one club models.

The group provides:

- Football-coaching-fun-activities
- Young female leadership
- Positive way of life
- Health & Wellbeing
- Direction
- Academies
- Positive pathway

The future of Tyrone Ladies GAA:

- Progression of All Teams
- Development of our Clubs
- Increase in Registration/Numbers
- Academies

- Full Time Coaches
- Cairde Tír Eoghan
- Own Facilities
- All Under One Banner

The Chair said that he was disappointed to hear that the Ladies Football didn't receive any money from Club Tyrone and was sure that the ladies were involved in selling the pixels at the time to generate the funding for Garvaghey.

Mr Hunter agreed that this was the case and were involved in the marketing as was evident to see when you look over all the old brochures with a lot senior players being involved and then all of a sudden this ceased.

The Chair referred to the sponsors of Club Tyrone and their perception that their funding was going towards the Ladies football also.

Mr Hunter said that at least 95% of sponsors believe that was the case and also a lot of clubs and individuals believe that and a lot have pulled out because of this.

Councillor Doris thanked the representatives for such an informative presentation and said that there was a lot she didn't know and was quite shocked. She said that Mr Hunter hit the nail on the head as this was not just about sport and not just about physical wellbeing, but about their mental wellbeing also and that was where the GAA really stood out. She said that she had read an article a few years ago and said if you really wanted to look at the heart of the GAA which was also in countries like Australia and Dubai promoting that sense of community and purpose and through this pandemic it was evident to see how important the group was as it was the heart of the community.

She said that going forward officers may be able to provide direction on possible funding but asked if there was any merit in the Council writing a letter to Club Tyrone on trying to lobby on behalf of the Ladies Football to see if there was any funding they could provide or whether there was any suggestion the group could provide in this regards.

Mr Hunter advised that Club Tyrone were a funding body but they didn't own Garvaghey but would welcome any guidance the Council could provide as they were a major contributor to the Garvaghey project. He said that Garvaghey was an issue which raised its head several times and was discussed at a high level last year with a sub-committee formed but due to the pandemic this never went any further and were stuck between a rock and a hard place and still have to come up with the money. From a perspective of handing over money, the HMRC appears to be the major stumbling block because they were a separate organisation, but does note that Club Tyrone were able to claim back £12k tax aid. He said that if his group had £12k reduction in their bill it would be a massive help.

He said that it would be up to the members to see what the plan of action was and certainly a letter to the Garvaghey Management Committee making them aware of the current situation would be a step in the right direction.

Councillor Doris advised that this would be discussed amongst Councillors and was good to get Mr Hunter's input.

Councillor Kerr thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and some fantastic work was being carried out and commended the group. He said that the senior Ladies had reached the All-Ireland Senior Final in 2018 and hoped that there would be similar achievements in the future. He said that overall sport had been a great distraction for people and their mental health and was aware of ladies within his own club helping to develop talent and with the feíle to sustain its future and felt that equality should be shown. He wished the group well in the future endeavors and hoped that the progression of work continues.

He proposed that officers meet with representatives from Tyrone Ladies County Board and look at financial support to help enhance and publicise Tyrone.

Councillor Monteith thanked the group for their presentation and said that he was aware of a number of these issues and concerns which were highlighted over the last six months. He said that Dungannon ladies were very vocal in around the town and made representations to him and would encourage anyone who was a member of a club as it was coming towards the AGM season and to make sure that county reps raise this at the County Board Convention as this was vitally important that this blatant inequality stops. He said that it was vitally important that Ladies sport was recognised within the Gaelic family and resources to succeed as we see the resources that it takes to put the team on the field and their achievements that the Ladies Football has reached with pittance in comparison to men's football. He stressed the need for people involved in local GAA clubs to say that this had been going on long enough and everybody deserved the same crack of the whip and the same resources to put the County to the maximum as each sport costs money and resources and was in no doubt the elite level that many of our female footballers and camogs reached in the past could only be much better if they properly resourced. He concurred with Councillor Kerr and Councillor Doris and said we need to do what we need to do and would second the their idea of writing to Club Tyrone and the County Board as there was a need for this Council to express disappointment regarding some of these issues but also say that the Council wished to work with them. He said that the Council had a member of staff who was a whizz kid when it came to VAT and HMRC and he may be able to advise how to overcome some and felt that if there was a will there was a way. As a Council there was a need to back ladies football and camogie to endeavor to make sure that there was a level playing field.

Councillor Molloy thanked the group for their impressive presentation and said that he was an Armagh Clubman and his daughters play ladies football and referred to what Mr Hunter said Armagh Football and their facilities and that this was born out of a similar situation in relation to level access to facilities and had to go it alone and get their facilities put up. He said that a lot of the clubs were now under the one banner but with two distinct organisations within that which makes things very difficult, but was also an opportunity because they were a distinct organisation on their own this may be more beneficial. He agreed with members comments around officers sitting down with the group to see what assistance and support can be provided to the group going forward.

Councillor Ashton thanked the representatives and said it was very informative and said what she picked up on was that the group were looking at acquiring their own site and asked was it a case of Garvaghey being unable to accommodate the Ladies Football or was it just an issue over the funding and payment for the facilities.

Mr Hunter thanked Councillor Ashton for her interest and said that the situation currently was that the ladies were to go back to Garvaghey in August of this year as planned when the teams were allowed to go back and previously booking were through email and no issue with it, but there was no information received at all until he happened to be covering a game at Garvaghey and he happened to meet the County Chairman and asked him what the situation as and was given a load of excuses on why they weren't allowed to use it, ranging from rabbits and the lack of toilets etc. The decision was taken that they couldn't wait any longer despite the fact that the Tyrone men and under 20's were both there that same week. He said that Garvaghey was still very much on the agenda and do hope to go back but wanted to thank some of the clubs Clog, Galbally, Omagh and Errigal Ciaran who were are fantastic for helping the group out but as Councillors recognise, there needs to be one base to operate the facility from. He advised that there was a longing to go back to Garvaghey next year and just to clarify that this wasn't a case of not being granted permission or funding, but more the fact that the group couldn't wait any longer this year to use the facility but come December there would be another application made to use the grounds again for the various programmes in January. He stated that the future plan would be to have a pitch of their own if they could get one.

Councillor Clarke thanked the representatives from Tyrone Ladies Football and stated that he was a proud member of an integrated club known as An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg which had an integrated club for over 10 years now, where everyone is equal and no male or female dominance and whoever was elected to a position within the committee was elected. He said Mr Hunter had enlightened him on some things but advised that some of these issues had been raised with the County Board by some of his clubs delegates. He said that in his opinion they didn't need extra ground but there was a need for Garvaghey to be open to everybody because there are five playing pitches available and should be sufficient and felt that the Council should have some input as financial supporters of the facility and some common sense on how it was allowed to be used. There was a lot of funding being raised from within the GAA in Tyrone for GAA but as it turns out it was going towards the male sector and this needed to be addressed and on the overall scheme of things support needed to be provided as it wasn't a massive amount of funding as they are doing a fantastic job which he could vouch for within his own club as they play both play at intermediate and senior level and this year they were in the Senior Semi Final and the League Semi Final. He concluded by saying that the ladies should receive the same recognition within the clubs as men and wished them well in the years ahead.

Councillor Kearney said that Garvaghey was always flagged up as the Centre of Excellence and was disappointed to hear that such inequality existed and wanted to support Tyrone GAA Ladies in their quest and asked that Council investigate ways in which support can be provided to the group. He advised that he was a GAA man himself and was surprised and disappointed that this was the case within Tyrone and wished the ladies well in their endeavors.

The Chair thanked the group for their presentation and as they could see there had been great support for themselves going forward in tackling this injustice. He said that there were suggestions about writing to the County Board and Club Tyrone, but felt the best way forward would be to sit down with Officers to seek a way forward with a meeting being followed up on how to proceed and looking at funding opportunities so equality is there for everyone.

Mr Hunter issued a massive thank you to the committee on behalf of himself, Ms McCrory, Ms Hannigan and the Tyrone Ladies on taking time to listen to them tonight and wished them the best of luck going forward.

Representatives of Tyrone Ladies GAA left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Matters for Decision

D172/20 Mountain Bike NI Consortium

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought permission to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2020-21.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to propose the recommendation but would like Council Officers to explore the potential for mountain biking in Drumcairn Forest. It was already used by some bikers locally as there was no other facilities like it around that area within Mid Ulster. She said that she was aware of work being done with some local groups like the Island Wheelers, the Council and a Consortium who have realised the potential of the forest and asked that this be given consideration.

Councillor Kerr said that he would second the proposal and enquired if there was any update on Drumcairn and Altmore projects and whether there was any further progress on the licensing issues with the Forestry Service or Water Services in regards to the reservoirs.

The Head of Parks advised that as indicated at the previous meeting, the Council were making progress on their master-planning which was approved by Council and since that, discussions had taken place with the Altmore community this week in relation to Terms of Reference before proceeding. He referred to the Altmore facility and stated that discussions had been taking place with Forest Service, he had also spoken to the legal team regarding Water Service this week with things progressing, but it was a process and does take time to move forward.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to Mid Ulster District Council being a participant partner in the Mountain Bike NI Consortium for 2020/21 at a cost of £6,666.00.

D173/20 Conway Close, Cookstown - Lease Agreement

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought permission to formalise the current arrangement relating to land adjacent to 17 Conway Close Dunamore, Cookstown from Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the purpose of play provision.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council:

a) To accept the valuation from NIHE of £1,000 to purchase the Freehold of the parcel of land at Conway Close, Dunamore.
b) sought to purchase the Freehold of the land valued at £1,000 from Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) as out lined in Red (Appendix). Endorsement is sought to present Lease Agreements and associated LPS valuations on receipt, for P&R Committee approval.

D174/20 DAERA: Environmental Challenge Fund 2020/2021

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought permission to accept the Funding Offer from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs: Environment Challenge Competition 2020/21 successful application for the redevelopment of Ballyronan Wood.

Councillor Elattar proposed to proceed with the recommendation and said that she welcomed the work which was carried out at Ballyronan as it was very well used throughout the district.

Councillor Clarke agreed that it was a good piece of work which would enhance the area.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

a) Accept the DAERA Environmental Challenge Fund 2020/2021 funding opportunity as per the Letter of Offer.
b) Approve allocation of match funding £40,500 to the Ballyronan Wood redevelopment from the Councils Outdoor Recreation Five year Strategic Plan capital programme allocation.
c) Appoint a suitably qualified ICT and IST for the delivery of associated consultancy and contract works services.

D175/20 Financial Assistance Offer from TNI for a New Tourism Website

The Head of Tourism presented previously report and sought permission to avail of 100% financial assistance from Tourism NI for a dedicated Mid Ulster Council tourism website and to seek permission to avail of 75% funding from The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the development of experience tourism and product development clusters to align to the Tourism NI ‘Embrace a Giant Spirit’ brand.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris

Resolved That it be recommended to Council:

a) To progress with the development of a new destination tourism website.
b) If successful Council development two experiential tourism and product

development clusters with a maximum match funding contribution of £16,666. Opportunities to develop a collaborative project with Antrim & Newtownabbey under the themes of 'Living Loughs' and 'Mid Ulster's history and heritage'.

Councillor Doris said that this was very useful and praised the Tourism team as they had provided exceptional work throughout the whole pandemic and recognised the fact that working online was very challenging for the tourism industry. She stated that this would be a great lift to the industry after COVID and very welcome and again thanked the Tourism team working behind the schemes during this difficult time.

The Head of Tourism in response to Chair's query advised that he anticipated that the website would should be ready by end the March and ready for the new season given that staycation was the buzz word at the moment and would want it active by that stage.

Councillor Cuddy said it was good to see anything which could help the industry as it had been flat this last few years and enquired if there was a business plan to target the amount of people using the site so there was something to measure against it in years to come.

The Head of Tourism advised that certainly that all the data and analysis would be measured as the details relating to where the visitors were from and what they were doing, data from that would be collated and submitted to committee if required.

Councillor Molloy said that he welcomed the website as maintenance and freshness was always a major concern around websites. He stated that the Comms team was doing an excellent job around social media and other things but seen there was an inbuilt cost around the maintenance annually for someone to maintain it and felt that this would be good going forward to keep it updated and refreshed.

The Chair stated that it was very important to keep the website fresh and to see a new dimension each month.

D176/20 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to update members on the following:

- Grants – to agree the rolling good relations grants & Decade of Anniversaries Grant
- Peace IV – to agree the Peace IV Proposal
- Community Development – to note the update report

Councillor Doris declared an interest in Peace IV as she sat on the panel.

Councillor Doris sought clarification on Canal Walkway in Coalisland and said that although she welcomed what was proposed within the report, there had been a report presented previously which was being addressed later within Confidential Business, but said that it was her thinking that this Peace IV funding wasn't going to be used for lighting in terms of the Canal Walkway.

The Head of Community Development agreed with the Councillor that this was the case as this was based on before the opening up before going into the Canal.

Councillor Doris felt that this was a disappointment for some the Torrent Councillors and asked if there was meant to be funding allocated from the Heritage Lottery in terms of the Canal Walkway and was wondering if there was any update on this. She advised that she would seek clarification from the Head of Community Development after tonight's meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve:

(i) Grant award recommendation for Good Relations (£1,629) & Decade of Anniversaries (£625).

(ii) Peace IV Proposal for delivery of the projects. The project will also go to the next Peace IV Partnership. The total project cost is £377,438 and the confirmed underspend currently is £330,000. Final underspend to be known following the tender for the shared space projects.

(iii) Community Development – to note the update report

Councillor Monteith raised the issue of Community Planning and stated that before COVID had come into play, members had been told during the presentation from the Southern Trust that there would be engagement with the Council's Community Planning department in relation to the medical hub for Dungannon and the work they would have to carry out in order to have it implemented into their projections for their 3 to 4 year plan. He said that it was his understanding that it was in the 4/5 year plan which was in place and would propose that a meeting was sought with the Trust by DEA or any Councillor that was interested to see where this was at and like Officers to investigate so progress can be made as fast as possible. He said that there had been a number of issues recently or for a number of years regarding GP provision and the lack of GP's in the Dungannon area and other parts of the area also which accumulated severe pressure being put on GP's who were already under severe pressure to elevate pressures within Armagh and other places.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Officers set up an update meeting to see where this issue was currently at and bring it forward as a job of work

The Head of Community Development advised that an update had been sought from the Trust at the beginning of the week on matters which were previously agreed and they came back with an email response to say that their Capital was still under review. She advised that there were a number of Capital projects for Mid Ulster i.e. Dungannon, Cookstown medical hubs and Oakridge and this was something that can't be brought forward until Officers see the lists and what was available.

D177/20 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) TEDx (Mid Ulster) 2020

At the Development Committee on 12 March 2020, Members recommended to Council to approve Gold Level sponsorship of £2,000 towards the event which had been scheduled for June 2020. However, due to Covid, the event will now take place virtually (but filmed in the Tullylagan Hotel) on 27 November 2020. It is the first time that a TEDx event will take place in outside Belfast.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business & Communities/Chief Executive to manage the allocation of the 4 TEDx tickets in line with Council procedures, ahead of Council Meeting on 26 November 2020.

ii) Women in Business 'Yes You Can' Collaboration Programme – Year 3

In March 2018, Council approved a proposal from Women in Business to all 11 Councils for the delivery of a three-year collaborative regional programme entitled 'Yes You Can' between Women in Business, Invest NI and the 11 Councils to increase and support levels of female entrepreneurship. The initiative is a collaboration resulting from a unique situation: An American entrepreneur originally from NI, impressed with the efforts of Women in Business to encourage new female entrepreneurs, made a financial commitment (£200,000) towards the development of other support initiatives, the 11 Councils and Invest NI are each contributing £200,000 (Mid Ulster District Council's contribution is approximately £6,060 for each of the 3 years). Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council are acting as Lead Council on behalf of the 11 Councils.

Councillor Doris advised that this was very beneficial for the Mid Ulster area.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve provision of up to £6,060 towards the third and final year of delivery of the 'Yes You Can' Programme, subject to Women in Business providing Council with an Activity Plan for 2021 outlining how they propose to promote the Initiative to achieve a higher level of participant engagement.

(iii) DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020

The Rural Business Development Grant Scheme is funded by DAERA through the TRPSI (Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation) Programme. It focuses on existing rural micro businesses employing less than10 employees, offering 50% in grant aid against eligible costs up to £4,999 to support actions aimed at improving business sustainability and growth.

The Scheme opened for applications on 3rd August 2020 and closed on 11th September 2020 at 12 noon. A total of 315 complete applications were received by the closing date. A further 15 were received after the closing deadline and deemed ineligible. The value of applications received far exceeds the level of grant aid allocated to Mid Ulster District Council of £62,000. DAERA has indicated but not confirmed that additional funding may be provided following completion of assessments. The Contract for delivery of this Scheme sets out specific progress milestones with 30th November 2020 identified as the date by which applications are to be assessed and letters of offer issued to successful applicants.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

a) Note update on the Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2020 and pressure on delivery timescales.

b) Approve delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business & Communities/Chief Executive that once project applications are assessed, scored and ranked, the Director/Chief Executive can approve letters of offer in ranked order, up to the maximum grant funding available for issue by 30th November 2020. A report will be brought to the Development Committee immediately afterwards to update Members on the outcome of assessment and scoring to note approved projects.

iv) LEADER Contract Variations

DAERA has issued variations to both the Contract for administration support between Council and LAG and the SLA between Council and DAERA to extend the original term of both to 31st March 2022. These extensions are necessary to complete the delivery of the NI LEADER Programme. Signed variations are to be returned to DAERA by 30th November 2020.

Councillor Clarke said that he would be happy to propose as there had been a tremendous amount of work put into this by Officers and the LAG team on getting the large amount of projects of the ground and would be confident that the vast majority of these projects would be completed by 31 March 2021. He said that he would be aware that there could be overruns but was delighted to be able to propose it.

He advised that there was an item which didn't appear and was very important in the rural areas which was the Project Stratum.

The Director of Business and Communities said that today he had received an email from the Department from the Economy inviting himself and Alison McCullagh to a virtual meeting with DfE officials next Wednesday or Thursday for Fermanagh & Omagh and Mid Ulster Councils for an the update on the management of the tender and the proposed roll out of the tender and specific implications for these two Council areas, which he accepted

and would brief Council with immediate effect once he became better informed on what the numbers were; number of houses, number of contacts etc. right across Mid Ulster

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve:

a) Contract variation for signature between Council and the LAG for administration support provided by Council to 31 March 2022.
b) Service Level Agreement variation for signature between DAERA and Council outlining the administration services to be provided by Council to the LAG to 31 March 2022.

v) ICBAN Framework of Regional Priorities 2021-2027

The key ambitions of ICBAN's Framework of Regional Priorities reflect the current and evolving challenges and opportunities at local, regional, national and international levels. They are:

- To develop as a sustainable region, characterised by increased employment, improved economic activity, social progress and ecological sustainability;
- To redress economic and social inequalities between the Central Border Region and other areas of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the inequalities which persist within the region itself;
- To influence and work with the Governments of Ireland and Northern Ireland on their investment priorities for the region, by providing an evidence base to justify investments; and
- To identify opportunities for local authorities and other stakeholders to work together to realise opportunities and to respond to the challenges facing the region.

The strategic priorities and deliverables detailed in the Framework are presented under five interlocking and complementary pillars namely:

- Economic development;
- Infrastructure and connectivity;
- Human capital – education and training;
- Liveable communities; and
- Greening the region.

In completing the final version of the Framework, the pandemic's developing impacts have been incorporated, as well as the challenges of Brexit and climate change on our border region. As the Framework has now been finalised, ICBAN seeks support for the document from each Member Council by 18 November 2020, in advance of moving towards implementation stage. Mr Shane Campbell, CEO of ICBAN indicated he is happy to meet with Council Members and/or Officers at any stage to discuss the Framework in more detail, if required.

Councillor Molloy proposed the recommendation and stated that it was a fantastic in-depth report and would advise anyone to read it on ongoing issues relating to COVID, Brexit and all the challenges faced with on the border corridor. He referred to page 42 of the report in

relation to Blueways and Greenways and was aware that some work had been done around the Ulster Canal Blueway/Greenway and the link to Caledon. He said he noticed what other Councils were now achieving as there was now a Greenway from Sligo to Enniskillen and a proposed Greenway from Enniskillen to Clones and a number of Greenways around Clones and an extension into Monaghan resulting in Mid Ulster being the poor relation even though this was beyond Council control but felt that something needed to be done to get more work done around it.

He referred to Brexit and stated that although it was a side issue, there had been a presentation made to the Assembly's Executive Committee last week with himself and the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure and out of that meeting one of the things which had been discussed was the cost of Brexit to the Mid Ulster area, not only to Council in terms of the loss of programmes and various funding streams, but to the entire region. He was aware of the fantastic work which the Head of Economic Development carried out on pulling figures together at the last minute but would like the Council to put together a ballpark figure on what it was going to cost to both the Council and wider economy in terms of Brexit in January and was aware that things were not fully straightened out in terms of trade deals and tariffs on these kind of issues. A major impact was going to hit immediately, besides COVID, Brexit was happening in January and no getting away from that, but it was going to have a financial impact in the Mid Ulster area and this includes South West College, Industry and Manufacturing, Rural Development programme and other funded schemes and would like to see calculations brought back to Council within the next few meetings to evaluate that.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to ICBAN to offer support towards the Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region of Ireland / Northern Ireland 2021/2027.

Councillor Kearney wanted to commend Councillor Molloy on reading up on this so intensely and for his suggestions as there were 3 or 4 of the committee which sat on ICBAN. He drew attention to page 55 where the ICBAN Chief Executive, Shane Campbell was happy to meet with the Council and Council officials, whether this committee or the main committee just to discuss these type of issues as there was a lot of work gone into the strategy. He wanted to take the opportunity to say that Councillor Burton and himself had met over 31 times each Tuesday since April on following up matters and he was getting to the Brexit debate this week as the only Councillor in Northern Ireland with the English Councils. He advised that he was also following up on the Shared Prosperity Fund and had been keeping a very close eye on that as there had been very little movement on that.

He said if the Chair was mindful it would be an excellent opportunity for the Council to hear from Mr Shane Campbell himself in person.

The Chair suggested that it may be more beneficial that this request go to full Council as it was more appropriate for all members to have an opportunity to hear Mr Campbell's update.

He advised members that the issue of the Greenway was very important and felt that this was an opportunity for Mid Ulster Council to get involved.

D178/20 Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 5th October 2020

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report and sought approval for:

1) Minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group held on 5th October 2020 at Council offices, Dungannon and by remote link
2) Revised Irish Language Action Plan for the remainder of 2020/21, including the delivery of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to:

i) Note the Minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group held on 5th October 2020
ii) Revised Irish Language Action Plan for the remainder of 2020/21 including the delivery of the annual Irish Language Activity Funding Programme as detailed and as discussed at the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of 5th October 2020

Councillor Ashton said she wished to record the DUPs objection to the Irish Signage rollout.

Matters for Information

D179/20 Minutes of Special Development Committee held on 1 October 2020

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 1 October 2020.

Councillor Monteith referred to item raised at the Special Development Committee meeting on 29 October 2020 and asked that the issue of All Ireland Healthcare Service be an item on the Agenda for the next Development Committee meeting.

D180/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 October 2020

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 October 2020.

Councillor Monteith referred to the Covid response to the community on the various foodbanks and said that last week a further request had been approved for support, amongst others the Vineyard Church and St Vincent De Paul in Dungannon were included. He said that it was also important to highlight the fact that the premises St Vincent de Paul used to store donations from the community had once again been attacked this week by vandals, St Patrick's Hall was an extremely historic and iconic

building in the history of Dungannon and had sadly been the victim of a number of attacks and vandalism over this last 7 to 9 months with a fire being started on two different episodes within the last number days. He said that previously the fire had been more external but the fire last week had completely destroyed large parts of the building and on previous attacks donations which the local community had put forward for those most in need were destroyed, vandalised and stolen. He was aware of ongoing issues in Union Place and a lot of the community within that area felt very much that they have been left behind and when Greer's Road was built it was very much against the wishes of the community as this was built potentially to accommodate the Ann Street Development at the time, with the community being very opposed and adamant that the main road put through their community had led to a lot of the rundown within the community.

He suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Council to St Vincent de Paul expressing their solidarity with them on their hard work and advising them of their value within the community. He said it was just sad to see in this day and age with all the good work which has been done that there were still a small number of individuals amongst us who wished to attack the very best which was going on within our community.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Monteith and said that he was very disappointed to hear this especially for an organisation which does so much for the local community.

Councillor referred to D151/20 – Halloween festivities and wanted to congratulate Ogras Youth Club & Fianna Oileán an Ghuail CLG on the really successful work that they done in the run up to Halloween in Coalisland. She said that a number of meetings had taken place in the run up to Halloween and funding secured to provide pizza's and help towards a FIFA tournament which seen over 50 participants taking part.

She suggested that a letter be issued on behalf of the Chair of this committee to the groups involved on their commendable work on their innovative thinking during this difficult period of time.

The Chair advised that this could be looked into.

Councillor Corry enquired if there was any update in relation to the workshop for the Decade of Anniversaries – Centenaries.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised a tentative date had been suggested for Monday 14 December commencing at 6 pm but was awaiting confirmation on availability.

The Director for Business and Communities advised that once confirmation was received an email would be issued to members.

D181/20 DfC Strategy for Sport Consultation

Members noted update in relation to Dfc Strategy for Sport Consultation advising that Officers have issued a return for the Department for Communities (DfC) Strategy for Sport Consultation.

Councillor Monteith said that this was a good piece of work carried out in relation to Sport Consultation but the issue of lifelong sport needed to be supported as statistics show the

vast amount of people which are involved in lifelong sport are involved from a very young age. He said that it was important to move forward with this initiative as there was a need to target people of different ages, especially people who were never involved with sport at schools, late teens, early twenties, thirties, forties and right up through the age brackets and should encourage the funding bodies to encourage some of our sporting clubs to attract non-elite participation. He was aware of a lot of this work being carried out in Dublin city like non-competitive football, non-competitive hurling, walking and those type of activities so there was a need to try and encourage the same kind of initiative here and just because people don't start out young at sport doesn't mean that they cannot start later in life and this needs to be highlighted. This has to be encouraged within the next number of years due to mental health and physical health aspects and felt that this Council was able to manage it with the help of sporting clubs in the area.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Monteith and said that this should be encouraged throughout the district and was sure that officers would follow up suggestions made.

Councillor Burton in referring to previous comments, enquired about rural areas and asked how often officers engaged with the rural communities like Caledon, Augher, Clogher, Fivemiletown and some of the more rural villages who do try and get smaller groups together within their area like football and also activities for inclusion of girls. She said that this should be a two-way stream as it was so important to get young people involved in sport as it helps their mental and physical help and a deterrent towards anti-social behavior.

The Chair advised that figures may not be in front of officers tonight, but assured the member that these would be issued as soon as possible.

Councillor Burton said that she was sure that officers knew whether or not if they engage outwardly or was it for each area to contact the officers and this was also her query.

The Head of Leisure advised that officers would be happy to investigate this and get back to Councillor Burton, but just to advise that officers would be happy to have a discussion with any group and had been doing so over COVID. Though virtual means and social media websites officers make themselves available and if Councillors had any groups in mind, officers would be happy to engage with them.

D182/20 Potential Restructure of Intermediate Football

Members noted update in relation to Potential Restructure of Intermediate Football and correspondence issued by the Irish Football Association (IFA) to the Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) indicating that the planned restructure of Intermediate Football is discontinued at this time.

D183/20 Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding Progress Report

Members noted update in relation to Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding Progress.

D184/20 Ulster-Scots Funding, PHASE 2, US Grant Ancestral Homestead

Members noted update in relation to Ulster-Scots Funding, PHASE 2, US Grant Ancestral Homestead.

D185/20 Economic Development – OBFI

Members noted updates on the following matters:

- Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2020
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (16-20 November 2020)
- Mid Ulster Careers Attractiveness Initiative
- Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme– Phase 1 Evaluation (2019/2020)
- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 7.9.20
- Business Eye Magazine : Mid Ulster Feature
- ICBAN Update – October 2020

Councillor Kerr referred to item 3.4 – Spruce up Scheme and said that he was fully aware that the grant itself was firmly shut for new applications, but everytime he sees this on the Agenda he was reminded about the issue around boundaries. He said that unfortunately with the boundaries which currently exist some businesses throughout Mid Ulster area are left out for any opportunity to apply for a grant and said that he looked forward to a review in the future so that all businesses are eligible and avail of it.

The Chair agreed with Councillor Kerr and said that he was aware of some businesses not receiving any funding the first time around within the Tranche but hoped going forward more funding may be made available for all types of businesses at some stage.

Live broadcast ended at 8.30 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Milne 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 D186/20 to D192/20.

Matters for Decision

D186/20 Village Extension Programme – Maghera Leisure Centre
D187/20 Update on Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21
D188/20 Economic Development – CBFD
D189/20 DFI Active Travel Options for Mid Ulster

Matters for Information

D190/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 October 2020

D191/20 Leisure Month 6 Review – 2020/21
D192/20 Economic Development - CBFI

D193/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.05 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	Business & Communities Department – External Investment Leverage Report 2019/2020
Date of Meeting	10 December 2020
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive / Director of Business & Communities

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 advise members of the external investment leveraged by the Business and Communities Department to support Council priorities in 2019-20.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The Council attracts external funding in order to advance the quality of life for residents and increase investment into the District.
2.2	The Council has agreed to capitalise on external funding opportunities to meet Corporate objectives within the Corporate Plan 2015-19.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	With pressures upon Council income both direct and indirect, it is essential that Council seeks to optimise the amount of external resources which support the delivery of key actions and priorities. However, external funding is a finite funding stream and competition will become greater due to the mounting financial pressures being faced by local councils and the level of uncertainty around the full financial impact of Covid-19.
3.2	The Business & Communities Department is responsible for community services, the Policing and Community Safety Partnership, rural development, economic development, regeneration, investment, tourism and events, arts and culture. The Department has sought to supplement its budget with external funding and investment from a wide range of sources to assist the delivery of programmes and projects for the District.
3.3	The Department has secured the funding either directly following an application or supported other departments and partners in attracting funding from a number of sources.

3.4 The total external funding leveraged in 2019/20 by the Business and Communities Division was **£6.8million**, a breakdown of which is shown in Table 1 below, with a more detailed analysis contained in **Appendix 1.**

Table 1: Business & Communities - Summary of External Leverage Funding 2019-20

	Total Project Cost 2019-20	MUDC Funding 2019-20	External Leverage Funding 2019-20
Economic Development	£3,894,250.22	£623,772.72	£3,270,477.50
Community Development	£2,763,780.00	£814,158.00	£1,949,622.00
Tourism	£1,703,176.00	£672,800.00	£1,030,376.00
Culture and Arts	£829,598.93	£200,000	£629,598.93
TOTALS	**£9,190,805.15**	**£2,310,730.72**	**£6,880,074.43**

3.5 In summary for every £1 invested, the Council has levered an additional £3 of other external monies.

3.6 It is worth highlighting that the Department has secured in access of £5M in the first seven months of the current financial year (2020/21) and a report will be brought forward to Members at the end of the reporting period.

3.7 To maximise funding opportunities for the District, collaboration with partner organisations and stakeholders play an increasingly important role in securing financial support for projects in the future.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the report sets out the level of external funding that has been levered, which totals £6,880,074.43.

Human: Officer time.

Risk Management: None for the purposes of the report.

4.2 Screening & Impact Assessments

Equality & Good Relations Implications:
None for the purposes of the report.

Rural Needs Implications:
A number of programmes and projects have delivered direct support and investment in rural areas.

5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	It is recommended that Members; **Note** report highlighting that the total external funding leveraged in 2019-20 by the Business and Communities Department was **£6.8million**.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	Appendix 1 - Summary of External Investment Leveraged by the Business and Communities Department in 2019-20.

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT - EXTERNAL INVESTMENT LEVERAGE 2019-2020								
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT								
Funder/Source	**Name of Programme/Project**	**Description of Programme/Project**	**Partners**	**Duration**	**Total Cost (£)**	**MUDC (£)**	**Ext leverage Funding (£)**	**Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)**
Department for the Economy,European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and South West College (SWC)	(SUSE+) Step Up to Sustainable Employment Programme	Seeks to target a total of 900 clients (200 in this year due to Covid). The project operates across 2 Council areas Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council. The Programme aims to engage disadvantaged young people from rural areas to support them to obtain employability skills, qualifications and progress into further education training apprenticeships and employment.	DfE/ESF, South West College, Northern Regional College, DAERA, Radius Housing, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council	2018-2022 (Year 2019-2020 costs and targets noted here)	633662.51	26438.33	607224.18	Year 2 Targets: 246 participants recruited from MUDC area, of which 139 were from rural areas. 603 qualiications achieved, 67 entered into employment and 54 undertook further training/education.
Department for the Economy, European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and Enterprise Northern Ireland (ENI)	(EE4P) Exploring Enterprise 4 Programme	Seeks to target a total of 178 participants (40 x 2 years and 49 x 2 years) The project operates across 25 regional areas including Mid Ulster District Council. This is a pre-start enterprise programme targetting disadvantaged groups who are unemployed / economically inactive to help them address barriers to progression into education training and employment, attain empolyability skills/qualifications and explore self employment or return to the labour market.	DfE/ESF, Enterprise NI, Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership, and Mid Ulster District Council	2018-2022 (Year 2019-2020 costs and targets noted here)	39191.76	6676.62	32515.14	Year 2 Targets: 40 participants recruited from MUDC area, 24 individuals achieved Level 1 Understanding Business Enterprise qualiication, 23 entered into employment and 1 entered further training/ education.
Department for the Economy, European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and Network Personnel	(UFWP) Up for Work Programme	Seeks to target a total of 300 clients (75 clients in each year). The programme adopts a youth based methodology targetting those aged 16-24 years who are NEETS to develop personal, social and employability skills qualifications and progress into employment or further training.	DfE/ESF, Mid Ulster District Council and Network Personnel	2018-2022 (Year 2019-2020 costs and targets noted here)	261651.86	8645.84	253006.02	Year 2 Targets: 95 participants recruited from MUDC area, 238 qualiications achieved, 52 into employment and 21 undertook further training/education.
Department for the Economy, European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and Network Personnel	(JMP) Job Match Programme	Seeks to target a total of 392 clients (98 in each year) from marginalised groups (i.e. those with mental health problems, debt problems, caring responsibilities, etc. to help them develop personal and social employability skills and qualifications to enable them to progress into further education, training and employment opportunities	DfE / ESF, Mid Ulster District Council and Network Personnel	2018-2022 (Year 2019-2020 costs and targets noted here)	756221.60	9641.51	746580.09	Year 2 Targets: 123 participants recruited from MUDC area, 201 qualiications achieved, 63 into employment and 10 undertook further training/education.
ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme	NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP)	NIBSUP - Funding leverage of 80% provided to resource i) the Programme of delivery of Business Plans, ii) the Regional Marketing Campaign and iii) the Enquiry Handling facility.	11 NI Councils and Invest NI	NIBSUP Sept 2017 - Jan 2021 (Yr 3 costs only noted here)	167826.00	59746.00	108080.00	NIBSUP (from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) saw 301 Business Plans delivered in Mid Ulster, promoting 185 jobs.
ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme Northern Ireland (2014-20), Invest NI and Mid Ulster District Council	Tender Ready Programme	By 31 Dec 2022 targets are to: recruit 130 micro and small businesses and build their capacity to win new work, create 195 jobs, make 20 Quality Invest NI referrals and win £5m in new work. Total value £258,600	ERDF IGJ Fund (60%), Invest NI (20%) and Mid Ulster District Council (20%)	2019 - 2022 (2019/20 costs noted here)	35650.00	7130.00	28520.00	36 businesses recruited 6 jobs created 3 tenders won to the value of £2,030,000
ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme Northern Ireland (2014-20), Invest NI and Mid Ulster District Council	Digital First Programme	By 31 Dec 2022 targets are to: recruit 150 micro and small businesses and build their digital capacity, create 225 jobs, make 20 Quality Invest NI referrals and win £1m in new sales/turnover. Total value £221,750.	ERDF IGJ Fund (60%), Invest NI (20%) and Mid Ulster District Council (20%)	2019 - 2022 (2019/20 costs noted here)	14875.00	2975.00	11900.00	37 businesses recruited
ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme Northern Ireland (2014-20), Invest NI and Mid Ulster District Council	Transform Programme	By 31 Dec 2022 targets are to: recruit 160 micro and small businesses to help them recruit and retain staff, create 260 jobs, and make 15 Quality Invest NI referrals. Total value £263,000	ERDF IGJ Fund (60%), Invest NI (20%) and Mid Ulster District Council (20%)	2019 - 2022 (2019/20 costs noted here)	4700.00	940.00	3760.00	40 businesses recruited
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership - Local Rural Development Strategy (Village Renewal Scheme)	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership	2014-2020	1393972.00	348493.00	1045479.00	Village improvement projects completed in 13 villages
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Icolation DAERA	Rural Busines Investment Pilot Scheme	DAERA	2019/20	166842.00	0.00	166842.00	External grant aided programme administered by Coucil which funded 45 rural micro businesses for growth and sustainability activities
Department for Communities	Cookstown Gateway Revitalisation Project	Upgrade of A29 Roundabout:- Signage, Lighting, Cleaning of Public Art, Installation of maintenance footpath	Mid Ulster District Council	September 2019 - March 2020	55315.00	10315.00	45000.00	Strategic Entry & Exit point to Cookstown along the A29 corridor upgraded

Private Sector	Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme - Phase 1	Grants of up to £5,000 available to property owners within the designated boundaries of the 5 town of Mid Ulster and the development limits of the 46 villages across Mid Ulster at a rate of 75% to conduct internal / external improvements to their properties.	Private Sector	November 2019 - March 2020	200834.38	112771.42	88062.96	32 properties across the 5 towns and 46 villages grant aided for internal / external improvements. Breakdown of Leverage funding: £112,771.42 (MUDC) & £88,062.96 (Private sector).
Department for Communities (DfC)	Coalisland Public Realm Scheme* (*Project led by Dept. of Public Health & Infrastructure and supported by Economic Development Team).	The project involves creating a high quality physical environment on the following streets - The Square, Dungannon Road, Barrack Square, Main Street, Stewartstown Road, Station Road, Lineside, Barrack Street, Washingbay Road,Platters Hill, Seagrave Terrace	DfC	2019-2021	163508.11	30000.00	133508.11	Enhanced Town Centre aesthetics.
			ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOTAL 1:		**3894250.22**	**623772.72**	**3270477.50**	
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT								
Funder/Source	**Name of Programme/Project**	**Description of Programme/Project**	**Partners**	**Duration**	**Total Cost (£)**	**MUDC (£)**	**Ext leverage Funding (£)**	**Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)**
Department of Justice	Policing & Community Safety Partnership	Community Safety / Policing.	Statutory (Designated) & Independent members	April 2019 - March 2020	323,193.00	38,995.00	284,198.00	To empower communities, to help develop solutions that will help tackle crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. 55 Strategic Projects/Interventions.
Department for Communities (DfC)	MUDC Community Support Programme.	Resourcing the community and voluntary sector with particular focus on provision of Advice Services.	Council, informal social compact with the local community and voluntary sector	April 2019 - March 2020	784,976.00	597,793.00	187,183.00	To strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services. 800 Groups/Projects supported across 14 different programmes.
Department for Communities (DfC)	Coalisland and Dungannon Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.	Addressing under investment in disadvantaged areas.	Multi-agency/stakeholder Partnership.	April 2019 - March 2020	41,411.00	2,070.00	39,341.00	Tackling Deprivation & Disadvantage in top 10% of MDM wards. 8 Posts supported. 11 Strategic Programmes supported (Social, Economic, Community & Environmental).
Office of First & Deputy First Minister	Community Relations Programme	TBUC - Together Building a United Community.	Internal / External Stakeholders	April 2019 - March 2020	414,000.00	104,000.00	310,000.00	T:BUC Objectives promoting a shared & inclusive society. 8 posts part supported. 65 Groups support with small grants. 32 Strategic Projects. 33 Decade of Anniversary Projects.
Department for Communities (DfC)	MUDC Community Festival Programme	Encouraging and support community events.	Internal / External Stakeholders	April 2019 - March 2020	100,200.00	71,300.00	28,900.00	Support festival development and wide diversity of community participation. Over 125 events supported.
SEUPB	PEACE 4	Council Peace 4 Action Plan	Council	2019-20	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	Deliveryof Peace 4 Action Plan
SEUPB	PEACE 4	Connecting Pomeroy	Internal / External	2019-20	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	Connecting Pomeroy Project
				COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - TOTAL 2:	**2,763,780.00**	**814,158.00**	**1,949,622.00**	
ARTS & CULTURE								
Funder/Source	**Name of Programme/Project**	**Description of Programme/Project**	**Partners**	**Duration**	**Total Cost (£)**	**MUDC (£)**	**Ext leverage Funding (£)**	**Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)**
DAERA - Rural Tourism Fund	Seamus Heaney Open Ground	Develop a series of six sites offering visitors the opportunity to access new journeys enhanced by both traditional and innovative interpretation, which intuitively tell the story of Seamus Heaney's main connections to the landscapes.	RSPB	June 2019 - December 2020	671108.93	200000.00	471108.93	Delivery of Seamus Heaney Open Ground project.
Department for Communities	Access and Inclusion Programme	Accessibility improvements at Dungannon Park		November 2019-March 2020	83900.00	0.00	83900.00	Increased inclusive accessibility for disabled anglers Dungannon Park Lake and enhanced access to park facilities
Department for Communities	Access and Inclusion Programme	Burnavon Theatre		November 2019-March 2020	27840.00	0.00	27840.00	Improved utilisation and access to building.
Department for Communities	Access and Inclusion Programme	Bridewell washroom refurbishment		November 2019-March 2020	29750.00	0.00	29750.00	Increased utilisation of building and facilities by those patrons with a disability
Department for Communities	Access and Inclusion Programme	Larntogher Walkway and Maghera - Walled Garden accessibility improvements		November 2019-March 2020	17000.00	0.00	17000.00	Improvements in accessibility to Walled Garden.
			ARTS & CULTURE - TOTAL 3:		**829598.93**	**200000.00**	**629598.93**	
TOURISM								
Funder/Source	**Name of Programme/Project**	**Description of Programme/Project**	**Partners**	**Duration**	**Total Cost (£)**	**MUDC (£)**	**Ext leverage Funding (£)**	**Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)**
Tourism NI		Contribution to MUDC Great Days Out held in Seamus Heaney HomePlace	Private Sector	26/02/2020	1250.00	0.00	1250.00	34 tourism businesses supported to showcase to 107 group organisers generating bookings and business.

Northern Ireland Hotels Federation	ROI Marketing Programme	RTE Radio advertising campaign for Seamus Heaney HomePlace		Mar-20	5000.00	0.00	5000.00	Increase awareness across the island of Ireland of new tourism facility at Seamus Heaney HomePlace
Waterways Ireland	Blueway Feasibilty Study	Feasibiity study for Newferry to Toome		Mar-20	11000.00	2000.00	9000.00	Potential Blueway on River Bann
Department for Communities	Access and Inclusion Programme	US Grant Ancestral		November 2019-March 2020	29726.00	0.00	29726.00	Improved play equipment.
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	Rural Tourism Scheme	Davagh Observatory		April 19 - March 20	1009000.00	509000.00	500000.00	Build tourism facility, 10 jobs created and attract 30,000 visitors to the area per annum
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	Rural Tourism Scheme	Davagh Observatory Outdoor Visitor Experience		April 19 - March 20	647200.00	161800.00	485400.00	Build tourism facility, 10 jobs created and attract 30,000 visitors to the area per annum
				TOURISM - TOTAL 4:	**1703176.00**	**672800.00**	**1030376.00**	
				OVERALL TOTAL:	**9190805.15**	**2310730.72**	**6880074.43**	

Report on	1) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 12.10.20 2) Mid Ulster MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network 3) DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2020
Date of Meeting	10 December 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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	**Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 12.10.20** Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019. It is a partnership of public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations working together to deliver a range of strategic economic actions to develop Coalisland town.
2.2	**Mid Ulster MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network** MEGA is supported by both Mid Ulster District Council and Invest NI to address the immediate and medium-term skills shortages in the manufacturing and engineering industries in the Mid-Ulster area. MEGA is unique in that it is an industry-led collaborative network working towards attracting, retaining and upskilling the region's engineering and manufacturing workforce.
2.3	**DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2020** The Rural Business Development Grant Scheme is funded by DAERA through the TRPSI (Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation) Programme. It focuses on existing rural micro businesses employing less than 10 employees, offering 50% in grant aid against eligible costs up to £4,999 to support actions aimed at improving business sustainability and growth.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	**Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 12.10.20** Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 12th October 2020 are attached on **Appendix 1**.
3.2	**Mid Ulster MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network** The MEGA (Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network was launched in November 2019 to address critical skills shortages and employability issues within the manufacturing and engineering sectors in Mid Ulster. Its strategic vision is to ensure that Mid Ulster manufacturing and engineering companies have a successive pipeline of skilled talent fit for industry needs. During a challenging and uncertain backdrop created by the Covid-19 pandemic the network continues to make an indelible mark on the future strategic direction of skills, training and talent development for the industry as a whole in Mid Ulster. The network has steadily grown to 32 local member companies, with 14 playing active roles within MEGA sub-committees. To date 18 'Ambassadors' have been recruited and trained under its MEGA Ambassador Programme. Each ambassador is now linked to an individual post primary school in Mid Ulster and will deliver mentoring, industry talks, careers events etc. A total of 4 Industry 4.0 virtual webinars have been delivered by Invest NI, which attracted 30 participants from MEGA member companies. MEGA is recognised as a strong collaborative network and during the lockdown, launched a high-level Apprenticeship Campaign to influence government support for companies retaining and recruiting apprenticeships. This led to an intervention from the Department for Economy (DfE), namely the Apprenticeship Recovery Initiative. This initiative has enabled MEGA companies to retain 58 apprentices and recruit 33 new apprentices. As part of its campaign the network designed and developed new easy to follow 'MEGA Apprenticeship Model' literature. This sets out the various apprenticeships on offer by the manufacturing and engineering companies who are members of the network. To assist with achieving their vision MEGA has now created a new website (www.midulstermega.com) which is a fantastic one-stop-shop for information to help inform students, teachers and parents about the opportunities within the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector in Mid Ulster. The industry-led website promotes the benefits of a career in the sector and provides important information on the various career pathways available. More recently, the MEGA Network successfully secured funding of £51,213 from DfE's Apprenticeship Challenge Fund to develop the MEGA Degree Apprenticeship in Manufacturing Engineering with specialism in Industrial Digitalisation, Robotics and Automation, in partnership with Ulster University. This will be the first ever Manufacturing & Engineering Degree Apprenticeship and

	supports DfE's OECD Skills Strategy NI Report 2020, produced by OECD earlier this year. Furthermore, in order to further resource its work MEGA have secured two graduates who will undertake a 6-month placement; one graduate through the SWC Future Leaders Programme and the other from Ulster University's Graduate Leadership Programme. If Members would like to receive a presentation from the MEGA Network at a future meeting, this can be arranged.
3.3	**DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2020** The Scheme opened for applications on 3rd August 2020 and closed on 11th September 2020 at 12 noon. A total of 317 complete applications were received by the closing date. A further 15 were received after the closing deadline and deemed ineligible. The initial grant allocation available for this Scheme was £67,500. The value of grant requested within the applications received has exceed £1.1million. DAERA has now confirmed that the initial allocation will be uplifted to allow all applications who reach the funding threshold of 65 to be funded. Based on indicative scoring this will be in the region of £470,000 across 135 projects but this is to be confirmed. A further audit check on approved projects is to be undertake by DAERA before letters of offer can issue. In addition, a virtual funding workshop has to be attended by successful applicants before they can accept their letter of offer. These workshops will commence w/c 7th December 2020 and continue through w/c 14th December 2020 for issue of approved letters of offer.
	Other Considerations
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: **Mid Ulster MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network** Funded from within existing economic development budgets. **DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020** None – all grant aid approved to project promoters will be paid by DAERA.
	Human: **DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020** Staff time. An administrative budget of £9,300 will be paid to Council by DAERA for associated administrative duties on completion of the scheme.

	Risk Management: **DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020** None
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: **DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020** None
	Rural Needs Implications: **DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020** This scheme is specifically targeted at rural areas (defined as all areas outside of settlements with over 5000 residents).
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
	It is recommended that Members;
5.1	**Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 12.10.20** **Note** minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum 12.10.20
5.2	**Mid Ulster MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network** **Note** update on the Mid Ulster MEGA Network.
5.3	**DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant – 2020** **Note** progress and the additional funding allocation from DAERA for this Scheme.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum - 12.10.20

Appendix 1

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting
Monday 12 October 2020 at 12.30pm
Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Francie Molloy	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum
Brian O Neill	Coalisland Credit Union
Dermot McGirr	Translink
Sharon McGowan	Dept for Communities

In Attendance

Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Celene O Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Johnny McNeill	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION
1	**Apologies** Cllr Dan Kerr — Mid Ulster District Council Cllr Niall McAleer — Mid Ulster District Council Cllr Robert Colvin — Mid Ulster District Council Adrian McCreesh — Mid Ulster District Council Mark Kelso — Mid Ulster District Council Fiona McKeown — Mid Ulster District Council Raymond Lowry — Mid Ulster District Council Mark Leavey — Mid Ulster District Council Michael McGibbon — Mid Ulster District Council Patrick Anderson — Dept. for Communities Ursula Marshall — Mid Ulster Disability Forum Raymond O Neill — Coalisland Traders Association (Chair) Declan Dorrity — The Venue/The Beer Shed Aedamar McCrossan — PSNI
2.	**Introductions** Cllr Doris Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the role of Chair as Raymond O Neill was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies. Cllr Doris commenced the meeting by highlighting the vandalism that occurred over the weekend where the barriers protecting the Public Realm site were pushed over. J

	McNeill stated that he will relay the issue back to the Contractor to ensure the site is secured after the working day is over.
3.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 7 September 2020** Proposed by F Molloy Seconded by Cllr Doris and agreed: - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 September 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
4.	**Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 7 September 2020** J McNeill stated that he will contact M Leavey and ask that he clarifies the number and dimensions of the disabled parking spaces in the Cornmill and will provide this at the next meeting. J McNeill will also check with M Leavey regarding the seating options at the Cornmill and report back to the next Town Centre Forum. O Donnelly updated that he circulated a list of useful numbers from the Council website to the Town Centre Forum.
5.	**Revitalisation Projects** C McKenna updated members on the status of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Revitalisation Projects stating that a list of draft projects was compiled by Economic Development staff, which were approved through the Town Centre Forum at the meeting on 21st September 2020. C McKenna updated that Council have now submitted an application to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) outlining several draft capital projects. The projects for Coalisland are along Coalisland Canal and Lineside. Cllr Doris asked if there was any update on the letter to be sent to DFC regarding Sandy Row.
6.	**Coalisland Projects Updates** • **Coalisland Public Realm Scheme** J McNeill provided an update on Coalisland Public Realm Scheme stating that work is progressing well with people generally happy with the progress. Cllr Doris asked as to the work adjacent to Toals Bookmakers when the work is likely to be completed as there may be Health & Safety issues with the site being left open. **Action: J McNeill to check with Project Manager as to the timescales for completion of work adjacent to Toals Bookmakers.** O Donnelly read out a text message he received from Raymond O'Neill who was unable to attend the meeting due to technical problems. The text read "I am

	inundated on a daily basis with complaints of people late for work for school due to gridlock caused by one-way system on Main Street". F Molloy asked when the tarmac will be laid for the car parking spaces on Main Street to allow customers to park. • **Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment** F Molloy asked if the issue regarding the right hand turning lane had been resolved? **Action J McNeill is to seek clarification on the right hand turning lane and provide an update at the next meeting.** • **Coalisland Events – Halloween & Christmas 2020** O Donnelly provided an update on the Halloween event saying that as in previous years the local newspapers have organized the shop window competitions and he will contact Dungannon Herald to check if it is something they would like to take on. B O'Neill confirmed that Coalisland Credit Union would be willing to sponsor a competition where it to be organized. **Action: O Donnelly to contact Dungannon Herald to ask if they would take on organizing a shop window competition.** • **Town Centre Recovery Plan** C Fox updated that the videos recorded under the Town Centre Recovery Plan are now uploaded onto Council's social media channels.
7.	**Any Other Business** F Molloy asked for an update on the installation of Broadband in the area. C McKenna provided an update on Project Stratum stating that the contract to award to the successful company is still with the Department for Economy and it is hoped it will be issued soon.
7.	**Date of Next Meeting** **Monday 9th November @ 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams**
8.	**Meeting Duration** Meeting ended at 13.21pm

C

Report on	Project Stratum Update
Date of Meeting	10 December 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona Mc Keown, Head of Economic Development

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

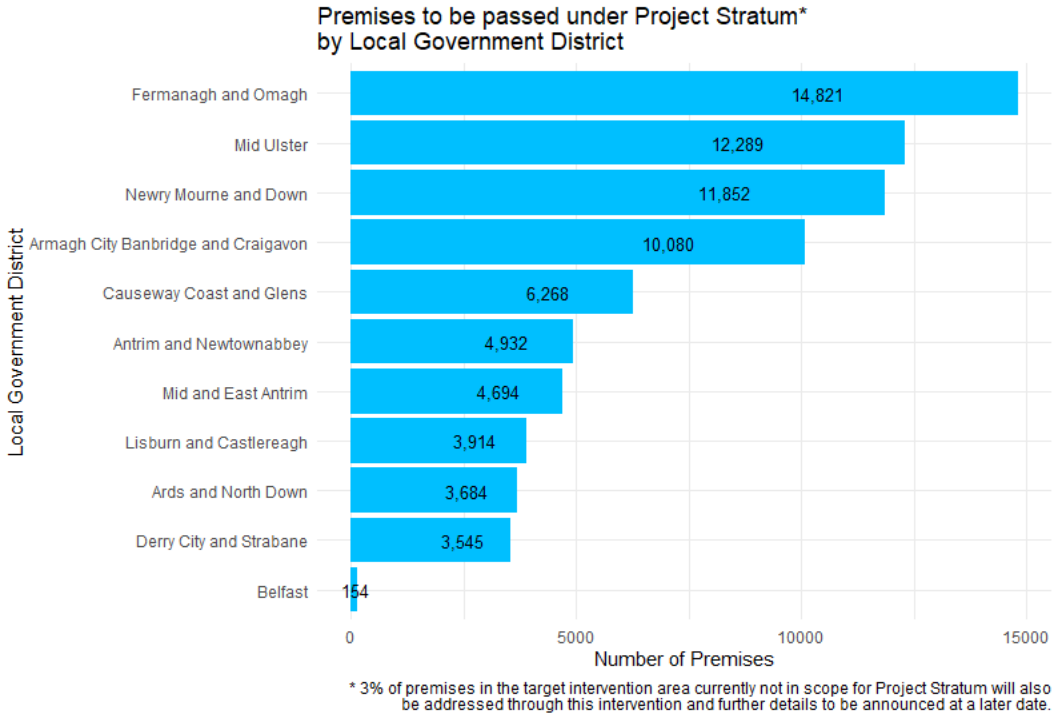
1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	To provide members with an update on Project Stratum.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	**Project Stratum Update** Project Stratum is a broadband infrastructure project that has public funding of £165m and private funding of £45m to extend access to superfast broadband services to approximately 79,000 premises across Northern Ireland.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**Project Stratum Update** Project Stratum aims to improve broadband connectivity mainly to rural areas by delivering 30mbps broadband. The funding for the project is made up as follows; £150m Confidence & Supply funding £15m DAERA £45m Fibrus capital contribution **£210m Total Funding for Project Stratum** Members will recall that the initial Project Stratum calculation in 2018 was approximately 98,000 premises needing intervention. Following a data refresh exercise undertaken by several infrastructure suppliers completed in January 2020 the number of premises requiring intervention under Project Stratum was reduced approximately 79,000 premises. The areas taken off the list were identified for potential improvements by other suppliers. **Maximising Coverage across the Intervention Area**

LOCAL COUNCIL	NGA Coverage before Stratum	Premises to be passed by Stratum	NGA coverage after Stratum (76,000+)	Premises in council to benefit from Stratum (76,000+)
ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	92.0%	4,932	99.8%	7.8%
ARDS AND NORTH DOWN	95.0%	3,684	99.9%	4.9%
ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	88.6%	10,080	99.7%	11.1%
BELFAST	99.9%	154	99.9%	0.1%
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	90.3%	6,268	99.6%	9.3%
DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	94.2%	3,545	99.6%	5.4%
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	71.2%	14,821	98.9%	27.7%
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH	93.6%	3,914	99.9%	6.3%
MID AND EAST ANTRIM	92.2%	4,694	99.7%	7.5%
MID ULSTER	78.4%	12,289	99.4%	21.0%
NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	83.6%	11,852	99.6%	16.0%

The contract for Project Stratum was awarded to **Fibrus Networks Ltd** following a lengthy procurement process by Department for the Economy (DfE).

On 24 November 2020, Council officers were invited to attend a virtual meeting with DfE and were updated on Project Stratum. (Presentation attached on **Appendix 1**). The key points are;

- Approximately 79,000 premises across Northern Ireland are to have access to superfast broadband i.e. 30mbps by March 2024.
- Fibre To the Premises (FTTP) is confirmed to approximately 76,000 premises by March 2024.
- There are 2,517 premises in NI who are still going to get 30mbps broadband but DfE cannot confirm it will be FTTP. DfE stated that they are seeking additional funding to further deliver FTTP to these premises and estimate it will cost £10m - £15m for these premises.
- In all, there are 12,289 premises in Mid Ulster earmarked for improvements. There are 354 premises in Mid Ulster outside the scope of FTTP.



On 2 December 2020, Council officers were invited to attend a virtual meeting with DfE and Fibrus and were updated on Project Stratum (a detailed presentation is available on **Appendix 2**). The key points are:

- A new website for the project has been launched **https://hyperfastni.com/** This website will provide information on key aspects of implementation, including planned phasing and full deployment of NGA broadband infrastructure across the target intervention areas. The information is likely to be updated and expanded on a regular basis.

- A summary of Fibrus' rollout plan across NI is as follows;

	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
2021	**Coalisland** Killyleagh Ballycastle	Kilkeel Castlewellan Ballynahinch	Warrenpoint **Maghera** Portstewart Enniskillen Ballymoney	Castlerock Keady Carnlough Cullybackey
2022	Crossmaglen Castlederg Fintona	Garrison Omagh Downpatrick	**Aughnacloy** **Fivemiletown** Kesh	Rathfriland **Cookstown** Garvagh

	Newtownstewart	Larne	Irvinestown Newtownbutler	**Moy**
2023	Kircubbin Seahill Dromore Laurelvale	Ballystrudder Bleary Randalstown Lower Ballinderry Broughshane	Templepatrick Cushendall Clough Mills Claudy **Pomeroy**	Newry Derrylin Limavady Gortin Strabane Moneyrea

- 76,000 rural premises in NI to benefit in 40 month rollout plan (March 2024).
- Fibrus are 6 months ahead of timescale and have started work in the rural areas around Coalisland targeting 2121 premises.
- In the next 6-9 months they are going to Maghera rural area targeting 3767 premises.
- Fibrus have stated they are keen to work with Councils and open up good lines of communications.
- Fibrus is planning to install 244,749 poles, as 80% of network will be overhead.
- Premises do not need a landline in place to benefit
- Only postcodes on DfE's broadband "white listed areas" will benefit from this intervention through Project Stratum. "Grey listed areas" will see some incidental benefit from Fibrus' commercial wing. (To view the postcodes "in scope" for Project Stratum ie, white listed areas, visit https://bit.ly/39EhZrn
- There are 2,517 premises in NI within the "white listed areas" but not included for FTTP. DfE said they are not overlooked and further funding is being sought to enable FTTP.
- Fibrus intend to have fibre ambassadors in each Council area to promote the new fibre broadband offering.
- Fibrus has developed a "Community Giving Back Campaign" valued at £200k+

Members of Mid Ulster Council's Broadband Working Group are joining with Fermanagh and Omagh Council's Broadband Working Group to meet with the

	Department for the Economy and Fibrus on 7 December 2020 to receive a full briefing on Project Stratum.
	Other Considerations
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: None for the purposes of the report.
	Human: Council officers liaison with DfE and Fibrus
	Risk Management: None for the purposes of the report.
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None for the purposes of the report.
	Rural Needs Implications: Project Stratum focused on rural areas.
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	That Members **note** the content of the report.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	Appendix 1 - Project Stratum - DFE Update - 24.11.20 Appendix 2 – Project Stratum - Fibrus Presentation – 2.12.20

Appendix 1

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Project Stratum

Local Council Representatives Update Meeting

Tuesday 24th November 2020

Project Stratum Objectives

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- Singular aim of this project is to utilise all available funding to improve broadband access infrastructure in Northern Ireland
- Increase the number of premises able to access Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband services capable of delivering in excess of 30 Mbps
- Maximise NGA broadband coverage by increasing provision in areas poorly served and not capable of attracting commercial investment
- The Project Stratum target intervention area is 97% rural and covers a broad swathe of Northern Ireland, targeting just below 79,000 premises
- This equates to approximately 11% of premises in Northern Ireland, as circa 89% can currently access broadband capable of 30Mbps+

Broadband Connectivity Gap

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Although 89% of premises in Northern Ireland have access to broadband services in excess of 30Mbps, the figure is 66% in Rural Northern Ireland

	300Mbps+	30Mbps+	10Mbps+	Full Fibre
England	58% R: 19%	95% R: 82%	99% R: 93%	13% R: 15%
Scotland	49% R: 11%	93% R: 71%	97% R: 83%	13% R: 9%
Wales	33% R: 18%	93% R: 77%	97% R: 88%	15% R: 17%
NI Overall	55% R: 13%	89% R: 66%	94% R: 82%	47% R: 13%

Ofcom Connected Nations Update: Summer 2020

Recent Progress

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- The evaluation of tenders was completed in August and a preferred bidder identified
- The necessary robust corporate governance and internal approval processes were then conducted
- The FBC was subject to a Gateway 3 Review, Casework Committee approval, Advisory Panel review, Project Board approval, internal DfE approvals
- BDUK State aid Assurance (Assurance Board Gate C approval) was confirmed on 11 November 2020

Contract Award

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- Project Stratum contract based on BDUK template documentation and adapted for Northern Ireland procurement using the restricted procedure – a process robustly managed by CPD
- The contract comprises a pre-full service commencement term (3 years) and a post full service commencement term (7 years)
- Under the terms of the contract Fibrus will invest over £45m in network build costs – the total network build costs will exceed £210m to reach the more than 76,000 premises in scope
- The contract allows for 'headroom' funding of up to £35m and DfE aims to secure the additional funding required to reach all premises in the target intervention area under this intervention

Fibrus Networks Ltd

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- Fibrus is a new telecommunications provider seeking to transform the digital infrastructure of rural and regional Northern Ireland
- Already investing in excess of £100m to bring full fibre broadband to homes and business in Northern Ireland
- Fibrus founded by Conal Henry (Chair) – who also Chairs the £500m HM Treasury backed National Digital Infrastructure Fund based in London
- CEO and founding member Dominic Kearns established one of Northern Ireland's fastest growing firms, b4b Telecoms, as a home-grown business
- Fibrus has assembled a credible team of telecommunications professionals and parent company is a leading infrastructure investor
- InfraCapital holds in excess of EUR1bn of investor commitments focusing on new-build infrastructure and telecommunications in UK and Europe

Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- Fibrus will deliver infrastructure to provide more than 76,000 premises in the Project Stratum intervention area with FTTP broadband connectivity – 16,000 km of fibre will be laid
- FTTP is fibre broadband that is wired directly to the home or business, using fibre optic cables, and is the fastest type of fibre currently available to consumers
- Fibrus – and other providers offering services on this Open Access Network – will introduce a range of broadband options
- Fibrus service offerings will be based on broadband speeds of 100 Mbps, 300 Mbps and 1,000 Mbps (1 GBps), for example
- Service providers are likely to launch discounted introductory offers; pricing will be aligned to benchmarked pricing in other markets – consumers in rural areas will pay the same as urban dwellers

Stratum information: www.HyperfastNI.com

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

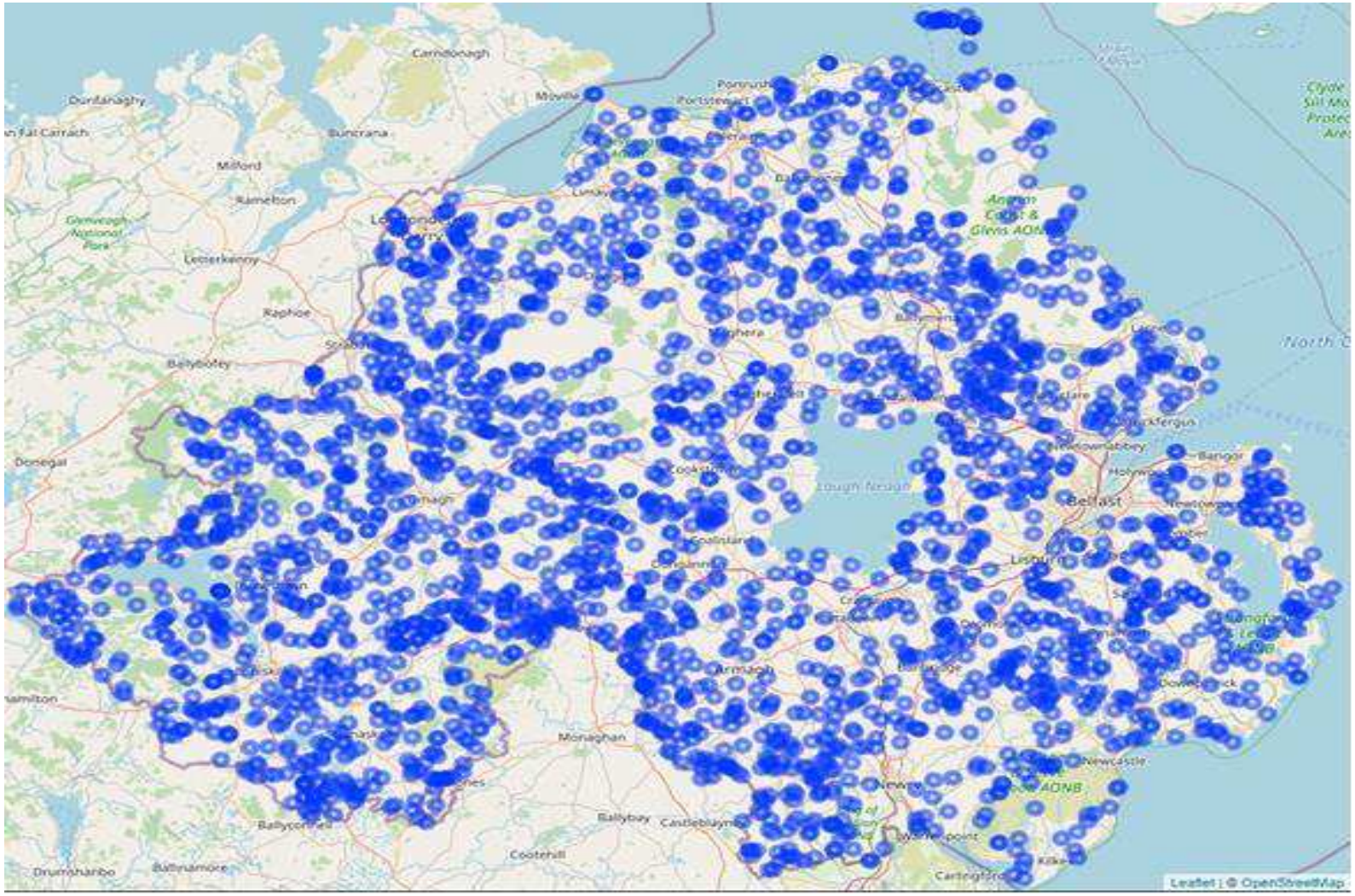
Maximising Coverage across the Intervention Area

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

LOCAL COUNCIL	NGA Coverage before Stratum	Premises to be passed by Stratum	NGA coverage after Stratum (76,000+)	Premises in council to benefit from Stratum (76,000+)
ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	92.0%	4,932	99.8%	7.8%
ARDS AND NORTH DOWN	95.0%	3,684	99.9%	4.9%
ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	88.6%	10,080	99.7%	11.1%
BELFAST	99.9%	154	99.9%	0.1%
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	90.3%	6,268	99.6%	9.3%
DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	94.2%	3,545	99.6%	5.4%
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	71.2%	14,821	98.9%	27.7%
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH	93.6%	3,914	99.9%	6.3%
MID AND EAST ANTRIM	92.2%	4,694	99.7%	7.5%
MID ULSTER	78.4%	12,289	99.4%	21.0%
NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	83.6%	11,852	99.6%	16.0%

2,517 premises currently out of scope (3% of IA)

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk



2,517 premises currently out of scope by Local Council

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

LOCAL COUNCIL	Currently out of Scope
ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	133
ARDS AND NORTH DOWN	91
ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	236
BELFAST	6
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	286
DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	244
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	612
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH	87
MID AND EAST ANTRIM	194
MID ULSTER	354
NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	274

Intervention Plans for Premises Currently out of Scope

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- High Level Design conducted by Fibrus that takes into account all premises in Project Stratum Intervention Area
- Modelling work to be conducted by Fibrus in coming weeks to determine potential NGA broadband solutions and costings
- DfE continues to engage with DCMS and aims to secure the required funding ('superfast top up funding') to deliver objectives
- Overarching aspiration of the project is to ensure that all premises in the target intervention area benefit from Project Stratum and that no premises are left without viable connectivity solutions

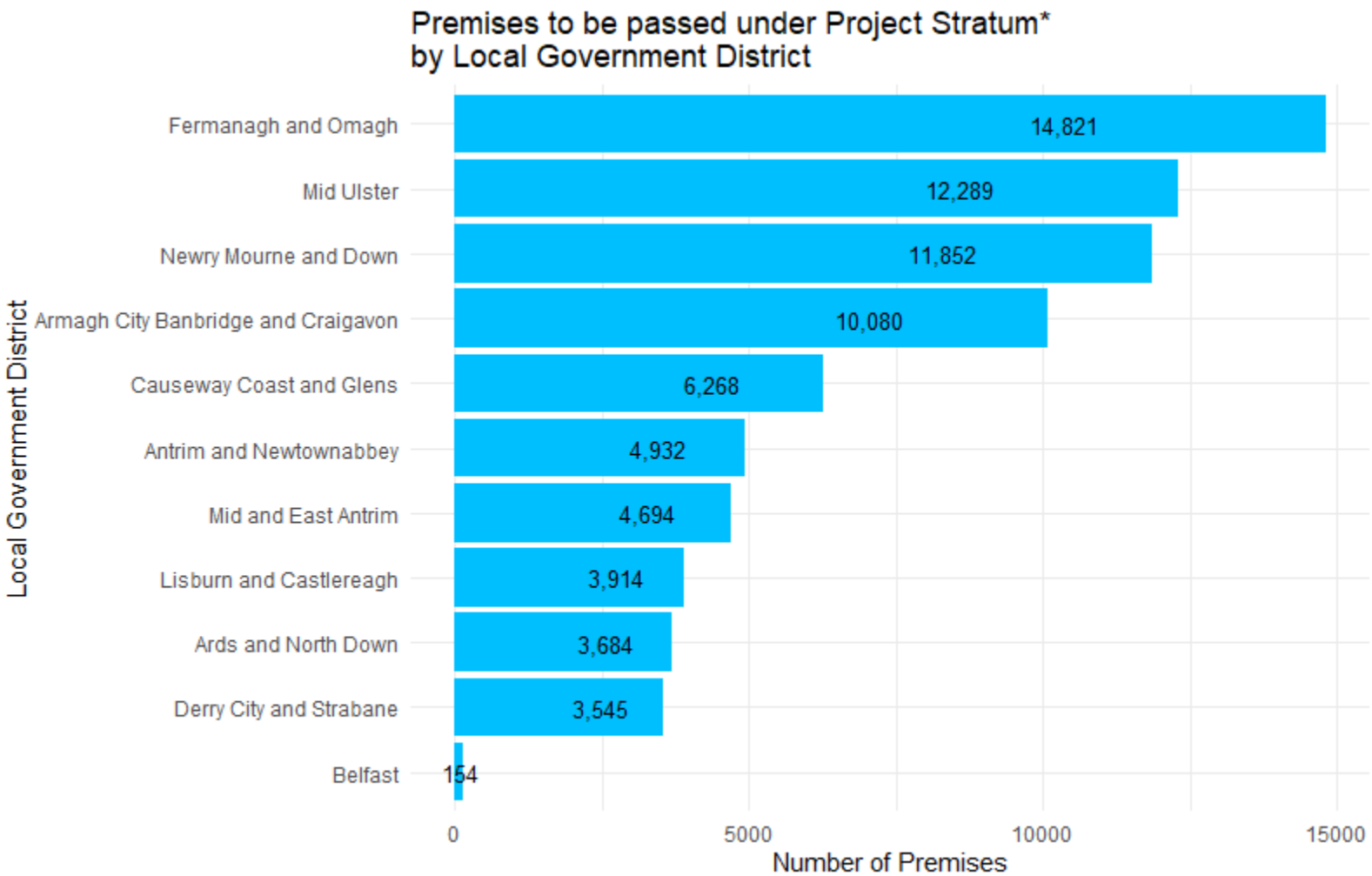
‘Vertical Take Off’ - Deployment across 40 Months

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- DfE’s Pre-Market Engagement with industry indicated that 6-9 months was anticipated for network design, following contract award
- However, in this period Fibrus will pass circa 9,000 premises after 6 months; circa 16,000 premises after 9 months
- This is due to Fibrus’ ‘Vertical Take Off’ approach to deployment – which means that initial deployment is already underway
- The project will be deployed across 49 distinct areas across NI with services to be made available through 13 quarters – ends March 2024
- Substantial Infrastructure Project: Network Design, Phasing Plans, Deployment Methodology to be presented by Fibrus on 2 December

Vastly Improved Broadband Connectivity Landscape

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk



* 3% of premises in the target intervention area currently not in scope for Project Stratum will also be addressed through this intervention and further details to be announced at a later date.

Project Stratum Contract Management & Governance

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- Same level of robust project management protocols and governance procedures in place throughout Implementation
- Key monitoring areas include: project expenditure, implementation milestones, premises passed, number of customers, download speeds achieved, customer satisfaction of service levels
- Project Board to guide development in line with the provisions of the contract – constant engagement between DfE, Fibrus and BDUK
- Payments made on delivery of milestones across 12 phases – each phase comprising 3 milestones; payments evidence-based
- Vouching & Verification Team within DfE to provide dedicated support in addition to external independent technical and financial expertise

Ongoing Engagement with Local Councils

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

- DfE and Fibrus to present further roll out details to Local Council Representatives on 2 December 2020
- Fibrus representatives will provide details of deployment, phasing and network design – and will answer submitted questions
- Please send your questions to stratum@economy-ni.gov.uk
- Local Council Engagement Essential to Keep Stakeholders Informed and to Encourage Citizens to Take up Enhanced Services
- DfE Looks Forward to Future Engagement With Local Councils on Behalf of Citizens throughout Project Stratum Implementation

Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Appendix 2

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

fibrus

HYPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND

Infracapital

Department for the Economy

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

Confidentiality

All information in this document is provided in confidence and shall not be published or disclosed wholly or in part to any other party without Fibrus Networks Limited prior permission in writing and shall be held in safe custody. These obligations shall not apply to information which is published or becomes known legitimately from some source other than Fibrus Networks Limited.

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PROJECT STRATUM

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INTRODUCTION – DFE

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

ABOUT US

Fibrus is a full fibre provider seeking to transform the digital infrastructure of rural and regional parts of Northern Ireland by investing alongside the Executive, £350m to bring fibre broadband to every home and business in Northern Ireland.

The company was formed in 2018 and has since been purchased by Infracapital, a leading infrastructure investor, who have a strong track record in delivering, owning and managing investments in full fibre broadband projects.

Fibrus has recruited a seasoned telecoms management team, with over 100 years combined telecoms experience, that is set to deliver one of Northern Irelands most ambition transformational projects. We are committed to making real change through connecting and bringing homes and businesses into the 21st century and ultimately changing people's lives.

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

OUR BACKGROUND

Fibrus was founded and launched in September 2018 by Conal Henry (Chair) and Dominic Kearns (CEO) by securing the backing of Infracapital (M&G Investments) in July 2019.

Fibrus is now owned by Infracapital, a leading infrastructure investor, who have a strong track-record in delivering, owning and managing investments in full fibre broadband projects.

WHAT WE DO BETTER

The switch to full fibre broadband is underway and is now the critical infrastructure of the 21st Century. Ultimately Fibrus has a single focus, whilst phone companies run slow copper phone networks from the cabinet to the premises, TV companies run slow copper networks from the cabinet to the premises and satellite TV networks, Fibrus is a “Full Fibre” broadband company meaning that we only use a full fibre optic cable all the way to the premises.

BENEFITS OF FULL FIBRE BROADBAND

VIDEO ON DEMAND
Stream HD or 4K TV, watch catch-up services, YouTube videos and live events without buffering

SOCIAL NETWORKING
Share user generated content quickly and easily to social media with fast upload speeds

UNRIVALLED GAMING
Download games instantly and smash your competitors with reduced lag time

REMOTE WORKING
Work from the comfort of your own home with no more interruptions to your connection

HD VIDEO CALLING
Keep in contact with colleagues, friends and family around the world, as if they're in the same room as you

WIFI GUARANTEE*
*May require WiFi Boosters depending on the size of your home

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HYPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND

THE FIBRUS DIFFERENCE…

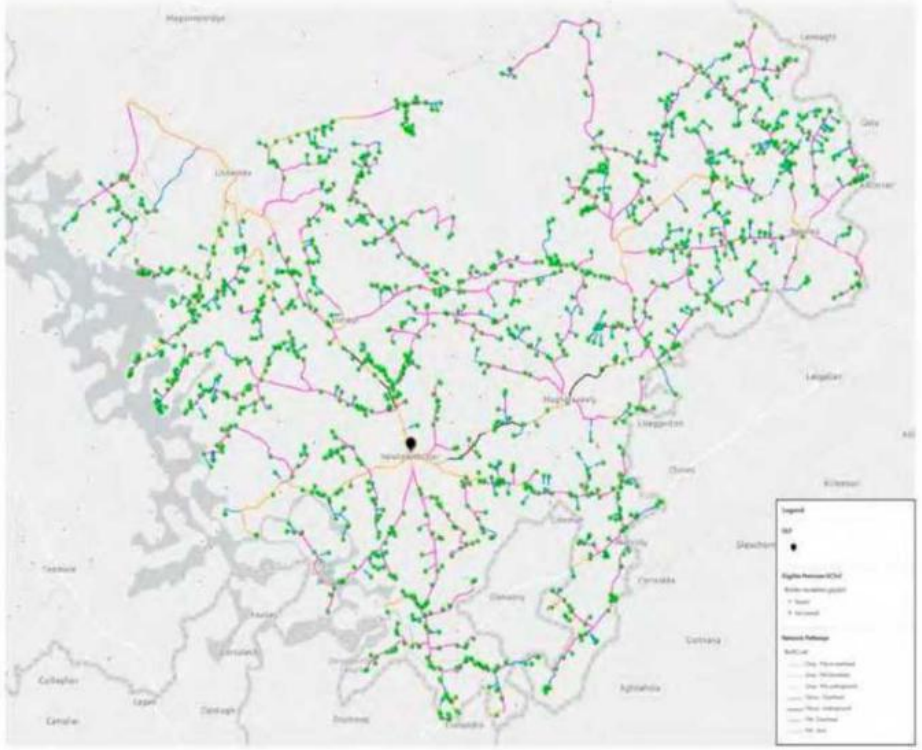
- The Fibrus team has over **100 years experience** building, operating and commercialising fibre networks in the UK and Ireland.

- We are creating a **new capability for NI** that will attract inward investment.

- An **aggressive implementation plan -** We will deploy early and at pace to maximise our returns and community benefits.

- Rural communities have waited long enough;. **We have started building** on the day the contract was signed, 6-9 months early.

- When we commit to passing premises, we are **committing to a proven, designed and costed** plan.



IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

FIBRUS COMMITMENT FOR PROJECT STRATUM

A partnership based on transparency and delivering what we promise.

- 97% Coverage, taking NI to 99%, with a plan to get to 100%.
- Full Fibre Hyper-fast - 100% Full Fibre 1,000 Mbs solution.
- Vertical take-off – Build started on the day of contract signature.
- Total investment of £350m including (including commercial).
- Total NGA Network Build Cost, comprising full funding of £165m plus Fibrus capital contribution is £210.8m.

"A SME in Ballygawley, a student in Ballinamallard, or an employer in Bellaghy will have access to connectivity as good or better than their counterparts in Bloomsbury, Berlin, or Brooklyn"

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

OUR PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE….

Conal Henry
Chairman

…CEO of Enet taking it from start-up to its £200m acquisition by the Irish Infrastructure Fund in 2017, as CEO of Enet, Conal also led what is now known as NBI to become the winning bidder for the €2bn Irish National Broadband Plan.

Dominic Kearns
CEO

…is an entrepreneur with interests in various telecoms start-ups. His most recent role was as CEO of b4b group, now it's Chair, one of Northern Irelands fastest growing telecoms and technology firms.

Steve Edwards
Program Director

… Building fibre networks for 30 years, led BT's public funded (BDUK) programs; successfully delivered more than 40 public funded contracts, a £2bn investment, passing over 4m premises with Fibre broadband infrastructure.

Julian Simpson
Stakeholder Engagement Manager

... experience in the development and delivery of a new Ultrafast Network in Belfast City Centre, and a new build gigabit capable FTTP network across business epicentres in Northern Ireland with b4b Networks.

Shane Haslem
Commercial and Programme Director

…20+ years experience in the data and voice networking industry within the NI & GB market as GM and Head of network Solutions at Eir NI

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IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

OUR PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE….

Conor Harrison
Chief Operating Officer

…over 30 years' experience in the Telecoms sector across the US, Ireland and the UK, including, at Virgin Media as Programme Director for Virgin's Project Lightning, which has added 2.1m homes passed and 454,000 customers to Virgin Media across the UK.

Thomas Grant
Chief Technical Officer

… as CTO of Enet he oversaw the design, build and operation of a full fibre carrier class network and the winning NBI bid for the RoI National Broadband Plan covering 540,000 homes.

Paul Doyle
Stratum Build Director

… delivered Eircom's primary strategic programme to deploy Fibre infrastructure and open access Wholesale products and services, with Fibre Optic infrastructure deployment, for 1.2 million premises including rural deployments.

Jenny Nuttall
Chief Finance Officer

.. Finance Director at BT Wholesale and Head of Cost Transformation and Networks at BT Ireland, before joining BDUK, where she developed and successfully implemented the 'value for money' strategy BDUK

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IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

OUR KEY SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNERS

Industry leader established 2019.
Merger of IpONe and Syncom.
Designing and deploying gigabit networks.

Current supplier to Fibrus as well as Virgin Media, SIRO, enet and CityFibre.

Achieved accreditation for Quality, Environmental and Health and Safety Management System, in accordance with ISO9001, ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 in 2011.

Established in 1829 190 years' experience in the delivery of complex civil engineering solutions across the UK & Ireland.

Specialist in the Utilities sector and has achieved numerous CEF and RICS awards in the Utilities and Safety categories.

Local Northern Ireland presence and experience has enabled it to establish excellent working relationships with the statutory undertakers, utility providers and 3rd party stakeholders.

Viberoptix is a full-service Fibre and PIA network subcontractor. Established in late 2019 Recruited and trained 25 field operatives.

Developed a full recruitment, training and development programme guided by a full-time training manager and build the capacity to recruit and train 10 people per month from mid 2020.

Exclusive and preferential access to a pool of fibre and PIA operatives second to none in these islands.

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

OUR OFFER IS FOR A PARTNERSHIP BASED ON TRANSPARENCY…

Our 7 promises to you all

1. We are publishing our rollout plan today (6-months early).
2. Things will change - When they do, we will inform and explain why.
3. We will communicate with Stakeholders with information and regular updates.
4. We have a website up and running with link to register interest and ask questions.
5. We will provide an ***Address level Checker*** for every premise in the next month.
6. We will get back to people in each community when we start building; when we expect to complete; and when services are ready.
7. We will invest in the communities we are working in.

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

PROJECT STRATUM

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FIBRUS NETWORK DESIGN CHALLENGES

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

What we are doing is no mean feat – The size and scale of the challenge…

16,000km of fibre optic cable – distance from Belfast to South Pole

244,749 poles - our engineers will need to complete the equivalent of 222 summit climbs of Everest

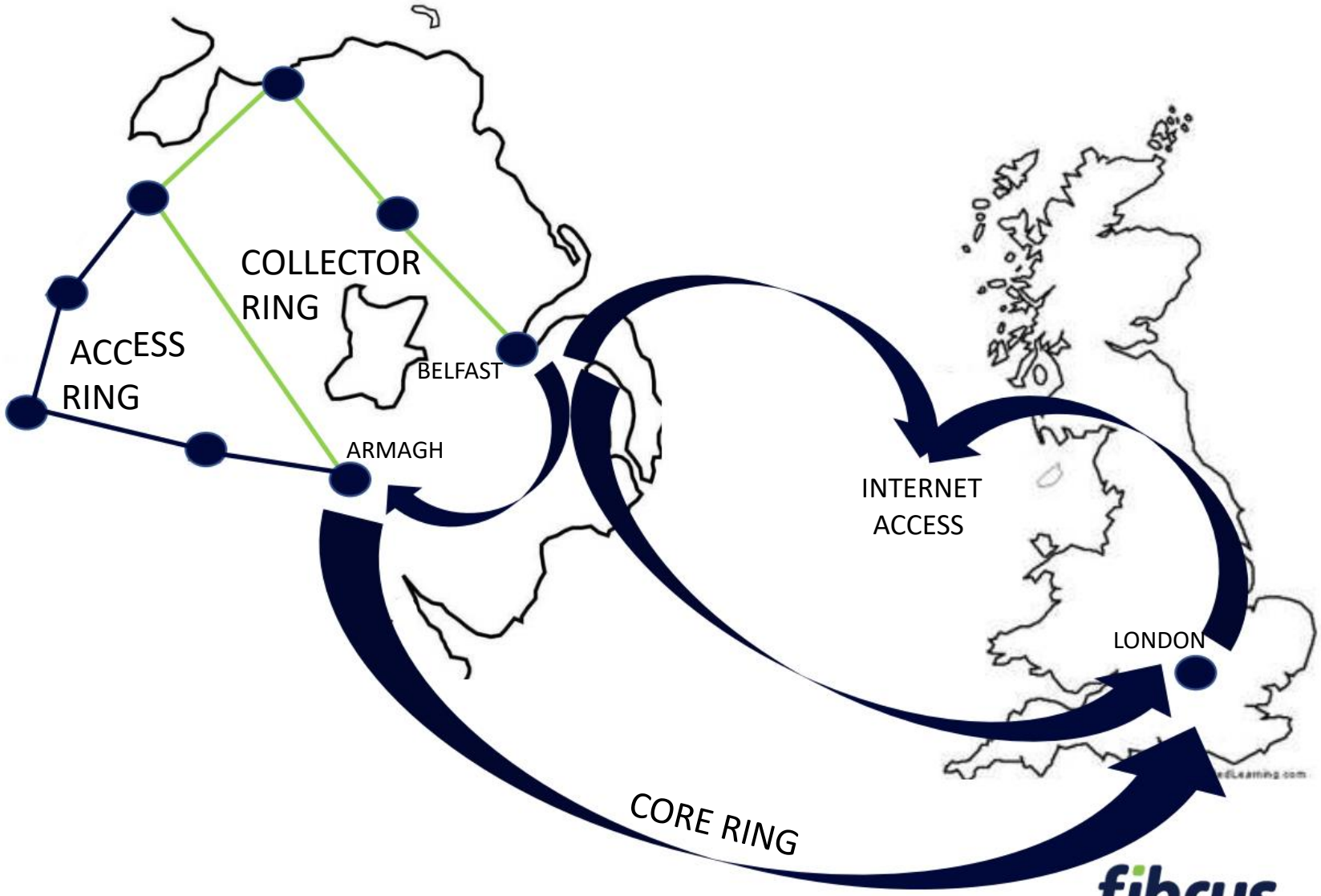
76,000 properties

1,106 days to complete

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

NETWORK BUILD – A HUGE ENGINEERING FEAT

- **76,232** Homes & Businesses
- **16,000 km** Fibre Cabling
- **15,500** Access Chambers
- **2,500** Miles U/G Duct



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Poles and Holes- Access Network Infrastructure

- Our build is expected to be around 80% on existing infrastructure; Duct and poles

- We are building a predominantly overhead distribution network

- This approach-
  - Helps us build faster and go further
  - Reduces cost- Increases the premises we can cover in the project
  - Reduces disruption for communities
  - Helps to reduce waste and environmental impact

- Where we do need to dig or need traffic management we want to work with councils and DfI Roads to minimise impact on businesses and communities

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FIBRUS DEPLOYMENT AND PHASING

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Where and When... and Why

Stratum is a huge infrastructure build and technical challenge

- We are using existing infrastructure wherever possible to keep costs down and reach further into rural communities and deploy faster
- We are sequencing the rollout to enable early build in areas where the existing infrastructure is ready and backhaul available
- We are phasing the rollout to complete build in the most efficient sequence and best utilisation of resources.
- We will ramp up to build at around 1600km per Quarter, and complete before March 2024

Efficient technical design... we reach more premises
Optimum economic solution... we reach more premises
Logical sequencing ... we reach more premises

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

BUILDING THE NETWORK AT PACE…

AN INDUSTRY FIRST

SPRING 2021

Total Fibre Cable Laid (Km)

908

Total Premises Passed

4,386

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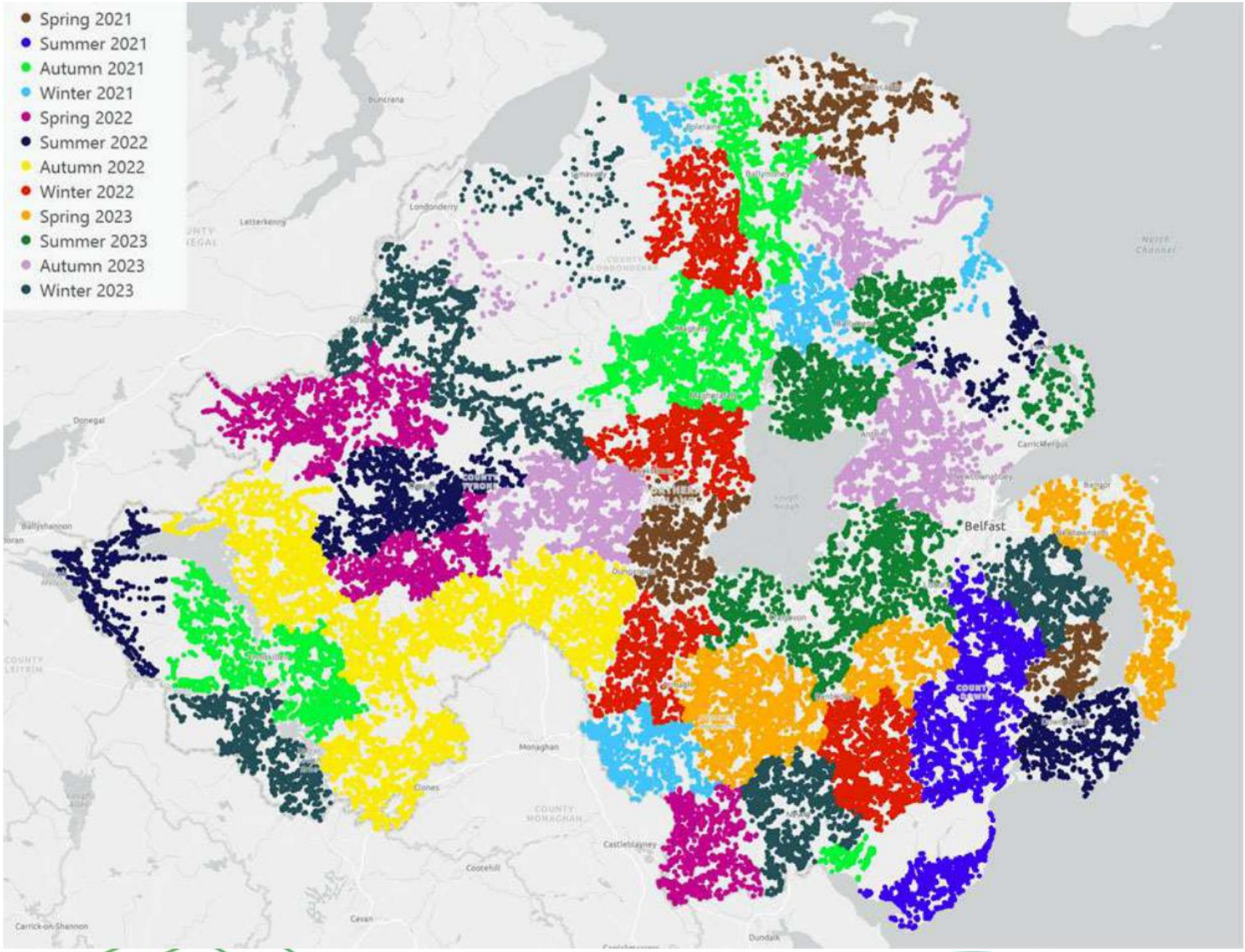

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

OUR BUILD POSITION WITHIN 6-9 MONTHS

PORTSTEWART	
Premises Passed	649

BALLYMONEY	
Premises Passed	1,691

MAGHERA	
Premises Passed	3,367

BALLYNAHINCH	
Premises Passed	1,956

ENNISKILLEN	
Premises Passed	2,787

CASTLEWELLAN	
Premises Passed	2,358

WARRENPOINT	
Premises Passed	656

KILKEEL	
Premises Passed	1,444

AUTUMN 2021

Total Fibre Cable Laid (Km)

3,754

Total Premises Passed

19,294

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fibrus HYPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND

IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALES – THE FULL PLAN…

	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
2021	COALISLAND KILLYLEAGH BALLYCASTLE	KILKEEL CASTLEWELLAN BALLYNAHINCH	WARRENPOINT MAGHERA PORTSTEWART ENNISKILLEN BALLYMONEY	CASTLEROCK KEADY CARNLOUGH CULLYBACKEY
2022	CROSSMAGLEN CASTLEDERG FINTONA NEWTOWNSTEWART	GARRISON OMAGH DOWNPATRICK LARNE	AUGHNACLOY FIVEMILETOWN KESH IRVINESTOWN NEWTOWNBUTLER	RATHFRILAND COOKSTOWN GARVAGH MOY
2023	KIRCUBBIN SEAHILL DROMORE LAURELVALE	BALLYSTRUDDER BLEARY RANDALSTOWN LOWER BALLINDERRY BROUGHSHANE	TEMPLEPATRICK CUSHENDALL CLOGH MILLS CLAUDY POMEROY	NEWRY DERRYLIN LIMAVADY GORTIN STRABANE MONEYREA

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HYPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

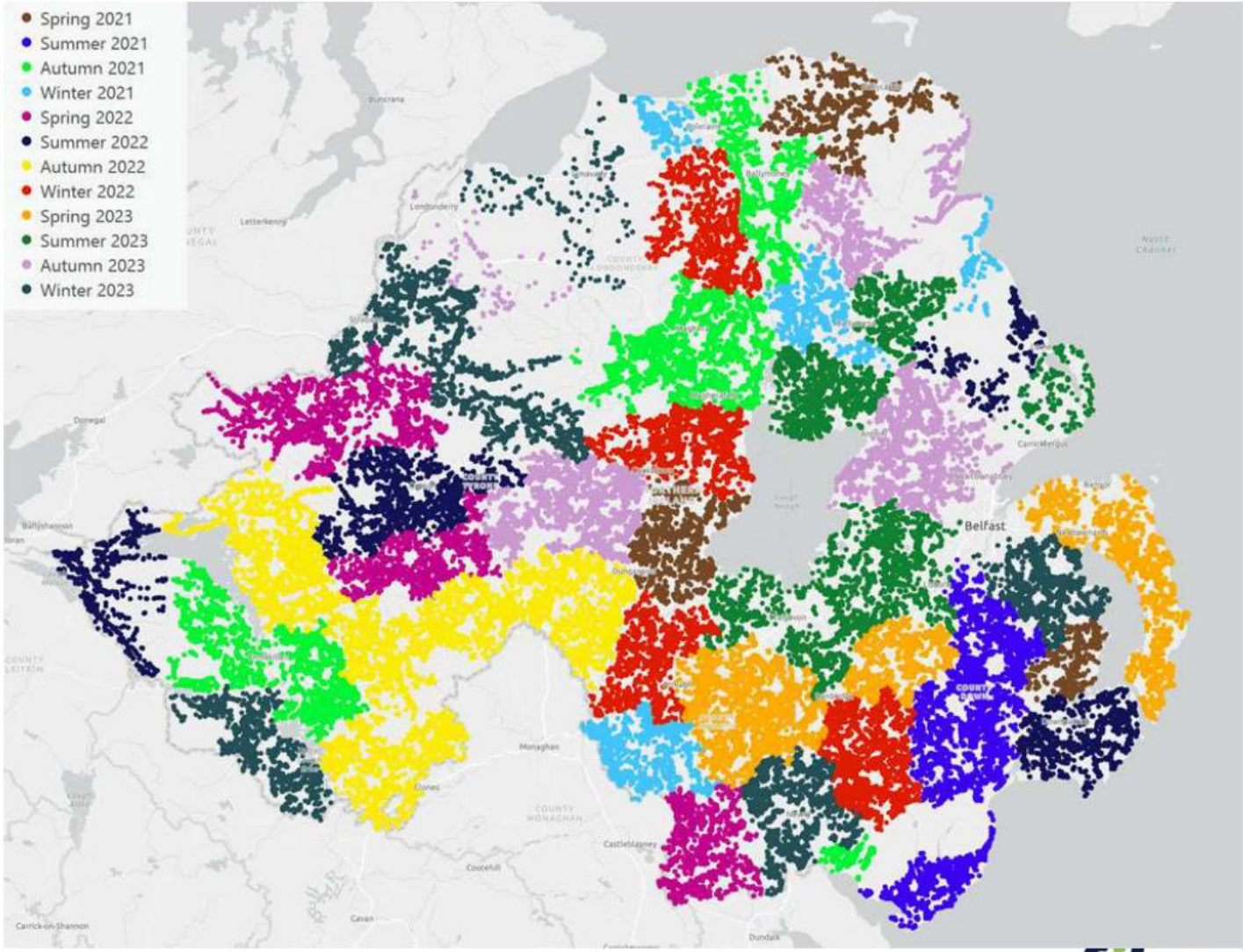
FINAL COVERAGE

TOTAL FIBRE CABLE LAID (KM)

15,848

TOTAL PREMISES PASSED

76,233



IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

NGA COVERAGE POST STRATUM

ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	**99.8%**
ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	**99.7%**
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	**99.6%**
DERRY AND STRABANE	**99.6%**
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	**98.9%**
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH	**99.9%**
MID AND EAST ANTRIM	**99.7%**
MID ULSTER	**99.4%**
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN	**99.6%**
NORTH DOWN AND ARDS	**99.9%**

As good or better than most urban areas...

Westminster	92%
Birmingham	97%
Liverpool	96%
Manchester	96%

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PROJECT STRATUM

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HYPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND

STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

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STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Fibrus has developed a detailed communications plan and will be engaging with local communities throughout the rollout.
- Quarterly Newsletters and site visits for Councillors and MLAs.
- Address level postcode checker for ‘Where and When’.
- Opportunities as communities go live for local events photo ops, as local areas switch on.
- A Fibre Ambassador in each council area we are building in.
- Social contract to employ apprenticeships, graduates and new entrant trainees.
- Fibrus Community – ‘giving back’ campaign £200k+

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

HYPERFAST NI - WEBSITE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Hyperfast NI?

Hyperfast NI is a brand owned by Fibrus that is wholly focused on promoting information on the delivery of Project Stratum as an open access wholesale network.

What is Project Stratum?

Where do I get more information?

Who are Fibrus?

What is Hyperfast broadband?

When can I get Hyperfast broadband?

How does the programme plan its rollout- why can't you tell me if I am going to get fibre based broadband now?

When fibre broadband is available in my area, will my broadband simply get faster without me taking any action?

What does Hyperfast broadband cost?

HOW DO I GET HYPERFAST?

CHECK BACK HERE IN EARLY 2021 FOR OUR POSTCODE CHECKER

Fibrus are providing a Wholesale network for the Project Stratum area. Retail Service Providers offering services will be listed here.

INFORMATION FOR RETAIL SERVICE PROVIDER

Fibrus Wholesale

Fibrus offer Wholesale Access Services to Retail Service Providers in areas where infrastructure is subject to public funding. This includes the Project Stratum intervention area.

Fibrus published its Wholesale Reference Offer on 5th June 2020, **here**.

Retail Service Providers can contact the Fibrus Wholesale team for information on coverage, onboarding and interconnect on **fibruswholesale@fibrus.com**

GET IN TOUCH

Full Name* | Email*

Postcode* | Type of Enquiry: I have a question

Your message

SEND MESSAGE

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IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

PROJECT STRATUM

fibrus
HYPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND

Q&A SESSION

IN COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE

Report on	Sport NI Corporate Plan Consultations
Date of Meeting	10th December 2020
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager

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 information on Sport Northern Ireland Draft Corporate Plan for 2020 to 2025 and associated consultations.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Sport NI have announced that they are seeking to consult on their Corporate Plan 2020 – 2025.
2.2	A number of dates have been published and due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, its intended to hold these sessions online.
2.3	Sport NI have stated that they value the views and opinions from everyone across Northern Ireland as sport plays a huge role in the lives of many, and has especially played a crucial role in communities across Northern Ireland during these disruptive and uncertain times with Covid-19.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Sport NI are holding general public consultation sessions, virtually, for council areas across Northern Ireland throughout the next three months. It is free to get involved in a consultation session for a designated area, and its intedned to provide a forum for people to have their say in the development of their Corporate Plan for Sport from 2020 to 2025.
3.2	For the Mid Ulster District Council area, the proposed consultation session date is Monday 11th January 2021. Each session will commence at 6.30pm and last for around 2 hours. Each consultation will have smaller break-out sessions which will take place after for more detailed discussions in smaller groups. The above consultation date is aimed at members of the general public. Booking can be made online via Sport NI website and sessions will be booked on a first come basis.
3.3	Additional consultations will be held for the following groups with specific dates to be communicated:

	• Governing bodies of sport and umbrella bodies – December 2020 • Education authorities and providers – December 2020 - January 2021 • Health sector – December 2020 – January 2021 • Councils – December 2020 - January 2021 • Community sports organisations – December 2020 - January 2021 • Under-represented and Section 75 representative groups – December 2020 – February 2021
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: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	N/A