



16 January 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Thursday, 16 January 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
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 - Social Enterprise NI

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| 5. | Economic Development for Decision | 3 - 24 |
| 6. | Community Development | 25 - 32 |
| 7. | Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 | 33 - 34 |
| 8. | Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement | 35 - 38 |
| 9. | Recommendations on allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants (Re-advertised) | 39 - 42 |
| 10. | Sports Representative Grants | 43 - 46 |

Matters for Information

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 11 | Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 December 2019 | 47 - 56 |
| 12 | Economic Development For Information | 57 - 60 |
| 13 | Halloween and Christmas Events overview 2019 | 61 - 66 |
| 14 | Report on Tourism Groups Mid Ulster - 2020 | 67 - 68 |

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

15. Faber & Faber Licencing Agreement
16. Caravan Tariffs 2020/2021
17. Tariffs and opening hours for the Dark Sky Park & Observatory
2020 / 2021
18. Catering Contract Davagh Dark Skies Park

Matters for Information

19. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 4
December 2019
20. Update on Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open Ground Project
21. Maghera High School Site

Report on	1) Proposal from Princes Trust 2020/21 2) Proposal from Orchardville 2020/21 3) Irish Central Border Area Network
Date of Meeting	16 January 2020
Reporting Officer	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	<p>Princes Trust Proposal 2020/21 The Prince's Trust is a youth charity that works with young people aged 13-30 helping them develop skills and motivation and supports them into jobs, education and training through a range of personal development and employability programmes. The Trust have submitted a Proposal (Appendix 1 attached) seeking funding from Council to deliver two initiatives totalling £10,000 to provide small grants to young people to gain employment and test trade, prior to starting a business.</p>
2.2	<p>Orchardville Proposal 2020/21 Orchardville was established in Belfast in 1982 and works as a social enterprise, providing specialist learning disability and/or autism supported employment services. Orchardville has submitted a Proposal (Appendix 2 attached) seeking funding from the Council to deliver a specialist disability employment programme in Mid Ulster.</p>
2.3	<p>Irish Central Border Area Network In July 2019 the Council recommended the provision of an annual contribution towards ICBAN of up to £12,500 for the financial year 2019/20.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Prince's Trust Proposal 2020/21 While Council is supportive of the proposal's objectives on Appendix 1, the Council's economic development budget is fully committed for 2020/21 with priority being placed on funding Council's five new business programmes and the district wide Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme.</p>

3.2	<p>Orchardville Proposal 2020/21</p> <p>While the proposal from Orchardville on Appendix 2 is for a worthy cause, it does however seek 100% funding from Mid Ulster District Council of £28,323 during 2020/21 to employ two Specialist Disability Employment Officers to be based in Mid Ulster to work with people who have a learning disability and/or autism. It is recommended that Council declines Orchardville funding proposal at this time, as Council's '<i>match funding budget</i>' to co-finance projects of this nature is already committed to supporting a number of other local 'European Social Fund' (ESF) projects until 2022, which assists many disadvantaged individuals to re-engage with the labour market.</p> <p>It is also recommended that Orchardville be directed to Council's new Social Enterprise Programme, opening Spring 2020 for development support and additionally, be referred to the Lead Officer responsible for the Mid Ulster Community Planning Health & Wellbeing Group with a view to making representation to this Group about their work.</p>
3.3	<p>Irish Central Border Area Network</p> <p>ICBAN has submitted their report on work completed during the period April – December 2019 and this is enclosed on Appendix 3 attached. Approval is requested to release the second (and final) 50% instalment of their contribution. A Final Report will be submitted for the year in April 2020.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: ICBAN – Provision had been made in the 2019/20 economic development budget for £6,250 (second and final payment this year).</p> <p>Human: Officer time</p> <p>Risk Management:</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>Princes Trust Proposal 2020/21</p> <p>Decline the request from the Prince's Trust, as the economic development budget</p>

	<p>is already committed for next year 2020/21, with priority being placed on funding Council's five new business programmes and the district wide Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme.</p>
5.2	<p>Orchardville Proposal 2020/21</p> <p>Decline Orchardville funding request as Council's budget to fund projects of this nature is already committed to supporting a number of other local ESF projects until 2022, which assist individuals to re-engage with the labour market.</p> <p>It is further recommended that Orchardville be directed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Make an application to Council's new Social Enterprise Programme when it opens to applications in spring 2020 to seek assistance to help their organisation investigate other avenues of funding and methods whereby the company could become more self-sustaining. Liaise with the Project Lead on Mid Ulster's Community Planning Health & Wellbeing Group with a view to making representation to this Group about their work.
5.3	<p>Irish Central Border Area Network</p> <p>Members to approve release of 2nd (and final) 50% payment of £6,250 for 2019/20 to ICBAN.</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Prince's Trust Proposal 2020/21
6.2	Appendix 2 – Orchardville Proposal 2020/21
6.3	Appendix 3 – ICBAN Report (April-December 2019)



YOUTH
CAN
DO IT



THE PRINCE'S TRUST NORTHERN IRELAND TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES

Partnership proposal for Mid Ulster Council 2020/21



Introduction

This proposal sets out a vision of a partnership between The Prince's Trust and Mid Ulster Council. We believe that by working together we can secure a better future for the young people living within Mid Ulster Council and make a significant contribution to priorities identified in the Council's Community plan "*Our Community plan – 10-year plan for Mid Ulster*". Our proposal and the work of The Prince's Trust cuts across all 5 themes of the plan however we can make a valuable and measurable impact to the following 2 themes and outcomes- Theme 1 – Economic Growth and Theme 3 – Education and Skills.

Furthermore, our work contributes to the Economic Development Plan "*Our plan for growth 2015 – 2020 – Enabling Employability and Skills*" particularly Theme 2: Employability and Skills. The Trust's work can help to address the skills requirements while at the same time ensuring that those not in employment or training have the opportunity and support, they require to find a job, apprenticeship or training scheme which meets their needs.

The Prince's Trust

For over 40 years, The Prince's Trust has been working with young people aged 13-30 helping them develop skills and motivation and supporting them into jobs, education and training through our range of personal development and employability programmes.

Of the 8,000 young people we supported in 2018/19, 221 were from Mid Ulster Council and 86% of the young people progressed into a positive outcome. Of the 221 young people we supported:

- 14% had a mental health issue;
- 21% had a disability
- 4% were Care Leavers

We believe that with the right support, all young people can find the confidence, strength and skills to help them to realise their potential. Our programmes offer personal development opportunities and financial support that bring tangible and lasting benefits to both our young people, and the communities in which they live.

Development Awards

Development Awards are small cash grants which aim to remove financial barriers that prevent young people entering education, employment or training. Factors such as travel costs or college fees can be significant barriers preventing young people from taking up education and employment opportunities.

The Development Awards programme would support **25** young people, aged 16-30 in Mid Ulster Council area with small grants averaging £175 to help fund course and professional fees, equipment needed for a qualification or job, interview clothes, short-term childcare or travel costs essential to help young people develop their skills and qualifications and enhance their ability to gain employment. (See Appendix 1 for case study)

Outcomes for Development Awards

- ☐ 25 young people aged 16-30 will receive a Development Award to support progression to enter employment, education or training.
- ☐ 22 (90%) young people aged 16-30 will progress to education, training or employment.

Business start-up support

The Prince's Trust Enterprise programme provides a wide range of support and funding to help unemployed young people, aged 18-30 explore and test their business ideas, write plans and start their own businesses or achieve other goals in education, training or employment.

The package of support available to the young people includes:

- ☐ Information session
- ☐ 3-day course
- ☐ Market research grants
- ☐ Start-up grants up

- ☐ Potential start-up loan funding
- ☐ Up to 2 years support from a volunteer business mentor

Will it Work grants

All young people must undertake market research if they wish to pursue their business idea. This should involve surveying customer opinions and reviewing competition to ensure there is a gap in the market for the proposed business.

A Will it Work grant is a grant of up to £250 that can be used for test trading. The test should be as close as possible to the business model the young person intends to launch. It can include testing marketing strategies. If possible, the young person should make some of their product and sell it through the method identified in their business plan, or to advertise and carry out their intended service

The Will it Work grants would support 15 young people in Mid Ulster Council area with a grant of £250 to help them test the market for their business. (See Appendix 1 for case studies)

Will it Work grant Outcomes

- ☐ 15 young entrepreneurs aged 18-30 will receive a Will it Work grant to test their business idea
- ☐ 13 (90%) young entrepreneurs will continue to receive support from The Prince Trust to progress their business or progress to alternative education or training.

Partnership approach

In return for an investment of £5,000 from the Council, The Prince's Trust would target 25 Development Awards at young people aged 16 -30 who live within the Borough and 15 Will it Work grants at young people from the Council area, aged 18 -30 who have completed the 3-day Enterprise programme.

The contribution from Mid Ulster Council will be matched by support from an individual philanthropic donation. The Trust's work is supported by a private donor who has an active interest in supporting young people from the Mid Ulster Council and is also keen that his investment in the area will leverage public sector money. The donation will contribute match funding to the value of £5,000 demonstrating a firm commitment to supporting the skills

development of young people in Mid Ulster Council are. In total £10,000 will be invested into the Mid Ulster area to supporting young people into education, training or employment.

Budget

Programme	Philanthropic investment	Mid Ulster Council	TOTAL INVESTMENT IN MID ULSTER COUNCIL AREA
Delivery and Administration of 25 Development Awards and 15 Will it Work grants to young people in Mid Ulster Council area.	£5,000	£5,000	£10,000

Next steps

To progress the opportunities further or discuss any aspect of the proposal in more detail please contact: Orla Major, orla.major@princes-trust.org.uk. 02890 895025.

Appendix 1

Development Award case study

Richard is 17 years old. His Dad is incapacitated due to a series of back operations. His Mum is a carer for his Dad and is therefore unable to work. Richard also helps with caring for his Dad. Richard is working towards completion of Level 2 Brickwork and Trowel course at Belfast Metropolitan College. The lack of income in the family means that Richard was unable to buy the tools he needs for his work placement.

A Development Award from The Prince's Trust supported Richard to purchase tools for his brickwork course and he is now well on his way to completing his Level 2 qualification. Richard is enthusiastic and hardworking and has not let the challenging situation at home prevent him from pursuing his career goals

Will it Work grant - case study

Mark applied for a Will it Work grant to purchase car valet materials to help him test trade his idea of opening a Car valeting service in his local area. He also used the funding to produce some flyers and business cards to promote his business. Mark distributed the flyers in his local area and was fortunate to gain some customers. This gave him the confidence to pursue his research, complete a business plan and apply for start-up funding from The Prince's Trust.

APPENDIX 2 – ORCHARDVILLE PROPOSAL

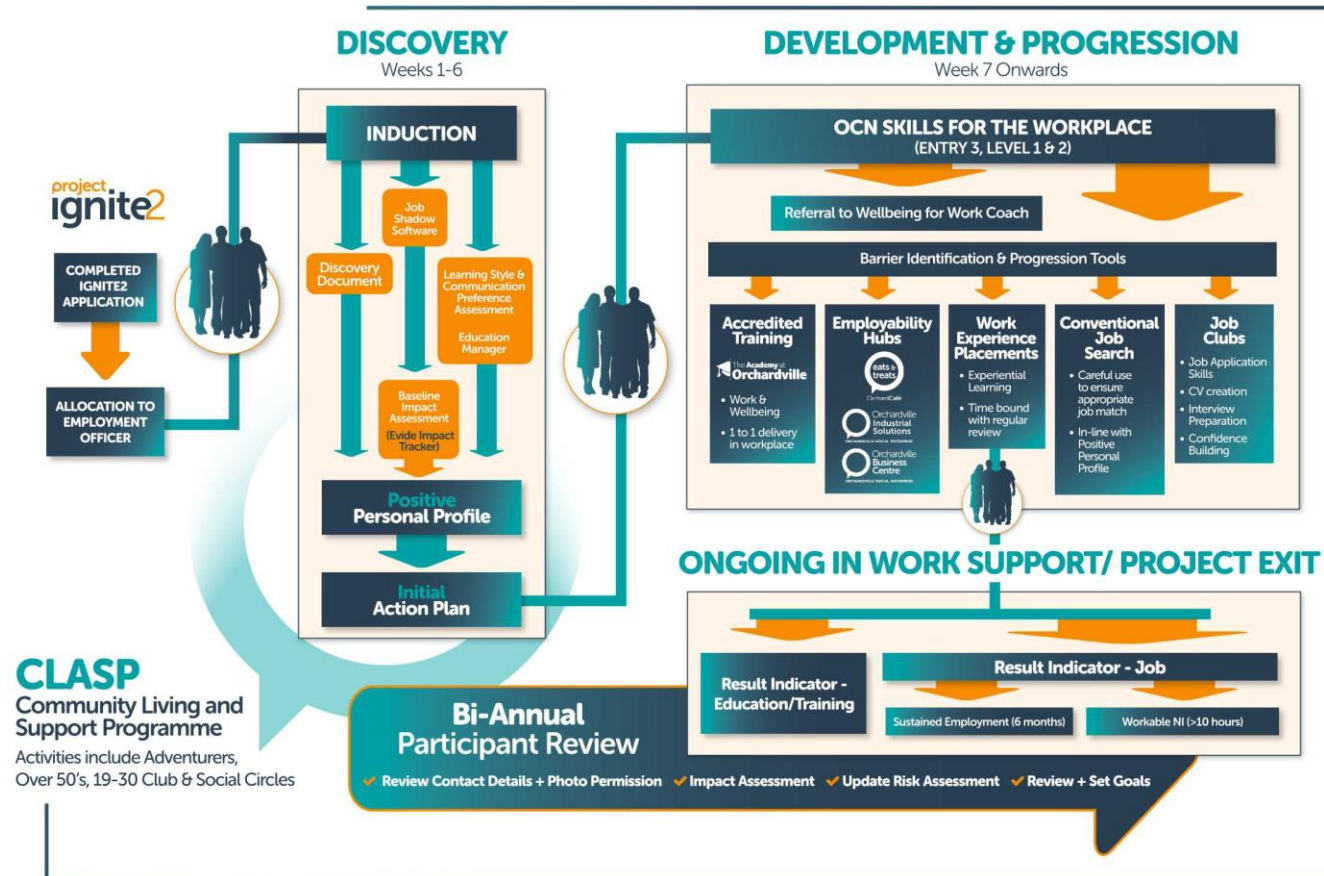


Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council to deliver a specialist employment service for people with learning disability and/or autism November 2019

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orchardville was established in 1982 in South & East Belfast.• Founded by parents who believed that their children were capable of more than attending statutory day centres and wanted a genuine & sustainable employment offer.• Specialist learning disability/autism employment services are now offered across 6 councils' areas in NI including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ards and North Down○ Belfast City○ Causeway Coast and Glens○ Derry City and Strabane○ Lisburn and Castlereagh○ Newry, Mourne and Down• Supporting 500 participants annually• Network of 100+ employers providing work experience opportunities and paid employment• Long history of creating sustainable employment for people with leaning disability and/or autism.• Recognised by the sector as the leading provider of excellent services with a recent SENI award for Education, Training and Jobs. Shortlisted for UK Award in December 2019
Strategic Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We believe that we can make a positive contribution to Mid Ulster's 10 year community plan, particularly to the Themes of<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Economic Growth - recognising the contribution to a vibrant economy of people with disability○ Education & Skills - our employment services will incorporate mental health and emotional resilience for participants○ Health & Wellbeing – we will contribute to ensuring increased quality of life and opportunities for people with disabilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vibrant & Safe Communities – our approach will support a vibrant and diverse community and increase the delivery of employment services by a community organisation. • We believe that we can support Network Personnel to achieve project outcomes on their “Up for Work” and “Jobmatch” ESF projects which are match funded by MUDC. Specifically, we can positively contribute to project outcomes by moving participants to education and training. • We believe that we can add value to Network Personnel’s Community Family Support Programme by offering disability support to those families who have family members with learning disability and/or autism.
Local need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI School Census shows that the number of post primary pupils in Mid Ulster with special educational needs attending mainstream schools are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cookstown - 1322 ○ Magherafelt - 585 ○ Dungannon – 13577 <p>(Source Dept for Education response to FOI question, June 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of autism in NI continues to increase from 1.2% in 2008/09 to 3.3% in 2018/19 • Recent conversations with Kilronan Special School in Magherafelt, suggests a gap in meaningful employment opportunities for students leaving the school. • Recent conversations with Network Personnel have suggested that several participants with learning disability and/or autism have approached them for support into employment which they have not been able to meet as they are not a disability specialist provider.
Local Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchardville has a long and well established referral pathway, including NI Careers Service; HSC Trusts; Further Education Colleges; Jobs/Benefit Offices. This referral pathway would be replicated in Mid Ulster. • Recent conversations locally with Network Personnel, suggest a referral pathway from Network Personnel to Orchardville for participants with learning disability and/or autism. • Meadowlane Shopping Centre, Magherafelt, managed by Lambert Smith Hampton, have chosen Orchardville as their charity partner for 2020/2021 • Charity Partnership will facilitate opportunity to raise awareness about Orchardville and referrals to both Orchardville and Network Personnel through advertising and fundraising within the shopping centre. • Orchardville has well established relationships with employers, some of whom have a Mid Ulster presence including B&M, Four Seasons Healthcare, Henderson’s (Spar, EuroSpar and Vivo), McDonalds, O’Neill’s International Sportswear, Savers and Tesco.

Delivery Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchardville uses the Supported Employment Model. • The model is internationally recognised as the most appropriate delivery model for people with disability. • The model provides high quality, personalised and often long term support to secure, maintain and progress into paid employment
Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchardville would propose employing 2 specialist disability Employment Officers, each working 20 hours per week, based in Mid Ulster. • Locally based Employment Officers would develop strong relationships with referrers, employers and participants. • Employment Officers would follow Orchardville's established and successful delivery model (info graphic attached) • We will aim to support 15 - 20 people with learning disability to enhance their employability and soft skills through accredited training and work experience opportunities, moving 10-15% into paid employment and supporting them to remain in paid employment.
Funding Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projected Employment Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £27,016.00 per annum inclusive of employer national insurance and pension contributions • Staff travel estimate - based on similar model in Derry City & Strabane Council area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £1,300.00 per annum ○ Total Funding Requested - £28,323.00



APPENDIX 3

ICBAN Progress against Action Plan (01 April 2019 - 31 March 2020)

PROGRESS REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2019 - 31 DECEMBER 2019

ICBAN TARGETS/OUTPUTS 2019/20	ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS
Platform for Cross Border Cooperation in the ICBAN Region.	<p>Facilitate and service Board Meetings, CEO/CM Meetings, other Sector Specific / Thematic Meetings</p> <p>Facilitate and service meetings with key stakeholders and assist in establishing better cross border working relationships and arrangements.</p>	<p>ICBAN Management Board Meetings were held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 09th April 2019, 19th June 2019, 18th September 2019, 16th October 2019, 20th November 2019 <p>ICBAN Annual General Meeting was held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20th November 2019 <p>Officer Group Meetings were held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11th June 2019, 06th August 2019, 10th September 2019, 03rd October 2019, 07th November 2019 <p>The Financial Sustainability Sub-Committee was convened on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 09th April 2019 <p>Meetings/Events from 01 April 2019 - 31 December 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 01st May 2019: Meeting with NILGA re cross-border collaboration on services; - 11th July 2019: Meeting with Mid Ulster District Council Officers to discuss current work priorities and EU projects delivery and benefits to Mid Ulster; - 11th July 2019: Meeting with the Consumer Council re broadband; - 15th August 2019: Meeting with ICLRD re Border Navigator Project; - 21st August 2019: Meeting with Ofcom re 5G and Project Stratum; - 21st August 2019: Meeting with QUB to develop 'The Border into Brexit' initiative; - 05th September 2019: Meeting with Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Officers on ICBAN priorities and EU projects; - 03rd September 2019: Meeting with cross-border groups and CCBS; - 03rd September: Meeting with ICLRD re Border Animator Project application; - 06th September 2019: Attendance at the ComReg Annual Conference in Dublin; - 06th September 2019: Meetings with Officials in Dublin from Depts. of An Taoiseach and Foreign Affairs and Trade - 09th September 2019: Facilitation of Senior Council Officers' Forum in Enniskillen (including MUDC Director); - 11th September 2019: Meeting with Údarás na Gaeltachta to discuss the delivery of the Digi-2-Market Project in the Central Border Region. - 18th September 2019: Meeting with Cavan County Council Officers on ICBAN priorities and EU projects.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 08th-10th October 2019: Hosted the Digi-2-Market Project International Partnership Meetings in Enniskillen. - 11th October 2019: Attended the Manchester University Technology & Spatial Conference. - 29th November 2019: Met with a Sinn Féin Policy Group in Stormont re broadband provision. - 06th November 2019: Attended the ICLRD Planning Conference in Ulster University, Magee Campus. - 07th November 2019: Met with SEUPB CEO regarding the PEACE Plus Programme.
Contribute to the effective and efficient running of ICBAN.	Ongoing operation of Internal Control System. Annual Financial Statement / Accounts. Supporting the employment of an Administrator.	<p>Internal Control System: The agreed Internal Control System is fully operational. The Accounts and Audit Statement for 2018/19 were ratified at the Board Meeting held on 16th October 2019.</p> <p>Executive Assistant employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development and implementation of ICBAN's corporate aims and objectives, through the provision of administration and secretarial services. • Providing competent, reliable and efficient secretarial, administrative and support services for ICBAN. • Corporate Administration: arranging appointments and service meetings for the ICBAN Management Board and Sub-Committees, Working Groups and others as required. • Financial & Company Administration: including banking, payroll, Assets Register, procurement etc. • Project Administration: maintaining a management information system for all project related documentation.
Support the employment of the ICBAN CEO to lead the organisation moving forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership, management & development of ICBAN. • Develop strategic focus of ICBAN in partnership with Member Councils. • Maintain and grow ICBAN's position in cross border development and promote cross border cooperation. • Communicating the benefits, successes and awareness of ICBAN within the region and beyond. • Establish, develop & maintain robust structures and systems to ensure effective and 	<p>CEO Principal Accountabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acting as a figure head for ICBAN. ▪ Developing and managing new relationships with Councils (elected representatives & officials). ▪ Working with Partner Council Chief Executives and County Managers. ▪ Maintaining ICBAN's position in cross border development through effective influencing at community, local and central government level. ▪ Providing leadership, managing and developing the ICBAN operational team. ▪ Contributing to the development and implementation of strategic, operational and project plans, in partnership with ICBAN member Councils and other stakeholders as appropriate. ▪ Overseeing systems and procedures to ensure effective and efficient delivery of agreed outcomes. ▪ Facilitating collaboration between stakeholders in the field of strategic regional development in the cross-border area. Reporting to the Management Board. ▪ Managing public relations and maximising exposure to and awareness of ICBAN's work throughout the central border region. <p>Promoting cross border cooperation through - activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11th July 2019: Meeting with Mid Ulster District Council Officers to discuss current work priorities and EU projects delivery and benefits to Mid Ulster; - 15th August 2019: Meeting with ICLRD re Border Navigator Project; - 21st August 2019: Meeting with QUB to develop 'The Border into Brexit' initiative;

	<p>efficient delivery of agreed outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Report to the ICBAN Management Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 05th September 2019: Meeting with Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Officers on ICBAN priorities and EU projects;- 03rd September 2019: Meeting with cross-border groups and CCBS;- 03rd September: Meeting with ICLRD re Border Animator Project application;- 09th September 2019: Facilitation of Senior Council Officers’ Forum in Enniskillen (including MUDC Director);- 11th September 2019: Meeting with Údarás na Gaeltachta to discuss the delivery of the Digi-2-Market Project in the Central Border Region.- 18th September 2019: Meeting with Cavan County Council Officers on ICBAN priorities and EU projects.- 07th November 2019: Met with SEUPB CEO regarding the PEACE Plus Programme- 02nd December 2019 - Presentation to ABC Council Committee on projects and initiatives- 04th December 2019 - Meeting with Monaghan County Council Officers on ICBAN priorities and EU projects.						
Sustain Existing Jobs	<p>Support the provision of a staff complement to enable ICBAN to achieve its goals.</p> <p>Projected: 3 full time</p>	<p>ICBAN Secretariat:</p> <table><tr><td>Shane Campbell</td><td>CEO</td></tr><tr><td>Joanne Breen</td><td>Executive Assistant</td></tr><tr><td>Andy Hallewell</td><td>Innovation Officer</td></tr></table>	Shane Campbell	CEO	Joanne Breen	Executive Assistant	Andy Hallewell	Innovation Officer
Shane Campbell	CEO							
Joanne Breen	Executive Assistant							
Andy Hallewell	Innovation Officer							
ICBAN Strategic Development Function	<p>Digital Connectivity - Telecoms/High Speed Internet Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lobby stakeholders to address issues of inadequate broadband and telecoms connectivity/provision in rural areas▪ Monitor the progression of the roll-out of superfast broadband in Northern Ireland in respect of the £150m allocated under the Confidence and Supply Agreement▪ Lobby stakeholders to address cross-border roaming issues▪ Identify opportunities for businesses to source funding to improve broadband access, coverage and speeds in the Mid Ulster area <p>A position paper setting out key issues and challenges for the delivery of Project Stratum has been completed and shared with local authorities, political parties and other stakeholders in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The investigative report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the NIAO into the management of broadband contracts since 2012 by the Department for the Economy (DfE) is expected in the autumn of 2019. This investigation was initiated by ICBAN.</p> <p>Key Agenda items for meeting with Ofcom on 21st August 2019;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Delivery of Project Stratum and ensuring that rural areas must be key beneficiaries;2) With the UK set to leave the Digital Single Market through Brexit, that inadvertent roaming charges would not become a burden again for border region citizens and workers and that the current EU ‘Roam Like At Home’ legislation would be transposed to UK law; and3) Plans for Ofcom to host a 5G event in the autumn, which would examine the values of 5G services, the planning notifications process and publicity relating to health concerns.						

		<p>Attendance at the ComReg Conference in Dublin on 06th September 2019. The focus of this event was the ‘Digital Revolution’ and the safe use of data online. Met with Sinn Féin Policy Group to discuss Project Stratum and broadband provision in the Central Border Region. Actively lobbied that ‘lotting’ criteria should not be introduced into the Project Stratum procurement process, at the risk of rural areas not being bid for by providers meaning that infrastructure and services in these areas could be at risk. Through engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including MUDC and other local authorities, this criteria has been dropped.</p> <p>Will be attending the Ofcom 5G Conference in Lisburn on 29th January 2020.</p>
	Roads Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lobby for roads infrastructure improvements to the A5 and A29 arterial routes Continued lobbying and representations, including participation in consultations, on the need or progress in delivering the complete planned A5 and A29 arterial routes.
	Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boost the attractiveness of tourism destinations in Mid Ulster ICBAN is committed through the strategic objectives of the RSF (Regional Strategic Framework, 2014) to work in partnership with Councils to promote and develop the attractiveness and economic benefit provided by tourism destinations across the Region. The development of Literary Tourism as a niche, yet strategically significant aspect of the tourism offering in the Region, encompasses the support and added value we can bring to Mid Ulster over and above its already well-developed product through the Seamus Heaney Home Place. ▪ Progress development of regional literary tourism in Mid Ulster The Literary Tourism SME support element of the BLITZ project will commence in the Central Border Region (including Mid Ulster) in January 2020. This will be followed by a more extensive programme of business mentoring and support, which will complete at the end of 2020. ▪ Report on the progression of a Literary Tourism Project - Business of Literature Zones (BLITZ) Project for the Central Border Region <p>The BLITZ Project is focused primarily on the benefits that local SMEs can derive from an association with literary tourism. In the Central Border Region, ICBAN will recruit c.10 local businesses to participate in the business support elements of the project.</p> <p>The third international BLITZ partnership meeting took place in Wigtown, Scotland on 27th-28th August 2019.</p> <p>The BLITZ Project has been re-branded for publicity purposes as ‘Spot-Lit’ and the website and social media platforms, including an animated video were launched on 24th September 2019 and can be found at: https://www.spot-lit.eu/</p>

	Brexit	<p>Promotion of the Spot-lit workshops which will take place in early 2020 has commenced. One workshop will be held in the Mid Ulster area on 30th January 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the progression of 5 new Literary Tourism products/services (through the BLITZ Project) The BLITZ Project taps into the potential of literary tourism to enable SMEs to develop new products and services and to increase their market reach and export potential. A series of workshops and an incubation programme will be delivered in winter 2019 and spring 2020; the output of which will be new 5 new Literary Tourism products/services (by autumn 2020). ▪ Monitor evolving developments and submit responses to consultations in respect of Brexit issues ICBAN keeps abreast of Brexit developments, through monitoring of current affairs and governmental updates. ICBAN has given evidence to a number of committees in the past and takes the opportunity to make representations on behalf of the Central Border Region. An ICBAN delegation met with the SEUPB CEO on 07th November 2019 and will then formally input to the PEACE Plus consultation, which is due to open in December 2019 and will close on 25th February 2020. ▪ Report on the impact of Brexit on those living and working in the Central Border Region ICBAN was awarded €20k from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund for the Border Navigator Project. Work on this project has commenced with 'The Border into Brexit' initiative, delivered in partnership with Queen's University Belfast. This third research study projects a voice for border region residents and works on the impacts of Brexit on everyday life and the potential for a 'No Deal' Brexit scenario. The initiative includes an online survey, which has received over 470 responses, 4 focus group sessions (one of which was held in Caledon, County Tyrone on 22nd October) and 12 key stakeholder sectoral interviews. An interim findings document is now available to download from the ICBAN website (also attached), with the final report to follow mid-December. ▪ In collaboration with Queen's University Belfast progress preliminary study to examine existing good practice cross-border service delivery models Billy Vaughan, a student of MA in Global Security and Borders was assigned as an intern with ICBAN in spring 2019. A scoping study entitled 'Cross-Border Service Delivery: Towards Models of Best Practice' was completed in June 2019 and issued to key stakeholders in the Central Border Region (report attached). ▪ Respond to opportunities for joint project working/development A meeting of the Council Directors on Strategic Cooperation was facilitated by ICBAN on 09th September 2019 through a Council Senior Officers forum; with all eight Member Councils
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	Other EU Projects	<p>The Risk Register for the project was updated at the recent steering committee meeting and included an upgrade of the risk rating for Brexit.</p> <p>Detailed discussions have been held on the support programme for businesses who wish to benefit from the development of LT in the project. In the ICBAN region, initial workshops will complete in the autumn. This will be followed by a more extensive programme of business mentoring and support concluding in November 2020. Five businesses from our region will be selected to receive Innovation Vouchers up to a maximum of €10,000 each, to assist businesses to develop 5 new LT products or services. The vouchers will be funded by each business contributing 50% of eligible costs, with the balance of costs coming from project funding, ICBAN and any potential additional supports from the Councils.</p> <p>The Digital App for the project being developed by Kajjaani University in Finland is proceeding to plan, with field tests now complete for Finland and Scotland. The Baseline Survey designed to assess and evaluate current levels of LT activity across the four Regions has now been distributed by Lapland University of Applied Sciences. In our Region, a public sector orientated version of the study is being sent to Councils and other stakeholders. A private sector version of the survey is being distributed to local businesses and literary associations.</p> <p>The website, animated film and PR/Social Media Plan, were launched on 24th September 2019. Promotion through social media is ongoing.</p> <p>The initial engagement with the Region's SMEs will commence in January 2020, with three workshops being held in locations across the Central Border Region.</p> <p>The next Partnership Meeting is scheduled for 11th -13th March 2020 in Lapland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress implementation of 'Digi-2-Market' Project <p>ICBAN has recently, in conjunction with Irish partner WestBic, completed a Digital Marketing assessment tool for SMEs in the project. This questionnaire will be filled in by businesses in the four project Regions to assess their current use of digital marketing and their interest in working with immersive technology marketing. The partners have agreed a project brand and logo with which to approach SMEs: 360° - <i>Immersive technology for SMEs</i>. Icelandic partner SSNV has now produced marketing resources for Digi2Market including pop-us and brochure leaflets. Development of the Green Business framework for SMEs has now been completed by Karelia in Finland and becomes a resource for all SMEs in the project. The development of a Model of Storytelling using immersive technology has now been completed by Ulster University.</p> <p>An International Partnership Meeting was held in Enniskillen from 08th - 10th October and included a best practice visit to businesses using AR and VR in the Region.</p> <p>With the exception of Interreg Europe, the three main other Interreg Programmes - NPA, Atlantic Area and NW Europe have all been applied to during the last period.</p>
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Events / Promotion / Materials		Updating Facebook, Twitter and the ICBAN website on project developments and promotion of project activities.
Cross Border Linkages - provide opportunities for shared learning and ensure a coherent impact of investment throughout the eligible area.	Continue to strengthen the working relationships with the East Border Region, and North West Region, to share learning and good practice	ICBAN has continued to build effective working relationships with the other Cross Border Groups. ICBAN works very closely with the other Cross Border Groups, sharing information on a range of topical issues relating to cross-border working and attended a meeting with the Centre for Cross-Border Studies and the other cross-border groups on 03 rd September 2019 to review the recent Irish Govt review of cross-border NGOs.
Role in wider EU Context.		ICBAN has continued to be a member of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and avails of the networking opportunities provided by Membership.

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	16 th January 2020
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officer	Philip Clarke Community Support, Oliver Morgan Good Relations & Peace, Michael McCrory PCSP

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 rolling grant awards - Good Relations and Local Community Festivals
1.2	To note the update on Community Development.
1.3	To provide an update on the Community Planning Social Housing Working Group.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants – Council annually delivers two rolling community grants programmes; Good Relations and Local Community Festivals.
2.2	Community Development Update - An update is provided on the following areas: Community Support – Grants, Support, Village Planning, Community Centres, DFC Neighbourhood Renewal Peace IV and Good Relations including Decade of Anniversaries Programme PCSP
2.3	As part of Community Planning, Council agreed to facilitate a Social Housing Working Group to seek to maximize the provision of social housing for Mid Ulster.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Rolling Community Grants - Good Relations: 4 applications recommended for awards totalling £2700 and one application did not meet minimum score threshold. Community Local Festivals: applications recommended for awards totalling £2275. Please refer to Appendix 1.
3.2	Community Development Update <u>Community Support</u> Community grants are being prepared to open early 2020. Meetings are continuing with members in DEAs to provide an update on village plans. Dates are being scheduled to suit member's diary.

	<p>Neighbourhood Renewal: DFC projects for 2018 – 2019 are continuing to deliver. The Gortgonis project remains in development.</p> <p><u>Peace and Good Relations</u> Good Relations Action Plan 2018 – 2019 – All projects are moving to completion and monitoring stage.</p> <p>Peace IV delivery is ongoing – All projects and grants are delivering to target and timescale.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> PCSP plan 2019 – 2020 is ongoing, with projects completing and being monitored.</p>
3.3	The Social Housing Working Group meets every 6 months, the last meeting was held on Friday 6 th December. A copy of a note of the meeting is attached for information.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Community Grants awards – Good Relations (£2,700), Community Festivals (£2275).</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To agree the rolling grant awards - Good Relations (£2,700) and Local Community Festivals (£2275).
5.2	To note the update on Community Development.
5.3	To note the update on the Community Planning Social Housing Working Group.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 Good Relations and Local Community Festivals</p> <p>Appendix 2 Social Housing Working Group note of meeting.</p>

Appendix 1

Good Relations – January 2020

No.	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	Dgn Ladies Probus	Cultural	Cultural Trips	5	£518	£310
2	Feis Dhun Geannain	Cultural	Speech & Drama Festival	3	£1,000	£800
3	Mid Ulster Pride	Community	Series Of Events	1	£1,500	£1,200
4	Montober RBP 598	Community	Cultural Trip	6	£780	£390
						£2,700

Unsuccessful

Mid Ulster Stroke Survivors Group	Series of Activities	Did not meet minimum threshold
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Community Local Festivals – January 2020

No.	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Burnvale Community Association	Community	A Global Christmas at Burnvale	6	£800	£400
2	Dungannon Music & Drama Festival Ass.	Cultural	Dungannon Music & Drama Fest. 2020	3	£1,200	£960
3	Queen Elizabeth II (Pomeroy) Primary School Parent Teacher Association	School & Community	Pomeroy Santa Run and Christmas Craft Fayre 2019	6	£975	£490
4	St. Ciaran's Connected PTA	School & Community	Spring Market	6	£850	£425
						£2,275

Mid Ulster Housing Working Group
Friday 6th December 2019 at Mid Ulster Council Offices Dungannon
Minutes

Attendance

Ailbhe Hickey	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Sinead Collins	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Chris Boomer	Mid Ulster District Council – Planning
Ben Collins	Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations
Tracey Ellis	Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations
Ray Forbes	Apex Housing Association
Mark Graham	Co-Ownership
Leanne Kelly	North Belfast Housing Association
Niall Sheridan	Choice Housing Association
James Wright	South Ulster Housing Association
Joe Galbraith	Radius Housing
Denise Quinn	Clanmil Housing Association
Katrina Smyth	Habinteg Housing Association
Lucia Carolan	Supporting Communities
Cllr Cora Corry	Mid Ulster District Council
Claire Linney	Mid Ulster District Council
Martina Totten	Mid Ulster District Council

Apologies

Paddy Gray	Chartered Institute of Housing
Dona Knowles	Department for Communities
Kate Clifford	Rural Community Network
Teresa Canavan	Rural Action
Michael Kelly	Rural Action
Cllr Sean McPeake	Mid Ulster District Council Member
Cllr C Elattar	Mid Ulster District Council

Welcome & Apologies

Claire Linney welcomed everyone to the meeting

Draft Local Development Plan

- **Development Unit Threshold for Social and Affordable Housing**
- **Supplementary Policy**
- **Update on Affordable Housing Definition**

Chris Boomer provided an update on the Local Development Plan:

- Draft Local Development Plan to go to public examination.
- All comments and proposed amendment would be debated and potentially taken on board through this process.

- Potential date for public examination is Spring 2020.
- MUDC will continue to keep all members up to date.
- Plan will remain as current draft version

Key issues for Plan to support social housing

1. Unit threshold – 50 units is the current figure and if need required will trigger 25% requirement for social housing (need will be based on engagement with NIHE – look at social housing waiting list and latent demand testing).
2. Any requirements for social housing unit size or mixed tenure will be from NIHE at time of planning application consultation.
3. Masterplans will be provided for very large strategic sites. All other sites will be Key Site Requirements.
4. Phase II land will be released if it is for social housing. This will seek to manage some level of cost for land.
5. Council is currently working to the affordable definition of social housing with public funding or a model of co ownership.
6. Key solution to address social housing is vesting of land; use of threshold and % of social allocation will have a low impact in terms of numbers versus the social housing waiting list. Larger social sites are required.
7. If social housing cannot be provided for within Phase II land then consideration will be given to bringing on board additional sites for social housing (only if Phase II does not suffice).
8. If a developer does not meet the key site requirements of social housing requirement, they may be refused planning.

Discussion

- Importance of supplementary guidance on some key sites to allow developers to plan ahead and social housing associations to engage
- Mixed tenure of housing important
- Affordable housing important to offset social need (this would need to be based on a very clear definition)
- Creating Places already provides for a general technical guidance, however Key Site Requirements will be important.
- Important for NIHE and Planning to engage closely on sites.
- NIHE seeking to support evidence for mixed tenure housing in development plans. Due to land shortage cannot sustain the current level of separation; important to provide choice to those in need.

NIHE Research update

- **Universal Credit & Social Welfare Reform – Issues and Mitigating Action**
- **Private Rental Sector Review for Mid Ulster**
- **NIHE Older Person's Strategy**

Ailbhe Hickey informed the group that Karley Greene, Head of Research for NIHE was unable to attend the meeting to present the research update. Ailbhe agreed to share the links for the researched and confirmed that Karley will present at the next Housing Forum meeting.

Updates were provided for work being undertaken to address Welfare Mitigations:

- Chair of Mid Ulster District Council wrote to Permanent Secretary of Department for Communities requesting an update on the future of the welfare mitigation scheme beyond March 2020. A response was received from Tracy Meharg outlining that in the absence of an Assembly the department is unable to make amendments to the existing legislation to extend the schemes beyond the date.
- NI office are looking at discretionary housing payments and welfare mitigations, to be ready if the Assembly comes into place in January.

NIHE Investment Plan

- **Proposed Development**
 - **Site/land availability**
 - **Social Housing Need in Mid Ulster**
-
- Current proposals from Housing Associations for 758 units in 40 sites for Dungannon. Discussion ongoing to bring them forward.
 - Need in Dungannon West, however not all sites are in this area as you need to consider wider area and allow for mixed tenure to seek to alleviate the housing stress.
 - Continued issues re sewerage infrastructure

Update of Action Taken to Tackle Sewerage Crisis

- There is still some capacity for social housing provision.
- Areas of need would continue to be looked at.
- The current capacity issues takes account of planning approvals that will not happen in the short to medium term.
- Often the issue is not capacity but the pipes.

Action: Facilitate a meeting with NIHE, Planning, NIW and relevant housing associations re the potential for social housing in areas of housing stress; mainly Dungannon

The Fundamental Review of the Housing Selection Scheme (Common Selection Scheme)

10 recommendations have been made. They have been presented to the NIHE Board in November and are now pending presentation to the Department, once a minister is in place.

AoB

Homelessness

- Discussion on the importance of homelessness being wider than just rough sleepers. Rural homelessness takes on a different form – multiple unregistered occupancy, staying friends and family.
- NIHE provide temporary accommodation. They are currently reviewing their temporary accommodation and will report to the group when this is complete.
- NIHE have local group established to address this issue. A representative from it is to be invited to next meeting.

Shared assets

- Important to consider government assets for social housing provision.
- A key contributor to meeting need.
- Council to review land and where possible partner for social housing.
- Update to be provided at next meeting

Date of Next Meeting

Friday 5th June 2020 at 1:00pm. Lunch served at 12:45pm.

Report on	Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020
Date of Meeting	Thurs 16 th January 2020
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Déaglán Ó Doibhlin

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 members approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020.
2.0	Background
2.1	Seachtain na Gaeilge is an international festival that runs from 1st to 17th March each year.
2.2	The Festival seeks to celebrate and promote the Irish Language throughout this period through various schemes and activities delivered by and within the wider community.
2.3	Subject to Council approval, it is proposed that Mid Ulster District Council will issue a call for Expressions of Interest for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 activities, advertising in January 2020 in local press as well as on MUDC's website and social media platforms.
2.4	The scheme will be open to applicant community groups or individuals who wish to apply for funding support to carry out an Irish Language activity as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations within the Mid Ulster District Council area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Officer team will advertise the scheme in local press to ensure all groups and individuals who wish to apply, are aware of the funding available.
3.2	The Officer team will seek to encourage a varied range of bilingual and Irish language events across the district in order to encourage maximum participation by the wider Mid Ulster community. To this end an information brochure will be compiled and publicised promoting all the events and activities being delivered.

3.3	£7,500 has been identified within the Irish Language Action Plan, within the Regional and Minority Language budget allocation for 2019/20.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Budget of £7,500 currently allocated from within the Regional Minority Languages budget.
	Human: Officer time only
	Risk Management: To avoid risk of groups missing the call for expressions of interest, local press and council's social media channels will be utilised to publicise the project
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The Expression of interest process is open to all groups involved in developing Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 activities across the Mid Ulster District.
	Rural Needs Implications: The Expressions of interest process is open to all groups involved in developing Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 activities across the Mid Ulster District
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that members approve the call for Expressions of Interest to be issued inviting submissions from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/a

Report on	Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Michael Browne

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 on a Service Level Agreement (SLA) proposal for Lough Neagh Rescue covering period April 19 – March 20.
2.0	Background
2.1	Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR) operates a 24/7 all year service of search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries.
2.2	<p>As a registered charity LNR operated on a voluntary basis and has 3 stations around the Lough, with one established at Battery Harbour, Ardboe. Each station endeavours to finance their needs sharing costs, such as, insurance, audit and accounting.</p> <p>LNR receive funding from the Councils surrounding the Lough and other public bodies. Majority of annual running costs are met through voluntary fundraising.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Council agreed funding of £6,000 towards Lough Neagh Rescue for 19/20, and a proposed SLA for future service level requirements and associated funding to be reviewed on an annual basis.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	By agreeing Lough Neagh Rescue's request for financial assistance of £6,000 towards eligible operating costs of running the service from Battery harbour in 2019/20, subject to terms and conditions.
3.2	Financial assistance will benefit the Lough Shore area within Mid Ulster by providing faster response times for rescues and other operations carried out in and around the Western Shores of Lough Neagh, and provide an emergency flood response service for Mid Ulster (subject to receipt of the necessary accreditation to provide the service).
3.3	<p><u>Terms and Conditions of Offer</u></p> <p>The Council's funding is towards site establishment and maintenance costs, insurance premiums for equipment and public liability, fuel and direct operating expenses for the service (but excluding wages/salaries and administrative expenses), and relevant costs associated with crew training.</p>

	<p>A Resilience Unit is established at the Battery Harbour to provide a community rescue service covering the Lough and surrounding inland waterways.</p> <p>A copy of a current certificate of public liability insurance for a minimum of £10 million cover must be submitted to Council and at renewal.</p> <p>Proper accreditation of LNR's practices and procedures must be in place for regular equipment inspection and maintenance in the interests of safe and proper operation and usage with copies supplied to Council.</p> <p>A full risk assessment, including fire risk assessments, shall be provided to Council (updated as required) indicating how LNR will ensure public safety from the installation and operation of its equipment for example, but not confined to, trip hazards from wires and cables and hazards arising from using portable equipment.</p> <p>A copy of annual audited accounts for LNR should be submitted to Council for the current financial year, when available, and for each subsequent year during this agreement.</p> <p>LNR shall indemnify the Council against all actions, suits, proceedings, costs, losses, claims, damages, charges and claims for personal injury or loss or damage to any person, body or property arising from or in connection with any of the terms and conditions of this offer, or any act or omission of the LNR, or their respective workers, servants or agents.</p> <p>The Council reserves the right to suspend or terminate its Corporate Financial Assistance to LNR at its discretion should any of the terms and conditions of this offer be breached or not complied with, and where necessary, appropriate action will be taken by the Council to recover its funds.</p> <p>A claim to drawdown the grant aid should be submitted to the Council by not later than Friday 10 April 2020 detailing eligible expenditure incurred supported by proper invoices/receipts and bank statements clearly showing the movement of funds. Cash payments must be supported by valid receipts.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: £6,000 in respect of 19/20 expenditure within budget.</p> <p>Human: N/A</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>

4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>Potential damage to Council's reputation were it not to fund LNR and the decision resulted in a reduction in service to users of the lough.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approves the proposed SLA for 2019/20 to provide £6,000 financial.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	

Report on	Recommendations on allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants (Re-advertised)
Date of Meeting	16 January 2020
Reporting Officer	Anne-Marie Campbell
Contact Officer	Anne-Marie Campbell

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 on the advertised Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants.
2.0	Background
2.1	The grant was advertised during week commencing 21 st October 2019. Closing date was Friday 15 th Nov 2019. A total of 2 applications were received and subsequently passed to Williamson Consulting for assessment. The assessment of the applications was carried out on 18 th – 22 nd Nov 2019. This involved three steps: review of all information to check completeness; eligibility check; and scoring the application.
2.2	The score was carried out using a formula system which automatically produced an indicated grant level. Williamson Consulting commented that,
2.3	The application from Cookstown Hockey Club has been sought for use of water based synthetic hockey pitch at Cookstown High School
2.4	The application from Dungannon Ladies Hockey Grant has been sought for hire of synthetic pitch facilities at Royal School Dungannon for ladies' hockey.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The outcome of the scoring is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 applications passed the eligibility check and provided sufficient information and were therefore eligible for funding.
3.2	Williamson Consulting commented that, these 2 application fill all the requirements for eligibility –

3.3	<p>Cookstown Hockey Club Recommendation - Project should be funded at £4,500</p> <p>Dungannon Ladies Hockey Recommendation - provide £2,335 funding to cover rental costs (scoring would justify up to £4,500)</p> <p>These grants will support hire of school pitch facilities. This will allow for club use of school owned sports facilities for women and girls.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Available budget is as a result of underspend in the 2019/20 Capital and other Sports Grants programme.</p> <p><u>Human</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Risk Management</p> <p>N/A</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked to agree the recommendation for successful grant applications as detailed above.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>MUDC Sports Grant Assessment November 2019</p>

GRANT TYPE	Area	Organisation Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Score	Amount Awarded
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Eligible						
Facility costs	C	Cookstown Hockey Club	Hire of school pitch facilities.	£13,500	50	£4,500
Facility costs	D	Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club	Hire of school pitch facilities.	£2,335	50	£2,3350

Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grant - up to £4,500 plus £500 (if school not previously open to public)

Report on	Sports Representative Grants
Date of Meeting:	16 th January, 2020
Reporting Officer	Anne-Marie Campbell
Contact Officer	Anne-Marie Campbell

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>To present to members the proposed recommended grant allocations for the range of</p> <p>Sports Representative Grant ~ Team and Individuals and proposed troll out of the Schools Sports Facilities grant.</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Detailed analysis of the proposed grant awards are attached for your information.
3.2	<p>Summary detail is as follows: The Sports Representative Grant:</p> <p>4 Individual applications were received but one of these was deemed ineligible as the event had already taken place. The 3 successful applications were awarded a total of £650. No Team applications were received.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Total finance allocated:

	The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme with a revised annual allocation for 19/20 of £16,000 with £13,450 already allocated this leaves a balance of £2,550 available as at 30.11.19
	Human: None.
	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 agree the recommendation for sports grant allocations as detailed.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Grant recipients and amount of grant award.

Sportsperson Representative on eligible cost to a max of £250

Name		Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Matthew	Henry	European Open, Junior classic Powerlifting Championships	£377	2	£225
Seamus	Kyne	British Isles Indoor Bowling Championships	£320	3	£200
Kevin	McSorley	2020 AFL Euro Cup	£350	2	£225
Total					£650

Band	Amount
1	£250.00
2	£225.00
3	£200.00
4	£175.00
5	£150.00

Ineligible Sports Representation

Lucy	Turkington	IRFU Rugby U18's 7's	Applied after event had taken place – retrospective funding ineligible
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**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt**

Members Present	Councillor Wilson, Chair Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy (7.09 pm), Doris, Elattar, Hughes, Kearney (7.31 pm), Kerr (7.07 pm), McNamee, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.07 pm)
Officers in Attendance	Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Agenda Item 4 – Deputations Mid Ulster Women's Aid – Ms Martina Watson - Manager Ms Maggie Bryson – Chair

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D211/19 Apologies

None.

D212/19 Declaration of Interests

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

D213/19 Chair's Business

None.

D214/19 Mid Ulster Women's Aid

The Chair, Councillor Wilson welcomed representatives from Mid Ulster Women's Aid to the committee and invited them to make their presentation (appendix 1).

Ms Watson advised that domestic violence was an intentional persistent physical or emotional abuse of a woman or a woman and her children in such a way that causes pain, distress or injury.

PSNI statistics for 2018-19 indicate that the total number of domestic related incidents reported to police in Northern Ireland was 31,682 and within Mid Ulster is was 1912

incidents which resulted in an increase overall of 239. The statistics also show that domestic abuse crime increased by 99 = 16% of all police recorded crime, with them responding to a domestic incident every 16 minutes of every day of the year.

Ms Watson said that Women's Aid Offer:

- S – Safety
- E - Emotional Support
- L - Listen & Believe
- F - Family – Women, Children & Young People

- H - Housing – Emergency Accommodation
- E - Education
- L - Long Term Support – *can be up to 2 years*
- P - Practical Assistance

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.07 pm.

Councillor Kerr entered the meeting at 7.07 pm.

Mid-Ulster Women's Aid:

- Refuge Accommodation – 44 women/31 children
- Unable to Accommodate – 82 women/54 children
- Floating Support Service - 388 Referrals
- Child and Family Support – 69 Children
- Domestic Violence Awareness Raising
- Inter-agency Working with PSNI, NIHE, Health and Social Care Trusts etc

Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 7.09 pm

Programmes:

- Journey to Freedom
- My Life, My Choices
- You and Me, Mum
- Healthy Relationships and Positive Relationships –
 - Post Primary Schools Programmes (16 schools)

Funded by Mid Ulster District Council and PCSP

- Social Guardian Training – Train Teachers to deliver Helping Hands (protective behaviour programme) – Funded by Department of Education

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and said that he was aware of the great work that was being done and very lucky to have such a good group of dedicated staff and volunteers. He said that unfortunately domestic violence was a growing industry and statistics indicate that it was on the increase, maybe this was because there were more incidents being reported to the PSNI.

Councillor McNamee comm

ended the work the group does and said that it was shocking to hear that there was an increase in reported cases of domestic abuse and enquired if there was any specific reason why this might be.

Ms Watson said that this was an historic issue but can look at this as something positive because more people were reporting domestic abuse incidents to the PSNI and they are now recognising the fact that this was a serious crime.

Councillor Elattar also commended the work the group does and said that as a midwife she was very aware how beneficial they are. She enquired what happens the women and children which cannot be accommodated at the refuge.

Ms Watson advised that accommodation is sourced regularly outside the area which can be an issue as some women do not wish to unroot their children from schools and the area they reside in and frequently the women return to the abusive relationship. She advised that every effort is put into supporting these women.

Councillor Elattar enquired how the Council could help address the shortage.

Ms Bryson said that she wanted to praise the Council as they have been very generous and had donated some land to the group. She said that the group have been working very closely with Officers to see where funding can be sourced, but more than likely the group may have to go down the route of approaching a Housing Association for assistance and if this was the way of proceeding it would result in freeing up more properties for other vulnerable people like the homeless.

The Chair said that although it was in the early stages, but when completed it would be a terrific project.

Councillor Burton said that it was really shocking the increase in domestic violence incidents and as a PCSP member, they have been advised that the peak time of the year for incidents was around Christmas, but it's dreadful to see it has already risen by 16%. She advised that when people are abused, they usually return to the abusive relationship and commended the work the group are doing working with the women and children.

Councillor Burton enquired about teachers completing the workshop on the Healthy Relationships Programme and asked who monitors this and whether the children are being taught in schools about healthy relationships.

Ms Watson advised that teachers can gain a qualification and an I11 certificate to teach children about healthy relationships, with each child receives a workbook to complete which is monitored and evaluated. She said that there may be an issue with so many teachers going through the system and was important to keep this programme active.

Councillor Kerr also commended the very positive contribution Women's Aid provides to the Mid Ulster area and hoped this would continue as it was an invaluable service.

Councillor Hughes thanked the group for their very impressive presentation and advised that she had taken part in the Domestic Violence Workshop last August which was a very informative and very worthy.

Councillor Doris praised the group on their invaluable work which is being carried out and said that it may be worthwhile organising a workshop for Councillors before a committee meeting some evening.

Councillor McNamee said that it was mentioned earlier about approaching Housing Associations for help and felt that sometimes these organisations seek a high rental fee.

Ms Bryson agreed that a rental arrangement may not be cheap but that detailed negotiations would be taking place before any commitment was made on the way forward.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that demand was exceeding supply at the moment but there was a requirement to provide good quality affordable houses and that there would be a proposition brought to committee in the New Year.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Women's Aid, and they withdrew from the meeting at 7.22 pm.

Matters for Decision

D215/19 Community Development Report

Members considered previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Orritor Street Crescent Community Association.

Councillor Monteith referred to Peace IV projects and advised that some members have raised concerns at DEA meetings regarding the aftermath of the implementation of projects and said that maintenance afterwards needed to be included. He stated that maintenance needs to be built and people needs to be made aware of the happenings and not passed to each different department on concerns regarding street cleaning etc. He said that going forward all capital projects need built in to their remit the item of recurring costs for maintenance afterwards as the Council has a duty of care to ratepayers.

Councillor Burton said that she had been in discussions with people from Aughnacloy regarding Peace IV funding for their playpark facilities. She said that there were cars going onto the site revving their engines and going around in circles and to be fair the Peace officers had liaised with other officers of the Council regarding ongoing concerns relating to antisocial behaviour and drinking which was causing a nuisance to residents. She said that there was a need for the barrier to be closed at night and especially in the winter months and residents have asked if CCTV could be implemented as the security light which comes on shines directly into a resident's

dwelling and she wanted to ensure that people were not left behind. She suggested that when the 3G pitch was relocated, the person which was locking-up could lock the barrier to the playpark also.

The Chair advised that concerns were raised at the Peace meeting and was currently being dealt with.

Councillor Burton referred to electrical items which may have to be dug up and asked that this be also investigated.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

- **Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations (£2,480), Decade of Anniversaries (£1,250) and Local Community Festivals (£1,550).

- **Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017 – 2020**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Peace IV Project and to proceed to ITT for delivery of the 6 village shared space schemes at a value of £600,000 - £700,000 (included OB).

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

D216/19 DAERA Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on the DAERA Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme.

Councillor Burton enquired about the people who applied for funding to the Town & Villages Business Spruce Up Scheme which were successful and asked if this was something they could apply for also.

The Head of Economic Development stated that as long as the business was rural and a micro enterprise employing less than the equivalent of 10 full time employees, and met the remaining project criteria, then they could apply to the scheme for small capital items at a rate of 50%, with maximum grant any business can attain being £4,999. She added however that timescales are extremely tight due to the funding parameters, and the closing date for applications is 18 December 2019 at 12 noon with the overall completion of funding projects by 31st March 2020.

Councillor Ashton referred to the application and the level of detail required and enquired if it was straight forward or do applicants have to go far and beyond.

The Head of Economic Development advised that a standard application form was agreed with the funding body, DAERA, and was being used across the 10 Council areas outside of Belfast. She said that if any applications require help in terms of making an application, then they should contact the Rural Development Programme Manager who would provide guidance.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to be given to:

- (i) Note the update on the Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme and pressure on delivery timescales.
- (ii) Once the project applications are assessed, scored and ranked, that authority be granted to the Director of Business & Communities to approve the issue of letters of offer, up to the maximum grant funding available of £50,000, in order to allow the Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme to progress and be delivered within the timeframe available ie, 31st March 2020. A report to be brought to the Development Committee immediately afterwards to update Members on the outcome of assessment and scoring.

D217/19 Review of Facility Opening Hours within Leisure Services

Members considered previously circulated report and sought approval to change opening hours within Council operated leisure facilities, with an initial evaluation of current practices presented alongside an evaluation of a wide variety of customer-usage and benchmarking information to ascertain to what extent current access reflects customer demand.

Proposed opening hours:

Site	Monday - Friday Opening Hours	Saturday Opening Hours	Sunday Opening Hours
Greenvale LC Cookstown LC Dungannon LC Maghera LC	6.30am – 9pm	8am – 4.30pm	9am – 4pm
Meadowbank MUSA	9am – 10 pm	9am – 5pm	10am – 4pm *Seasonal Variations*

Councillor Kerr referred to item 3.4.3 of the report and enquired if this included individual specialist needs and would they be consulted.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was a consultation with some users of leisure facilities, and they wanted the opening hours to move towards mornings. She said that the consultation was with block bookings in the evening that was for other users of football, basketball etc. She said that the Council would be working towards accommodating the bookings in some way.

Councillor McNamee said that he was happy with this and felt that if there were any issues around opening times, that this could be revisited again.

The Chair referred to the extended Sunday opening hours and asked that after three months that a report be brought back on how the new scheme was working.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the leisure centres are currently open on Sundays anyway for swimming lessons, club bookings etc. The extended Sunday opening would not be a huge issue as staff were there anyway.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the new opening times at Leisure Facilities as detailed above. After three months a report to be brought back on findings relating to Sunday opening hours.

In response to a member's query, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was no definitive date for the reopening of Dungannon Leisure Centre but it was likely to be the end of January.

D218/19 Newferry to Toome Blueway Feasibility Study

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report and sought permission to seek quotes for consultants to carry out a feasibility study for development of a proposed Blueway between Newferry and Toome.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to procure a company to carry out a feasibility study for a Blueway from Newferry to Toome.

Matters for Information

D219/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 November 2019

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 November 2019.

Councillor McNamee enquired about the meeting with DfI regarding the Cookstown bypass and stated that it was previously raised at the Environment Committee with members being far from happy with the response. He also enquired if there was any update regarding the situation with Killymoon Golf Club as communication was needed by all parties.

The Director of Business and Communities said that it was anticipated that a meeting would take place in early January and wanted members to know that he understands how important it is.

Councillor Elattar referred to page 3 of minutes and asked that the sentence read –

“Councillor Elattar advised that the DEA meetings had taken place for members where issues had been raised and why had it not been raised then”

Councillor Doris referred to Councillor Milne’s proposal regarding Cappagh Village Regeneration Group and enquired if there was any update and the possibility of looking at a feasibility study.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that they met six members of the group last night and was a very productive meeting. He said that this project would be given priority as the community had been waiting 5 years for something to be done and we need to react accordingly by pulling a plan of sorts together to include consideration of the reservoirs and walkways. He stated that work has commenced at the village and a commitment has been made to work with them over a period of time which was deemed reasonable.

Councillor Cuddy referring to update regarding Cookstown bypass, stated that it was good to keep the pressure on. He said that the Council held a meeting with DfI regarding the plan for the next 15 years and Dungannon bypass was not mentioned at all which was very concerning as it was critical to the survival of our towns. He stated that the Chief Executive was very surprised as he was keen to make sure that Dungannon was being given the consideration it warranted.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that when the meeting was set up for Cookstown, Dungannon would also be investigated as they came as a package.

Councillor Cuddy said that it seems that Dungannon has been overlooked again with no discussion with Dungannon DEA’s or members.

Councillor Cuddy said that other areas like Enniskillen had they bypass moved up from 12th position to 2nd or 3rd position and felt that all towns had demands and there was a need to keep the pressure on DfI as Dungannon needed to get on the drawing board.

Councillor Burton advised that there was a high volume of deputations brought to the Development Committee and a lot of the time there was nothing ever heard about them again. She referred to what the outcome was of Caledon Regeneration

Partnership's proposal for the woolstore in Caledon and felt that members should be kept in the loop to update on the support they are receiving.

The Chair suggested that after a deputation presented to a meeting the following month an update should be brought to committee on progress.

Councillor Burton agreed that it would be beneficial for a report to be brought to the next committee meeting after deputation.

The Director of Business and Communications reassured members that follow ups are carried out with deputations and suggested if members were happy that a reporting mechanism could be provided every three months. Referring to Caledon he advised that the funding initiative was progressing, and an application would be forthcoming and stated that an update would be brought to committee.

D220/19 Stone Mountain Highland Show and World Travel Market (WTM) 2019

Members noted report on Stone Mountain Highland Show and World Travel Market (WTM) 2019.

D221/19 Town Centre Forum Meetings

Members noted report on Town Centre Forum Meetings.

Councillor Cuddy enquired about minutes from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and if they could be included.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that DRP was a separate body, but if members wished he could liaise with them to see if minutes could be provided for information purposes.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D222/19 to D227/19.

Matters for Decision

- | | |
|---------|---|
| D222/19 | Local Economic Development (LED) Measure of the EU Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme (IGJ) 2014-2020 |
| D223/19 | Development of Gymnastics Programme & Implementation of Instructor Development Programme |
| D224/19 | Review of Leisure Membership Packages |

Matters for Information

- D225/19 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 November 2019
- D226/19 Update on Development for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2019/20
- D227/19 Mid-South West Region Growth Deal Report

D228/19 Christmas Greetings

The Chair wished members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

D229/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Report on	1. Caledon Regeneration Partnership 2. NI Apprenticeship Week 3. Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes
Date of Meeting	Thursday 16 th January 2020
Reporting Officer	Head of Economic Development
Contact Officer	Funding & Investment Manager and Programmes & Policy 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
	To receive updates on the matters detailed below;
1.1	Caledon Regeneration Partnership
1.2	NI Apprenticeship Week
1.3	Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</p> <p>In January 2019, the Council agreed to provide financial support to the value of £5,000 to Caledon Regeneration Partnership towards exploring the viability of a day-care facility in the former Wool Store building at Mill Street, Caledon. CRP secured match funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) which enabled the group to appoint professional support to complete a feasibility study and condition report and business plan. The project has been identified by AHF as a priority project under DAERA's Village Catalyst Programme. Members received a presentation from CRP on the Wool Store project at the Development Committee meeting on 23rd October 2019.</p>
2.2	<p>NI Apprenticeship Week</p> <p>The Department for the Economy is facilitating the first Apprenticeship Week in NI from 3rd to 7th February 2020 at which there will be an opportunity to promote events and promotional activity to demonstrate how apprenticeships work for individuals, businesses, communities and the wider economy.</p>

2.3	<p>Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes</p> <p>Members will be aware that Council resources of £237,580 has levered 80% grant of £950,320 from the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Fund and Invest NI to achieve a total investment of £1.187m in the following 4 business programmes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Tender Ready 2) Digital First 3) Transform and 4) Gearing for Growth <p>These programmes are planned to support 690 businesses and contribute to the creation of 900 jobs by December 2022.</p> <p>Council is also investing £90,000 in a three year Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme to be delivered during the years 2020-22.</p>
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</p> <p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership (CRP) have been progressing plans to bring the historic former Wool Store building (dated to 1823) back into productive use a rural childcare facility. The re-purposing of the Wool Store into this much needed facility will conserve an important heritage building while delivering very positive economic and social benefits for the local community. The project will also include a new build extension that will create additional space for the facility as well as offices and a kitchen. Considerable work has been made by CRP in respect of the project as outlined below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Feasibility study and Condition report has been completed with funding from Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) and Mid Ulster District Council • A Project viability report has been completed • A Business plan has been completed • A planning application has been submitted to the Planning section. • The majority of funding/finance is now in place. <p>The overall project has been costed at £520,000. CRP have to date secured £470k funding and therefore require £50,000 (9.6%) from Council to close the funding shortfall to allow the project to proceed.</p> <p>The Development Committee received a presentation from CRP on the Wool Store project on 23rd October 2019 and the group has since submitted an Expression of Interest to the Council's Capital Discretionary Grant; this is a competitive grant process for community capital projects across the District.</p> <p>Subject to obtaining the necessary statutory approvals and securing gap funding from Council, it is anticipated that the project will commence March/April 2020 and be completed in April 2021.</p>

3.2	<p>NI Apprenticeship Week</p> <p>There will be a number of events taking place right across Northern Ireland as part of the first Apprenticeship Week NI from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February 2020. One of the main objectives within the Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan is to increase the quantity of apprenticeships in Mid Ulster. To this end, Council officers will be working in collaboration with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, MEGA Network and other stakeholders to host a meeting of the key employers in the above network groupings to promote awareness of the benefits, value and importance of apprenticeships.</p>
3.3	<p>Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes</p> <p>Members are advised that a 'press launch' will take place to formally launch Mid Ulster District Council's new suite of business programmes on 4 February 2020 at a time and business venue to be confirmed.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members;
5.1	<p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</p> <p>Note progress.</p>
5.2	<p>NI Apprenticeship Week</p> <p>Note information.</p>
5.3	<p>Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes</p> <p>Note details of press launch.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	None

Report on	Halloween and Christmas Events overview 2019
Date of Meeting	16 January 2020
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide an update on the successful Halloween and Christmas events delivered throughout October to December across the District.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>During October and November 5 Halloween and 8 Christmas events were delivered across the district.</p> <p>These annual events contribute to increased footfall and visitor numbers to our town centres which stimulates the growth of tourism and other businesses in our town centres and villages.</p> <p>In addition, our events can also have both direct and indirect impacts on our local community. The social benefits are less visible, but they are just as important. Events raise community pride, teach people new experiences, strengthen relationships and bring communities together.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Mid Ulster Sports Arena Halloween</u></p> <p>A fantastic turnout for Halloween Fun, Food and Fireworks at Mid Ulster Sports Arena with over 5,000 people attending the first of Mid Ulster District Council's Halloween events on Saturday 26 October 2019.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Sports Arena played host again to the annual fun and fireworks event with lots of spooky shenanigans and freaky fun had by all little monsters. The evening was brought to a close with a spectacular fireworks display lighting up the night sky.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Dungannon Halloween</u></p> <p>Dungannon town centre played host to the family fun and fireworks event, at Market Square on Wednesday 30 October, where lots of fantastic fun was had with some familiar yet mysterious and spooky family members!</p>

	<p>Over 4,500 people turned out including lots of little witches and monsters who enjoyed the entertainment and activities on offer, followed by a spectacular fireworks display which lit up the sky and brought the evening's activities to a close.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Coalisland Halloween</u> Over 2000 people attended Coalisland's spooktacular programme of fun and fireworks on Halloween night, Thursday 31 October 2019.</p> <p>The Halloween shenanigans kicked off at 6pm with an evening of entertainment and funfair rides at Gortgonis Park. The night was brought to a close with a spectacular fireworks display, which lit up the sky to everyone's delight.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Maghera Halloween Hooley</u> Maghera Leisure Centre played host to spooky shenanigans on the afternoon of Thursday 31 October, with lots of fun had by little monsters. There were lots of free activities to enjoy including a Broomstick Jiggle Halloween dance party, magic shows, face painting and outdoor activities including a spooky trail that only the very brave entered, an assault course, funfair, Krazy Karts and bubble ball lots to keep the family entertained.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Maghera Fireworks Display</u> Following the Hooley entertainment continued at St Patrick's College playing fields where crowds gathered to enjoy the finale of the evening; a magnificent fireworks display.</p> <p>Over 3,500 people attended this year's Maghera's Halloween Hooley and Fireworks Display courtesy of Mid Ulster District Council.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Cookstown Christmas Switch On</u> Over 3,000 people braved the cold to watch Cookstown's magical mile light up in spectacular style on Friday 22 November 2019 kicking off the Christmas Lights Switch On celebrations in the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p> <p>There was plenty of free family entertainment on offer including a gaming bus, jumping clay and appearances from some special princesses and superheroes. Local band, Crafty Crows were on stage to liven up the festivities, and with their renditions of classic Christmas tunes, they had the crowd in the seasonal spirit of things very quickly. The musical entertainment continued with Tullylagan Pipe Band piping and drumming a number of tunes, with a highlight being a haunting rendition of 'Hallelujah'.</p> <p>Followed by a magical roaring street parade by Bardic Theatre's Showstoppers, which made its way through the town with a fabulous performance of musical hits from a family favourite movie.</p> <p>The highlight of the evening the arrival of Santa Claus himself, and the switch on of the renowned Christmas lights with the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Martin Kearney.</p>

3.7	<p><u>Magherafelt Christmas Market</u></p> <p>A fantastic array of food and craft stalls selling local high quality products was the centrepiece of the 2019 market which took place on Saturday 23 and 24 November 2019 on Market Street, Magherafelt. Those who attended enjoyed browsing and sampling the locally produced food and drink, and took time to unwind in the lounge, where they could choose a craft beer, hot mulled wine or even just sit and relax.</p> <p>Local bands and choirs performed on stage over the weekend, with lots of family entertainment across the town.</p> <p>Children visited Santa, decorated Gingerbread men and wrote their Santa letters at the Enchanted Toy workshop in the Bridewell, as well as having a go at the Gingerbread Journey, solving puzzles and clues around the town centre to find the Gingerbread family.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Magherafelt Christmas Switch On</u></p> <p>The lights switch on and spectacular fireworks display which was undoubtedly the highlight of the weekend took place on the evening of Saturday 23 November; where a record crowds gathered for the Magherafelt Christmas Street Party on Broad Street before Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Martin Kearney and Santa himself hit the button to switch on the lights with much applause. A dazzling firework display then followed.</p> <p>Record crowds of festive shoppers attended this year's Magherafelt Christmas Market, Christmas lights switch on and fireworks display.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Dungannon Christmas Switch On</u></p> <p>On Friday 22 November, Market Square Dungannon was filled with festive cheer with free family entertainment taking place, including face painting, balloon modelling and festive walkabout characters, and seasonal music on stage. Santa arrived in style on a horse drawn carriage and the man himself joined Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Martin Kearney to press the plunger to illuminate the town and draw the evening to a close.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Dungannon Magical Christmas Kingdom</u></p> <p>On Saturday 23 and Sunday 24, Ranfurly House, again formed the gateway to the Magical Kingdom. With an array of Christmas activities including all the favourites – arts and crafts, face painting, balloon modelling, jump jiggle and jive and much more, children were also able to visit 'Santa's Christmas Stables' before travelling through the magical realms on their journey to meet the man himself, Santa, in his cosy grotto.</p> <p>During the weekend over 10,000 people joined in the celebrations.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Maghera Christmas Switch On</u></p> <p>Maghera was full of festive cheer on Saturday 30 November as Santa took up residence in Maghera Walled Garden for the afternoon, before turning on the Christmas lights in the town.</p>

	<p>The day began in the Lurach Centre, Maghera with Christmas decoration making, face painting and letter writing to Santa, before crowds moved to the Walled Garden. Mrs Claus was on hand to help post all the children's letters back to the North Pole, along with festive Elves that lit up the Garden with a spectacular LED display. Toasted marshmallows were just one of the tasty treats on offer.</p> <p>At 5pm Santa was back on his sleigh and travelled to Hall Street, to help the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Martin Kearney count down to the switch on of the Christmas lights</p>
3.12	<p><u>Coalisland Christmas Switch On</u></p> <p>Almost 2,000 people braved the temperatures and attended the Coalisland Switch On event at the Cornmill Centre on Sunday 1 December with which was organised by Mid Ulster District Council and the local community.</p> <p>The day had something for everyone with the Na Fianna Craft Fayre at the Parochial Centre, and free family entertainment outside including face painting, balloon modelling and walkabout characters, including the Dame from Craic Theatre's pantomime Rapunzel.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Burnavon Christmas Grotto Experience</u></p> <p>The Christmas Grotto at the Burnavon took place from the 5th to 15th December. Children have to write and post their letters to Santa's via his post box located in his magical garden; the older children were entertained by throwing snowballs at Santa's elves through virtual reality headsets. The family was taking on a short journey through Santa's garden passed the reindeers and unicorns to Santa's house where each child got an individual present and photograph of their visit to Santa. Cost per child £8, adults go free.</p> <p>The weekend dates were sold out with 1020 people visiting the grotto. (This number includes free paying adults).</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Delivered within departmental budget allocation.
	Human: Delivered within Council
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	N/A
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	n/a

Report on	Report on Tourism Groups Mid Ulster - 2020
Date of Meeting	16 January 2020
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary Mc Gee

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 inform members of the progress made through the tourism teams work at trade shows and exhibitions in 2019. The challenge here is that the travel trade is not a single entity. It consists of different types of operators and third party agents operating a range of business models.
1.2	The key and the challenge is finding the right match for the facility or business. The tourism team continued to work on this in 2019 and plans for 2020 will include continuing promotion of the region and the tourism trade including Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House, US Grants and the new Davagh Dark Sky Observatory due to open in April 2020.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster Council Tourism Plan sets out our vision for Mid Ulster Tourism. Aims of the plan include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To grow tourism as an economic driver. • To profile and promote Mid Ulster to enhance the visibility of the area and boost visitation and spend.
2.2	Working with the travel trade <p>Throughout 2019 Council tourism team have attended a series of trade and tourism B-to-B events and exhibitions including Meet the Buyer, GB Coach Operators, World Travel Market and the Incoming Tour Operators event in Belfast. This work is starting to show results for 2020 and beyond. Key to this are the linkages between the public and private sector businesses in Mid Ulster particularly those working through the Tourism Development Group clusters.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Analysis and research across a sample of businesses in Mid Ulster indicates that going forward into 2020 they continue to attract existing and new business into the region. To date 4 businesses surveyed have conservatively reported over £170,000 worth of bookings into 2020. Seamus Heaney HomePlace have confirmed 2020 bookings to date from operators including: Cara Group Travel, Boston, Celtic Tours Albany New York, and new Cruise ship bookings from Derry with Excursions Ireland.
3.2	Businesses including Davagh Dark Skies and Seamus Heaney HomePlace and our private sector are also reporting advanced positive negotiations with a number of high profile Incoming Tour Operators including CIE, Brack Tours, Irish Welcome Tours, Brendan Tours, EF Tours and are awaiting final contracts on these for 2020 and onwards.
3.3	Tourism NI have just confirmed the Meet The Buyer event for March 2020 and International Tour Operators will be visiting the region and plan to visit 9 sites across Mid Ulster including Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Davagh Dark Skies, Sperrin View Glamping Bakehouse NI, Glenshane Country Farm, Friels Bar & Restaurant, Rosehill House, Stewartstown, Beaghmore Stone Circles and Corick House Hotel.
3.4	Three of our products Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Davagh Dark Skies and Glenshane Country Farm have also been selected as signature brand experiences in the new Tourism NI Embrace A Giant Spirit brand.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human: Tourism staff support required.
	Risk Management: Risk assessment will be carried at the stand.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council to continue to support our attractions and trade in this work.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A