

A

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 15 January 2015 in Magherafelt District Council Offices

Members Present: In the Chair, Councillor McEldowney (Vice Chair)
Councillors Dillon, Elattar, Forde, Mallaghan, McNamee, Monteith, O'Neill, T Quinn, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson,

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive (CDC)
Ms Campbell, Director of Policy & Development (MDC)
Mr Browne, Head of Development Services (MDC)
Ms Girvan, Corporate Health & Safety Manager (DSTBC)
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Services (CDC)
Mrs Forde, Mayor's PA/Member Support Officer (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7pm

D1/15 Apologies

Apologies received for Councillor Burton, Molloy and Reid. Apology was also received for Councillor McAleer due to adverse weather conditions.

D2/15 Declarations of Interest

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

D3/15 Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 4 December 2014 (items D52/14-D60/14 and D68/14), were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

D4/15 Deputation on Proposals for a Skateboard Park, Cookstown

The Chair welcomed Stuart McMullan, Cameron Anderson and Mr I McCrea MLA to the meeting. Mr McCrea MLA thanked the Council for the opportunity to make a presentation, introduced Stuart and Cameron.

The presentation outlined the viability of a public skate board park in Mid Ulster listing the advantages in relation to health, community relations, activity for young people and keeping money in the local area. Potential sites suggested included those adjacent to Cookstown Leisure Centre, the former skip site at Railway Yard, Cookstown, the Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Meadowbank Arena, Magherafelt. The

representatives emphasised that a public skate board park would serve the up and coming sports trend of 'scootering', 'BMX biking' and roller blading and be a huge benefit to the Mid Ulster area advising that currently those involved in the sport travelled to Carrickfergus, Belfast, Letterkenny and Dublin. Acknowledging the safety and insurance issues connected to the unusual sport the representatives suggested volunteers could assist with warden duties, wearing of safety helmet and disclaimer notices that those entering the park do so at their own risk. The representatives highlighted the passion for the sport, the economic advantages it would bring to Mid Ulster as local people would not have to leave the area and visitors would be attracted. In conclusion, the representatives thanked the committee for the opportunity to present, again emphasising the numbers involved locally in the sport.

The Chair, Councillor McEldowney, thanked the boys for their presentation stating that a skate board park had been suggested for Maghera in the past, thus indicating the wide interest in the sport.

Councillor Wilson thanked the representatives for the informative presentation and asked how many people are involved in the sport in the Cookstown area.

In response the representatives advised that numbers at first were small but that they had built up, as nearly all primary six and seven school children participated.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked the representatives for the excellent presentation and advised that Council would task officers with exploring possibilities.

Councillor Forde stated that the presentation was excellent, that it was fantastic to have young people informing Council what they were interested in as they were the future and Council would look favourably at the request.

Councillor Elattar thanked the representatives for the presentation stating there was demand in Draperstown so somewhere in the middle of the two towns would be apt.

In response to a questions from Councillor Elattar the representatives advised that the indoor sites at Dublin and Belfast were approximately £10 entry fee for all day which was 8am to 10pm.

Councillor T Quinn thanked the representatives for the informative presentation and in response to his question as to whether the boys travelled to other sites alone or in groups the representatives advised they would go as groups, for example birthday celebrations.

In conclusion Mr I McCrea MLA stated that the Councils often heard requests for other sporting facilities and requested that serious consideration be given to this one.

The delegation withdrew from the meeting at 7.20pm

D5/15 Deputation from Dungannon First Steps

The Chair welcomed Michael McGoldrick, Chief Executive of Dungannon First Steps to the meeting.

Mr McGoldrick introduced colleague Ms Claire Henry and advised that the First Steps Women Centre was formed out of the Dungannon Development Association in 1998 bringing women throughout the community together during the peace process. Now in its 18th year the centre had a staff of 16 and a £400k budget, raised through funding application annually.

Mr McGoldrick outlined the work of the centre which included education, training, essential skills, health promotion, ICT course with childcare and transport provision.

Stating that 600 women per year used the centre with an average of 450 per week Mr McGoldrick in referring to the Maslow hierarchy of needs emphasised that the centre looks after the whole person, mentioning the new benefit checker which had resulted in £150,928 unclaimed benefits being accessed since September 2012. Emphasis was also drawn to the uptake in essential skills in literacy courses, ICT courses and the fact that at least seven different nationalities used the centre.

Referring to health promotion and life skills Ms Henry advised that often women attending had a lot of internal barriers and thus services offered included personal development, stress management, healthy eating, dressing on a budget, crafts and recycling.

Mr McGoldrick also made reference to counselling services advising that demand had rocketed since Christmas when the centre had assisted people in purchase of oil, money and counselling funded through Neighbourhood Renewal thus emphasising the dire austere times being experienced. Stating that the First Steps Women Centre was a community based highly professional organisation he advised it had an Investors in People Silver accreditation.

The Chair, Councillor McEldowney, thanked Mr McGoldrick for the presentation acknowledging that it is difficult to get people back into work again after rearing families, and suffering illnesses, and commended all who achieved it. She added that austerity was a major issue.

Councillor J Shiels thanked the representatives for the presentation, made reference to a video clip showcasing their work stating that it was great to see the migrant population integrating in the local area and asked if users had to pay for the courses.

In response Mr McGoldrick advised that the centre was funded through DEL and that 99.9% of courses were free but that users participating in for example flower arranging courses would have to buy their own flowers. Clarifying the budget Mr McGoldrick stated £409k, which includes running the centre together with childcare provision.

Councillor Dillon referring to the Neighbourhood Renewal element of funding asked if this was withdrawn would it have a major impact on the centre. Mr McGoldrick advised that Neighbourhood Renewal funding was minimal and although the centre

would still function without it, Dungannon Town and Coalisland would feel the loss keenly.

Councillor T Quinn thanked the representatives for the very informative presentation and sought clarification as to whether the travelling community used the centre.

In response Mr McGoldrick advised that some members of the travelling community had participated in literacy courses and had availed of counselling but there was not a big uptake. Councillor T Quinn stated that it was unfortunate that little had been done with the travelling community for a number of generations and commended the centre on being an unofficial St Vincent de Paul type organisation.

Mr McGoldrick commended the work of the local St Vincent de Paul emphasising that together with them and the Citizens Advice Bureau they all worked hand in hand.

The representatives withdrew from the meeting at 7.40pm.

D6/15 Proposals for Skateboard Park, Cookstown (refer to D4/15)

Councillor McNamee stated that he had no doubt regarding the recreation activity skateboarding parks provide but stated that Cookstown had investigated such provision in the past and issues regarding insurance and liability had been raised stating that few Councils had opted to provide skate board parks.

Mr McCreesh advised that Cookstown had investigated such provision in the past but had committed funding elsewhere to facilities such as Davagh Forest, stating that the Council had to work within limited resources. He added that liability and insurance were concerns but added they would not be used as barriers. He added that the facility would have to be serviced by staff but it could appeal to a certain amount of young people but with resources and an appropriate site it could be considered in more detail in the future.

Matters for Decision

D7/15 Opportunity to Apply to the EU Erasmus+ Programme

Mr Browne drew attention to the detail in the report stating that the purpose was to apply to the EU Erasmus+ Programme for funding to deliver a series of Junior International/European sporting events that would increase the profile of Mid Ulster Council, enhance local sporting clubs and attract and increase the tourism sector creating an economic benefit to the area.

Outlining the background to the project Mr Browne explained that the paper is a result of six months background work by officers who had attended ICBAN and explored how they could avail of the opportunities presented. Emphasising the excellent facilities the area boasted eg Davagh Forest, Glenone Fishing coupled with the excellence in sport naming Darren Clarke, Aaron Hughes and Wendy Houvenaghel all household names from the new district an application had been put together with the aim of showcasing the new district at its best, leaving a legacy for

existing sporting clubs and improving potential for future international events in the form of Mid Ulster European Junior Games similar to Milk Cup format. Mr Browne advised that the timescale would be Mid Summer 2015, with the introduction of new sporting events across four junior cross gender events involving four disciplines such as sailing, boxing, hockey and cycling. Criteria for the funding stated 12 countries should be involved and it was proposed to have four festival events. Highlighting examples and existing links Mr Browne stated already Cookstown was twinned with Plerin in France home of the junior dinghy team, the Olympic success of Katie Taylor in the boxing fraternity, Cookstown with its exceptional 3G pitch for hockey and the increased interest in cycling since the Giro.

In the short term Mr Browne advised that resources would be required to work up an application but limited to Mid Ulster District Council Staff in association with ICBAN. He sought approval for £10k contingency funding which may be required. He added that in the long term the application would be €500 with 20% match funding required.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the project as his son played hockey for Cookstown. He indicated that an application should be progressed. He advised that some home internationals had been hosted and it had been a showcase for Cookstown.

Mr Browne declared an interest in the Sailing Club.

In response to Councillor Dillon's question on possibilities with sporting bodies Mr Browne said he had spoken to a sailing club and Mr Donnelly, Neighbourhood Renewal Manager in Dungannon had spoken with a boxing club. Councillor Dillon stated that Clonoe Boxing Club would soon be without premises and asked if there was an opportunity to assist in such circumstances.

Mr Browne advised that the programme would allow funding to bring boxing to a required standard but advised it was thought that the boxing would take place at Meadowbank, Magherafelt.

Councillor Wilson left the room at 7.55pm

Councillor Dillon advised that Clonoe had a great history and that there would be no boxing fraternity without them. Stating that thought should be given as to how Council could assist Clonoe boxing club she emphasised that the loss of the facility would be massive and boxing was the only sport in the area that the travelling community participated in and some of the young people were now coaching.

Councillor Monteith stated he was wary of bringing competition in from further afield as sometimes other countries did not participate, that it resulted in a few photographs in the paper and that his preference would be to encourage groups in the development of their own facilities and that he would prefer officers to concentrate on helping local clubs advising that Dungannon town boxing club had disappeared due to lack of facilities. Stating that he was not opposed to the project

Councillor Monteith emphasised that he wanted to see concentration on assisting local clubs.

Councillor Wilson returned at 7.58pm

Mr Browne sought approval to present a paper to Council and submit an application to Erasmus+ programme by May 2015 (a financial commitment will not be required in 2015-16 but delivery of a successful programme will be subject to approval of match funding via rates setting process for 2016-17, should external funding not be available to meet the required 20%).

Councillor G Shiels left the room at 7.59pm

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council

- (i) to grant approval to present paper to Council and submit an application to Erasmus+ programme by May 2015 (a financial commitment will not be required in 2015-16 but delivery of a successful programme will be subject to approval of match funding via rates setting process for 2016-17, should external funding not be available to meet the required 20%)
- (ii) To approve £10k contingency funding if required.

D8/15 Health & Safety Audit on Leisure and Sport Services

Ms Girvan stated that the purpose of the report was to advise of the outcome of an analysis of the Occupational Health and Safety Management systems across Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt Leisure & Sport Services.

Ms Girvan advised that the aim of the report was to establish:

- Responding to the requirements of relevant legal requirements;
- Identifying and anticipating the significant hazards, assessing risks to health and safety arising from the work environment and work activities;
- Developing and implementing effective risk controls to eliminate hazards and minimize risk to health or safety;
- Consultation and reporting arrangements;
- Identifying the documentation and forms that each Council used; and
- Measuring performance including the reporting and investigation of accidents and incidents

Councillor G Shiels returned at 8.03pm

Ms Girvan outlined the recommendations as undernoted:

- 1 That the draft Mid Ulster Health and Safety Policy and Committee Terms of Reference included as Appendix 1 to the report be considered at the next available Policy & Resources Committee meeting of Mid Ulster Council. Subject to Policy & Resources Committee consideration consultation should take place with relevant stakeholders.
- 2 Recommend Safeguarding arrangements are aligned with identified officers responsible in facilities to ensure compliance with Section 12 Safeguarding Board (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.
- 3 That a documented Control of Legionella Bacteria procedure be prepared for Mid Ulster Council for introduction 1st April 2015. The alignment of the Mid Ulster Councils monitoring arrangements for Control of Legionella Bacteria is a priority and should be explored at an early stage. That when clubs have complete use or part use of Council's facilities and equipment, that a SLA is put in place.
- 4 That common processes and documentation are agreed and put in place for Mid Ulster relating to risk assessment and the management and control of maintenance and service works, done by both direct labour and by external contractors. Where various clubs have complete use or part use of Council's facilities and equipment, we recommend that a SLA is put in place.
- 5 That a Role Specific, Health and Safety related, Training Needs Analysis is put in place, as soon as structures are embedded in the Mid Ulster Council.
- 6 The expanding of the existing IT accident/incident management system to cover all 3 Councils and new Mid Ulster Council in the short to medium term. In the longer term a more comprehensive IT based Health and Safety system be introduced that would encompass all aspects of Leisure and Sport.

Councillor Wilson stated that when he had read the report without the recommendations he had been very concerned regarding the flaws in present policy referring in particular to one council having significant gaps in risk assessment emphasising that he did not know which existing Council it was but it was poor management. Councillor Wilson asked if the issue regarding contractors coming in without risk assessments was dealt with in the recommendations.

Ms Girvan stated that a consistent approach and management was required. Councillor Wilson stated that the report spoke of major inconsistencies and significant gaps in process stating that it was a poor indictment on the Council concerned.

Ms Campbell stated that there were issues in the report that needed addressed and thus she had met with Heads of Service to look at risk assessments and that they would be reporting back with a plan. Ms Campbell advised that she was endeavouring to ensure standards would be as they should be as soon as possible.

The Chair, Councillor McEldowney, stated that Council could not do much about the past and needed to focus on moving forward and the future. Councillor Wilson concurred and again stated that the findings in the report was a poor indictment on Council concerned.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the recommendations aforementioned be progressed.

Ms Girvan left the meeting at 8.07pm

D9/15 Progress Report on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan

Ms Campbell advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on progress on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan previously presented. Ms Campbell drew attention to key issues in the report advising that the Local Economic Development Plan (2014-2015) was being progressed in tandem with the community planning process, that further input from social economy businesses would be available early January 2015 and that the additional inputs would augment the work already completed and that a draft interim economic development strategy for the district would be presented in February.

Ms Campbell further advised that officers were progressing the review of financial assistance policy and process for the community and voluntary sector. The Social Economic and Environmental Data Analysis work was on schedule and that it was hoped to receive commissioning letters from OFMDFM in January and officers were currently drafting the plan for Council consideration.

Members noted progress.

D10/15 Update on the new Local Action Group Formation Process

Mr McCreesh drew attention to the report regarding Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and the formation of the LAG stating that 12 Members would be directors of the new board. Mr McCreesh drew attention to the 30 January when social partner appointments to the LAG would be announced and issued to all LAG members.

Members noted progress.

Councillor Monteith left the meeting at 8.16pm

D11/15 Progress Report re European Funding Opportunities for Mid Ulster

Mr McCreesh advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on European funding opportunities for Mid Ulster.

Mr McCreesh reminded Members that the Council had decided not to submit a direct application to the European Social Fund (ESF) but to link with its new community planning partners in relation to maximisation of funding in the Mid Ulster area.

Advising that ESF lends itself to a co-ordinated approach he stated that the three women's groups were working in synergy and a proposal was going forward to ESF regarding Dungannon Women's group.

Mr McCreesh advised that discussion was still ongoing to bring other agencies together such as South West College, North Regional College and Health and Education Boards. Stating that a substantive bid had been prepared for a major programme in relation to preparing for employability and improving careers options Mr McCreesh advised that it was a significant initiative that would require joint support from Mid Ulster and Omagh and Fermanagh Councils.

He advised that the Council would be continually updated regarding plans to maximise EU funding such as ERASMUS targeted at youth engagement and development, INTERREG, LIFE+ , ERDF Economic Development Funding, Rural Development Funding and Peace IV.

Members noted progress.

Councillor Monteith returned at 8.19pm

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That item D12/15 – D15 /15 be taken as confidential business.

D16 /15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.35pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

B

Subject **Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**

Reporting Officers **Adrian McCreesh / Maggie Bryson**

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide an update to members on the new Local Action Group formation process in Mid Ulster relating to the 2014-2020 NI Rural Development Programme.
1.2	To inform members on programme closure arrangements for the closure of the current RDP Programme 2007-13

2	Background
2.1.1	Members will be aware from previous reports that a new Local Action Group (LAG) for Mid Ulster will be established responsible for the delivery of funding within Mid Ulster through the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. The new LAG will form as a limited company with directors comprised of elected members and social partners.
2.1.2	Social partner representation on the LAG board will come from a wider LAG membership. Membership registration is now complete with 295 members signing up. From the membership base, 33 eligible board member nominations were received by the closing date of 7 th January with 1 subsequently withdrawing. From this, 13 will be selected as LAG board members. This will result in a LAG board of 25 directors – 13 social partners and 12 elected members.
2.1.3	The LAG membership met on 13 th January 2015, facilitated by the Rural Network for Northern Ireland to agree a selection framework for the 13 social partner board members based on geographical spread, priority sector (business, community, farming), gender, age and Section 75 representation.
2.1.4	An election process will now be used by the wider LAG membership base to appoint social partners to the board from the 33 nominations received. It is envisaged this process will be complete and results confirmed by 30 th January 2015.
2.2	<u>2007-2013 Rural Development Programme – current status and closure process</u>
2.2.1	SWARD (South West Action for Rural Development) received an allocation of £20.5m under the current RDP (2007-2013), which included administration funding. Of the £17.1m allocated against project funding, £16.9m has been spent to date with over 300 projects funded. Remaining spend is expected to be achieved by March 2015.
2.2.2	An exit strategy is currently being prepared following DARD's guidance, which will detail the requirements for completion of administrative checks on all

	applications received. While the majority of closure activities will be complete by September 2015 it is envisaged that there will be queries to address beyond that and into the new programme period. Such queries will be addressed by council staff working on the service level agreement to the new LAG board.
2.2.3	The exit strategy also requires a measure level analysis on the achievement of both financial and non-financial outcomes of the SWARD Local Rural Strategy. A first draft of this report has now been completed.
2.2.4	An interim staffing structure has been identified to reflect the volume and nature of work associated with closure activities which in the main will consist of file closure and completion of project monitoring and evaluation activities. This interim arrangement will remain in place until September 2015 funded through the current administration budget. A new staffing structure moving into the new programme period will be agreed as soon as it is practical to do so.
2.2.5	The SWARD Joint Council Committee will cease to exist on the 1 st April 2015 with Mid Ulster Council assuming responsibility for the current contract between the JCC and DARD. An alternative committee arrangement will be needed to oversee programme closure activities and make decisions on project related matters.

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>The new LAG is to be established as a limited company holding its own professional indemnity and public liability insurance cover. With the appointment of both elected representatives (on an interim basis) and social partners as board members to the new LAG, company formation and registration can now commence.</p> <p>DARD will now issue a competitive call for applications to select the new LAGs before appointing successful LAGs to initially develop an interim local rural development strategy. The draft RDP Programme submission provides for preparatory support/animation to assist in the development of local rural development strategies, which includes consultancy costs, costs associated with stakeholders consultation in preparing the strategy and administration costs (operating and personnel) associated with making the application for preparatory support. We understand that DARD may expect Council to work with the LAG in creating the strategy. More detail on this will be available by the end of February. No information is available on the level of funding for strategy development at this time.</p>
3.2	An indicative draft service level agreement (SLA) between the new LAG and Mid Ulster Council was presented to the members within the August 14 Development Committee papers. The draft SLA included the provision of assistance to the LAG for the preparation of the local rural development strategy. This function would include making application to DARD on behalf of the LAG for preparatory support. This SLA will be reviewed and brought back to Mid Ulster Council for comment.
3.2	The draft service level agreement will also be provided to the new LAG board for review. Thereafter it is envisaged both the new LAG, once registered as a legal entity and Mid Ulster Council will sign up to an agreed SLA for the duration of

	the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.
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4	Resource Implications
4.1	<u>Financial</u> N/A.
4.3	<u>Human resources</u> N/A
4.4	<u>Assets and other implications</u> N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	N/A

6	Recommendations
6.1	That Mid Ulster Council approves the registration of the 12 nominated elected representatives as directors of the LAG for Mid Ulster as soon as is practically possible and before 1 st April if necessary.
6.2	That Mid Ulster Council approves the setting up of the new LAG as a company limited by guarantee, with professional indemnity insurance.
6.2	That Mid Ulster Council enters into an agreed service level agreement with the LAG for Mid Ulster once established as a legal entity.
6.3	As a replacement to the SWARD Joint Council Committee, Mid Ulster Council appoints an interim sub group to oversee programme closure activities. This sub group could be comprised of all 12 elected representatives nominated for the new Mid Ulster LAG or a smaller number if desired.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	N/A

C

Subject	Sport and Leisure Transition Working Group Update
Reporting Officer	Anne-Marie Campbell

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide members with a progress report relating to priority areas identified by the Sport and Leisure Transition Working Group.

2	Background
2.1	The Committee have agreed the forward work plan of the Sport and Leisure Transition Working Group which included a number of key activities that the group had to complete by the 31 st March 2015.

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>A number of key activities and decisions have been progressed as detailed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Mid Ulster District Council – Leisure Services Membership Scheme</p> <p>Inclusive Membership Scheme for the Mid Ulster District Council area has been deferred by Shadow Council (Sept 2014). Potential to re-visit the scheme in the future remains an option.</p> <p>• Fees and Charges, Policies and Concessions</p> <p>Approval was obtained from Council (January 2015) on revised fees, charges and concession prices for Sport and Leisure facilities in Mid Ulster District Council area in 2015/16.</p> <p>• Revenue Budgets</p> <p>Revenue Budgets have been submitted from each of the current Council areas to respective Finance Departments and are being collated, representing one overarching service provision for MUDC.</p> <p>• Draft proposal – Staff terms and conditions</p> <p>Information is being collated and a paper will be presented to Council in due course.</p> <p>• Draft Capital Programme</p> <p>A draft Capital programme has been provided by the current Councils for consideration going into MUDC.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonised IT Cookstown Lesiure Centre is currently purchasing Dimension from Xn Leisure and will trial it for a period of six months. This would provide opportunity to measure the suitability of the system. If proved to be satisfactory, consideration will be given to all facilities using the same system. • Sports Development Baseline – Review and Options Information is being collated and a paper will be presented to Committee in due course. • ‘Transferring Services’ – DCAL Water Recreation Sites Discussions are currently being progressed in relation to transferring 4No water recreation sites; three within Dungannon i.e. Ballysaggart, Glenmore and Coalisland Canal and Ardtrea in Cookstown to MUDC. Site visits with representatives from Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and Rivers Agency have taken place to ascertain level of future commitment and potential of SLA for continued maintenance.
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4	Resource Implications
4.1	Financial None
4.2	Human Resources None
4.3	Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support None
4.4	Other None

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

6	Recommendations
6.1	Members are asked to note progress that is being made.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	None

D

Subject	Community Planning
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update on progress relating to the Mid Ulster Community Planning process.

2	Background
2.1	<p>At previous Development Committee meetings, Members have been updated on the progress relating to the following agreed actions:</p> <p>A Mid Ulster wide Community Planning engagement exercise.</p> <p>A Mid Ulster Data Analysis Study.</p> <p>A comprehensive capacity building programme for all stakeholders.</p>
2.2	Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and supplementary guidance.

3	Key Issues
3.1	<u>Mid Ulster wide Community Planning engagement exercise</u>
3.1.1	Compilation of all the engagement sessions and data analysis is taking place with a final report due mid February.
3.1.2	A date to present findings, as referenced above, to members is being arranged. Following this the reports will be presented to Council senior officers and partner Government stakeholders to influence future planning; dates to be finalised.
3.1.3	A summary version in report format will be issued to all the community representatives who gave up their time to be involved in the community engagement event discussion.
3.1.4	The report will then be used to help Mid Ulster Council lead on the development of a Community Plan in partnership with the local community and government departments/agencies.
3.2	<u>Community Planning Capacity Building Programme</u>
3.2.1	General community planning capacity building sessions for staff have been scheduled for February and March in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt.
3.2.2	<p>Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and supplementary guidance.</p> <p>The legislation remains outstanding. Council is continuing to lobby along with NILGA and other Councils for a stronger responsibility and commitment from the statutory</p>

	partners and government departments. A Local Government response will be presented to Council asap.
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4	Resource Implications
4.1	<u>Financial</u> The programme of work is being delivered within existing and previously agreed Mid Ulster budget parameters.
4.3	<u>Human resources</u> As per previous report; staff from across the three Councils are proactively involved in the delivery of the Community Planning actions.

5	Other Considerations
5.1	As previously outlined every effort is being taken to maximise the community planning process and complementarity with other processes and plan development.

6	Recommendations
6.1	To note the Mid Ulster Community Planning process as outlined.
6.2	To note the continued lobbying on the development of the DoE Community Planning Operational Guidance and legislation.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	None

E

Subject	Development and Regeneration update
Reporting Officers	Anne-Marie Campbell, Adrian McCreesh and Iain Frazer

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide members with an update regarding progress on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan previously presented.

2	Background
2.1	The Committee agreed the forward work plan of Development and Regeneration Working Group at its July Committee meeting. This included a number of key activities that the group had to complete by the 31 st March 2015.

3	Key Issues
3.1	A number of key activities have been progressed as detailed in Appendix 1. In particular:
3.1.1	<p>Local Economic Development Plan (2015-2018)</p> <p>A Draft Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan is being formulated and will be presented by RSM McClure Watters Consultants to the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Council Local Economic Development Plan Working Group on Thursday 29 January 2015 at 6pm in Cookstown District Council Offices, and • Mid Ulster Council Development Committee on 5 February 2015 in Cookstown District Council Offices. <p>Members will have an opportunity to provide feedback and comments at each meeting, after which one final consultation event in Mid Ulster will be held during March 2015, where the Draft Plan will be presented back to the public and those who attended the previous economic development workshop events in September and October 2014.</p> <p>The Final Local Economic Development Plan for Mid Ulster (2015-2018) will be presented to the Development Committee in April 2015.</p>
3.1.2	<p>Review of Financial Assistance Policy and Process for the Community and Voluntary Sector</p> <p>Williamson Consulting is now creating draft financial assistance proposals and a draft Advice Provision proposal. Meetings continue with officers to ensure that the draft proposals are with Mid Ulster Council by end of February 2015.</p>
3.1.3	<p>Good Relations Strategy and Plan for Mid Ulster</p> <p>A Good Relations Plan is currently being prepared by the Good Relations Officers for consideration by Mid Ulster Council.</p>

4	Resource Implications
4.1	<u>Financial</u> All financial commitments have been previously approved.
4.2	<u>Human Resources</u> It is envisaged that the human resources required will be met within existing staffing complements.
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> Use of consultancies identified has been previously approved.
4.4	<u>Other</u> None

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

6	Recommendations
6.1	Members are asked to note progress that is being made.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1: Development and Regeneration Progress Report for February 2015

Development and Regeneration Working Group

Progress Report for February 2015

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
Pursue and secure match funding for production of new Baseline Study for Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera)	31/3/15	Ongoing.
Complete Mid Ulster Tourism Plan	31/3/15	TOR will be issued after Community Planning consultation process with a view to appointment of professional support.
Provide necessary input data and evidence towards ongoing preparation of Mid Ulster Community Plan	31/3/15	Qualitative data analysis has been completed and is in report format and will be circulated to all Members. Quantitative data analysis will also be presented to Members in the near future.
Produce a new Foreign Direct Investment App for Mid Ulster	31/3/15	Finalising app development with final version due by end of March 2015.
Mid Ulster Advice Service – review of current provision and recommendations for future delivery	31/3/15	Service Level Agreements for existing providers are currently under consideration for 2015/2016.
Produce a Mid Ulster Business Directory	31/3/15	Work ongoing to create a Mid Ulster Business Directory. Challenging due to the volume of business data involved and the need to ensure a consistent approach is adopted across Mid Ulster.
To develop and agree an approach towards Grant – Aid consideration and allocation across Mid Ulster, commencing 1 st April 2015	31/3/15	Williamson Consulting finalising draft recommendations for Grants and Advice provision for end February 2015.
Complete an interim Mid Ulster Economic Development Action for 2015-2018	31/3/15	<p>A Draft Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan is being formulated and will be presented by RSM McClure Watters Consultants to the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Council Local Economic Development Plan Working Group on Thursday 29 January 2015 at 6pm in Cookstown District Council Offices, and • Mid Ulster Council Development Committee on 5 February 2015 in Cookstown District Council Offices. <p>Members will have an opportunity to provide feedback and comments at each meeting, after which one final consultation event in Mid Ulster will be held during March 2015, where the Draft Plan will be presented back to the public and those who attended the previous economic development workshop events in September and October 2014.</p>

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
		The Final Local Economic Development Plan for Mid Ulster (2015-2018) will be presented to the Development Committee in April 2015.
To have an agreed approach for Arts, Culture and Heritage offering	31/3/15	Sharing practice across Councils ongoing. A substantial number of familiarisation visits are underway.
Prepare a Good Relations Strategy for Mid Ulster	31/3/15	Strategy development ongoing in liaison with OFMDFM. Draft Strategy to be equality proofed.
Finalise discussions with DSD on Urban Regeneration, Community Development and Neighbourhood Renewal. Determine viability of four Environmental Improvement Schemes	31/3/15	DSD delivery will remain as it for 2015/2016. Discussions ongoing with DSD on budget for 2015/16. Environmental improvement schemes under consideration by DSD.
Shape the structure and approach for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme (2014-2020); and PEACE IV Plan (2014-2020) 	31/3/15	Social partners election process to LAG Board will be completed by start of February 2015. Council to lead on development of Strategy in consultation with LAG. Peace IV programme direction pending .
Shape the content of future European Programmes, including Interreg V, ERDF, ESF etc	31/3/15	Initial discussions held with ICBAN - their officers are pursuing all future EU funding opportunities for partner Councils.
Discuss and agree Town Centre Action Plans and associated funding for 2015/2016	31/3/15	Officers are preparing new town centre action plans for each of the 4 designated towns in Mid Ulster.
Review existing programmes to determine 'gaps in provision' will occur before future funding becomes available	31/3/15	Action complete.
Develop Development budget for 2015/16	31/3/15	Work in progress.

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Subject	PCSP
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update on the re-constitution of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership for the Mid Ulster Council Area.

2	Background
2.1	Current Policing & Community Safety Partnerships will finish on 31 st March 2015. The partnerships will be re-constituted in June 2015. The Joint Committee issued a Communique on 19 th January 2015 containing guidance on closing off the current PCSPs and procedures for 2015/2016 (see Appendix 1).

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p><u>Action Planning 2015/2016</u> The Joint Committee have stipulated that actions plan should form the basis of transitional delivery plans to ensure delivery in the first year between 1st April and the implementation of the new PCSP action plan. Plans should be submitted by 28th February 2015. Delivery needs to be maintained and Strategic Assessment will be required for the new PCSP. This will be carried out using the findings from the Mid Ulster Community Planning Consultation.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Policing Plans</u> There will be 11 local policing plans for 2015/2016. Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt PCSPs have been liaising with the Local Commander to agree priorities for the Mid Ulster Policing Plan. Outcomes for the new area Policing Plan will be influenced by the Northern Ireland Policing Plan, which will not be available until early February.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Joint Committee Funding 2015-2016</u> Joint Committee has agreed a new funding model which will be used to calculate funding allocations for 2015-2016. The model will allocate funding based on a set amount (30%), population (45%) and deprivation (25%). The Joint Committee have indicated that PCSPs should plan for at least 15% budget cuts. The Joint Committee hope to be in a position to outline draft budget figures the week commencing 26th January. The Criminal Justice Inspection Report includes a recommendation on capping the amount of Joint Committee funding that is spent on salaries and running costs to ensure that the majority of funding is spent on operational delivery</p>
3.4	<p><u>Appointment of Independent Members</u> An initial review of applications has been carried out by the NI Policing Board. Subject to a successful HR Service Provider being appointed in early February the next stages of the process are detailed under point 6 of Appendix 1</p>

4	Resource Implications
4.1	<u>Financial</u> – Budget Unknown. PCSP have been asked to plan on the basis of at least 15% budget cuts Joint Committee has agreed a new funding model which will be used to calculate funding allocations for 2015-2016.
4.2	<u>Human resources</u> - N/A
4.3	<u>Assets and other implications</u> – N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	Delivery can only be continued if a Letter of Offer is issued to the Mid Ulster Council at the beginning of the new financial year. Previously Letters of offer were not issued until the second quarter of the financial year.

6	Recommendations
6.1	None

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1 - PCSP Communique from The Joint Committee (<i>NI Policing Board & Department of Justice</i>)

APPENDIX 1: Communique from Joint Committee



Department of
Justice
www.dojni.gov.uk

PCSP COMMUNIQUE: ISSUE NUMBER 1

Subject:	Transition from the existing PCSPs to the new partnerships
Date Issued:	19 January 2015
Issued to :	All PCSP Chairs, PCSP Managers, Council Chief Executives, Shadow Chief Executives
Contact Point:	amanda.stewart@nipolicingboard.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 028 9040 8587 steven.mccourt@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 028 90828551

The purpose of this Communiqué is to provide Chief Executives and PCSP Chairs and Managers with guidance on steps they will be required to take to finalise PCSP business for 2014/15 and to prepare for the partnerships which will be reconstituted in early June 2015.

The issues covered in this guidance are:

- Annual Reports 2014/15;
- Action Planning 2015/16;
- Local Policing Plans;
- Joint Committee funding 2015/16;
- Managing residual financial matters;
- Timetable for appointing Independent Members;
- An administrative process which Councils may wish to consider when appointing political members to PCSPs;
- Managing business from 1 April 2015 until the new partnerships are established; and
- Criminal Justice Inspection report.

If you have any queries regarding any of these issues, please contact us or your Partnership Development Officer.

Steven McCourt

Amanda Stewart

STEVEN MCCOURT

AMANDA STEWART

Head of Partnership Development
Community Safety Unit, DOJ

Director of Partnership,
Northern Ireland Policing Board

1. Annual Reports 2014/15

1.1 Each PCSP is required, by the Justice Act (NI) 2011, to submit an Annual Report to its council on the exercise of its functions during the preceding year, and to send a copy of the report to the Joint Committee.

1.2 Reports are normally submitted to the council within 3 months of the end of the financial year however, in light of the reconstitution of PCSPs in line with local government reform, this would place a requirement on the incoming 11 partnerships to report on the exercise of the functions of the preceding PCSP.

1.3 It has, therefore, been agreed that the current partnerships should prepare a Report on the first 9 months of their performance in 2014/15 (i.e. up to 31 December 2014) and to have their reports finalised, submitted to council and copied to Joint Committee by 31 March 2015. Further advice is being sought from Local Government Audit regarding the reporting of End Year Financial Statements and a further communique will issue in due course.

2. Action Planning 2015/16

2.1 Joint Committee recently considered options for Action Planning for 2015/16 and agreed that reviewing and evaluating current Action Plans should form the basis of transitional delivery plans which will ensure front line delivery during the first year of the new partnerships.

2.2 PCSPs should, therefore:

- begin to review their Action Plans;
- identify those projects which will not carry over to 2015/16 and take steps to finalise arrangements with them by 31 March 2015; and
- identify those projects which should carry over to 2015/16.

2.3 The reasons for carrying projects forward must be documented and include evidence of the effectiveness and impact the projects have had in tackling community safety or policing issues and which remain relevant to the needs of the local area. Projects which are to carry forward should be amalgamated, on a cluster basis, into a transitional delivery plan for the incoming PCSP. The Plans should be submitted to Joint Committee by 28 February 2015

so that Letters of Offer can be issued to Councils. This is intended to maintain operational delivery during the transition from existing PCSPs to the new partnerships.

2.4 Strategic Assessments for the new district council areas will be required before incoming PCSPs can develop Action Plans based on the priorities in their area. Some PCSPs are already developing Strategic Assessments, across the new district council areas to enable incoming PCSPs to develop Action Plans for at least part of the 2015/16 year. In these cases it is likely that the new PCSP will deliver against the transitional delivery plan until such time as a new Action Plan has been developed and has been agreed by Joint Committee.

2.5 Some PCSPs have not begun working on Strategic Assessments for the new council area so it is likely that, in these cases, the new PCSPs will deliver against the transitional delivery plan while developing a Strategic Assessment and then an Action Plan, which will have to be agreed by Joint Committee. We would encourage those who have not commenced the Strategic Assessment process to do so to assist the work of the incoming PCSP.

2.6 Only those PCSPs who have been able to develop an agreed Action Plan during 2015/16 will be able to deliver any new projects during the year. Those who deliver only against transitional delivery plans during 2015/16 will not be able to deliver new projects until their Strategic Assessments and agreed Action Plans are in place.

3. Local Policing Plans

3.1 PSNI is in the process of identifying 11 District Command areas to be coterminous with the 11 new Council areas with effect from 1 April 2015. There will be 11 local policing plans for the 2015/16 year. At this stage, PCSPs and Local Commanders in the new cluster areas should also be liaising with each other to agree local priorities to feed into the Local Policing Plan for the new District Command area. The Northern Ireland Policing Plan priorities are currently being agreed and will be communicated to Managers in early February. The Board will provide assistance to PCSP Managers, Local Area Commanders and the new District Commanders with the formation of the 2015/16.

4. Joint Committee Funding 2015-16

4.1 For planning purposes, PCSPs will wish to note that Joint Committee has agreed a new funding model which will be used to calculate funding allocations for the 11 PCSPs for the 2015-16 year. The model will allocate funding based on a set amount (30%) which will be supplemented by additional amounts based on population (45%) and deprivation (25%).

4.2 You will be aware of the current budgetary constraints impacting across the public sector at present. Joint Committee made every effort to protect PCSP budgets from the reductions that applied to other Department of Justice funding streams during 2014-15 and will continue to protect front line services as far as possible.

4.3 Reductions will, however, be inevitable and although we are unable, at this stage, to confirm the budget that will be available to PCSPs for 2015-16, you should make a planning assumption that it will be reduced by at least 15%, in line with draft budget allocations notified to DoJ Arm's Length Bodies. We hope, taking into consideration the wider Executive announcement on Departmental funding, to be in a position to outline the draft budget figures week beginning 26 January.

5. Managing residual financial matters

5.1 A number of Managers have asked for advice on how Quarter 4 claims for 2014/15 will be processed following the establishment of the new councils from 1 April 2015. We are currently consulting Local Government Audit and will issue a further Communiqué when the position has been clarified.

6. Update to timetable for appointing Independent Members and reconstituting PCSPs

6.1 The competition for Independent PCSP/DPCSP members has now closed and the Policing Board have conducted an initial eligibility sift on all applications.

6.2 The Policing Board is in the process of tendering for a recruitment consultant to assist Councils with the next stage of the process. Subject to the successful HR Service Provider being appointed in early February the next stages of the process will be as follows:

- Shortlisting of applications will be conducted by Council during the last two weeks of February 2015. Candidates will be advised whether or not their application has been shortlisted by early March 2015 and, if successful, they will be invited for interview;
- Interviews will take place week during March 2015 and this part of the process will last for up to three weeks. Candidates will be advised of the outcome of their interview by mid-April;
- The Policing Board will appoint to the PCSP/DPCSP from among the persons nominated by the Council and candidates will be advised of the outcome mid- May 2015; and
- It is envisaged that all the successful candidates will be appointed to the PCSPs by June 2015.

6.3 All candidates have been advised of this timeframe.

7. Appointing political members to PCSPs

7.1 Ronnie Armour and Sam Pollock wrote to Chief Executives, on 15 August 2014, with guidance on a number of issues including the appointment of political members to PCSPs from 1 April 2015. We have subsequently been asked to clarify the position.

7.2 Joint Committee can confirm that political appointments to PCSPs are positions of responsibility within the meaning of the Local Government Act (NI)

2014 and that, in making these appointments, Councils must meet the legislative requirements of that Act as well as of the Justice Act (NI) 2011.

7.3 Guidance on making the appointments is attached at Annex A.

8. Managing business from 1 April 2015 until the new partnerships are established

8.1 The new PCSPs cannot be reconstituted until both the political and independent members are appointed and, as noted earlier, the independent members will not be appointed until early June.

8.2 It is therefore important that front line delivery is maintained during the period between 1 April 2015, when the new Councils will be established, and early June when the new PCSPs will come into effect.

8.3 There will, consequently, be no meetings of PCSPs during April and May 2015 so Managers will play a key role in maintaining service delivery and ensuring that those projects which have been included in transitional delivery plans continue uninterrupted.

8.4 This is a pragmatic response to meet the requirements of the legislation in the context of the exceptional circumstances of Local Government Reform. The aim is to ensure that the valuable work being done through local initiatives is protected during the transition from current PCSPs to the new partnerships.

9. Criminal Justice Inspection report

9.1 The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) published its report on PCSPs on 4 December. The Report contains recommendations on strategic and operational issues to maximise effectiveness and ensure that the partnerships play a key role in the forthcoming community planning structures. Joint Committee circulated the report to Chief Executives, PCSP managers and Members on 3 December and PCSP Managers were briefed on the content of the report by CJINI on 16 December.

9.2 The report includes a recommendation on capping the amount of Joint Committee funding that is spent on salaries and running costs to ensure that the majority of our funding is spent on front line operational delivery. Joint Committee will consider this recommendation and will confirm its proposals as soon as possible. 9.3 In the meantime, Councils will wish to bear the recommendation in mind when setting their staffing structures for the reconstituted PCSPs.

9.4 Joint Committee will develop a management response to the recommendations, including an action plan.

APPOINTING COUNCILLORS TO POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

1. The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (“the Local Government Act”) makes provision for the filling of positions of responsibility on a council to ensure that these positions are allocated across the political parties and independents represented on a council. Schedule 1 of the Act specifies the procedures for filling those positions and provides that a council may adopt either the d’Hondt or Sainte-Laguë formula method or the Single Transferrable Vote for filling positions of responsibility.
2. Section 6 of the Local Government Act lists those positions that are positions of responsibility, with section 6(1)(f) specifying that this includes being appointed as an external representative of a council (i.e. a person nominated by the council to serve on an external public body established by or under statutory provision).
3. Section 20 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (“the Justice Act”) makes provision that each council must establish a Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) for its district. It also provides that the district council for Belfast must also establish District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSP). The political members appointed by a council to PCSPs, under the Justice Act, are therefore filling positions of responsibility. Political members appointed by the council for Belfast to the DPCSPs are also filling positions of responsibility.
4. Paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1 to the Justice Act provides that a council, in exercising its power to appoint political members to PCSPs, shall ensure, so far as is practicable, that the political members reflect the balance of parties

prevailing among members of the council immediately after the last local general election.

5. Paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 2 to the Justice Act makes similar provision in respect of DPCSPs and provides that the council for Belfast, in exercising its power to appoint political members, shall ensure, so far as is practicable, that the political members of all the DPCSPs, taken together, reflect the balance of parties prevailing among the members of the council immediately after the last local general election.
6. A council, following a local general election, must adhere to the provisions of the Local Government Act, in relation to the filling of positions of responsibility. [Local Government Circular LG 45/14](#) provides guidance on the practical application of each of the approaches specified in the Local Government Act, i.e. d'Hondt, Sainte-Laguë or Single Transferrable Vote. However, in doing so, the council must also observe the provisions of the Justice Act in relation to the balance of parties on PCSPs and DPCSPs.
7. Where the council is using either the d'Hondt or Sainte-Laguë method for filling positions of responsibility, the clerk to the council could calculate the number of councillors each political party would nominate for membership of the PCSP (and in the case of Belfast the DPCSPs), to satisfy the political balance provisions of the Justice Act. An appropriate method (for example, one of the methods set out in Schedules 1 (i.e. d'Hondt or Sainte-Laguë) and 2 (i.e. Quota Greatest Remainder or Droop Quota) to the Local Government Act should be used for this purpose. This information would then be provided to the nominating officers of each of the political parties represented on the council, to inform their selection of positions of responsibility that they wish members of their party to fill. The nomination of members to the PCSP (and in the case of Belfast the DPCSPs) is then a matter for each nominating officer.

8. Where a council adopts the Single Transferrable Vote method for the filling of positions of responsibility, all the members of the council should be reminded of the council's statutory obligations in relation to the nomination of its political members of the PCSP (and in the case of Belfast the DPCSPs). The clerk to the council may also wish to notify members of the number from each of the political parties that would be required to be nominated to the PCSP (or DPCSPs) to satisfy the political balance requirements of the Justice Act.