

Report on	Improvement Objectives: - 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 (proposed) and timeline for public consultation
Date of Meeting	Thursday 5 th March 2020
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	L Jenkins, Performance & Quality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To consider and agree the proposed improvement objectives for 2020/21 and 2021/22 as set in compliance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (the Act) and timelines for public consultation exercise.
2.0	Background
2.1	The 2014 Local Government Act places a general duty on the Council to “.... <i>make arrangements to secure continuous improvement</i>” in the exercise of its functions.
2.2.	Each year the Council develops an annual Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), containing improvement objectives, associated activity and outcomes for citizens and local communities. The plan also includes the statutory performance indicators and standards as outlined in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, as well as Council’s Corporate health indicators (measures).
2.3	The council previously approved 4 improvement objectives, which were set for a two year period 2017-18 to 2018 -19. Officers subsequently developed council’s performance improvement plan around the 4 improvement objectives. Three of these improvement objectives were then retained in 2019/20, in order to provide sufficient time to bring about increased tangible outcomes for citizens, with one new improvement objective added to in year. All four of the improvement objectives for 2019/20 are now coming to their project activity conclusions.
2.4	Senior management undertook a workshop in February 2020, to look at areas for improvement, moving forward, with a focus on current and future issues for Mid Ulster citizens, the contextual issues relating to current Council operations and short to medium term Council priorities (in relation to the newly developed corporate plan 2020-2024). The outworking’s from this session were analysed and four draft improvement objectives developed, with supporting rationales. Appendix A details the draft Corporate Improvement Objectives 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 together with a section entitled “Why are we doing it?”
2.5	Each improvement objective will have an assigned Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), along with a project team, to develop and embed a body of work to deliver improvement outcomes for citizens specific to the improvement objectives. The proposed objectives are (refer to table one)

Table One - Proposed Improvement Objectives 2020-21 to 2021-22

Proposed Improvement Objectives		Status
1.	Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action	New
2.	We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them	New
3.	To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and environment	New
4.	We will contribute to the on-going regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people.	New

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Communities to Councils on taking, requires that the council consult on a yearly basis on their improvement objectives. This requirement on consultation falls from section 87 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

3.2 There is no statutory duty to consult on the improvement plan, but rather the improvement objectives. Four new improvement objectives have been proposed for a two year period from 2020-21 to 2021-22. Each improvement objective and their assigned SRO will conduct a review at the end of 2021 to ensure that the improvement objectives and associated milestones and activities are still relevant.

3.3 A report on the delivery of the current improvement objectives (2019 to 2020), detailing the key performance outcomes will be provided in September.

Consultation & Improvement Plan 2019/20

3.4 It is proposed that arrangements to consult on the Improvement Objectives, as referred to in section 2.5 above, commence following the Policy & Resources Committee meeting and run from March to early May 2020.

3.5 The following is an outline timeline for the consultation and development of the Council's 2020-21 and 2021-22 Improvement Plan:

- Consultation from Friday 6th March to Friday 1st May 2020.
- Outcomes Report on the Consultation considered by June P&R Committee
- Draft Performance Improvement Plan (2020-2021 to 2021-22) to be considered at June P&R Committee

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A.
4.2	<u>Screening & Impact Statements</u>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members give consideration to the approval of the four improvement objectives for 2020-21 to 2021-22, and the initiation of consultation together with associated timeline.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A - Proposed Corporate Improvement Objectives 2020-21 to 2021-22