

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week

16 - 20 Nov 2020

Survival, Recovery, Resilience

#GEW2020
#MidUlsterDCRegister
Online

MON 16th November

Introducing Your Company Quickly and Compellingly

10.00am - 11.00am

Una McSorley, Marcom m Training

You've just bumped into a former client in the lift. He asks you what your new company does. You open your mouth, try to organize your thoughts when the lift stops and he's on his way. Missed opportunity and one where it would have helped to have had an "elevator pitch."

But how do you craft a pitch that generates interest in your product or service in just 30 seconds or less? This webinar takes you through writing an elevator pitch and what it should include.

EU Exit | Chemicals Regimes REACH / CLP / PIC

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Speakers from HSE(GB) & DEFRA

Learn what your business needs to know about impending changes to labelling, packaging and chemical regulations which will apply from 1st January 2021. This event will focus on the chemical regimes of Registration Evaluation Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (REACH); Classification Labelling and Packaging (CLP); and Prior Informed Consent (PIC)

Find out about the required procedures to be followed in relation to labelling and packaging of chemical products moving between GB and the NI(EU) and the export and import of designated hazardous chemicals and how this will work after the transition period.

Reinventing Retail in a Covid World

7.00pm - 8.00pm

Graham Sault, Canny Insights

Join Graham Sault, respected retail commentator and High Streets Task Force Expert as he focuses on practical hints and tips to navigate the Covid-19 situation, and trade as successfully as possible now and into the future. Learn how to effectively respond to trends and challenges affecting the high street during and post Covid-19, gaining expert advice on marketing messages, customer service and future proofing your store.

TUES 17th November

A Recipe for Recovery : Tourism and Hospitality

10.00am - 11.30am

Michael Deane, DEANES Restaurants

This webinar is especially suited to the hospitality and tourism sector. Michael Deane will share how he adapted his businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic and will outline his plans for moving forward. Michael is one of the most recognisable faces of Ireland's hospitality industry. As proprietor of seven diverse restaurants in Belfast, he shares the credit for transforming the city's food culture. Join this webinar for useful insights and suggestions on how to become resilient and get your business on the road to recovery.

The MEGA Impact - One Year On

1.00pm - 2.00pm

Panel Discussion with Manufacturing / Engineering Leaders from Mid Ulster

Come and hear about the significant progress and developments made by the Manufacturing and Engineering Growth Advancement (MEGA) network over the last 12 months. This includes the decisive positive impact made during this challenging period within the local manufacturing and engineering sector. Local celebrity Malachi Osh will comper proceedings with a live Q&A speaking to an expert panel including guest speaker Pat O'Neill - founding member of Powerscreen.

Confessions of a Start-up Business Owner

7.15pm - 8.15pm

Host: Cate Conway, Local Radio Personality

The Go For It Programme will host the first in a series of 'Confessions of a Start-up Business Owner' to inspire potential entrepreneurs. This one hour virtual workshop will provide honest and inspirational insights from experienced entrepreneurs including a Mid Ulster new start, Laura Irwin, Noble Spaces. Hear them talk candidly about their strategies and mistakes along their journey to success.

All events are online webinars and FREE to attend - register at:

midulstercouncil.org/enterpriseweek

* All information is correct at time of publication. Please confirm details online when registering.

WED 18th November

It's a Zoo Around Here: A Guide to Better Communication in the Workplace

10.00am - 11.00am

Una McSorley, Marcom m Training

This humorous presentation is perfect for leaders at all levels. Una McSorley will share her guide to better communication in the workplace. She will explain how to become a more effective communicator and ultimately a leader, by recognising the variety of communication styles used by the animals in your zoo and adapting your strategy accordingly.

Linked In to Win

1.30pm - 2.30pm

Louise Brogan, Social Bee

Learn how to maximise LinkedIn to build relationships and win new business. This webinar will provide insight on how to optimise your LinkedIn profile, understand types of content to share, and grow valuable networks. No more feeling lost, frustrated, or overwhelmed as you leave ready to use LinkedIn to WIN!

The 4 C's: Creating Content that Connects through Covid

7.00pm - 8.00pm

Gail Sheen & Clara Maybin, So Social Marketing

Gain an invaluable insight into creating meaningful online content that directly impacts and connects with your customers. This session will take into account the impact that Covid-19 has had on our customer relationships and how we can appropriately communicate with them during the pandemic.

If you attend any of our webinars your name will automatically go forward into a prize draw with the opportunity to win some great prizes. The more events you attend, the more opportunity you have of winning a prize!



THURS 19th November

Inspiring Entrepreneurs

10.00am - 11.00am

Q&A with Cormac Diamond (Bloc Blinds), Mairead Mackle (Tarasis Enterprises) and Shane McCrory (ElectriCast Ltd)

Register for 'Inspiring Entrepreneurs', a webinar featuring some of the best business leaders from across the Mid South West region of Northern Ireland. Hear how they charted a path for their businesses during lockdown, pivoting to meet new challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities. This session will offer learnings for companies of all sizes and sectors, with growing relevance as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact businesses.

Leading Teams Through a Pandemic

12.00pm - 1.00pm

Julie Allen Consulting

Over the past 8 months everyone has experienced challenges both personally and professionally. As a business leader learn how you can create the conditions in the workplace to foster resilience, innovation, and growth. This 60 minute webinar will focus on what is required to keep teams energetic, enthusiastic and emotionally connected through the pandemic.

FRI 20th November

Business Funding and Support Event

11.00am - 12.15pm

Comper: Karen Patterson, TV and Radio Personality

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to hear about the range of business support and funding available to businesses in these difficult times. Hear from Mid Ulster District Council, Invest NI, InterTrade Ireland and Mid Ulster Enterprise Agencies about their current support programmes. Cavanagh Kelly Accountants will also brief business owners on a variety of funding and support to help businesses navigate the pandemic. Not to be missed, this invaluable webinar will be hosted by well known and respected TV and radio personality Karen Patterson. Each participant will receive an e-booklet outlining the various support packages available.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

APPENDIX 2



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

MID ULSTER TOWN & VILLAGE

BUSINESS SPRUCE UP SCHEME

(PHASE 1 – 2019/20)

Completed by Lawrence Power of Knox & Clayton Architects – October 2020

KNOXCLAYTON
ARCHITECTS

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1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme, 2019-2022. It presents a breakdown of the applications received, a synopsis of a number of successful projects and the impact of the scheme.

Mid Ulster District Council supports the improvement and enhancement of business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015 of each town) and development limits of each village as identified in the attached maps.

The Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is a pilot project and offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for internal and/or external improvements. The Scheme is available to both occupied business/commercial properties and vacant business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) and the development limits of each village. Whilst the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is intended to aid minor works to business/commercial premises, large scale schemes may apply however please note the maximum grant aid is up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property.

The allocation of grant was a competitive process and limited funds were available. Applicants were made aware that this would potentially be the only funding opportunity for the next 3 years (Subject to funding).

Successful applications, who scored a minimum of 40%, were ranked highest to lowest.

2.0 Aims and Objectives of the Scheme

The aim of the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the identified towns and villages in the Mid Ulster District Council area by:

1. Making external improvements to the built environment in the towns and villages.
2. Encouraging the improvement of the internal appearance of properties visible to the public.

The objectives of the scheme are:

1. To enhance and improve the attractiveness of business/commercial properties.
2. To deliver high-quality external and internal improvements to properties in the towns and villages.
3. To attract new business and investment through improvements to vacant properties.
4. To stimulate private sector investment.
5. To assist businesses in each town and village to increase competitiveness and sustainability.
6. To improve user perceptions of each town and village.

3.0 Who Could Apply?

- Business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) as identified within scheme maps
- Business/Commercial properties within the development limits of villages under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, draft Local Development Plan (2030) as identified within scheme maps.

TOWNS: - Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt.

VILLAGES:- Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballynakilly, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Cappagh, Castlecaulfield, Castledawson, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Creagh, Desertmartin, Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglish, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Moneymore, Moortown, Moy, Moygashel, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands.

The grant was available to:

- Business/commercial premises
- Shops (including hairdressers, beauty salons, dry cleaners, clothing retailers etc).
- Financial and Professional services (e.g. estate agents, insurance companies etc).
- Restaurants, Public houses, Cafes and Food takeaways.
- Vacant premises. For a vacant property to be eligible evidence was to be provided that:

- 1) The property is used as a business/commercial property. If this was not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) was to be provided.
- 2) If the vacant property existed as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works.
- 3) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted, such as letter from proposed letting agent, letter from property owner of actions that will be taken to seek a tenant.

Application forms were acceptable from the property owner/s or tenants. If a tenant made an application, it had to be co-signed by the property owner(s) otherwise the application was deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

Individual applications from owners/tenants whose properties were adjacent to each other were welcome. Where two or more applications adjacent to each other were made they were defined as 'Multiple Applications'. These applications were viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and were scored as per page 5 of the Guidance Document 'How do we assess your application'.

4.0 Scope of Works Eligible for Funding

The property owners/tenants of eligible business/commercial properties in the designated areas could apply for grant-aid to carry out the following:

Internal Works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of:

- Walls, ceilings, doors, floors and stairs.
- Internal redecoration work e.g. repainting of walls, ceilings etc
- Rewiring and plumbing.
- Access improvements.
- New interior window display lighting, where shutters are not in use.
- Subdivision to form smaller units.
- Restructuring to form larger units.
- Permanent (i.e. not loose fitted or mobile) display cases/built-in furniture and joinery.
- Please note that internal works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

External works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of the following:

- Shop fronts, including fascia, signage and lighting.
- Windows.
- Doors.
- Rainwater goods; guttering or downpipes on shopfronts.
- Redecoration (including painting, signage etc.).
- Pedestrian access improvements.
- Security measures (including security glazing/laminated glass which allows window shopping to take place in the evening e.g. open or lattice shutters/door grilles-NOT solid shutters).
- Virtual graphics / hoardings.
- Equipment and associated labour costs as deemed appropriate for preparation of work e.g. power washing, hire of lift equipment etc.
- Please note that external works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

Ineligible Works included:

The scheme did not support:

- Works which required planning permission which was not in place at the Application stage.
- Routine maintenance such as clearing of debris from gutters, cleaning tarmac, cleaning of roofs, chimneys etc.
- Improvements to residential property, including residential property located above commercial premises.
- Retrospective applications (for work already completed or underway).

- CCTV / Alarm systems.
- Mobile/loose fixtures and fittings or furniture.
- Internal work which was not in the public area of the property.
- Mannequins.

The grant did not include:

- Statutory fees (e.g. Building Control Approval), professional fees etc.
- Insurances
- Interest (on loans taken out to fund your building project)
- VAT (except if the applicant is not VAT registered)

5.0 Procurement

Completed applications had to be accompanied by competitive quotations/tenders from bona-fide reputable contractors. If a contractor is not employed to complete all works, the appropriate number of quotations/tenders had to be submitted for each element of the scheme.

The scheme required:

- 2 Written Quotations for project elements costing up to £4,999.99
- 4 Written Quotations for project elements costing from £5,000-£30,000

All quotations had to be dated and on headed paper and the funder reserved the right to have an independent quantity surveyor check the validity of quotations/tenders.

6.0 Application Process

Completed application forms were to be returned to Knox Clayton Architects, or alternatively, one of the Council Offices (Dungannon, Cookstown or Magherafelt), by 4pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019. Only fully completed Applications were validated and late submissions were not accepted.

12 No. Business Clinics were held at various public locations spread around the Council area. This provided the opportunity for those interested in applying for funding to drop-in without appointment and receive advice on their application. Representatives from the scheme's Chartered Architect and Mid Ulster District Council were present at each business clinic.

7.0 Assessment of the Applications:

The following criteria was used by the assessment panel to score the application for a grant:

- i) **Current Condition of the elements of work requesting funding (25%)**
Scoring ranged from 0%-25%, for example, if the current condition of the elements of work requested for funding to the property was considered very poor, the maximum 25% was allocated.

ii) Impact the proposed element of works will make (25%)

Scoring ranged from 0%-25%, for example, if the proposed element of works would have a transformation impact on the property, the maximum 25% would be allocated.

iii) Value for Money (25%)

This was calculated based on the formula: - Impact (points) ÷ Grant Sought = Weighted Criteria. Weighted criteria achieved ranged from 5%-25%, with excellent Value for Money allocated the maximum 25%.

iv) Multiple Application Status (10%)

Multiple applications received a favourable weighting, where individual applications were received from owners/tenants whose properties were adjacent to each other. These applications would be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and as a result were scored highly by the assessment panel, being allocated a further 10%.

v) Vacant Business/Commercial Property (10%)

Vacant Business/Commercial Property favourable weighting were allocated 10%.

vi) Property's first submission (5%)

A Favourable weighting of 5% was granted to any property which had not previously been awarded funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme. *Any property which had previously received funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme will be allocated 0%.*

All applications had to score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

There was no internal appeal or review process for unsuccessful applications. The decision of the Independent Chartered Architect was final.

8.0 Successful Applicants – “Your Letter of Offer”

If an application was successful, the applicant was issued with a ‘Letter of Offer’. This was a form of contract that stated:

- The amount of grant awarded
- The terms and conditions associated with the grant

It was made clear to the successful Applicants that no works could commence until a signed ‘Letter of Offer’ was returned to Mid Ulster District Council within the allocated timescale.

9.0 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS (Completed Schemes)

Valid Applications were received from the following villages (in alphabetical order):

<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of approved & completed Schemes</u>
Ardboe	1
Aughnacloy	1
Ballyronan	1
Cappagh	1
Castlecaulfield	1
Clogher	3
Coalisland	2
Cookstown	1
Desertmartin	1
Dungannon	2
Maghera	4
Magherafelt	5
Moneymore	1
Moy	2
Pomeroy	2
Stewartstown	3
Tobermore	1
	32

10.0 Payment of Grant

It was stipulated that payment of grant would only be made once Mid Ulster District Council was satisfied that all the terms and conditions in the 'Letter of Offer' had been fulfilled. A site visit was carried out by Knox & Clayton Architects to verify that the works had been completed as stated at application stage and to the required standard. Applicants were advised that they would be asked to amend work which does not comply with or falls below the agreed standard

Payment of grant was be made on receipt of a single claim following a successful site visit. This claim had to include the submission of original invoices and proof of payment.

11.0 Case Studies of selected completed projects

We have selected the following projects for a brief Case Study of Phase 1 of Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme. These have been selected for the reason as noted below:

- i) Project No 98 – Mary’s Bar, 10 Market Street, Magherafelt –
Reason selected: Epitomises the very essence of the scheme.
- ii) Project No 264 - Hope for U Foundation, 49 Main Street, Clogher &
Project No. 265 - Vacant, 51-53 Main Street, Clogher –
Reason selected: Multiple/adjacent Projects
- iii) Project No 130 – Vacant, 102-104 Moore Street, Aughnacloy –
Reason selected: Scheme with both internal and external works.
- iv) Project No 50 – McAleer’s Medical Hall, The Diamond, Pomeroy –
Reason selected: How a simple paint job, with the right colour scheme, brightens up a property and the townscape.

11.1 Mary's Bar, 10 Market Square, Magherafelt

Scope of Works: Remove the entire front facade and replace with new.

Before:



After:



Impact of the Works:

On closer inspection, it was very evident that the ornate façade to the building was in a bad state of repair. The wooden surround was rotten, the moldings decayed, and the various decorative features (clock and lighting fixtures) rusted and broken.

The Applicant completely removed and replaced the façade with a new structure. The required works were extensive and costly. The funding, whilst a small part of the overall cost, was most welcomed and appreciated. The Townscape in this part of Magherafelt has been greatly enhanced as a result of the works carried out to this property. The project epitomizes the very essence of the scheme.

11.2 **Hope for U Foundation, 49 Main Street, Clogher (Project No 264)**
Scope of Works: Paving to Front courtyard & install traffic safety bollards

Before:



264 After:



Vacant. 51-53 Main Street, Clogher (Project No 265)

Scope of Works: Repair & extend shop frontage, new doors paint façade

Before:



After:



Impact of the Works:

Hope for U Foundation, 49 Main Street, Clogher (Project No 264) – The Old Court House is an attractive building both internally & externally. The rough ground area to the frontage took away from the attractiveness of the building. Council funding enabled the property owner to carry out paving & landscape works to this area. Safety bollards were also installed. The works to the adjoining property further enhanced the area.

Vacant, 51-53 Main Street, Clogher (Project No 265) – The property, previously a pub, had a very worn out / run down look about it. The works included repairs to the existing wooden surround and an extension surround to the remainder of the frontage; the installation of new doors and the overall façade of the building being re-painted in a colour scheme, that both enhances and compliments the adjoining property.

The combined impact of the adjoining projects has had a very positive effect on the townscape in this area of Clogher.

11.3 Vacant 130, 102-104, Moore Street Aughnacloy

Scope of Works: The inside of the building was gutted, ceilings replaced, walls drylined and skimmed. Rooms and hallways prepped for painting.

Externally, works included replacement of 6 no. Windows and 1 no. door

Before:



After:



Impact of the Works:

The funding assisted the applicant in turning an old rundown property into an attractive building on a prominent corner site in the town, ready for occupation. The property had lay empty with little prospect of being occupied until the works were carried out. It is now a bright modern building which adds positively to the townscape. The applicant has invested significantly in the works to the property.

11.4 Project No 50 – McAleer's Medical Hall – The Diamond, Pomeroy

Scope of Works: Prep and Paint front, side, and rear of building, including all woodwork at front entrance.

Before:



After:

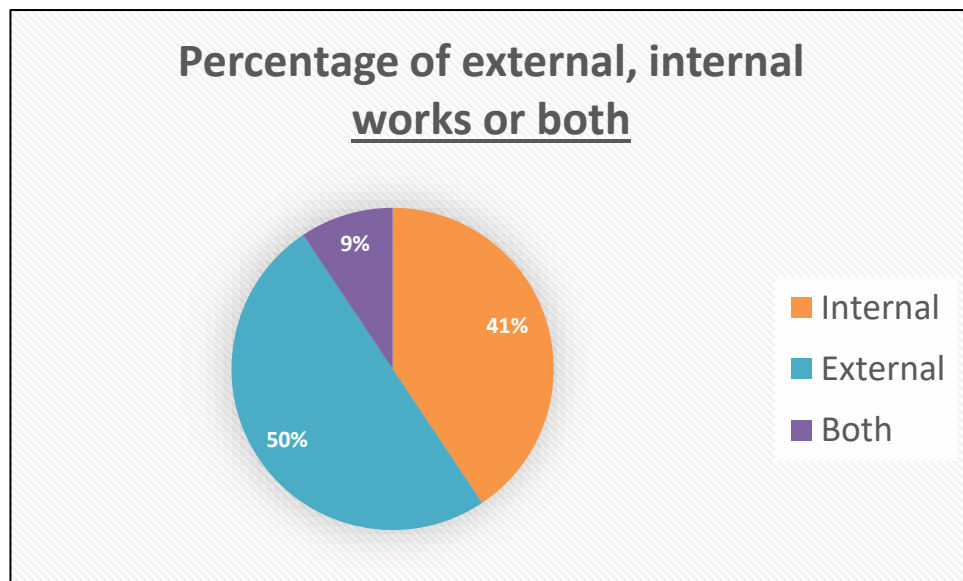


Impact of the Works:

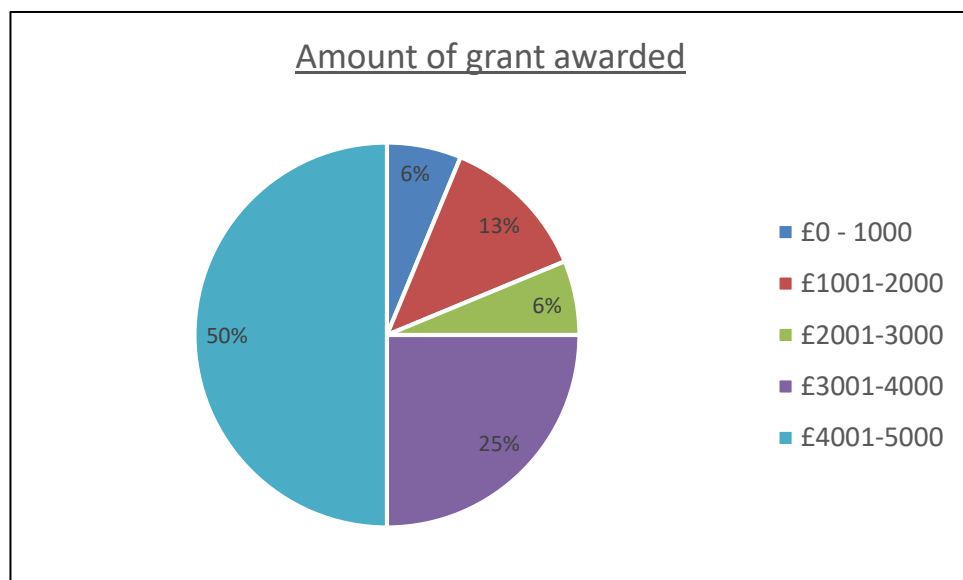
The paintwork to the front of building and wooden shop surround was flaking and falling away. The funding encouraged the applicant to carry out repainting works to the front and side of the property. This straightforward scheme demonstrates the impact that, with the right colour scheme and a lick of paint, how a property can be readily refreshed and brightened up.

12.0 Statistical Data

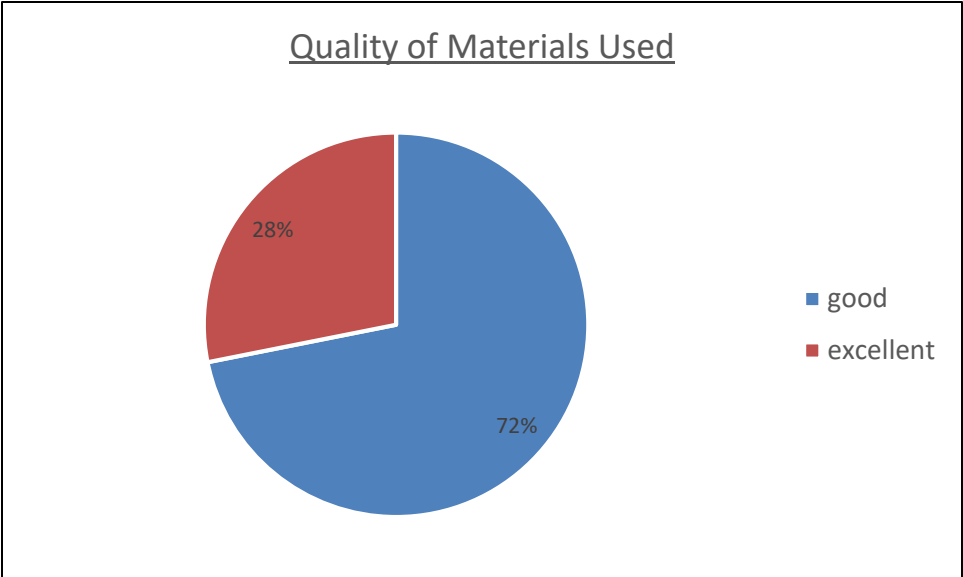
In terms of the ratio of projects that were funded for Internal and External works, 50% carried out External works only, 11% interior works only and 44% carried out both (total of 32 schemes).



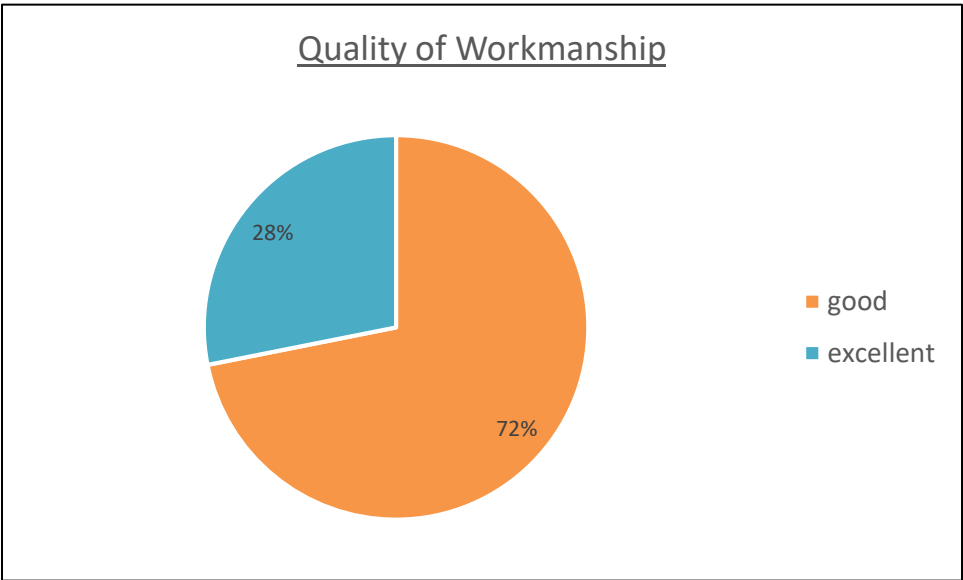
The Scheme provided a grant of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000. As can be seen from the pie chart below, the biggest percentage of grants (50%) were awarded in the £4,001 - £5,000 range and the lowest (6%) in the £0 - £1,000 range.



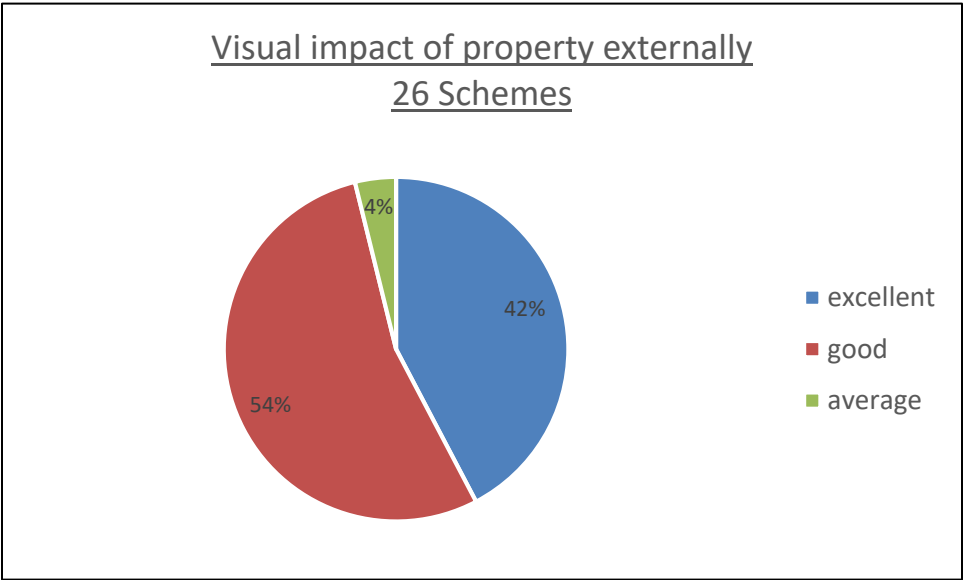
The quality of the materials used overall were rated as 75% excellent, with the remaining 25% deemed good (total of 32 schemes).



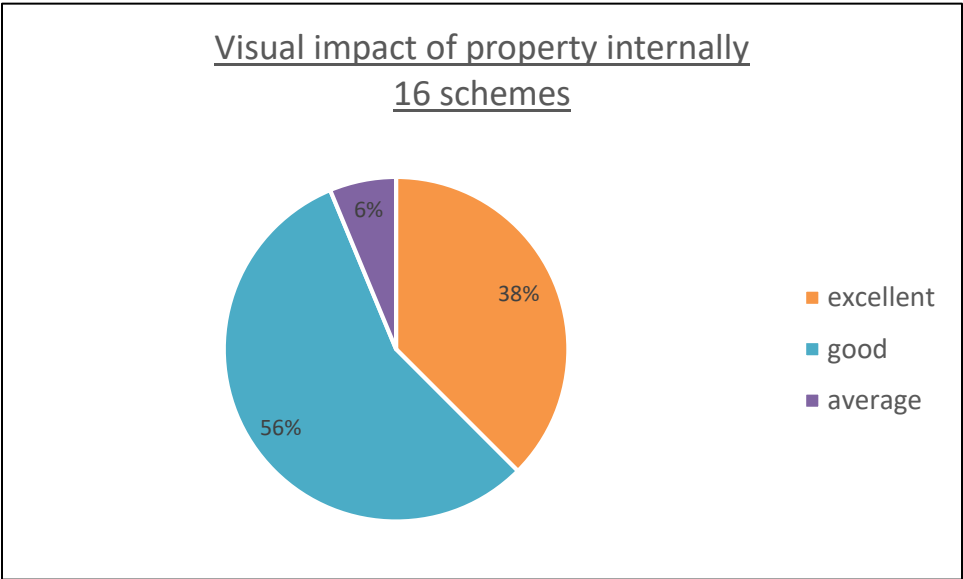
The quality of workmanship overall was rated as 75% excellent, with the remaining 25% deemed good (total of 32 schemes).



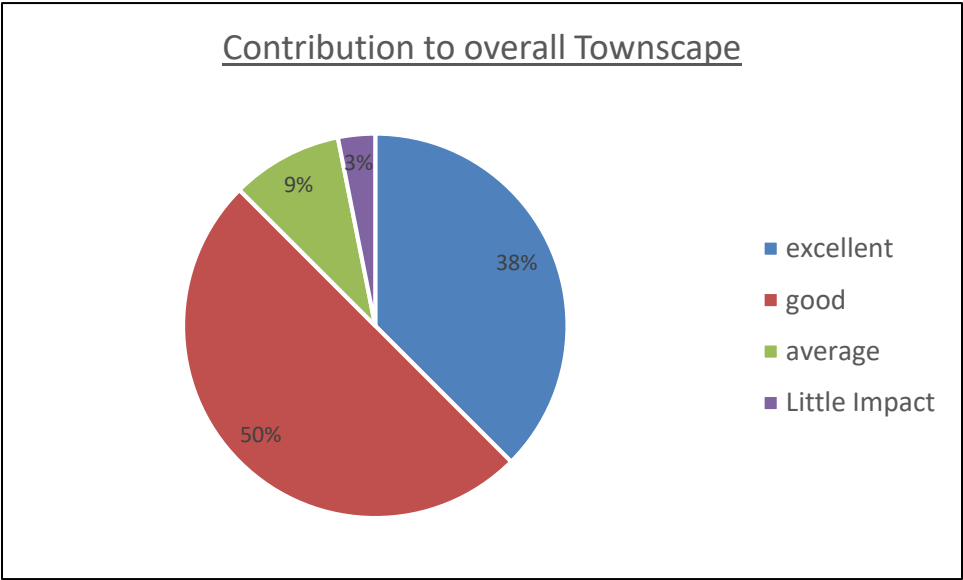
The Visual Impact of the majority of external works rated overall as excellent, 54%, closely followed a 42% rated as good. 6 of the 32 schemes did not have external works as part of their project.



The Visual Impact of the majority of internal works rated overall as good, 56%, closely followed a 38% rated as excellent. 16 of the 32 schemes did not have internal works as part of their project.



An important and key statistic in the delivery of the scheme is the Contribution to the Overall Townscape. 50% of schemes had a good impact, with 38% deemed as having an excellent impact.



13.0 Overview of Scheme

The Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme aimed to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the eligible towns & villages.

Through the delivery of the scheme properties awarded funding strived to achieve a comprehensive improvement to building frontage, internal repairs and refurbishment. The wider impact on each town & village aimed to visibly enhancing the townscape and improving local infrastructure.

A final evaluation of each completed property was carried out with a score awarded between 1 (very poor) and 5 (excellent) to measure the visual improvement to the property on an individual basis, and also to measure the contribution of the improvement works to the overall townscape. The overall impact of the scheme has been, in the main, very positive. It is doubtful whether such works would be carried out to the participating towns & villages, to the extent they were, if it were not for the grant being offered by the Council.

The Business Clinics that were held in the various locations were well attended, and many of the successful Applicants had attended these clinics.

In total £112,771.42 of Grant Aid was awarded in Phase 1 to 32 properties across the Council area, with private sector leverage of £88,062.96. Grants ranged from £420.00 to the £5,000 maximum with the average being £3,714.09. 14 applications received the maximum £5,000 grant.

KnoxClayton Architects believe that the budget for the scheme was put to excellent use as it helped 32 (mostly small) businesses improve their premises and enhance the visual appearance of their towns & villages.

14.0 Conclusion

The Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme has made a significant impact to the properties and contributed to the enhancement of their respective Villages. Phase 2 of the scheme, involving 55 properties, will be rolled out and delivered by March 2021. Following completion, an evaluation will be completed and presented to Mid Ulster District Council.

The funding provided by the scheme has unquestionably improved the external frontages and internal areas of each property.

The scheme has certainly succeeded in offering local business a significant and meaningful support. The monetary incentive has encouraged property owners to carry out improvement works to their properties which, in today's economic climate, may not otherwise have been feasible.

The total amount of private investment in the scheme was £88,062.96, which shows a commitment from the property owners and tenants to successfully deliver the scheme. The impact this had made across the Mid Ulster District Council towns and villages has been significant and will assist the local economy to remain competitive in the current market.

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Guidance Notes for Applicants

Welcome to the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Guidance Notes for applicants. Before you complete your application form, you must take time to read this document carefully.

These guidance notes are provided to help you understand the aims of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme and how you can make a grant application.

Background

Mid Ulster District Council supports the improvement and enhancement of business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015 of each town) and development limits of each village as identified in the attached maps.

The Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is a pilot project and offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for internal and/or external improvements. The Scheme is available to both occupied business/commercial properties and vacant business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) and the development limits of each village. Whilst the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is intended to aid minor works to business/commercial premises, large scale schemes may apply however please note the maximum grant aid is up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property.

Please note that allocation of grant is a competitive process and limited funds are available, therefore not all applications will be funded.

Applicants MUST be aware that this will potentially be the only funding opportunity for the next 3 years (Subject to funding).

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the identified towns and villages in the Mid Ulster District Council area by:

1. Making external improvements to the built environment in the towns and villages.
2. Encouraging the improvement of the internal appearance of properties visible to the public.

The objectives of the scheme are:

1. To enhance and improve the attractiveness of business/commercial properties.
2. To deliver high-quality external and internal improvements to properties in the towns and villages.
3. To attract new business and investment through improvements to vacant properties.
4. To stimulate private sector investment.
5. To assist businesses in each town and village to increase competitiveness and sustainability.
6. To improve user perceptions of each town and village.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A 'SPRUCE UP' SCHEME INTENDED TO AID MINOR WORKS TO BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL PREMISES IN THE IDENTIFIED TOWNS AND VILLAGES. IT IS NOT ENVISAGED THAT WORKS INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME WILL NEED STATUTORY APPROVALS SUCH AS PLANNING PERMISSION, LISTED BUILDING CONSENT, BUILDING CONTROL ETC. HOWEVER IF ANY OF THE PROPOSED WORKS DO NEED STATUTORY APPROVALS THESE MUST BE IN PLACE PRIOR TO WORKS COMMENCING AND A COPY OF APPROVAL ISSUED TO KNOX & CLAYTON ARCHITECTS.

Who Can Apply?

- Business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) as identified within scheme maps
- Business/Commercial properties within the development limits of villages under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, draft Local Development Plan (2030) as identified within scheme maps.

TOWNS: - Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt.

VILLAGES:- Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballynakilly, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Cappagh, Castlecaulfield, Castledawson, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Creagh, Desertmartin, Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglis, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Moneymore, Moortown, Moy, Moygashel, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands.

Please note that the inclusion of a building within an eligible area does not give any automatic entitlement to a grant. This is a competitive process.

The grant is available to:

- Business/commercial premises
- Shops (including hairdressers, beauty salons, dry cleaners, clothing retailers etc).
- Financial and Professional services (e.g. estate agents, insurance companies etc).
- Restaurants, Public houses, Cafes and Food takeaways.
- Vacant premises

PLEASE NOTE:

For a vacant property to be eligible evidence must be provided that:

- 1) The property is used as a business/commercial property. If this is not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) must be provided.
- 2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works.
- 3) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted, such as letter from proposed letting agent, letter from property owner of actions that will be taken to seek a tenant.

Application forms will be acceptable from the property owner/s or tenants. If a tenant makes an application, it must be co-signed by the property owner(s) otherwise the application will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

Please note should your application be successful; evidence of ownership must be provided at Letter of Offer stage. If the tenant is applying, the tenant will have to request such information from the property owner.

Individual applications from owners/tenants whose properties are adjacent to each other are welcome. Where two or more applications adjacent to each other are made they will be defined as 'Multiple Applications'. These applications will be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and will be scored as per page 6 'How do we assess your application'.

Properties that are ineligible to apply for grant aid include banks, building societies, charity shops, government organisations, political organisations, community groups/clubs, sports groups/clubs and social clubs.

Eligible Expenditure - what we can fund...

The property owners/tenants of eligible business/commercial properties in the designated areas may apply for grant-aid to carry out the following:

Internal Works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of:

- Walls, ceilings, doors, floors and stairs.
- Internal redecoration work e.g. repainting of walls, ceilings etc

- Rewiring and plumbing.
- Access improvements.
- New interior window display lighting, where shutters are not in use.
- Subdivision to form smaller units.
- Restructuring to form larger units.
- Permanent (i.e. not loose fitted or mobile) display cases/built-in furniture and joinery.
- Please note that internal works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level **will** be considered.

External works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of the following:

- Shop fronts, including fascia, signage and lighting.
- Windows.
- Doors.
- Rainwater goods; guttering or downpipes on shopfronts.
- Redecoration (including painting, signage etc.).
- Pedestrian access improvements.
- Security measures (including security glazing/laminated glass which allows window shopping to take place in the evening ,e.g. open or lattice shutters/door grilles-NOT solid shutters).
- Virtual graphics / hoardings.
- Equipment and associated labour costs as deemed appropriate for preparation of work e.g. power washing, hire of lift equipment etc.
- Please note that external works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level **will** be considered.

Ineligible Expenditure - what we cannot fund...

The scheme will not support:

- Works which require planning permission which is not in place prior to works commencing.
- Routine maintenance such as clearing of debris from gutters, cleaning tarmac, cleaning of roofs, chimneys etc.
- Improvements to residential property, including residential property located above commercial premises.
- Retrospective applications (for work already completed or underway).
- CCTV / Alarm systems.
- Mobile/loose fixtures and fittings or furniture.
- Internal work which is not in the public area of the property.
- Mannequins.

The grant **will not** include:

- Statutory fees (e.g. Building Control Approval), professional fees etc.
- Insurances
- Interest (on loans taken out to fund your building project)
- VAT (except if the applicant is not VAT registered)

Procurement Guidelines

Completed applications must be accompanied by competitive quotations/tenders from bona-fide reputable contractors. If a contractor is not employed to complete all works, the appropriate number of quotations/tenders must be submitted for **each element** of the scheme: **Please cost each element of work separately in Section 3.1 of Application Form, Pages 5 & 6, and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. Quotes must be for comparable elements. (Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete)**

- 2 Written Quotations for project elements costing up to £4,999.99 (please note if one quotation is over £5,000, four quotations will be required.)
- 4 Written Quotations for project elements costing from £5,000-£29,999.99 (please note if one quotation is £30,000 or over but below EU thresholds you must appoint using publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)
- For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition.

All quotations should be dated and on headed paper. All quotations/tenders will be assessed by an independent Chartered Architect to check the validity and the costings of each quotation/tender. The funding will be allocated accordingly. Failure to provide adequate numbers of quotations/tenders will result in the application being deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

PLEASE NOTE THAT A QUOTATION/TENDER WILL BE DEEMED INVALID IF THE APPLICANT IS DEEMED TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST (A PERSONAL, PRIVATE OR FAMILY INTEREST) IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY(S) QUOTING FOR WORK AND/OR DEEMED TO BE A 'LINKED COMPANY' (EU RECOMMENDATIONS 2330/361/EC). COMPANIES ARE LINKED IF ONE OF THEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROLS, OR HAS THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER.

How do we assess your application?

The following criteria will be used by the assessment panel to score the application for a grant:

- 1 Current Condition of the elements of work requesting funding (25%)**
Scoring will range from 0%-25%, for example, if the current condition of the elements of work requested for funding to the property are considered very poor, the maximum 25% will be allocated.
- 2 Impact the proposed element of works will make (25%)**
Scoring will range from 0%-25%, for example, if the proposed element of works will have a transformation impact on the property, the maximum 25% will be allocated.
- 3 Value for Money (25%)**
This will be calculated based on the formula: - Impact (points) ÷ Grant Sought = Weighted Criteria. Weighted criteria achieved will range from 5%-25%, with excellent Value for Money allocated the maximum 25%.

4 Multiple Application Status (10%)

Where two or more application adjacent to each other are made, these applications will be defined as a 'Multiple Application' and will be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street. Therefore, Multiple Applications will be scored accordingly by the assessment panel and will be allocated a favourable weighting of up to 10%

5 Vacant Business/Commercial Property (10%)

Vacant Business/Commercial Property favourable weighting allocated 10%.

6 Property's first submission (5%)

Favourable weighting of 5% will be granted to any property which has not previously been awarded funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme. *Any property which has previously received funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme will be allocated 0%.*

Please note all applications must score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

There is no internal appeal or review process for unsuccessful applications. The decision of the Independent Chartered Architect is final.

Successful Applications - your 'Letter of Offer'

If your application is successful, you will be issued with a 'Letter of Offer'. This is a form of contract that states:

- The amount of grant awarded
- The terms and conditions associated with the grant

IMPORTANT - NO WORKS CAN COMMENCE UNTIL A SIGNED 'LETTER OF OFFER' AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS ARE RETURNED TO MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME NOTED ON THE LETTER OF OFFER.

Please note all successful applicants issued Letters of Offer in November 2019 must have works completed and claimed by 20th March 2020.

Payment of Grant & financial considerations
--

Payment of grant will only be made once Mid Ulster District Council is satisfied that all of the terms and conditions in the 'Letter of Offer' have been fulfilled.

A site visit will be carried out to verify the works have been completed as stated at application stage and to the required standard. You may be asked to amend work which does not comply with or falls below the agreed standard.

Payment of grant will be made on receipt of a single claim following a successful site visit. This claim will include the submission of original invoices and proof of payment. Proof of payment should be in the form of copy cheques/copy of BACS payment and original bank statements/online bank printouts from a reputable financial institution (clearly showing the name of account and account number).

Insurance, Liability and Indemnity

The applicant, agent and/or contractor is responsible for all risks in connection with public or employer liability associated with the building works under the scheme and will fully indemnify the Council. The applicant, agent and/or contractor shall maintain such insurance policies as are necessary to cover all possible liabilities to the Council arising under the Scheme.

How do I apply?

Complete the attached application form and return, with relevant documentation listed in section 6 of the application form. Completed application forms should be returned in a sealed envelope marked **Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme** to the address below by **4pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019**:

KNOX & CLAYTON ARCHITECTS, 2A WALLACE AVENUE, LISBURN, BT27 4AA

Or alternatively,

Council Offices
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT77 6DT

Council Offices
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Please note only fully completed applications will be considered. Any application submitted with missing information or incomplete questions will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected. A fully completed application constitutes:

- **A fully completed application form - the following sections must be completed in full to warrant a fully completed application:**
 - **Your Details**
 - **Property Details**
 - **Project Details**
 - **Project Costs & Administration (including adequate quotations/tenders)**
 - **Declaration**
 - **Completed Property Owner Declaration**
- **Submission of all necessary documents as per section 6 page 13 of the application form, prior to 4.00pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019.**

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Business Clinics

Property Owners/Tenants are invited to attend drop in business clinics to find out more about the scheme and to get advice/assistance in completing application forms. Representatives from the scheme's Chartered Architect will be present. These clinics will be held on two consecutive weeks. The dates and venues for these meetings are as follows:

Date	Town	Time	Venue
Tuesday 27 th August 2019	Tobermore	10am-1pm	The Kilcronaghan Centre Rectory Road, Tobermore
Tuesday 27 th August 2019	Bellaghy	2pm-5pm	Seamus Heaney Homeplace Main Street, Bellaghy
Wednesday 28 th August 2019	Aughnacloy	10am-1pm	Aughnacloy Youth Hall Sydney Street, Aughnacloy
Wednesday 28 th August 2019	Dungannon	2pm-5pm	Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Market Square, Dungannon
Thursday 29 th August 2019	Ballygawley	10am-1pm	Ballygawley Community Hall Fairfield House, Main Street, Ballygawley (Located in playing fields off Main Street)
Thursday 29 th August 2019	Donaghmore	2pm-5pm	The Torrent Complex Hillview Avenue, Dungannon
Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Coalisland	10am-1pm	Cornmill Centre The Corn Mill, Lineside, Coalisland, BT71 4LP
Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Stewartstown	2pm-5pm	Crieve Centre 2 Hillhead, Stewartstown
Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Moneymore	10am-1pm	Moneymore Recreation Centre Moneyhaw Road, Moneymore
Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Maghera	2pm-5pm	Walsh's Hotel Main Street,

			Maghera
Thursday 5 th September 2019	Cookstown	10am-1pm	The Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre Burn Road, Cookstown
Thursday 5 th September 2019	Magherafelt	2pm-5pm	The Bridewell Church Street, Magherafelt

Who do I contact for more information?

If you need any assistance on any aspect of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme, please contact:

Knox & Clayton Architects,
Laura McIlwrath laura@knox-clayton.co.uk

Tel: 028 9267 4312

Or alternatively,

Mary McCullagh mary.mccullagh@midulstercouncil.org
Lynn Shiels lynn.shiels@midulstercouncil.org

Tel: 03000 132 132

Tel: 03000 132 132

All documents can be downloaded at
www.midulstercouncil.org/spruceupscheme



Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme 2019-2022 Application Form

Applications should be completed in conjunction with the attached Guidance Notes.

Only fully completed application forms submitted with the required documentation (as per page 13) will be considered –Any application submitted with missing information or incomplete questions will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

The closing date for applications is **4pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019**, and the applicants MUST be aware that this will potentially be the only funding opportunity for next 3 years (Subject to funding).

NB: The Council will process your personal data in accordance with Mid Ulster District Council privacy statement. For further details go to <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/privacy>

1. YOUR DETAILS

1.1 Applicant Details (The applicant must be the key contact to discuss all details of this application)

Name			
	Are you the property owner or tenant? (Delete as applicable) Property Owner Tenant		
Address			
Telephone	Phone:		Mobile:
Email		Website	

2. PROPERTY DETAILS

2.1 Please provide details of the property for which the grant is being sought

Name of Business Trading in Property:	
Property Address:	
Please provide a short description of the business for which the grant is being sought.	
Are you the owner of the property? (<i>delete as applicable</i>)	Yes/No
<p>Is the business/commercial property currently vacant?</p> <p>If Yes, please provide details of the vacant business/commercial property indicating:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The property's previous use as a business/commercial property 2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works 3) How it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after 	Yes/No

improvement works are complete			
Are you registered for VAT?	Yes/No	If yes, please provide VAT registration number.	
Has the building got 'Listed Building Status'?	Yes/No Status Type: - _____		
Have you received Listed Building Consent for the proposed works? Please note that Consent MUST be obtained prior to commencement of works	N/A		
Please state the current number of employees			

Type of Business (Please Tick the appropriate box):	Sole Trader	
	Business Partnership	
	Limited Company	
	Registered Company	
	Other (Please specify)	

2.2 Previous Funding Received

Has this property been awarded Grant Aid under previous improvement schemes? I.e. Mid Ulster Town Centre Shop Improvement Scheme / Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme	Yes / No
Please detail which scheme(s) applied for and please provide details of work completed	N/A

2.3 Please describe the current condition of the element(s) of work proposed to be improved/refurbished (***a current colour photograph must be attached to your application of each element of works proposed. NB: Please ensure the photograph is of high quality as it will be used for assessment purposes***)

3 PROJECT DETAILS

- 3.1 Please provide a full description of work to be carried out and the associated cost under each of the relevant headings in the tables.

Please Note:

1. Quotations **MUST** be comparable, like for like.
2. If one quote is over £4,999.99, 4 quotations must be provided; if one quote is over £29,999.99 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition.
3. All quotations should be dated and on headed paper. The funder reserves the right to have a chartered architect to check the validity of quotations/tenders. Please note that professional fees will not be eligible for grant aid and you employ such services at your own risk, whether or not your application is successful. **PLEASE NOTE THAT A QUOTATION/TENDER WILL BE DEEMED INVALID IF THE APPLICANT IS DEEMED TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST (A PERSONAL, PRIVATE OR FAMILY INTEREST) IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY(S) QUOTING FOR WORK AND/OR DEEMED TO BE A 'LINKED COMPANY' (EU RECOMMENDATIONS 2330/361/EC.):- COMPANIES ARE LINKED IF ONE OF THEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROLS, OR HAS THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER.**
4. Costs should not include VAT regardless if the company is VAT registered or not.
5. All projects which receive a letter of offer in November 2019 must have works completed and claimed for by 20 March 2020.

Element of Work	Description of Work (e.g. repair, replacement of new feature, materials to be used, colour schemes)	Cost (as per quotations / tenders obtained) Excluding VAT Please cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. <i>(Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete)</i> 2 Written Quotations for elemental costs up to £4,999.99 4 Written Quotations for elemental costs from £5,000-£29,999 For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)			
		Quote 1 (Chosen Contractor) Contractor Name	Quote 2 Contractor Name	Quote 3 Contractor Name	Quote 4 Contractor Name
Internal Works					
TOTAL COST £					

Element of Work	Description of Work (e.g. repair, replacement of new feature, materials to be used, colour schemes)	Cost (as per quotations / tenders obtained) Excluding VAT. Please cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. <i>(Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete)</i> 2 Written Quotations for elemental costs up to £4,999.99 4 Written Quotations for elemental costs from £5,000-£29,999 For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)			
		Quote 1 (Chosen Contractor) Contractor Name	Quote 2 Contractor Name	Quote 3 Contractor Name	Quote 4 Contractor Name
External Works					
TOTAL COST		£			

3.2 Please identify if the proposed project is part of a Multiple Application (See note on page 3 of Guidance Notes)

Is project part of a Multiple Application	Yes/No
If yes please give details below naming adjacent business/commercial premise applying	

3.3 What is the planned start and completion date for the project?

Expected Start Date:		Expected Completion Date:	
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NB: All applicants issued a Letter of Offer in November 2019 must have works completed and claimed by 20 March 2020. If successful, no works should commence prior to receipt of Letter of Offer.

3.4 Statutory Approvals

Is Planning Permission required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes, please state the status of your Planning Application: (Please tick)	Application to be submitted	
			Application submitted	
			Approval Received (Please enclose a copy of Planning Approval)	

NB: Planning Approval must be in place BEFORE works commence. In addition to this, any signage alterations must have approved consent to display an advertisement prior to works commencing (a copy of the approval must be sent to Knox & Clayton Architects prior to commencement of works).

Is Building Control approval required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes, Building Control Approval must be in place BEFORE payment of grant.
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Is Listed Building Consent required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes, a copy of the Listed Building Consent MUST be submitted prior to commencement of works.
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3.5 Please state how your scheme meets the objectives as stated in the Guidance Notes (See note on Page 2 of Guidance Notes)

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4 PROJECT COSTS AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Please provide details of total project cost and grant aid sought:

Total Project Cost: If VAT registered please detail Net Cost, If Not VAT Registered please quote Gross Cost	£
Grant Aid Sought: If VAT registered please detail Net Cost, If Not VAT Registered please quote Gross Cost	£

Details regarding the amount of grant-aid available through this scheme are detailed in the Guidance Notes Page 1.

4.2 Please complete details of remaining funding for the project:

Are you able to provide the remaining funding for the project? <i>(Proof of available match funding may be required on request from Mid-Ulster Council)</i>	Yes / No
Anticipated Project Duration <i>NB: Work should not commence until a 'Letter of Offer' for grant aid is received and you have signed and returned the 'Form of Acceptance' in compliance with the terms and conditions of this grant.</i>	Number of Weeks

5. DECLARATION

Notes to Applicants:

- a. Only owners/tenants of properties located **within the scheme boundaries** included within the Guidance Notes and associated maps are eligible to apply.
- b. Please note that completion of this application does not guarantee an award of grant aid.
- c. Any costs incurred in the completion of this application will be at your own expense and will not be refunded.
- d. Please note that if your application is successful you will be required to provide documentation to Council for funding purposes before any funds can be released (e.g. bank account details, confirmation of VAT status, original bank statements)
- e. No funds can be issued until all the necessary information required by Mid Ulster District Council has been received (NB: the Council may ask for additional information at any stage of the application process).
- f. If approved, Council will issue a formal Letter of Offer for your scheme – works must not commence until a formal Letter of Offer has been signed and returned to Council. Grant aid cannot be awarded for works already carried out.
- g. Work commenced prior to a Letter of Offer being signed and returned to Council or work commenced before the required statutory approvals are in place will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded.
- h. All projects must meet the required timescales.
- i. Applicants must comply with publicity arrangements: - Consent to the business being named in and participating in any publicity produced in relation to this Scheme.
- j. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all relevant health and safety, including in particular The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 for any works being carried out. For more information please visit <https://www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/simple-guide-cdm-regulations-ni-2016>
- k. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all other relevant legislation.

I/We confirm that the information contained in this Application is true and accurate to the best of my/our knowledge and belief. I/We understand and agree to the above Notes and Guidance and I/We acknowledge that if false or misleading information is provided that the Council may exclude me/us from the Scheme. I /We further acknowledge that in the event that it comes to light, following the issuing of the Letter of Offer, that false or misleading information was provided, the Council reserves the right in its absolute discretion to refuse to withhold grant monies or seek to recoup grant monies already paid.

I/We hereby apply for Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

Signature(s).....
(PROPERTY OWNER(S)/TENANTS)

.....

Name(s) (Print).....

Date.....

IF THE APPLICANT IS A TENANT, THE PROPERTY OWNER(S) MUST COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW

**I/We the property owner(s) give permission to_____ (tenant) to
conduct and complete the works as detailed in the attached application form to:-**

Property Address:

Name of Business currently located in property: _____

Signature(s).....
(PROPERTY OWNER(S))

Completed application forms should be returned to the address below in a sealed envelope
marked

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

**KNOX & CLAYTON ARCHITECTS,
2A WALLACE AVENUE, LISBURN, BT27 4AA**

Or alternatively,

**Council Offices
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT**

**Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT77 6DT**

**Council Offices
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN**

Please note ONLY fully completed applications will be considered. Any application submitted with missing information or incomplete questions will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected

PLEASE NOTE

- **A Fully Completed Application Form - the following sections must be completed in full to warrant a fully completed Application:**
 - **Your Details**
 - **Property Details**
 - **Project Details**
 - **Project Costs & Administration (including adequate quotations/tenders)**
 - **Declaration Completed**
 - **Completed Property Owner Declaration**
- **Submission of all necessary documents as per section 6 page 13 of the application form – Please ensure all required documentation required is enclosed with your application, as no documents will be accepted after 4pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019.**

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED; THEY WILL BE DEEMED INCOMPLETE AND WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE REJECTED.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS
WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 4PM

6 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Failure to fully complete the application form and submit the required documentation below will result in your application being deemed incomplete and will subsequently be rejected.

6.1 Please provide the following documentation as part of your application:

	Attached (Please tick)
Completed application form, signed appropriately by the tenant/property owner as per page 11	
Colour photograph showing the element(s) of works proposed to be improved / refurbished.	
Detailed costs for any works to be completed in Section 3.1. Please ensure to cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application.	
If applying for a property which is currently vacant evidence must be provided that: 1) The property's previous use as a business/commercial property 2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works 3) How it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete	
If proposed works require planning permission this must be in place prior to works commencing - a copy of permission MUST be attached if planning approval has been granted	
If proposed works require consent to display an advertisement this must be in place prior to works commencing – a copy of approval MUST be attached if it has been granted	
If proposed works require listed building consent, this must be in place prior to works commencing – a copy of approval MUST be attached if it has been granted.	
Property owner has signed the declaration.	

NB: Make a copy of this application and any supporting documentation for your own records as we do not intend to return any information supplied unless specifically requested.

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme



Supporting Local Business

Individual Scoring Assessment Sheet

SECTION A:

1. Applicant Details:

Name of Applicant:			
Address of Applicant:			
Tel No:		Email Address:	
Name of Business:			
Property Address:			
Total Project Cost:		Grant Aid Requested:	

2. Checklist

Eligibility Criteria	Yes	No
Is the property located within the boundary of the scheme as defined in the Guidance Notes.?		
Is the property type eligible for the scheme? (I.e. Commercial, NOT a bank, building society, charity shop, government organisation, community groups / clubs, sports groups / clubs, or social clubs?)		
Has the application form been signed by tenant and / or property owner?		
Has a colour photograph of the element of works proposed to be improved/refurbished been provided? (Interior and/or Exterior)		
Are written quotations from bonafide reputable contractors, of which there is no conflict of interest between the applicant and the companies who have the provided quotations?		
If for a vacant business/commercial property, has the following evidence been provided:-		

1) That it was previously used as a business/commercial property (If this is not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) must be provided		
2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works.		
3) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted.		

3. Assisting documents checklist

	YES	NO	Is this permission needed for this scheme
Has a copy of planning permission been submitted?			
Has a copy of listed building consent been submitted?			
Has a copy of building control consent been submitted?			
Has a copy of advertising consent been submitted?			

Have detailed costs been provided (two/four written quotations / tenders as appropriate)?

NB: Both written quotations for elementary costs up to £4,999.99 MUST be less than £5,000.00 or 4 quotations are required.

Individual Element	2 Written elementary costs up to £4,999.99			4 Written Quotations for elementary from £5,000-£29,999			For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A

For Section B, please provide a score for each question in the box provided. Weighting criteria is provided for each question individually.

Please note all applications must score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

SECTION B

1 – CURRENT CONDITION OF ELEMENT(S) TO BE GRANT AIDED (25%)

Scoring Breakdown

Weighting Criteria	Assessment Comments
Very Poor / Non-Existent	Element(s) not fit for purpose / have an unsightly visual contribution to the street scape
Poor	Element(s) are in bad repair / have an unsightly visual contribution to the streetscape
Average	Element(s) in need of repair / works will improve the visual impact of the street scape
Very Good	Element(s) are in good condition, but minor works will improve the visual impact of the street scape
Excellent	Element(s) do not have a negative impact on current street scape / any works will not improve the visual impact of the street scape

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
Very Poor/Non-Existent 25%		
Poor 20%		
Average 15%		
Good 10%		
Very Good 5%		
Excellent 0%		
Score in this Section		

2 – IMPACT PROPOSED ELEMENT/ELEMENTS OF WORK WILL MAKE (25%)

Scoring Breakdown

Weighting Criteria	Assessment Comments
None	Works will not improve the visual contribution to the street scape
Minor	Works will have a minor contribution to the visual impact of the street scape / will not drastically change the street
Average	Works will have a positive impact on the visual aesthetics of the street scape / noticeably enhance the street scape
Good	Works will improve the attractiveness of the street scape
Very Good	Works will greatly improve the visual impact of the street scape / noticeably change the street elevation
Transformation	Works will transform the street scape completely / element(s) will be unrecognisable

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
None 0%		
Minor 5%		
Average 10%		
Good 15%		
Very Good 20%		
Transformation 25%		
Score in this Section		

3 –VALUE FOR MONEY (25%)

Value for money calculated as: Impact (points) ÷ Grant Sought (in thousands to nearest £500)

EXAMPLE 1 Average Impact(12) ÷ Grant Sought(£5000) = 12÷5 = 2.4 =Score of **10%**.

EXAMPLE 2 Very Good Impact(24) ÷ Grant Sought(£2000) = 24÷2 = 12 =Score of **25%**.

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
0-1.999 - 5% Poor		Impact =
2-3.999 - 10% Average		-----
4 – 7.999 - 15% Good		Grant Sought =
8 – 11.999 - 20% Very Good		Value for Money =
12 – 30 - 25% Excellent		Score =
Score in this Section		

4 –MULTIPLE APPLICATION (10%)

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
Not Multiple Application 0%		
Multiple Application as part of 2 properties 5%		
Multiple Application as part of more than 2 properties 10%		
Score in this Section		

5- VACANT BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL PROPERTY (10%) No Commercial activity taking place at time of application, can be long or short term vacant

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
Not Vacant Business/Commercial Property 0%		
Vacant Business/Commercial Property 10%		
Score in this Section		

6- PROPERTY'S FIRST SUBMISSION (5%)

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
No previous grant aid has been awarded to this property under previous improvement schemes 5%		
Grant aid has been awarded previously under an improvement scheme by Mid Ulster District Council 0%		
Score in this Section		

Summary:

		Maximum Score	Actual Score
1	CURRENT CONDITION OF ELEMENTS TO BE GRANT AIDED	25	
2	IMPACT OF PROPOSED ELEMENT	25	
3	VALUE FOR MONEY	25	
4	MULTIPLE APPLICATION STATUS	10	
5	VACANT BUSINESS/COMMERICAL PROPERTY	10	
6	PROPERTY'S FIRST SUBMISSION	5	
	Total Score:	100	

Recommended Grant Aid:	
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Signatures of Assessment Panel:	Date:



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme



Supporting Local Business

Commencement Inspection Report

Application Ref No.			
Applicant Name			
Business Name			
Property Address			
Photograph (Before Works Commence)			
Is the photo supplied with the application a true reflection of the current condition of the premises	Yes		
Have any of the funding works been carried out (if yes list within comments section)	No		
Planning Approval Granted	Ref No:	Building Control Approval Granted	Ref No:
Listed building Consent Granted	Ref No:	Advertising Consent Granted	Ref No: -
SUMMARY OF WORKS			
Element of Works	Description of Works		
Internal Works	•		

External Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Other (Please Specify)	
Comments	
Date Works Due to Commence	
Date Works Due to Complete	
Inspection Conducted by	
Inspection Date	
Signed (original)	

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Section B: Final Site Inspection

Application Ref No.	
Applicant Name	
Business Name	
Property Address	
Photograph of Property before Works	
Photograph of Property on Completion	
Date of Completion	
Has the work been carried out within the required timescale (30th March 2020)	
Verification of Statutory Approvals attached	
Has the works been completed in accordance with the application	

Summary of Works

Element of Works	Description of Works	Progress of Works
Internal Works		
External Works		
Other (Please Specify)		

QUALITY OF WORKS

	1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Average	4 Good	5 Excellent
Quality of materials					
Quality of Workmanship					
Comments					

IMPACT OF SCHEME IN RESPECT TO:

	1 Poor / No Impact	2 Little Impact	3 Average	4 Good	5 Excellent
Visual Improvement of the external structure of the property					
Visual Improvement of the internal structure of the property					
Contribution to overall townscape					
Comments					

Final Inspection Conducted by	
Final Inspection (date)	
Grant Offered	
Recommendation to Pay Grant	

Comments on impact of Scheme	
Signed	
Date	

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting
Monday 7 September 2020 at 12.30pm
Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Francie Molloy	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum
Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union

In Attendance

Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Celene O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION																												
1	<p>Apologies</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cllr Joe O'Neill</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Dan Kerr</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Niall McAleer</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Robert Colvin</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mark Kelso</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Raymond Lowry</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michael McGibbon</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Patrick Anderson</td><td>Dept. for Communities</td></tr> <tr> <td>Raymond O'Neill</td><td>Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Declan Dorrity</td><td>The Venue/The Beer Shed</td></tr> <tr> <td>JP McCartan</td><td>PSNI</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dermot McGirr</td><td>Translink</td></tr> </table>	Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Dan Kerr	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Niall McAleer	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council	Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Raymond Lowry	Mid Ulster District Council	Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council	Patrick Anderson	Dept. for Communities	Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)	Declan Dorrity	The Venue/The Beer Shed	JP McCartan	PSNI	Dermot McGirr	Translink
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2.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Cllr Doris Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the role of Chairperson as Raymond O'Neill was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies.</p>																												
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 10 August 2020</p> <p>Proposed by F Molloy Seconded by U Marshall and agreed: -</p>																												

	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 August 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
4.	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 10 August 2020 There were no matters arising from the minutes of Monday 10 August 2020
5.	Covid-19 Business Support Grant Scheme C Fox updated members that the Covid-19 Business Support Grant Scheme closed on Friday 28 August 2020. There was a wide range of projects funded to include canopies, laptops to allow businesses to carry out track and trace, hand sanitizers, etc. There has been a number of claims submitted already from local businesses. Potentially there could be a second tranche of funding made available in the next few months. C McKenna stated that there was £281k of funding allocated for urban areas and £281k allocated for rural areas. Overall, there were around 250 successful applications.
6.	Coalisland Projects Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalisland Public Realm Scheme M Leavey provided an update on the Coalisland Public Realm scheme stating that Fox Contracts are currently working on Barrack Street and will aim to have this completed out within the next few weeks. Paving is also continuing on Main Street with a view to complete this week. Work is also continuing around the Cornmill area more particularly at Donnelly & McAleer Pharmacy and at the 'Mamies Corner' side. From next Monday (14 September), work will commence on Lineside with the introduction of a one-way system throughout the town. Department for Infrastructure (DfI) have also indicated that they are planning to install a new man hole on Kings Row which will hopefully go some way to prevent any further flooding in the area. On Barrack Street the intention is to create, additional gulley's to try alleviate the potential of flooding in that area. On Platers Hill an investigation resulted in finding an undersized overflow pipe which now will be rectified. At the rear of Landi's property, it was discovered that the storm water was going into the combined system but this will now be redirected to a storm drain. F Molloy asked if there was sufficient parking at Donnelly & McAleer Pharmacy and if there was a disabled bay. M Leavey updated that there were 3 parking spaces outside the Pharmacy and that there were no disabled parking spaces included in this. U Marshall asked as to the number of car parking spaces in the Cornmill car park and the dimensions of same. Action: M Leavey to clarify number of disabled spaces in the Cornmill Car Park and dimensions of those spaces.

	<p>B O'Neill asked for a clarification on the potential for broadband in rural areas within the hinterland of Coalisland. C McKenna stated that as far as the town is concerned especially where there is a new Public Realm scheme any new installation of broadband infrastructure could not commence within 2 years on completion of such works. Rural areas are being looked at under Project Stratum and as tenders are currently being assessed, we might know more in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Cllr Doris asked as to the type of seating to be placed in the events area. The main area of concern would be that there might be a potential for increased level of anti-social behaviour if the seating were to be incorrect. Cllr Doris suggested that metal seating would be preferable.</p> <p>Action: M Leavey is to look at options for seating and report back to Town Centre Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment <p>M Leavey provided an update on the Gortgonis scheme stating that Mid Ulster Council are currently liaising with DfI Roads Service around access to the two sites – recreation centre and the school and that this has caused a slight delay in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalisland Events – Halloween & Christmas 2020 <p>O Donnelly provided an update with Council currently investigating the potential for holding a lighting show in the Cornmill Car Park as opposed to a fireworks show. O Donnelly also update that the community groups and organisations are currently working on their own respective events. This will complement the council event. A Working Group meeting will be set up in the next few weeks to provide an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Recovery Plan <p>C Fox updated members on the Town Centre Recovery Plan. There was one application for a pavement licence in the town and the #reconnect stickers were also distributed to businesses throughout the town.</p> <p>Discussions were held regarding the proposed flower campaign. F Molloy asked if Mid Ulster Council would be willing to sponsor the shop window campaign. B O'Neill confirmed that Coalisland Credit Union would be willing to sponsor the shop window campaign.</p> <p>F Molloy asked if there was a card or a list of useful numbers readily available for local residents and businesses. This would be to let people know the contact details should they need them for flooding or other such services.</p> <p>Action: O Donnelly to create a list of contact numbers to be circulated to local businesses.</p>
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7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>O Donnelly stated that he has contacted the traders represented on the Town Centre Forum to confirm whether they are willing to remain as a member. He confirmed that D Dorrity has verbally confirmed that he no longer is willing to be a member and will send an email to confirm that this is the case.</p> <p>C O'Neill updated members that there was a meeting held to discuss anti-social behaviour in the Gortgonis playpark. There has been instances of youth gathering in the park at the rear of the recreation building. It has been agreed that the Council would increase the frequency of patrols in the area.</p> <p>F Molloy asked if the pavements currently laid as part of the Public Realm Scheme will be power washed as they are getting quite dirty. M Leavey confirmed that they pavements will be power washed and sealed once the work is complete.</p> <p>U Marshall asked that when issuing grants for sanitizing stations that consideration is given to those less abled in not allocating funding for foot operated sanitizing stations.</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 5th October @ 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams</p>
8.	<p>Meeting Duration</p> <p>Meeting ended at 13.21pm</p>

Eye on Recovery

Helping Mid Ulster Businesses Recover and Grow

Effective, timely communication and the provision of speedy, targeted and tailored support have characterised Mid Ulster District Council's response to help businesses recover from the pandemic. Now the priority is to support companies through these difficult trading times and look towards future growth.

From the beginning of the pandemic, Mid Ulster District Council has prioritised the needs of its business sector, adopting a responsive approach which mirrored those needs as the pandemic progressed from the initial lockdown to the early stages of recovery and beyond.

In the sudden, almost wholesale shut-down of the economy, there was never a more urgent requirement for effective communication, providing timely, accurate advice and information, while crucially signposting to and interpreting the myriad of financial support mechanisms available.

As restrictions eased, the Council shifted its focus to the very practical help that businesses needed to get their doors open again safely for their staff and customers, while also working to promote a sense of confidence among local people and encouraging them to reconnect with their local traders, particularly in the retail and hospitality sectors.

A social media campaign 'Reconnect with Confidence' showcased town centres and



Economy Minister Diane Dodds, MLA with Council Chair, Cllr Cathal Mallaghan, Deputy Chair Meta Graham and Paul Coote Director, PJD Safety Supplies, a programme participant, formally launching Council's £1m package of business support programmes at PJD's premises.

their unique offerings, giving local businesses a platform to talk about being open again, and told the stories of 'place' through people.

At the same time, businesses could avail of branded online retail packs with useful materials to download, from social distancing posters to 'reconnect with confidence' window stickers for that visible reassurance to retail customers that their local traders were putting their safety first.

Webinars on a whole range of issues enjoyed particular success with the tourism sector, while online signposting and regular ezines to businesses aimed to keep everyone up to speed in a fast-changing trading environment.

A significant part of the recovery mix was the efficient distribution of COVID-19

business recovery grants which saw Mid Ulster become the first council area to open, assess and award funding of £529K to more than 230 local commercial premises in less than 3 weeks.

The fund offered grants of between £500 and £3,000 for adaptations and adjustments to premises which would help provide a safe environment for customers and staff, and was awarded via the Department for Communities (DfC) for town centres and by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for smaller settlements, with further investment by the Council directly.

The speed of the turnaround meant much-needed funding went directly to where it was needed. A new round of COVID-19 business recovery grants is being worked up and will be available soon to Mid Ulster businesses.

While the Council strove to deal with the immediate need, it also had a very firm focus on what the future held economically – and it went beyond the economic shock which was being experienced universally.

Economic report after economic report showed the concentration of manufacturing, engineering, construction, agri-food and retail in the region, which accounts for more than 25% of employment locally, was going to have severe consequences – as early as April, one analysis predicted that Mid Ulster's GVA would drop by 45%.

While lobbying for bespoke interventions by central government for Mid Ulster, the Council also took direct action to mitigate the economic forecast, launching a re-purposed business support programme worth more than £1M over 2 years.

Part funded by Invest Northern



Eye on Recovery



David Thompson (Owner, Thompson's Footwear, Cookstown) with one of his new Free Standing Hand Sanitising Dispensers funded by a Covid-19 Recovery Grant.



Council Chair with Stephen Mohan (Cuba Clothing, Dungannon & Cookstown) displaying one of Council's 'Reconnect' stickers.

collaborative partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh and Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon Councils, which has just launched a new Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West, which sets out the vision and ambition to invest over £252M of growth deal funding in what is the economic engine of Northern Ireland.

Mid Ulster District Council recognises that for many businesses, the challenges are only beginning. The Council is committed to continuing to lobby for gaps in funding and support to be filled, for sole business owners, for example, and for rates relief schemes to be extended. Equally the local authority wants to see on-going support for town centres to help them transform and will continue its drive for re-training and reskilling staff from those sectors that have suffered the most severe economic shocks.

Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth & Jobs Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme alongside the Council, the re-focussed package of programmes is intended to help micro and small businesses in the area recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic, growing and sustaining employment in more than 690 local firms.

Long-term support is also continuing via the unique

MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network in Mid Ulster which the Council and Invest NI supports and which, as the name suggests, targets that specific sector. Given the impact on those industries, tailored initiatives for them took place during lockdown, from essential information provision to webinars, and MEGA continues to implement its strategic action plan, with an Apprenticeship

Model most recently launched to all schools providing details of apprenticeships that will be available in MEGA companies in 2020/21.

And in a broader strategic context, Mid Ulster is part of the

Eye

For more information on business recovery and support programmes in Mid Ulster, please contact Council's Business Team on 03000 132 132, email business@midulstercouncil.org or visit: www.midulstercouncil.org/business

ICBAN UPDATE - OCTOBER 2020



FOR ATTENTION OF SENIOR OFFICIALS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER COUNCILS

ICBAN is the Cross-Border partnership for the Central Border Region, comprising eight-member Councils from the area. Through these regular updates we aim to keep stakeholders informed of the partnership's initiatives and developments for the Region:

1. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT - 'THE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL PRIORITIES'

The organisation is promoting the need for high-level supports and regional status for the Central Border Region. The 'Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region' strategy document has been completed and is being shared with member Councils. Through implementation of the Framework, ICBAN will promote key regional priorities and advocate for the delivery of emerging 'catalyst' projects. These projects outline actions that can help respond to current challenges; including the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit, and climate change. ICBAN is available to meet with member Councils to outline plans for the delivery of the Framework.

The Management Board are now prioritising the implementation of the Framework. This will require a multi-sectoral partnership approach, drawing on a range of expertise, experience, and capacities. Through such a 'mixed economy' approach, local authorities, government agencies, third level education, community and voluntary sectors, and private sector etc. will be involved.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON BREXIT

The second element of the project is for a community engagement exercise on Brexit, leading to an academic report by Queen's University Belfast. This initiative will add to the three previous Brexit studies and reports completed since the UK referendum decision to exit the EU. As before, the new report will be used to bring local and regional findings, and issues to those involved in the high-level discussions and negotiations, and will supplement consultations on Brexit.

3. EU FUNDED PROJECTS

INTERREG Northern Periphery and Artic (NPA) Programme



BLITZ (Business of Literature Zones) Project: ICBAN is lead partner, with partners from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Finland. This three-year project aims to grow SME reach beyond local markets by developing and marketing literary tourism.

This includes delivery of a Product Incubation Programme of business mentoring and support to SMEs. The SMEs also receive monetary supports through an Innovation Vouchers scheme.

The other main focus of the project is the development of digital apps to promote literary tourism business, facilities and services across the Region. Separate Apps are being developed for NI and counties Cavan and Monaghan, and then also for Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo.

ICBAN will be presenting the project at the European Week of Regions and Cities, on 'Literary Tourism: Untapped Potential'.



'Digi-2-Market' Project: This project's focus is on digital solutions which will help businesses overcome problems of physical connectivity. The emphasis is on the use of Immersive Technologies, including Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality in particular.

In January 2021 there will be an online launch of the project's web-based resource for SMEs, 'Digital City'. This web portal will have a gated business community whereby companies sign up to use the site's resources and interact internationally on solutions. Businesses will be able to upload their own product stories and details through case studies. This should create opportunities for product collaboration and access to new overseas markets. Webinars will also be made available to local businesses explaining the resources available through the Digital City

4. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURES

The need for High Speed Internet Provision continues to be a key priority and adequate broadband in the Region is needed more now than ever; due to the needs for remote education, working from home and keeping in touch with family in these challenging times. The Governments in both Ireland and NI have promoted plans to address inadequate broadband provision in rural areas and the connectivity rollout needs to be completed quickly. This is recognised by ICBAN in our focus on complementary initiatives which detail technical and policy solutions, towards the ultimate goal of improving the quality of connectivity for citizens.

The Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) has finalised an investigation into the use of public monies on broadband infrastructure in NI, through BT. This request had originally been put to the Audit Office by ICBAN in 2018. The report is expected in December 2020. Following publication of the report ICBAN will actively engage with Public Accounts committee and political stakeholders in following up on the recommendations.

5. 'BORDER ANIMATOR' PROJECT

ICBAN and project partners, The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) recently completed delivery of the Border Animator' project, which was enabled through funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund. The modular programme of capacity building and animation for Management Board Members and Senior Council Officers was delivered online between May and July.

The programme was delivered during what is a very challenged geo-political context - not least shaped by the out-workings of Brexit, the climate emergency, changing demographics and, more recently, the public health emergency, and the expectations that this may lead to a global economic recession. Through the project the ICBAN Board have been reviewing regional strengths and asset-bases, and these can be effectively utilised, to both inform and nourish a model of sustainable regional development, linked to the Framework strategic priorities for the area.

COMMUNICATIONS

We want to actively engage with member Councils and stakeholders on progressing regional projects and initiatives of benefit to your area. You can contact us through:

- ☐ Engaging with your Council's elected representatives nominated to the ICBAN Board
- ☐ Emailing ICBAN to info@icban.com or Phoning +44 (0)28 6634 0710

