



23 April 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Circular Road, DUNGANNON, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 23 April 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | |
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| 4. Council minutes of meeting held on 26 March 2020 | 3 - 8 |
| 5. Council Governance Arrangements During Covid19 | 9 - 12 |

Matters for Information

- | | |
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| 6 Council Services Update (Verbal) | |
| 7 Business & Communities Covid 19 Update Report | 13 - 22 |
| 8 Business & Communities – Covid - 19 Community Support Response | 23 - 28 |
| 9 Update on Mid Ulster District Council Community Support Hub | 29 - 32 |

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

10. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 26 March 2020
11. Covid-19 Financial Update (Verbal)

12. Document for Sealing: '20 Year Lease for lands situated at Pomeroy Forest between DAERA/Forestry Service NI and Mid Ulster District Council'.
13. Document for Sealing: 'Grant of Easement in respect of lands situated at Gortgonis Road, Coalisland between Mid Ulster District Council and Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited'.

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 26 March 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair	Councillor Kearney
Members Present	Councillors Black, Buchanan, Corry, Cuthbertson, Graham, Kerr, Mallaghan, N McAleer, D McPeake, S McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn and Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Remote Attendance	Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C054/20 Apologies

Councillors Ashton, Bell, Brown, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Hughes, S McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, Milne, Mullen, O'Neill, Robinson and Totten

C055/20 Declarations of Interest

The Chair Councillor Kearney reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest in C073/20 Connecting Pomeroy

C056/020 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked Members for attending the meeting and extended best wishes to Councillor McFlynn who was endeavouring to return from Australia as she had been visiting family.

He stated that Mid Ulster was part of the global community facing an unprecedented and fundamental challenge to how we live our daily lives, including how we do our work. He emphasised that the focus had to be on not only delivering essential services but the safety of Council staff, the community and Members themselves. The Chair spoke of the briefings and how he was overwhelmed with the local community in their endeavour to help one another and reach out offering services. He referred to advice on the Council website as to how to contact both counselling

services and food banks. The Chair extended his appreciation for the community spirit being displayed in these challenging times and how people were reaching out putting themselves at risk when the advice was to stay home wherever possible.

The Chair concluded that at 8pm the meeting would express its appreciation for all those in the caring profession.

C057/20 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 27 February 2020

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 27 February 2020 (C024/20 – C053/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C058/20 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2020

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 (P026/20 – P039/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C059/20 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2020

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 March (PR053 – PR076/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C060/20 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 (E063/20 - E100/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C061/20 Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020

Proposed by Councillor Corry

Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 12 March 2020 (D045/20 – D068/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C062/20 Conferences, Seminars & Training Report

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

(i) Member Approvals

- *Agenda NI – Northern Ireland Infrastructure Investment Conference 2020*

Thursday 28 May 2020 – La Mon Hotel, Belfast
£225 plus travel and subsistence

- *Agenda NI – Engaging the NI Assembly 2020*

Thursday 30 April 2020 – Stormont Hotel, Belfast
£275 + Vat

Cancellations/Postponements notified due to COVID-19 Outbreak

- *The Computer says No: “How ‘Welfare’ Algorithms Punish the Poor”*

Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 5.30 pm
Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast Campus, Ulster University, Belfast
Free travel and subsistence
Councillor Molloy

- *NILGA – Caring Councils: A Local Government Response to Poverty, Addiction and Improving Mental Health*

Friday 27 March 2020 – Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast
Travel and subsistence

(ii) Officer Approvals (retrospective approval)

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee
Planning for a Resilient Future Conference	6 March 2020	1	UU, Belfast	Yes
Manufacturing NI Visit to Manchester & Sheffield	Date TBC	1	Manchester & Sheffield	

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee
Sports Safety Conference 20	27 March 2020	2 x PHI	Portstewart	No
Women's Leadership Seminar	15 May 2020	1	Dundalk	No

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
 Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

C063/20 Council's Governance Arrangements re COVID 19 including the Scheme of Delegation for Planning

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report and sought approval to suspend Committees until further notice as part of the Council's response to Covid-19.

He advised that as events had moved on since the report had been compiled he was of the view that delegated authority with regard planning matters would no longer be required.

Councillor Monteith stated that it was a wise decision to suspend committees and whilst he accepted that requests on the Planning function had become limited due to Covid-19 outbreak, it was nonetheless concerning. He also reflected on the monthly Council meeting and suggested that perhaps the Council like others operate a summer type recess when Members would receive updates with authority delegated to the Chief Executive. Councillor Monteith said it was not possible to function as normal highlighting that as meeting reports were prepared and issued they quickly become out of date. He stressed that Council needed to use imagination to move forward at this time.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred that a different approach was needed and stated with regard to the Council meeting the Group Leaders could review the situation in three weeks' time and a decide on a way forward.

Councillor Monteith strongly objected stating that, together with Councillors Mullen and Kerr they would be excluded from this process.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that in terms of the planning function, Council must be cautious at this time but highlighted that it would provide the opportunity to boost the economy when the Covid-19 crisis passed. He highlighted that Council through its own projects would have the opportunity to boost the economy. He also said that in terms of authority being delegated he said these arrangements were already in place and if the Chief Executive had to make a decision he had the authority to do so.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved To suspend Committees of the Council until further notice.

Matters for Information

C064/20 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council.

- Northern Ireland Assembly Committees – Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs and Finance Committees
- Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs, NI Executive
- Deputy Secretary Work & Health, Department for Communities
- Minister for Infrastructure, NI Executive
- Chairperson, ICBAN
- Minister of Justice, NI Executive
- Minister for Health, NI Executive
- Chief Executive Volunteer Now

Resolved That Council note the correspondence report.

C065/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster Council District Council

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council for comment.

Resolved That Council note report on Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

The press and public withdrew from the meeting at 7.15 pm

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That items (C066/20-C080/20) be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 27 February 2020
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 3 March 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 5 March 2020
- (iv) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 10 March 2020
- (v) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 12 March 2020
- (vi) Village Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme – IST Davagh(s), Washingbay and Portglenone
- (vii) Village Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme IST Ballyronan
- (viii) Connecting Pomeroy
- (ix) Village Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme, Maghera
- (x) Tackling Rural Poverty Programme – IST Work Package 5 – Davagh MBT & Moydamlaght
- (xi) Maghera Sports Pitch
- (xii) Villages Extension Programme – IST Roundlake, Fivemiletown
- (xiii) Document for Sealing: Transfer Deed relating to the Sale of Lands Situated at Railway Park, Newell Road, Dungannon
- (xiv) Document for Sealing: Novation Agreement dated 28 February 2020 regarding Waste Related Consultancy Services

C081/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.30 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Report on	Council Governance Arrangements During COVID 19
Date of Meeting	Thursday 23 April 2020
Reporting Officer	Chief Executive
Contact Officer	Chief Executive

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek members' approval to recommence committee meetings in June 2020.
1.2	To seek delegated authority in respect of the format of committee and council meetings in June 2020.
2.0	Background
2.1	At its meeting in March 2020, the Council took a decision to suspend committee meetings until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council meeting schedule for June 2020 to June 2021 was considered by P&R in March 2020 and ratified at the subsequent Council meeting. The following dates pertain to the month of June 2020. Monday 1 st - AGM Tuesday 2 nd – Planning Thursday 4 th – P&R Tuesday 9 th – Environment Thursday 11 th – Development Committee Tuesday 16 th – Audit Committee Thursday 25 th – Council Meeting
3.2	Members may be aware that the Coronavirus Act 2020 gave the NI Assembly the power to make regulations altering how meetings of the Council and its committees are held. This would include provisions relating to the manner in which Members would attend, speak at, vote in or otherwise participate in meetings.
3.3	While the regulations are currently being drafted it is unlikely that they will come into force until mid-May 2020.

3.4	Given the current status of council services it is considered that the suspension of committee meetings should continue during May. However, in order to facilitate the recovery phase, it is proposed that committee meetings should return in June 2020 in line with the dates at section 3.1.
3.5	By that time, the Council is likely to have the following options for holding these committee meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. “virtually” with members joining via remote access with full speaking and voting rights b. a reduced number in the chamber eg 50% of normal political strength (rounded up to nearest whole number) and other members joining via remote access with full speaking and voting rights c. full attendance should social distancing rules be relaxed by then.
3.6	Where options a or b to be invoked, remote access for some members may need to be facilitated in another council building should their home broadband be insufficient for remote access.
3.7	There are particular issues surrounding the operation of planning committee, where objectors and applicants or their representatives have the right to address the committee. It is considered that this could be facilitated easier through physical presence rather than virtually.
3.8	Access to committee meetings by members of the public could be facilitated by remote access.
3.9	It is unclear if the regulations will be made in time to allow a “virtual” council meeting in May 2020 but it is expected that they will be in place in time for the AGM on 1 st June 2020.
3.10	Any decision on the manner in which to hold future committee and council meetings will be informed by the latest advice and guidance on the coronavirus.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A

	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members' approval is sought to recommence committee meetings in June 2020 as per original dates.
5.2	The Chief Executive, guided by input from Party Leaders and Independents, informed by the latest advice and guidance on the coronavirus, is delegated authority to determine the format in which June committees, the AGM and the monthly council meeting will be held.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/A

Report on	Business & Communities - Covid-19 Update
Date of Meeting	23 April 2020
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
	To update Members on the various supports provided to communities and businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic;
1.1	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT
1.1.1	Responding to Business Enquiries for Grants.
1.1.2	Establishment of Covid-19 Business Section on Council Website.
1.1.3	Issuing E-shots to Businesses to Keep Them Up to Date.
1.1.4	Businesses Webinars.
1.1.5	Business Support Programmes.
1.1.6	Update on Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme.
1.1.7	Mid Ulster Business Leaders Videos.
1.1.8	Restart and Recovery of Town Centres.
1.1.9	Assisting Department for the Economy with £25,000 Business Grants Scheme.
1.1.10	Sourcing PPE for Bloc Blinds.
1.1.11	Rural Development Programme – Grant Claims Process Updated.
1.2	CULTURE AND ARTS SUPPORT
1.2.1	To provide members with an update on the response from Culture & Arts Service Team to the Covid 19 pandemic and the ongoing engagement and contact with customers and users of Culture & Arts services.
1.3	TOURISM SUPPORT
1.3.1	Mid Ulster Tourism Forum
1.3.2	2020 Covid Impact Survey
1.3.3	Corporate Events
2.0	Background
2.1	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT
2.1.1	

2.1.2	<p>Responding to Business Enquiries for Grants – Continuing to provide ongoing support to businesses which seek assistance on the various types of grant aid available during the Covid-19 pandemic and signposting accordingly.</p>
2.1.3	<p>Establishment of Covid-19 Business Section on Council Website – Providing regular updates to Comms to keep the new Covid-19 section of Council’s website up to date.</p>
2.1.4	<p>Issuing E-shots to Businesses to Keep Them Up to Date – Ensuring businesses on Council’s online business directory are kept informed by issuing them with regular e-shots to advise of new grants/supports as they become available.</p>
2.1.5	<p>Businesses Webinars – Providing a variety of online business webinars to support business owners during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
2.1.6	<p>Business Support Programmes – Liaising with Invest NI to ‘repackage’ the assistance provided to companies through Council’s suite of business programmes to ensure they meet business needs during/after the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
2.1.7	<p>Update on Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme – Progressing claims for Phase 1 businesses who have completed works and advising Phase 2 companies that letters of offer will not be issued until the Covid-19 pandemic passes.</p>
2.1.8	<p>Mid Ulster Business Leaders Videos – Working alongside our business leaders to garner short video messages from them to inspire resilience and boost morale during the pandemic.</p>
2.1.9	<p>Restart and Recovery of Town Centres – Communicating with a cross sample of traders represented on our Town Centre Forums to determine their short/medium term issues when preparing to return to work. These issues along with wider research on potential central/local government support measures will also be given consideration to help rejuvenate our town centres after Covid-19.</p>
2.1.10	<p>Assisting Department for the Economy with £25,000 Business Grants Scheme – When requested, assist the Department for the Economy to verify the existence of businesses in Mid Ulster who apply for a £25,000 grant.</p>
2.1.11	<p>Sourcing PPE for Bloc Blinds – Ongoing weekly support provided to Bloc Blinds to source PPE for their staff in the manufacture/packaging of face shields.</p>
2.2	<p>Rural Development Programme – Grant Claims Process Updated – Updated grant claims process to allow applicants to submit claims electronically.</p>
2.2	<p>CULTURE AND ARTS SUPPORT</p>
2.2.1	<p>The impact of the Covid19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the delivery of Culture and Arts Services, at a time when the Council would normally be preparing for a busy Spring and Easter Period of events, activities and performances at Seamus</p>

<p>2.2.2</p> <p>2.2.3</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.3.1</p> <p>2.3.2</p> <p>2.3.3</p>	<p>Heaney HomePlace, The Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre and Hill of the O Neill and Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre. In addition</p> <p>Covid 19 has also had an impact on the wider Culture and Arts community across Mid Ulster, including those organisations availing of Culture, Arts and Heritage small grants and our strategic Culture & Arts partners that operate within Mid Ulster.</p> <p>The impact of the pandemic also extends to those groups and organisations that are supported by MUDC through the Regional and Minority Languages Programme of activity, including Ulster Scots language and living history events planned and also on Seachtain na Gaeilge activities planned in the lead up to and including St Patrick's festivities in March. There will also be a further impact on the allocation of Language bursaries as we now approach the summer period when the vast majority of intensive language tuition activity, particularly in the Gaeltacht regions would have normally taken place and which have now been cancelled.</p> <p>TOURISM SUPPORT</p> <p>Mid Ulster Tourism Forum - This group was established on Monday 16th March in response to the onset and predicted impact of Corona Virus on local businesses. Established by Tourism Development Officer, the Group now has 96 participants representing business from every sector of hospitality and tourism across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>2020 Covid Impact Survey - As part of the response to this crisis we have compiled a survey asking people about the impacts of the crisis on their business, supports they have received and to identify gaps. Over 40 businesses across Mid Ulster have responded and I have included a synopsis of the results.</p> <p>Corporate Events - All Council corporate and town centre events have been cancelled until the end of June 2019 which is being reviewed on a day to day basis, taking into considering the current status of the COVID-19 virus.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main Report</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.1.1</p> <p>3.1.2</p>	<p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT</p> <p>Responding to Business Enquiries for Grants – The economic development team are dealing with ongoing enquiries from businesses regarding the myriad of Covid-19 business supports currently available and providing guidance and signposting to relevant information sources as appropriate. From this ongoing engagement, staff have identified 'gaps' in the current government business support schemes and have highlighted proposed mitigations to the Department for Economy for consideration.</p> <p>Establishment of Covid-19 Business Section on Council Website - A dedicated Covid-19 business support section has been established on the Council's website and the economic development team forward updates to Council's Communications team daily ensuring all key support measures are included as they become available.</p>

3.1.3	<p>Issuing E-shots to Businesses to Keep Them Up to Date - Regular e-shots are issued to 1800 businesses on the Council's business directory to update them on new business support measures announced by government agencies and others bodies, especially around Covid-19.</p>
3.1.4	<p>Businesses Webinars – Three free online digital seminars for businesses are being organised as part of the 'Digital First' Programme. The first seminar was held using Zoom on Friday 27 March 2020 focusing on 'Effective Remote Working for Businesses'. 69 businesses took part in the seminar and participating businesses rated the seminar an average score of 4.7 out of 5. A second Webinar 'Building a Digital Business' will take place on Tuesday 21 April 2020 from 10am to 11.30am. Businesses wishing to take part must register at the following link bit.ly/DigitalBusinessMUDC A third and final webinar is scheduled for 12 May 2020 to look at the proposed issue of 'Connecting with Customers'.</p> <p>Additionally, economic development staff are also currently engaging with the MEGA Network to support local manufacturing and engineering businesses through the Covid-19 crisis. It is planned that 2 further webinars will be developed at their behest. The first webinar will focus on encouraging business owners/employees to stay strong and resilient in the face of adversity and look after their mental health; and the second is aimed at helping employers get ready and positioned to return to business again after the pandemic passes.</p>
3.1.5	<p>Business Support Programmes - The Council is working with Invest NI to "review and repackage" our current business support programmes to make them more applicable and accessible to businesses at this time. The 3 programmes ongoing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tender Ready Programme - Digital First Programme - Transform Programme <p>A further large 'Growth Programme' has been tendered and is currently being assessed. Council will also liaise with Invest NI on this matter also.</p>
3.1.6	<p>Update on Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme - In terms of Phase 1 – Officers continue to work with businesses to ensure that those who have completed their projects are supported through the claims process and reimbursed promptly. Regarding Phase 2, an email was issued to businesses on the ranked reserve list (up to the value of grant aid of £250,000 as per approval at Development Committee and ratified at full Council March 2020), advising that Letters of Offer will be delayed in being issued until after Covid-19 pandemic passes to ensure government guidelines are adhered to.</p>
3.1.7	<p>Mid Ulster Business Leaders Videos – Economic Development staff are making contact with business leaders across Mid Ulster to ask them to prepare "resilience messages" to share with Council (and also their own employees/contacts) to maintain momentum/morale during the Covid-19 crisis. Once Council are in receipt of a bank of videos, these messages will be forwarded to Comms to push out via Council's social media channels.</p>
3.1.8	<p>Restart and Recovery of Town Centres - Staff are currently undertaking extensive research from local traders and wider stakeholders from across NI, RoI, and UK to</p>

	<p>identify the short and medium term issues faced by local traders as a result of the pandemic, and identify potential ways to support them recover. Such proposals may require central/local government support in order to help secure the viability and vitality of our town centres in the future. This piece of work will be concluded shortly.</p>
3.1.9	<p>Assisting Department for the Economy with £25,000 Business Grants Scheme - The Department for the Economy approached Councils to seek assistance in verifying the existence of businesses applying to the £25,000 grant scheme. While they will be accessing other data sources to do this, they have requested help from Councils in verifying businesses and that the business activity is within the sectors eligible for this grant, such as hospitality or retail. Economic development will act the lead contact for this process within Council.</p>
3.1.10	<p>Sourcing PPE for Bloc Blinds - Members will be aware that Council has re-purposed Meadowbank Sports Arena for local company Bloc Blinds as the Magherafelt based manufacturer has gone into production of frontline Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Council officers have continually been assisting Bloc Blinds to source a variety of PPE for their staff to wear when manufacturing and packaging the face shields. This is a not-for-profit venture which will provide vital face protection to those bravely working on the front line against Covid-19.</p>
3.1.11	<p>Rural Development Programme – Grant Claims Process Update - Claims processing procedures have been modified to allow project promoters to submit claims electronically. This is allowing payment of grant aid back to promoters as normal.</p>
3.2	<p>CULTURE AND ARTS SUPPORT</p>
3.2.1	<p>As a result of the pandemic, all activities across all three venues, planned from mid-March up to the end of June 2020, have been either rescheduled to the Autumn season (where possible) or have been cancelled. Where events, activities and performances have been rescheduled, customer tickets have been re-allocated to those dates. Where the alternative dates do not suit customers, or where activities have unfortunately been cancelled, the venues are currently arranging through finance department for full refunds to be issued.</p>
3.2.2	<p>In addition to all internal arranged events and activities being cancelled or rescheduled, all external conferences, seminars and meetings across all 3 venues have also been cancelled.</p>
3.2.3	<p>While Culture and Arts facilities are all closed to the public, they continue to be inspected and checked by staff on a regular basis and indeed our facilities continue to play their part in showing their appreciation for the good work of the local emergency services and NHS workers throughout this difficult period by lighting up blue the Burnavon, Cookstown, Ranfurly, Dungannon and the Bridewell, Magherafelt, each Thursday evening from 8.00pm</p>
3.2.4	<p>The developing and ever changing situation continues to be closely monitored across the culture and Arts service within Mid Ulster and indeed in liaison with counterparts in</p>

	<p>other council areas as the weeks and months progress in order to provide reassurance and support to our customers and the wider culture and arts community at this difficult time and indeed in preparation for when normal functions and services resume</p>
3.2.5	<p>Although facilities remain closed to the public, staff within culture and Arts services continue to deliver key culture arts product to the customer base using innovative and creative methods to maintain engagement at this difficult time with our key facility users and our audiences for arts and cultural activity. This includes free access to online activity delivered throughout the week via social media channels in addition to Youtube which includes: Weekly education activity, Arts and Craft activity with local artists, Traditional music in schools online lessons, Pipes and Drums lessons and a weekly Book club delivered via Twitter.</p>
3.2.6	<p>Education Officers are redeveloping scripts and training resources to train tour guides and to develop online education and programme activity alongside social media plans to include the creation of content for online workshops, history talks, music performances for users and customers to access remotely. Staff are currently developing scripts for living history aspect of proposed visitor experience for Tourism NI Embrace a Giant Spirit and staff continue to process Grant payments and support the local Arts infrastructure.</p>
3.2.7	<p>In addition to the above, other staff within Culture & Arts Services have volunteered to be redeployed to support other key council services and initiatives at this difficult and challenging time, including bin collection services and working with colleagues across the Business and Communities and other Council departments in support and coordination of the Council food distribution service.</p>
3.2.8	<p>The Regional and Minority Languages Programme is facing a number of significant challenges as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic in the incoming year. Not least of these will be the Regional Minority Language Bursary Programme which provides support for attendance at residential summer courses for indigenous language learners. It is now increasingly unlikely that these language courses will take place in 2020/21. Irish in the Primary and Adult Education programmes which are due to re-commence in September may also be significantly impacted however these will be kept under review.</p>
3.2.9	<p>Locally based town centre family focused summer activities planned to be delivered through Culture & Arts Services over the summer months in key locations may also be impacted, however these will be kept in the programme at present and will remain under review as the days and weeks progress as these will be required to assist and support activities planned by Council during the recovery phase.</p>
3.3	<p>TOURISM SUPPORT</p>
3.3.1	<p>Mid Ulster Tourism Forum - The forum has been posting regular updates on supports for businesses in the sector including financial, human resource, legal and is attempting to be a one stop shop for up to date information in an evolving and increasingly bleak situation for business. Member can post questions, scroll through</p>

previously published information and search on links to some of the following: nibusinessinfo, tourismni, hmrc and the public health agency.

This group have held 9 webinars to date. To date with the support of Tourism NI we have hosted law experts from Cleaver, Fulton, Rankin (CFR) and accountants from FPK/FPM. We have also had Geraldine Egan, Tourism Ireland and today welcomed Valentina Salaris from Milan give her perspective on Italy at the minute, planning for the future and the freedom phase.

Rosemarie McHugh, Product Development Director, Tourism NI or one of her colleagues also dial in and answers any tourism related enquiries. An average of 35 businesses dial in and the Q&A to these experts follow up lasts on average 1 hour and 15 minutes. The webinars are working well in the sense that businesses get an opportunity to get advice from some of the top law, tourism and accounting experts in the country plus the mental health benefits continue to be cited by the participants, which at this time is much needed. The group is being coordinated by the Business Engagement Officer with the support of Hugh McCloy. Anyone who would like to join simply contact Mary McGee on 078 67520681. In addition to this the Mid Ulster Council Tourism Development Group will be meeting on 21st April to consider and advise Council on its tourism recovery plan.

3.3.2 **2020 Covid Impact Survey** - Over 40 businesses across Mid Ulster have responded and I have included a synopsis of the results. 50% of businesses stated that there is a risk they may not reopen with others commenting that whilst they plan to the supports promised need to start to flow including the £25k grant and employee support scheme.

73% of respondents stated that without the employee retention scheme they cannot continue to pay staff wages, hence it is imperative that this comes onstream quickly. Within this scheme though some issues remain: Workers who commenced employment after 28th February excluded from employee retention scheme. People working for cash, again excluded from all support

On cash flow key issues for the businesses are paying the following:

Energy Bills	70%
Insurance	67%
OS Trade invoices	62%
Wages	62%
Loan/debts	54%

In terms of receiving the business support grant (£10k), 20% have received it, 60% haven't and 20% identified issues around why they are deemed ineligible, these include:

- New start businesses struggling to get support.
- Non rateable business – No NAV
- Industrial/Manufacturing derating
- Business and family home joined hence not eligible
- Bed & Breakfasts paying domestic rates ruled out for support plus on farm activities paying farm rates ruled out.

3.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Businesses with plus £51 k NAV no support apart from loans. Don't want to incur more debt. - Leisure activities e.g. Golf Clubs Sports and Recreation rates – excluded. - Business operating from a leased premises <p>Corporate Events - All Council corporate and town centre events have been cancelled until the end of June, which is being reviewed on a day to day basis, taking into considering the current status of the COVID-19 virus. Tourism NI are going to established a Events Task Force, including all the Councils and Tourism NI/Tourism Ireland, to specifically review and advise all Councils on planning and rolling out a recovery plan, which will play an important role in relaunching our hospitality, town centres and tourism sector.</p> <p>The events teams within Business and Communities are currently working on scenario roll out recovery plans for Corporate & Town Centre Events. Council will take into consideration the advice and guidance from the NI Events Task Force and considering the type of events that will be appropriate and support the Mid Ulster Council businesses, with a very clear focus on reenergising our town centres and hospitality sector.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Significant impact on ability to deliver key programmes within Culture and Arts activity and regional and Minority language activity which will result in key activities being cancelled, depending on duration of current lock down and social distancing period. While this will result in underspend in certain areas, it should also be noted that income targets for activity delivered and income from events cancelled, will not be realised.</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT</p> <p>5.1.1 Responding to Business Enquiries for Grants – to note an update on progress.</p> <p>5.1.2 Establishment of Covid-19 Business Section on Council Website – to note an update on progress.</p>

5.1.3	Issuing E-shots to Businesses to Keep Them Up to Date – to note an update on progress.
5.1.4	Businesses Webinars – to note an update on progress.
5.1.5	Business Support Programmes – to note an update on progress.
5.1.6	Update on Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme – to note an update on progress.
5.1.7	Mid Ulster Business Leaders Videos – to note an update on progress.
5.1.8	Restart and Recovery of Town Centres – to note an update on progress.
5.1.9	Assisting Department for the Economy with £25,000 Business Grants Scheme – to note an update on progress.
5.1.10	Sourcing PPE for Bloc Blinds – to note an update on progress.
5.1.11	Rural Development Programme – Grant Claims Process Updated – to note an update on progress.
5.2	CULTURE AND ARTS SUPPORT
5.2.1	Members are asked to note the update from Culture & Arts Service Team in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and the ongoing engagement and contact with customers and users of Culture & Arts services.
5.3	TOURISM SUPPORT
5.3.1	Mid Ulster Tourism Forum – to note an update on progress.
5.3.2	2020 Covid Impact Survey – to note an update on progress.
5.3.3	Corporate Events – to note an update on progress.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	No appendices.

Report on	Covid - 19 Community Support Response
Date of Meeting	23 rd April 2020
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Council Food Parcel Support for Trust Shielded Patients – update on progress.
1.2	Food bank support for those in financial crisis – update on progress.
1.3	Council Existing Grants – update on progress.
1.4	Older People Befriending support – update on progress.
1.5	Council Emergency Support Fund– update on progress.
1.6	Council support to the community and care sector – update on progress.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council Food Parcel Support – DFC has provided food parcels for the Trust shielded clients, who are in need, to be distributed by Council.
2.2	Food bank support for those in financial crisis – Foodbanks are responding to people in financial crisis during this crisis.
2.3	Council Existing Grants – Support continues to be required for groups who have ongoing overhead and administration costs. These grants are strategic arts, strategic community development, strategic sports and venues.
2.4	Older People Befriending support – Additional older and vulnerable people are requiring befriending engagement at this time, due to social isolation.
2.5	Council Emergency Community Support Fund – Support to local community groups mobilizing to support communities through the Covid -19 crisis, with funding support for transport, essential PPE items, promotion etc.
2.6	Council support to the Community and Care sector – a number of requests have come to Council seeking help and support for PPE items. Council can, using its supplier sources, procure quantities of PPE items to help the community volunteers delivering for Council (Trust and DFC shielded residents) and Care Homes/services that are under pressure currently in Mid Ulster. It will also seek to link communities providing these items with the relevant Homes and Carers.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Council Food Parcel Support</u> – DFC has provided food parcels for Trust “shielded clients” who cannot access food. Shielded clients have been advised to contact Advice NI helpline to confirm if they require support with a food parcel during isolation. Where a food parcel is required, this is being supported for delivery through the local foodbank volunteers and community volunteers. Where this is not possible, Council will undertake direct delivery. Additional vulnerable citizens are also being assisted where no alternative support exists.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Food bank support</u> for those in financial crisis – Financial and ongoing support has been provided to the 10 existing food banks (£60,000 has been allocated to date) to support those in financial crisis at this time. This is through direct food parcel crisis delivery or a food voucher system.</p> <p>3.3 <u>Council Existing Grants</u> – The strategic grants and venues are currently being progressed to support groups who have ongoing overhead and administration costs. Grants are strategic arts, strategic community development, strategic sports, & venues.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Older People Befriending</u> support – Officers are supporting Ageing Well with calls and taking on new calls of people that require befriending support during this period.</p> <p>3.5 <u>Council Emergency Community Support Fund</u> –Delivery of an Emergency Support fund for local groups actively supporting communities and volunteering.</p> <p>A total of 21 groups have applied for funding and after an initial assessment of eligible costs these were assessed based upon the following:</p> <p>Level of Support Activity Programme being delivered & volunteering, including number of requests, collections etc. Geographic area being covered Level of coordinated delivery; links with other local groups, delivering food parcels for Council etc.</p> <p>Proposed expenditure to each group is attached as per Appendix 1. The funding is being targeted towards PPE, transport costs, phone, promotion etc. Food and fuel requests are being directed to Advice NI direct number to register for a food parcel if shielding or Council can link to a food bank for those in financial crisis or are being supported with a CFNI grant who are providing funding for food. Food and fuel is continuing to be reviewed based on a real identified need that is not being met. Other costs for toys, games, gardening etc are not supported at this point to maximise support for the community crisis support activities.</p> <p>The initial funding will allow groups to continue or to commence and develop their volunteer support ,any additional requests can be considered . Officers will continue to support and engage the groups to allow for networking and linking groups covering the same areas to maximise volunteer and community support. Groups are also being asked, where possible, to support Council in the delivery of food parcels if there are requests from their areas.</p>

3.6	<p><u>Council support to the Community Care Sector</u></p> <p>Due to the level of need and demand from groups and more significantly local Nursing Homes and Care providers requiring PPE , it is proposed Council would seek to bulk buy provisions to support such local demand across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>This will be through bulk buying from a Council supplier/s to a value of up to £25,000.</p> <p>We will also engage with groups and schools making PPE and seeking to link them to local care homes and carers to share across the area.</p> <p>Council will also seek to provide supplies to the Care Homes, where necessary. Mid Ulster has a total of 33 Care Homes. Where possible Council will seek to coordinate a collect and drop.</p> <p>Council will also engage with the Home Care workers and again support where possible, with a PPE box available where we can to support individuals in this sector.</p>
4.0	<p>Other Considerations</p>
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Council Emergency Community Support Fund – £20,400 PPE £25,000</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>Council Food Parcel for Trust Shielded Patients – to note an update on progress.</p> <p>5.2 Food bank support for those in financial crisis – to note update on progress.</p> <p>5.3 Council Existing Grants – to note update on progress.</p> <p>5.4 Older People Befriending support – to note an update on progress.</p>

5.5	Council Emergency Community Support Fund – to note update on progress.
5.6	Council PPE Support – to note update on progress.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Emergency Support Grant Allocations.

Covid-19 Emergency Fund				
No.	Organisation Name	Request	Award	
1	O4O Cookstown Ltd	£462	£250	Deliveries & making of food for its clients in Cookstown area
2	Bann Valley Community Group	£520	£500	Deliveries in Clady and Innisrush area
3	Bawn Dev Assoc	£2,000	£1,500	Deliveries in Bawn, Aughnacloy, Ballygawley & wider area, Making PPE masks for health
4	Bellaghy Village Reg (BVR)	£700	£700	Deliveries in Bellaghy village
5	Clonoe Rural Development Agency Ltd	£500	£500	Deliveries across Clonoe areas
6	Coalisland Na Fianna GFC	£550	£550	Deliveries & Council parcel deliveries across Coalisland & area, Clonoe, Stewartstown
7	Cookstown RBL	2500	£1000	Deliveries in Cookstown town North & towards Stewartstown
8	Desertmartin GAC	£280	£250	Deliveries in Desertmartin area
9	Galbally Pearses GFC	2650	£1,000	Deliveries in Galbally & rural areas, PPE
10	Killowen Drive Residents Association	£1,300	£1,300	Deliveries in Killowen area and PPE for Health
11	Kildress GAC	£600	£600	Deliveries in Kildress and wider rural area
12	Me, You and Them	£1,135	£750	Deliveries of food Dungannon area
13	Mid Ulster Com Support Network	£3,000	£500	Deliveries of Food in Cookstown area
14	Moneymore GAC	£250	£250	Deliveries in Moneymore
15	Moneymore Heritage Trust	£800	£800	Deliveries Moneymore & wider area
16	Moortown St Malachys GAC	£700	£700	Deliveries Moortown area
17	Moygashel Reg Group	£600	£600	Deliveries across Moygashel village & surrounding rural areas
18	SVP Group for Covid-19 PPE	5,000	£3,000	PPE manufacturing for health and community
19	Tamnamore CC	£1,990	£500	Deliveries in Tamnamore & Ballinakelly
20	Tobermore District No 11	£380	£380	Deliveries in Tobermore & surrounding areas
21	TRAAD	£2,900	£1,500	Deliveries in Ballyronan, Loup, Trad
22	Upperlands Com Dev Ltd	£970	£970	Deliveries in Upperlands, Culnady, & will provide for Innishrush, Tamlaght (if need)
23	Watty Grahams Glen	£807	£800	Deliveries across Maghera, Glen & hinterland
24	Ardboe GAC & Lough Shore Groups	£1,500	£1,500	PPE manufacturing for health and wider
		£32,094	£20,400	

Village settlements (one specific area of Town) Towns (if across town area)

BANDS	AWARD
90+	£2,000
80-89	£1500
70-79	£1000
60-69	£750
50-59	£500
40-49	£250

BANDS	AWARD
90+	£3000
80-89	£2500
70-79	£2000
60-69	£1500
50-59	£1000
40-49	£500

Funding awards to commence support to groups. This will be verified as spend completes and grant remains open for groups needing further support and other PPE direct assistance.

Report on	Update on Mid Ulster District Council Community Support Hub
Date of Meeting	Thursday 23 rd April 2020
Reporting Officer	Anne - Marie Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Contact Officer	Anne - Marie Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation

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

1.0 Purpose of Report	
1.1	To update member's on the establishment and operation of Mid Ulster District Councils Community Support Hub to provide support to vulnerable people in Mid Ulster during the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Background
2.1	Members will know that the Department for Communities (DfC) launched a helpline through Advice NI - 0808 802 0020 to provide advice and support to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Letters were also sent out by GPs to notify vulnerable individuals to shield and stay in their homes for 12 weeks.
2.2	In addition the Department for Communities (DfC) launched a weekly service to deliver food boxes to the most vulnerable in society during the COVID-19 pandemic. The boxes are to be delivered directly to the door of vulnerable people who have been notified to shield by their GPs and who cannot afford food and do not have access to local support networks.
2.3	These boxes will also be available to those who are not shielding, but who are in critical need of food. The Council is also supporting the distribution of the food boxes.
3.0 Main Report	
3.1	A temporary service has been established by both the Northern and Southern Health and Social Care Trusts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Trust service receives referrals through the Advice NI helpline and their own sources from those who had received letters from their GP and are shielding. They assess the needs of those most vulnerable in order to support them to self-isolate at home. The assessment will identify the needs of the most vulnerable who do not have support mechanisms from for example; family, friends or neighbours. These needs are assessed under the key themes of the shielding package which include; food, fuel, medication and social contact. Where practical assistance is required this is referred to the Council hub to organise delivery of identified services.
3.2	The Council has established a Community Support Hub consisting of up to 30 staff, which works in partnership with both Trusts and Advice NI to address requests for assistance.

Individuals who have not received a 'shielding' letter from their GP and contact the Advice NI helpline number, will be forwarded directly to the Council Community Support Hub. The Council Support Hub works with the local community and voluntary services to deliver the identified support services where required. Council provides the service 7 days a week, from 9am to 9pm.

3.3 The Council Community Support Hub therefore takes referrals from 3 main sources:

- Northern Health and Social Care Trust support hub
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust support hub
- Advice NI

3.4 When the Council hub receives a referral, a member of our dedicated staff team makes contact by phone with the person who has been referred. The Council team then contacts the relevant community or volunteer group to organise the assistance required for example the collection and delivery of food boxes. The number of referrals per day has been increasing, with on average 65 calls per day (week beginning 13th April). To date the total number of referrals dealt with by the Council Community Support Hub is as follows:

Source	Number of referrals (from 6 th April)
Northern Trust	104
Southern Trust	215
Other (incl Advice NI)	95
Total	414

3.4 A key element of the service provided is the distribution of food boxes. We receive food boxes organised through the Department for Communities and distribute them from the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown. The boxes are distributed to a range of community and voluntary organisations who deliver them to the vulnerable individuals in need. From the 6th April to week ending 17th April 2020, 700 boxes have been distributed. This is expected to increase next week as the daily call numbers continue to rise. The flow chart attached in Appendix 1 is a useful summary of the process.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial:

Staff have been redeployed from within Council. Costs associated with the delivery of boxes.

Human:

None

Risk Management:

None

4.2 Screening & Impact Assessments

	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>None</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Food box distribution flow chart.

Appendix 1 - Food Box Distribution Process

