

A

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 5 February 2015 in Cookstown District Council Offices

Members Present: In the Chair, Councillor Burton (Chair)

Councillors Dillon, Elattar, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McNamee, Mallaghan, Monteith, C O'Neill, T Quinn, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive (CDC)
Ms Campbell, Director of Policy & Development (MDC)
Mrs Forde, Mayor's PA/Member Support Officer (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7pm

D17/15 Apologies

Apology received for Councillor Reid.

D18/15 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in agenda item 14 'Briefing from RSM McClure Watters on the development of Mid Ulster Council's Local Economic Development Plan (2015-2018).

D19/15 Briefing from the Orange Community Network

The Chair welcomed Mr Drew Nelson, Chair of Orange Community Network to the meeting.

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.07pm

Mr Nelson made a presentation on the background of Orange Community Network a group formed in 2005 as a community support organisation for groups operating from approximately 800 Orange Halls throughout Northern Ireland. Working with community, loyal orders, bands and rural development organisations the aim of the network is to encourage confidence building, build capacity through training, networking, information sharing and direct support to groups. Mr Nelson advised to date the network had been funded by International Fund for Ireland, Big Lottery Fund and the EU Peace Programme 2007-2013. Mr Nelson drew attention to the STRIPE project (Stepping Towards Reconciliation in Positive Engagement) which the Orange Community Network partnered with Grand Orange Lodge Ireland to deliver. The project was awarded £884k to help a confident Orange family to engage on an equal basis with the wider community. Highlighting the significant key outputs which included 1200 people participating in training, 300+ groups receiving support, 150

young people completing a leadership focused qualification through Queen's University, three overseas study tours and 50+ conference workshops exploring diverse cultural identities.

Mr Nelson drew attention to a quote from the Community Relations Council in relation to community development in protestant areas of Northern Ireland which stated,

"The backcloth to all Community Development within the Protestant Community in Northern Ireland is the apparent absence of a culture of community organisation. With notable exceptions, Community Development has been severely restricted. This restriction disempowers the Protestant community, and prevents it developing a confidence in itself and playing a positive role in wider civic society in Northern Ireland."

Advising that the Orange Community Network was not connected to the Orange Order Mr Nelson advised that they wanted to work in partnership with Mid Ulster District Council and sought approval to work in partnership to employ a development officer to target users of Orange Halls together with service level agreements.

The Chair thanked Mr Nelson for the presentation and sought questions.

Councillor Dillon asked if the proposed development officer would be funded by Council or the Orange Community Network. In response Mr Nelson advised that the request would be that Council would fund the post.

Councillor Elattar asked if the Orange Community Network was not connected to the Orange Order in a formal way what was the connection and how many community groups were linked to the network from within the Mid Ulster catchment area.

Mr Nelson advised that the board was made up of 70% Orange Order Members and 30% others and within the area there were between 70-80 orange halls.

Councillor Forde asked if the Orange Community Network was successful in obtaining an officer what type of classes would be established. Responding Mr Nelson drew attention to the training, development and positive outcomes of the STRIPE project and advised that similar targets and specific criteria would be for example, on good relations and leadership training.

Thanking Mr Nelson for keeping the presentation to specified time Councillor Mallaghan stated that Mid Ulster Council had work to do in figuring out community services delivery and stated as a Councillor for Cookstown District Council he was aware that all groups were assisted through Community Relations irrespective of background and thus what would the rationale be for Orange Community Network to receive a dedicated Development Officer.

Mr Nelson stated that his analysis was there was a lack of confidence and willingness within his community to fully engage with all of society and this was for historical reasons. This was particularly prevalent in some areas as opposed to others. He further stated that the Orange Community Network could overcome this

as they can engage with the orange community and groups using their premises and get people engaged in cultural diversity. Adding that he appreciated the biggest barrier to the proposal would come internally from Councils as they wanted to protect existing jobs he stated that the Orange Community Network could engage more people in community relations training, their reputation was established and trust was already established with the community in question.

Councillor G Shiels referred to David Cameron's proposal of 'Big Society' and stated that this would be a significant idea as the Orange Community Network involvement in Orange Halls promotes this idea in actively working with the community encouraging social recovery.

Mr Nelson advised that he had witnessed many changes in the last two decades, in the past orange halls were closed to everyone but within the orange community the doors were now opening and in excess of 70 halls for community use was a great asset.

Councillor J Shiels stated that he was aware of the Orange Community Network work in Carntogher acknowledging that groups had stayed away from politics and excellent work had been carried out such as promotion of Ulster Scots together with people attaining qualifications in for example community relations and First Aid.

Councillor J Shiels enquired what the costs would be for a development officer. Mr Nelson advised that the Orange Community Network would absorb the administration costs and thus it would be fees and salary at approximately £30-£35k. He further stated that experience demonstrated that commitment of between three and five years would be required as if funding was for one year only the officer would only be commencing projects at the end of an initial year, whereas three to five years would produce greater results.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Mr Nelson for his presentation and emphasised the importance of both working in partnership and the great asset orange halls were especially in rural areas.

Mr Nelson withdrew from the meeting at 7.25pm.

D20/15 Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2015

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 15 January 2015 (items D1/15 – D11/15 and D16/15), were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

The Chair expressed her thanks to Vice Chair Councillor McEldowney for chairing the January meeting stating that it had clashed with a PCSP meeting.

Declaration of Interest

Councillors Burton and Wilson declared an interest in the item on NI Rural Development being a member of the JCC.

D21/15 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

Mr McCreesh advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update to members on the new Local Action Group (LAG) formation process in Mid Ulster relating to the 2014-2020 NI Rural Development Programme and to inform members on programme closure arrangements for the closure of the current RDP Programme 2007-13.

Mr McCreesh reminded Members that a new LAG for Mid Ulster would be established with the responsibility for the delivery of funding within Mid Ulster through the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme and that it would form as a limited company with directors comprised of elected members and social partners. Updating members on the background Mr McCreesh drew attention to:

- social partner membership registration was now complete with 295 members signing up and from the membership base, 33 eligible board member nominations were received by the closing date of 7th January with 1 subsequently withdrawing. From this, 13 will be selected as LAG board members. This will result in a LAG board of 25 directors – 13 social partners and 12 elected members.
- The LAG membership met on 13th January 2015, facilitated by the Rural Network for Northern Ireland to agree a selection framework for the 13 social partner board members based on geographical spread, priority sector (business, community and farming), gender, age and Section 75 representation.
- An election process would now be used by the wider LAG membership base to appoint social partners to the board from the 33 nominations received. It is envisaged the process would be complete and results confirmed by 30th January 2015.
- 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme – current status and closure process
 - SWARD (South West Action for Rural Development) received an allocation of £20.5m under the current RDP (2007-2013), which included administration funding. Of the £17.1m allocated against project funding, £16.9m has been spent to date with over 300 projects funded. Remaining spend is expected to be achieved by March 2015.
 - An exit strategy is currently being prepared following DARD's guidance, which will detail the requirements for completion of administrative checks on all applications received. While the majority of closure activities will be complete by September 2015 it is envisaged

that there will be queries to address beyond that and into the new programme period. Such queries will be addressed by council staff working on the service level agreement to the new LAG board.

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

Outlining the key issues as undernoted Mr McCreesh advised that the process was similar to the previous LAG minus the competitiveness.

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

- The draft service level agreement will also be provided to the new LAG board for review. Thereafter it is envisaged both the new LAG, once registered as a legal entity and Mid Ulster Council will sign up to an agreed SLA for the duration of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

Mr McCreesh advised that the process would be similar to the former without the competitiveness. Referring to the recommendations Mr McCreesh advised that the registration of the 12 nominated elected representatives as directors of the LAG for Mid Ulster had taken place. Mr McCreesh sought approval as undernoted:

- That Mid Ulster Council approves the setting up of the new LAG as a company limited by guarantee, with professional indemnity insurance;
- That Mid Ulster Council enters into an agreed service level agreement with the LAG for Mid Ulster once established as a legal entity;
- As a replacement to the SWARD Joint Council Committee, Mid Ulster Council appoints an interim sub group to oversee programme closure activities. This sub group could be comprised of all 12 elected representatives nominated for the new Mid Ulster LAG or a smaller number if desired.

Councillor McNamee suggested that the 12 elected representatives make up the interim sub group. Councillor Wilson suggested that a fewer number would be suffice as the elected representatives would have to attend meetings at both committees and proposed that four from the 12 should oversee the closure of the programme. Mr McCreesh advised that the group would be in place for approximately six months and it would comprise of both SWARD and JCC issues.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval for undernoted be granted

- Mid Ulster Council approves the setting up of the new LAG as a company limited by guarantee, with professional indemnity insurance;
- That Mid Ulster Council enters into an agreed service level agreement with the LAG for Mid Ulster once established as a legal entity;
- As a replacement to the SWARD Joint Council Committee, Mid Ulster Council appoints an interim sub group to oversee programme closure activities. This sub group to be comprised of all 12 elected representatives nominated for the new Mid Ulster LAG and they can determine representation unto the interim subgroup.

The Chair, Councillor Burton in relation to a SWARD approved scheme expressed her disappointment that it was to be launched on the Sabbath day when she and many in her community would want to attend their place of worship. As a member of SWARD the Chair, Councillor Burton stated that she endeavoured to support as many launches as she could said that the opportunity had been taken from her to do

so on this occasion and that there were six days in the week when schemes could be launched.

Councillor Wilson concurred with the comments. The Chair, Councillor Burton asked if the situation could be addressed.

In response Mr McCreesh stated that the group in question had set the date and not SWARD and as far as he was aware there was no pre condition that Council could state that schemes would not be launched on the Sabbath.

Councillor Dillon stated that whilst she understood the difficulties and people of many faiths worshipped on a Sunday morning it was inappropriate for Council to tell any group when they could or could not launch a scheme.

D22/15 Sport and Leisure Transition Working Group Update

A report providing Members with progress on priority areas identified by the Sport and Leisure Transition Working Group was presented by Ms Campbell. The report highlighted activities being undertaken by the group. Activities included:

- MUDC – Leisure Services Membership Scheme – deferred in September 2014 with potential to revisit;
- MUDC -Revised Fees, Charges, Policies and Concessions for sport and leisure approved in January 2015;
- Revenue budgets submitted from each current Council and currently being collated to represent one overarching service provision for MUDC;
- Draft proposal – staff terms and conditions – information being collated and paper to be presented to Council in due course;
- Draft Capital Programme provided by current Councils for consideration going into MUDC;
- Harmonised IT – Cookstown Leisure Centre currently purchasing Dimension from Xn Leisure and will trial same for six month period as pilot to assess suitability following which consideration will be given to all facilities for use of same;
- Sports Development Baseline – Review and Options – paper to be presented in due course;
- Transferring Services DCAL Water Recreation Sites - Discussions being progressed in relation to transferring four water recreation sites; three within Dungannon i.e. Ballysaggart, Glenmore and Coalisland Canal and Ardtrea in Cookstown to MUDC. Site visits with representatives from Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and Rivers Agency have taken place to ascertain level of future commitment and potential of SLA for continued maintenance.

Members noted progress.

D23/15 Progress of the Mid Ulster Community Planning Process

A report providing Members with progress relating to the Mid Ulster Community Planning Process was presented by Mr McCreesh for information. The report highlighted key activities as undernoted:

Community Planning Engagement Exercise

- Data analysis ongoing with final report expected mid-February;
- Date to be confirmed for presentation of same to Members;
- Summary of report to be issued to all community representatives who participated in the exercise;
- Report will be used to assist Mid Ulster Council lead on the development of a community plan in partnership with the community and government department/agencies.

Community Planning Capacity Building Programme

- Community planning capacity building sessions for staff have been scheduled;
- Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order 9NI) 2015 and supplementary guidance is still outstanding and Council continues to lobby along with NILGA and other Councils for a stronger responsibility and commitment from the statutory partners and government departments.

Members noted progress regarding community planning process being delivered within the budget parameters and current staff of the three Councils.

D24/15 Development and Regeneration Update

A report providing Members with progress relating to the Mid Ulster Planning Process was presented for information. The report highlighted key activities as undernoted:

- Local Economic Development Plan (2015-2018) presented to LED Plan Working Group and Development committee, in draft form with opportunity for feedback. Final draft to be presented to the Development Committee in April 2015.
- Review of Financial Assistance Policy and Process for the Community and Voluntary Sector – work ongoing with draft proposals to be presented to Mid Ulster Council by end of February 2015.
- Good Relations Strategy and Plan for Mid Ulster, being prepared.

Members noted progress.

D25/15 Update of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for Mid Ulster

A report providing Members with an update on the re-constitution of the Policing & Community Safety partnership (PCSP) for Mid Ulster Council area was presented by Mr McCreesh for information. The report highlighted key activities as:

- Action Planning 2015/2016 – Plans to be submitted by 28 February 2015;

- Policing Plans – 11 local policing plans for 201/2016 – currently liaising with Local Commander to agree priorities for the District and awaiting release of NI Policing Plan which will impact on Mid Ulster Policing Plan.
- Joint Committee Funding 2015-2016 – a new funding model is being used and it has been indicated that PCSP's should plan for a minimum 15% budget cut. Indication given that there will be restrictions on salary expenditure with the maximum spend of budget aimed for operational delivery.
- Appointment of Independent Members – Initial review of applications has been carried out by NI Policing Board it is anticipated that shortlisting will take place late February, interviews in March, candidates advised of outcome in April with appointments to be made by June 2015.

Mr McCreesh drew particular attention to the cut in budget which would be in excess of over £100k across Mid Ulster and advised that the proposed 20% cap on administration costs would have to be addressed. Mr McCreesh added that the Chief Executive was seeking a meeting with the Department of Justice and options were being explored which would see Mid Ulster Council through the coming year.

The Chief Executive stated that the indication was that they would be paid but he was seeking to attain written clarification.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That items D26/15 – D30/15 be taken as confidential business.

D31/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.44pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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Subject	Transferring Functions: Service Level Agreement from DETI/Invest NI for the Regional Start Initiative and Social Entrepreneurship Programme
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide members with an update on the transfer of functions process in relation to the Regional Start Initiative and Social Entrepreneurship Programme.

2	Background
2.1	The Northern Ireland Executive agreed, as part of Local Government Reform, to transfer a number of Economic Development functions to Councils; functions transferring are Enterprise Awareness, Start-up provision and Social Entrepreneurship Programme.

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>All 11 Councils agreed to the rolling forward of the Regional Start Initiative and Social Entrepreneurship Contracts (Mid Ulster District Council agreed this on 25 September 2014) and as such there is the requirement for Councils to repay from the transferring budgets Invest NI costs relating to each of these Programmes for the periods outlined.</p> <p>Invest NI /DETI have now issued Councils with a Service Level Agreement for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social Entrepreneurship Programme (to July 2015) – Regional Start Initiative (to October 2015) <p>▪ Start-up Provision After October 2015</p> <p>Officers from 11 Councils met in February 2015 to discuss the future delivery process and structure of the Provision (post October 2015). It was agreed that, in order to supplement each Council's transfer of functions budget to deliver this Programme, work should begin on preparing an Application to be ready to submit to the new Growth and Jobs Programme when it opens. To assist with this it was proposed that an independent Economic Appraisal should be commissioned on behalf of the 11 Councils (led by Belfast City Council) to scope the business start and enterprise provision and enable Councils to define future delivery and the support offer to be made by them post October 2015. It is anticipated this work should be completed by early April 2015.</p>

4	Resource Implications
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u> Commitment of up to £2,730 (plus vat) is required towards the appointment of a service provider to conduct an Economic Appraisal for all 11 Councils (process led by Belfast City Council) to inform the delivery of future start up provision.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> To appraise the business start and enterprise provision and enable Councils to define the future delivery and support offer to be made by them post October 2015. It is anticipated the Economic Appraisal should be completed by early April 2015 to inform future delivery processes for this provision.</p>
4.4	<p><u>Other</u> None</p>

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

6	Recommendations
6.1	To approve the Service Level Agreement with DETI / Invest NI on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council
6.2	To approve the contribution of up to £2,730 (plus vat) from Mid Ulster Council towards the costs of the Economic Appraisal (being led by Belfast City Council on behalf of the 11 Councils)

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1 – Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster Council and DETI / Invest Northern Ireland: Contracts for the Regional Start Initiative and the Social Entrepreneurship Programme

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

MID ULSTER COUNCIL

AND

DETI/INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND

CONTRACTS FOR

REGIONAL START INITIATIVE

AND THE

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

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THIS AGREEMENT is made on the XXXXX

BETWEEN THE PARTIES:

- **MID ULSTER COUNCIL *and***
- **INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND**
- **DETI**

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Northern Ireland Executive has agreed, as part of the process of Local Government Reform (LGR), to transfer a number of economic development functions to Councils. The functions transferring are Enterprise Awareness, Start up provision and Social Entrepreneurship. The budget for current activity in this area is £3.55m which will transfer to Councils on 1 April 2015.

It is recognised that all 11 Councils have signalled their agreement to the rolling forward of the Regional Start Initiative and Social Entrepreneurship contracts and as such there will be a requirement for Councils to repay Invest NI amounts relating to the Regional Start Initiative (RSI) and the Social Entrepreneurship (SEP) as they will continue to run up until 22 October, 2015 (RSI) and 4 July, 2015 (SEP). This will allow Invest NI to continue to pay the existing contractors up to the end of the extended contract period.

- 1.2 This SLA sets out arrangements for the handling of contracts for these two contracts.

SECTION 2: SCOPE

- 2.1 This SLA records the basis upon which Invest NI will continue to deliver the programmes, (described at paragraph 4.1) hereto to the Council in all cases throughout the periods specified in Section 3.

These programmes are:

The Regional Start Initiative (RSI)
The Social Entrepreneurship programme (SEP)

- 2.2 **Background -Regional Start Initiative**

RSI provides those individuals who wish to start a new business with advice and the capability to produce their own business plan. Invest NI's intention is that this business plan will provide a template for the new entrepreneur to plan and access sources of funds for the business. This is in line with best practice models for entrepreneurship which highlight the importance of business planning from the outset.

The overall aims of the RSI are to:

- Raise the overall number and quality of business starts per annum in NI;
- Deliver an accessible programme that delivers on Invest NI's equality and diversity agenda (including NEETs individuals and individuals living in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas);
- Provide a flow of new clients to the Invest NI client bank;
- Effectively signpost all new business starts that do not have the (immediate) potential to become an Invest NI client to the 'existing business' support offerings available in the marketplace, and particularly those offered by the local councils;
- Provide innovative advisory and training support to individuals/business at the start-up stage;
- Ensure the full integration of Invest NI's www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk online support into the programme offering.

The primary output of the programme is the delivery of completed client led Business Plans (BPAs). The target for year 3 of the programme is 3,400 BPAs. This target is based on an economic appraisal carried out by Cogent in 2011 and remains applicable to the current programme provision. RSI contributes to the 2011-2015 Programme for Government targets and it is likely that similar targets will be set for the year 15/16. Invest NI will have responsibility for the delivery of such targets up until the 22nd Oct 2015 at which time responsibility will transfer to the Council.

Invest NI will continue to provide direct support to businesses which seek to sell in export markets and focus on key sectors as described in the Invest NI's Corporate Plan which can be accessed at the following link www.investni.com/publications.

2.3 Background -Social Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP)

SEP supports the development of new social enterprises to operate to commercial business models, maximise their economic impact in terms of jobs and wealth creation, whilst respecting their focus on wider economic and social benefits. These include impact on areas of economic disadvantage, by generating sources of income, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship and helping to create sustainable and cohesive communities.

The overall aims of the SEP are to:

- Provide early stage support to groups/ social entrepreneurs who are starting a social enterprise
- Ensure high survival rates for new SEE starts
- Feed the Invest NI client bank with pull through SEE businesses
- Deliver sustainable employment and wealth creation in areas of deprivation

The targets of the programme are to:

- Provide core capability support to new social enterprise start ups to a minimum of 55 new starts per annum
- Ensure high survival rates for new starts with 70% still in operation 3 years after assistance
- Encourage growth in export markets – 20% of starts exporting within 2 years of participation on SEP
- Feed the Invest NI client bank with pull through – 25% of start ups
- Deliver sustainable employment and wealth creation in areas of deprivation:
 - 275 gross jobs
 - 89 net jobs
 - £10.4m gross GVA (over a 5 year period)
 - £3.1M net additional GVA (over a 5 year period)
 - Return on Investment of £3.18:£1

The targets are based on the economic appraisal carried out by KPMG in 2012 and remain applicable to the current programme provision. The Invest NI Corporate Plan reflects a commitment to support the establishment and growth of social economy enterprises.

Invest NI will continue to provide direct support to social enterprises which seek to sell in export markets and focus on key sectors as described in the Invest NI's Corporate Plan which can be accessed at the following link www.investni.com/publications.

SECTION 3: DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

- 3.1 This SLA will take effect from the 1st April 2015 and remain in force for the Regional Start Initiative to 22nd October 2015, and to the 3rd July for the Social Enterprise Programme.
- 3.2 The SLA may be amended at any time by mutual consent, such amendments to be evidenced in writing. Agreed amendments will be incorporated into the SLA.

SECTION 4: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Invest NI will deliver the programmes as specified in the existing contracts for **MID ULSTER COUNCIL** and the respective responsibilities are highlighted below:

RSI - Invest NI Responsibilities:

- Local and National marketing campaigns including social media;
- Enquiry handling and distribution;
- Provision of linkage to www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk ;
- Data collection and equality monitoring;
- Management and delivery of the agreed number of business plan approvals;
- Review and control of business plan quality and auditing;
- Linkage to Invest NI 'Jobs Fund' including NRA & NEET's grant funding;
- Development of referral prospects to Invest NI;
- Management of invoicing, payments and financial monitoring and budget control;
- Reporting contract performance on a monthly basis;
- General contract management including monthly meetings with the contractor to review progress and address any issues;
- Meetings with CPD to advise on contract performance;
- Update meetings with Council on a monthly basis.
- Responding to Ministerial and Assembly questions including briefings and FoI requests, etc.
- Knowledge sharing to ensure a seamless handover of local start provision between March 2015 and October 2015.

RSI - MID ULSTER COUNCIL Responsibilities:

- Establishment of a financial system that will allow for payment of RSI invoices within 30 days of receipt;
- Identification of Council staff members who will provide liaison with Invest NI;
- Establish monthly management meetings to review the progress of RSI;
- To provide Invest NI with any Council specific local start issues that may be impacted by or have impact on RSI;
- Sharing and linkage with other Council/Invest NI initiatives in the local start arena;

SEP- Invest NI Responsibilities

- Enquiry handling and distribution;
- Provision of linkage to www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk ;
- Data collection and equality monitoring;
- Management and delivery of the lead in and aftercare support for programme participants;
- Review and control of lead in application, aftercare support and quality and auditing;
- Development of referral prospects to Invest NI;

- Management of invoicing, payments and financial monitoring and budget control;
- Reporting contract performance on a monthly basis;
- General contract management including meetings with the contractor to review progress and address any issues;
- Meetings with CPD to advise on contract performance;
- Update meetings with Council on a monthly basis.
- Responding to Ministerial and Assembly questions including briefings and FoI requests, etc.
- Knowledge sharing to ensure a seamless handover of SEP provision between April 2015 and July 2015.

SEP- MID ULSTER COUNCIL Responsibilities:

- Establishment of a financial system that will allow for payment of SEP invoices within 30 days of receipt;
- Identification of Council staff members who will provide liaison with Invest NI;
- Establish monthly management meetings to review the progress of SEP;
- To provide Invest NI with any Council specific SEP issues that may be impacted by or have impact on SEP;
- Sharing and linkage with other Council/Invest NI initiatives in the social enterprise arena;

SECTION 5: FUNDING

- 5.1 It has been agreed between Invest NI and Councils that Invest NI will receive payment from each Council for the services specified in Section 4 provided by its contractor, to allow it to continue making payments to the contractor up to the end of the extended contract period.
- 5.2 The total annual budget allocation for all 11 Councils in Northern Ireland is £3.55m. This total is made up of £2m for the Regional Start Initiative, £700k for the Social Entrepreneurship Programme, £600k for Enterprise Awareness, £100k for Youth and Female Programmes and £155k staffing costs.

The allocation of funding to be spent on RSI for the specified period for this Council area is £80,210 and the calculation to determine the cost for Council is set out as follows.

The Regional Start Initiative

219 Business Plans @ £336 (inclusive of VAT)*	£73,584
Invest NI staff costs April – October 2015**	£6,626
TOTAL DELIVERY COST	£80,210

* The target of 219 business plans has been determined from the 'Economic Appraisal based on the revised District Council groupings;

**Invest NI staff costs have been apportioned equally between the 11 Councils and are actual costs associated with RSI programme delivery

The RSI contract facilitates both a 'bonus' and 'sanction' clause to deal with over-performance and underperformance, respectively. As such, depending on the performance of the contract during the extension period, it is possible that more than 219 business plans will be invoiced for payment. Likewise if the number of BPAs is less than the target only that number will be invoiced. The ongoing position against this target will be tracked on a monthly basis and will be communicated to Council each month.

Social Entrepreneurship Programme

The allocation of funding to be spent on SEP for the specified period for this Council area is £10,716 and the calculation to determine the cost for Council is set out as follows.

Estimated Lead in and aftercare support (inclusive of VAT)*	£9,750
Invest NI staff costs**	£966
TOTAL DELIVERY COSTS	£10,716

*based on current participation on the SEP and the estimated additional applications received and remaining aftercare support to be delivered to core participants.

** Invest NI staff costs have been apportioned between the 11 Councils based on the level of delivery in 2015/16 and are actual costs associated with SEP programme deliver.

The actual amount invoiced may be greater or less than the estimated amount indicated above and is subject to the delivery completed in 2014/15, lead in participants still being supported, the actual number of additional applications received in 2015/16 and aftercare support which will be delivered in 2015/16.

SECTION 6: PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 The contractual arrangement between Invest NI and its contractor are such that payments must be made within 30 days of receipt of an agreed invoice. There will be a requirement for **MID ULSTER COUNCIL** to facilitate payment within these timescales in order that contractual obligations are met.

6.2 Invoicing will take place on a monthly basis.

SECTION 7: PROVISION OF DATA

- 7.1 The Council shall be facilitated with access to any statistical information gathered and retained by Invest NI during these arrangements and through the discharge of this SLA.
- 7.2 Invest NI shall develop exit management plans with their agent Enterprise NI to transfer all relevant data to the Council upon termination of this SLA.
- 7.3 Complaints relating to RSI and SEP shall be the responsibility of Invest NI and the Contractor to investigate and respond to the complaint under arrangements specified in the existing contracts.

SECTION 8: MONITORING AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

- 8.1 Invest NI will monitor the implementation of this SLA and provide normal performance reports to the Council as per information currently provided under the existing contracts.
- 8.2 The report will measure the performance of each contract against the agreed KPI's outlined in each contract.
- 8.3 Additional information may be provided as requested.

SECTION 9: REVIEW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1 Review

Invest NI, CPD and the Contractor will continue to meet to review implementation, performance and quality of the Service under the existing contractual arrangements. This will also allow for the discussion of any issues that may arise and action to be agreed where necessary.

SECTION 10: INDEMNITIES

- 10.1 Each of the parties agree to indemnify and keep indemnified the other party from and against all losses, actions, proceedings, claims, demands, expenses or liabilities whatsoever suffered by the other party as a result directly or indirectly of any unlawful act or any act, omission or negligence of the other or any breach by the other of its obligations under this SLA (and this shall include any act, omission, negligence, or breach of this SLA by their sub-contractors, agents, appointees and such others engaged by them).

SECTION 11: THIRD PARTY RIGHTS

11.1 None of the provisions of this SLA are intended to or will operate to confer any benefit (pursuant to the Contracts / Rights of Third Parties Act 1999) on a person who is not named as a party to this Agreement.

SECTION 12: LAW

12.1 This SLA shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law in Northern Ireland and subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts in Northern Ireland.

SECTION 13: SIGNATORIES

This Agreement is made on the **INSERT DATE** between **MID ULSTER COUNCIL**, Invest NI and DETI.

Signed: _____

Title: _____

On behalf of **MID ULSTER COUNCIL**

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Title: _____

On behalf of Invest NI

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Title: _____

On behalf of DETI

Date: _____

C

Subject	Submission from Mid Ulster District Council to Corporation Tax Inquiry
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	The Paper (attached) provides Members with a draft Submission to the NI Assembly Inquiry on Corporation Tax outlining the key issues, for input and further commentary.

2	Background
2.1	The NI Assembly's Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee are conducting an Inquiry to consider how the two-year period leading up to the devolution of Corporation Tax varying powers in April 2017 can be used to maximise NI's potential and determine the key economic drivers that the NI Executive can influence to achieve these outcomes.
2.2	The Committee has written to all Councils to request a response by way of submission by the deadline of 10 March 2015. A draft response is attached for commentary.

3	Key Issues
3.1	The submission (attached) focusses on the identified priorities from the perspective of the Mid Ulster District Council area and western region in general.

4	Resources
4.1	<u>Financial</u> - None
4.2	<u>Human</u> - None
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> - None
4.4	<u>Other</u> - None

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

6	Recommendations
6.1	Members to review and provide commentary as required to the draft response for submission to the NI Assembly Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1 - Letter to Mid Ulster DC re Assembly Corp Tax Inquiry
7.2	Appendix 2 - Mid Ulster District Council - Corporation Tax Inquiry Submission



**NORTHERN IRELAND
ASSEMBLY**

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
c/o Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
Council Offices, Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

04/02/2015

Dear Mr Tohill,

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in January 2015 that the Westminster Government will introduce a bill to devolve corporation tax varying powers to Northern Ireland from April 2017, The Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment is to conduct an Inquiry to consider the potential for economic growth and job creation following reduction in corporation tax in Northern Ireland. The Inquiry will centre on how this two year period can be used to maximise the potential of Northern Ireland as a region to attract investment, grow the economy and create jobs. The key focus for the Committee will be on the other economic drivers Northern Ireland can influence and must have right in order to maximise its potential.

The Committee would welcome your views to form part of this Inquiry and requests that you submit written evidence by e-mail to committee.eti@niassembly.gov.uk or by post to the address on the bottom of this page.

Key areas you may wish to consider include:

1. What are the key economic drivers (other than low corporation tax) **that the Executive can influence** in order to maximise the potential of Northern Ireland to attract inward investment, grow the economy and create jobs?
2. Which of these key economic drivers are considered priorities for the manufacturing sector?
3. Which of these key economic drivers are considered priorities for the services sector?
4. How well is each of the priority economic drivers currently developed in Northern Ireland to support inward investment, economic growth and job creation?
5. What actions need to be taken, and by whom, to address any gaps in the priority economic drivers?

A list of economic drivers which you may wish to consider is included at Appendix 1.

Written submissions should be structured to address the terms of reference of the Inquiry which can be obtained from the Assembly's website –

Jim McManus, Clerk to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 375, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: jim.mcmanus@niassembly.gov.uk
Tel. No. 028 9052 1230

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/enterprise-trade-and-investment/inquiries/growing-the-economy--creating-jobs-with-lower-corporation-tax/>

I would be grateful for a reply by **10 March 2015**.

Yours sincerely,

Jim McManus

Clerk

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Jim McManus, Clerk to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 375, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: jim.mcmanus@niassembly.gov.uk
Tel. No. 028 9052 1230

Appendix 1

Access to Finance
Access to Markets
Access to Suppliers
Business Regulation
Communications Infrastructure
Energy Costs
English Language
Government Support (Financial)
Government Support (Practical)
Higher and Further Education
Innovation and R&D Environment
Labour Costs
Labour Relations
Lifestyle
Living Standards
Macroeconomic factors
Political Climate (national)
Political Climate (regional)
Productivity
Public Transport Infrastructure
Road and Rail Networks
Security
Skills and Education

**Jim McManus, Clerk to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 375, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: jim.mcmanus@niassembly.gov.uk
Tel. No. 028 9052 1230**

MID - ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

**SUBMISSION TO NI ASSEMBLY'S ENTERPRISE, TRADE &
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CONSULTATION ON
'GROWING THE ECONOMY AND CREATING JOBS WITH LOWER
CORPORATION TAX'**

MARCH 2015

<p>This Paper is Mid Ulster District Council's Submission to the NI Assembly's Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee's Inquiry to consider how the two-year period leading up to the devolution of Corporation Tax varying powers in April 2017 can be used to maximise NI's potential as a region to attract investment, grow the economy and create jobs and determine the key economic drivers that the NI Executive can influence to achieve these outcomes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Deadline: 10 March 2015</p>
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Mid Ulster District Council would advise the points noted herein as comprising its submission to the Inquiry.

- Council acknowledges the potential of these new powers to stimulate economic growth. However, it also recognises that a cut in the corporate tax rate from 21% to potentially 12.5% will reduce Northern Ireland's corporate tax receipts by 40%; this reduction in income will be in addition to further planned cuts in public expenditure – as yet unspecified – yet to be announced.
- Furthermore, the impact of the deduction from the annual budget of potentially £300m on public services and, more specifically, frontline services (which are already experiencing severe pressures in advance of further austerity measures) remains a key concern.
- In addition, NI's recovery has been at a much slower rate than the UK average; while economic activity increased by 1.2% relative living standards still remain well below UK average.
- However, the opportunity to create jobs, attract investment and stimulate growth is to be strongly welcomed. Council believes that, if appropriate and targeted measures are deployed, this is a key opportunity for the NI Executive to deliver balanced regional economic growth and address some of the long standing inequalities.

Context

A number of key disparities exist across the Mid Ulster and wider Western region which have long acted as a barrier to sustainable economic growth, including:

- a) Its peripheral and dispersed rural location
- b) High level of micro and small businesses
- c) Need for infrastructure investment in both roads and telecommunications
- d) Little or no foreign direct investment
- e) A number of multiple deprivation and new TSN areas

- f) Higher than average long term unemployment levels
- g) Below average employment in the public sector
- h) Average weekly earnings below the Northern Ireland average
- i) A strong dependency on the agricultural sector which is contracting rapidly.

Growth Drivers

It is critical that the income from the devolving of corporate tax setting powers is targeted at **delivering real and meaningful change** to transform our economy to stimulate investment, job creation as well as broader societal benefits, and Council advises the following as priorities to be addressed:

- The Mid Ulster District Council area has the highest number of businesses (7915) of any Council area outside Belfast; the sub-region is dominated by the small business sector, in that 99% of the area's businesses employ fewer than 50 people.

The additional income generated from this tax is required to address long term economic imbalances and deliver measures to accelerate business growth in our indigenous businesses which could include e.g. the creation of a Small Business Innovation Fund to provide specialist support this sector to exploit new opportunities in R&D and drive competitiveness and productivity.

Competing in a global market – NI's smaller businesses face a greater challenge than most of the UK in competing in a global market – need to increase capacity of private sector to export

- Improving skills, employability and job creation are essential to build sustainable economic growth– research estimates that a reduction in NI's Corporation Tax rate is expected to create 58k jobs above the baseline employment levels by 2030. Given the region's problems with long term unemployment it is critical that Mid Ulster is identified as a priority area to address this issue.
- Large scale investment is also required to improve infrastructure in the sub-region (both connectivity and roads); for far too long businesses in Mid Ulster/ West have been prevented from competing on an equal basis with their counterparts in other areas due to poor provision.
- Creation of an Enterprise Zone for the sub-region to create conditions for sustainable balanced growth, support entrepreneurship and facilitate business expansion
- Research has estimated that of the 58k new jobs which could be created, 25k of these may be as a result of new Foreign Direct Investment. To date, the Western sub-region has seen virtually no FDI. If there is to be balanced regional economic development the policy for locating new investment needs to be reviewed.
- Facilitate increased access to finance for our local business sector to support growth and R&D

Summary

New Council-led Community Planning powers means that Councils are pivotal to the future development of their distinct micro economies and communities; local government is now the 'key driver' to make things happen at local level.

The two tiers of NI government (NI Councils and NI Executive) share the same key economic and social challenges, and a partnership approach should be considered to drive future economic development (in its broadest sense) and address long standing regional economic disparities to achieve greater prosperity for all throughout our society.

D

Subject	Mid-Ulster Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide members with the draft Mid Ulster Good Relations Strategy & Action Plan in line with OFM/DFM policy framework and guidelines.

2	Background
2.1	<p>The Office of First and Deputy First Ministers policy framework for addressing sectarianism and racism, <i>Together: Building a United Community (TBUC)</i> Strategy outlines a vision of 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'.</p> <p>The legal basis of Good Relations comes from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) which states that 'Public Authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.'</p>

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>The attached Mid Ulster Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan (Appendix 1) sets out the TBUC thematic approach with 5 priority areas identified in the bulleted points overleaf. These focus predominately on external actions as the Community Relations Unit within OFM/DFM will lead in the implementation of GR actions for members and senior management within Mid Ulster Council. Central to the GR programme delivery will be the establishment of a Mid Ulster All Party member Good Relations Member Forum (Action 2.2 – Action Plan) which will scrutinise and approve all operational activities and initiatives as outlined within this Action Plan. It is proposed that this forum will meet on a quarterly basis. The Action Plan will be a working document and have the inbuilt flexibility to adapt and respond to issues as they arise across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>The action plan has been equality screened internally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Children And Young People – To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full role and active role in building Good Relations. • Our Shared Community – To create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone. • Our Safe Community – To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety. • Our Cultural Expression – To create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding is strengthened by Diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced. • Program Actions – To develop support programs, at both Council and

	<p>Community level, to increase and improve leadership, capacity, organisation and capital building skills in order to support Good Relations outcomes.</p> <p>The Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan has been developed for the new Mid Ulster Council by converging best practice initiatives from the existing three legacy Councils. While it will be submitted to the Community Relations Unit at OFMDFM before the set deadline of the 20th February it will carry the caveat of still requiring Mid Ulster Council approval.</p>
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4	Resources
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u> OFM/DFM provide 75% funding for the staff and programme cost with Mid Ulster Council supporting the matching 25%. The amount applied from OFM/DFM will be £406,500 requiring match funding from Mid Ulster District Council of £135,500 which has been agreed within the Mid-Ulster budget setting process.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Human</u> It is envisaged that the human resources required to deliver the Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan will be met within existing staffing complements.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> N/A</p>
4.4	<p><u>Other</u> There may be a reduction in the OFM/DFM allocation (project costs only). This is subject to notification from OFM/DFM.</p>

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

6	Recommendations
6.1	Members are asked to approve the Mid Ulster Good Relations Transitional Programme Action Plan (Appendix 1).

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1 - Good Relations Transitional Programme Action Plan – Mid Ulster Council

District Council Good Relations Transitional Program

Action Plan

- The information within the **Action Plan** will be made available to other Departments and/or agencies for the purposes of audit, research and meeting statutory obligations.
- This form should be completed in typescript in black ink. All applications must be submitted in ‘hard copy’, with appropriate signatures and any other information requested.
- Applicants should not delete or include additional columns within the table. Any supporting information should be appended to the Proforma Plan

Completed forms should be returned to: The District Council Good Relations Programme
OFMDFM
Good Relations Funding and Delivery Branch
Block E Rm 3.19
Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SL

You should mark your envelope “District Councils Good Relations Programme Application”.

Introduction

“Good relations across all parts of our community are an essential ingredient of building a prosperous, peaceful and safe society which is enriched by diversity and is welcoming to all. Specifically, tackling the twin blights of sectarianism and racism in addition to other forms of intolerance is essential in shaping a shared and cohesive community that can move forward and collectively face the challenges of an ever-changing world.

Mid Ulster Council Aim is that of Government OFMDFM ‘of a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.’ (Statement from The First Minister and Deputy First Minister Thursday 9 May 2013)

Mid Ulster Council endorses its main funder and lead Government Strategy and Vision of Good Relations ‘*The Together: Building a United Community Strategy (TBUC)*’ which outlines a vision of ***“a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.”***

The thematic approach going forward within Mid Ulster Council as led by the Good Relations department will focus on the following priority areas as identified by the TBUC Strategy-

- **Our Children And Young People** – To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full role and active role in building Good Relations.
- **Our Shared Community** – To create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.
- **Our Safe Community** – To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety
- **Our Cultural Expression** – To create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding is strengthened by Diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.
- **Program Actions** – To develop support programs, at both Council and Community level, to increase and improve leadership, capacity, organisation and capital building skills in order to support Good Relations outcomes.

A Mid Ulster Council Good Relations Policy based on the TBUC policy and strategy will be developed to support the Action Plan.

Good Relations Action Plan Development

The action plan following has been developed through the following processes:

1. Demographic statistical breakdown for the Mid Ulster District
2. Good Relation Audits and local analysis completed in the last 3 year period
3. Good Relations Plan 2013 – 2015 and the learning from this as part of the annual reviews.
4. Good practice delivery from the current good relations work on the ground.
5. Community Planning process 2014/15 with specific theme of good relations and engagement
6. Strategic direction and research by Community Relations Council

Note: Sub regional statistical analysis on good relations is difficult to collate, due to the nature of recording and monitoring. Whilst recorded PSNI incidents of sectarianism and racism do exist they are under representative of the qualitative data that is shared through activity on the ground and when working with partner organisations who support in this area.

The Action Plan is for 2014-2015 and is based on targeting current issues within each District. It is a transitional plan and will be reviewed after one year in relation to issues identified as part of the Community Planning process and specific to area need and roll out of good practice initiatives across the district.

Good Relations Programme Contact Team:

DSTBC: Good relations Officer – Oliver Morgan

Office Location – Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT, Tel: 028 877 20300

Cookstown District Council: Good Relations Officer – Sean McElhatton

Office Location- Gortalowry House, 94 Church Street, Cookstown, Tel: 028 867 64714

Magherafelt District Council: Good Relations Officer – Sean Henry

Office Location – Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, Tel: 028 79397979

District Council Good Relations Organisational Integration
Good relations delivery by Department / Service level Unit
Supporting programme actions not directly funded by OFMDFM

Department / Service Unit	Good Relations Actions	Good relations Outcomes/ Impacts <i>(ref. guidance note)</i>
Leisure Services Sports Development	Cross community summer schemes. Game of 3 halves event	Children from different backgrounds have opportunity to engage in a positive environment Increased use of Leisure Facilities to Ethnic Minorities through target programs
Leisure Services Arts Development	Arts exhibitions themed on Community Relations Arts workshops focusing on imagery and symbolism within NI Theatre space to encourage participation Plays/Dramas representing culture/arts across communities	Providing children and wider community, positive opportunity to engage in and explore CR issues creating greater understanding of GR issues.
Environmental Health	Bonfire scheme Graffiti Removal	Providing local communities the positive opportunity to normalise cultural bonfire activities
Parks Department	Creating shared play areas / Park land	Increased use of local facilities by all sections of the community Events/Open days to promote inclusivity
Council Governance	Establish and facilitate a Good Relations Forum of elected members across Mid Ulster to provide leadership and continuous review of Good Relations Link with Equality to support with Good Relations issues Shared leadership model (d'hont) in the governance of Council Equality S75 and regard for Good Relations Poverty and TSN Policy	Cross party agreement on all operational actions in line with TBUC policy framework and developing key strategic principles on the basis of consensus Aligns with Mid Ulster Corporate Plan and provides synergies with other development action plans Good Governance model representative and transparent Linkages to Good Relations Plan and Forum Addressing poverty and disadvantage, correlation to areas of sectarianism and racism

Children and Young People.

Aim: to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.

Strategic Outcomes: 1.1 Improving attitudes of children from different backgrounds; 1.2 Young people engaging in bringing the community together.

Outcome including local outcomes identified by GR Audit	Good relations indicators/ measures	Actions /Project to deliver Outcome (ranked in order of priority)		Budget and resources
<p>1.1 Improving attitudes of children from different backgrounds</p> <p>Target those students approached with a view to altering perceived beliefs around stereotypes and increase understanding and awareness of traditions and culture. Promote integration and challenge racism and hate crime. Reduce levels of racism/sectarianism throughout youth in Mid Ulster by gauging change in perception.</p> <p>Engage young people from ethnic minority backgrounds through workshops/seminars promoting integration throughout Mid Ulster District Council region and better access to services</p> <p>Host three Consular Clinics for embassy officials to gauge migration from a</p>	<p>Promote greater Mid Ulster integration and understanding of multiculturalism and the concept of the Global Village At least 1000 students participate annually through Global Workshop style days in Post Primary Schools</p> <p>Engage representatives from minority ethnic and cultural bodies through promotion of a series of events on migration, diversity, integration and sharing. Host 6 seminar style events with round table discussion on policy affecting issues</p> <p>5 international diversity days including national days e.g. Polish Day, etc.</p> <p>Engage 6 honorary consuls to host clinics supporting migrants</p>	1	Increased understanding and awareness of migration to Mid Ulster and the concept of cultural diversity in society Hosting international events culture etc.	<p>£12,000.00</p> <p>Good Relations Officers Honorary Consuls Migrant Support Networks</p> <p>Approach to partner School Principals/community leaders/NiHE/PSNI</p>
		2	Awareness of Mid Ulster approach to Anti-Prejudice and promotion of a shared community for all. Good Relations Officers engaging honorary consuls and community and voluntary support organisations in proactive approach to development of services and programs tailored to meet the needs of the new communities' integration.	
		3	Promotion of the Global concept through definitive schools program targeting primary and post primary attitudes within school environments.	

young person's perception				
<p>1.2 Bring young people together Through partnership with youth organisations and schools to address the legacy of the conflict and division. Provide an increased range and type of opportunity for engagement of young children and young people either on a cross community or single identity</p> <p>Host mixed activities by children and young people of inter and intra community backgrounds</p> <p>Facilitate 12 primary and 8 post primary schools across the region in improving engagement within schools who historically do not participate at community events to improve joint working</p> <p>Increase in engagement of youth councils with elected members through new Mid Ulster Council engagements.</p> <p>Engage 8-10 primary schools historically alien to each other</p>	<p>Initiate discussion and develop bespoke summer scheme programs for communities in hard to reach areas within Mid Ulster who have been polarised and disaffected targeting 400 young people across the Mid Ulster district</p> <p>Support 6 summer schemes using sport and arts within estates who are defined as areas of weak infrastructure</p> <p>Host 6 music workshops for primary and post primary schools across the region promoting traditions and identities and exploring similarities in cultures workshops to be co-ordinated across the region</p> <p>Host 3 annual "Speed Date" type events within council and support development of a Mid Ulster Youth Council</p> <p>Facilitate a region wide primary school developed program targeting stereotypical beliefs around issues such as flags/emblems/uniforms</p> <p>300 children to participate within the bespoke program 2 primary schools from Magherafelt/Cookstown/Dungannon</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Good Relations Officers to engage partners and develop a bespoke summer camps utilising sport and shared spaces in partnership with communities and youth delivery agents.</p> <p>Good Relations Officers to facilitate a schools program raising cultural identity through traditional music program in schools both at primary and post primary levels</p> <p>Good Relations Officers to initiate increased community volunteering in areas of weak infrastructure by working with voluntary and statutory organisations to deliver accredited programs of work for excluded youth</p> <p>Good Relations Officers to develop a program improving engagement between youth leaders and civic leadership within a new Mid Ulster Council</p> <p>Good Relations Officers to initiate engagement with primary schools and co-ordinate a joint approach to collaborative work within a workshop based program aimed at eradicating stereotypical beliefs.</p>	<p>£25,000.00</p> <p>Good Relations Officers</p> <p>Leisure Services/Parks</p> <p>Community Associations</p> <p>Primary Schools</p> <p>Post Primary Schools</p> <p>Youth organisations</p> <p>Princes Trust</p> <p>SELB</p> <p>STEP</p> <p>PSNI</p> <p>Volunteer Centres</p> <p>Probation Service</p> <p>Mid Ulster Elected Representatives</p> <p>Potential Partners: Speedwell/Beyond Skin/CRIS/Gathering Drum/Artsektá</p>

Our Shared Community

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone

Strategic Outcomes: 2.1 Increased use of shared space and services;

2.2 Shared space accessible to all

Outcome including local outcomes identified by GR Audit	Good relations indicators/ measures	Actions /Project to deliver Outcome (ranked in order of priority)	Budget and resources
<p>2.1 Increased use of our shared space and services.</p> <p>Increased usage of shared community venues across the region.</p> <p>Increased participation in venues traditionally viewed as single identity.</p> <p>Increased participation rate at ‘Decade of Anniversary’ talks/seminars in neutral venues addressing contentious & divisive history within the guiding principles of commemoration.</p>	<p>Provide Mid Ulster grant aid of £50,000 to embed the concept of shared space and services.</p> <p>Support at least 35 groups in continuing to provide facilities/events which can develop our society in integration by promoting shared space ethos</p> <p>GR principles (TBUC) to be implemented within each grant proposal.</p> <p>Guiding principles of HLF/CRC to be supported throughout the series of lectures to 1000 participants. 1000 participants through at least 8 lectures/seminars at agreed neutral venues</p>	<p>1 Good Relations Officers to roll out and administer a new Mid Ulster wide grant aid process in line with grant aid policy & TBUC criteria aimed at improving access to community venues throughout the region both on an intra and inter community basis.</p> <p>Good Relations Officer to assess monitor assess, evaluate and ensure all TBUC guidelines are adhered to.</p> <p>Good relations Officer to support & engage groups to ensure good practice and value for money.</p> <p>2 Good Relations officers to source & identify suitable speakers/facilitators to deliver a series of decade type events throughout the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p> <p>Good Relations officers to identify suitable venues and encourage participation through networks.</p>	<p>£50,000</p> <p>GR Officers Community & voluntary sector Audit & monitoring Equality & GR Committees Assessment panels Grant aid policy</p> <p>£8,000</p> <p>GR Officers HLF CRC Irish School of Ecumenics Europe Direct Historical Societies Royal British Legion Orange Order GAA Schools</p>

<p>Increase in participation within Clergy Fora & Churches Fora., combining the aim of supporting a 'Mid Ulster' Clergy & Church Fora.</p>	<p>To host at least 10 annual meetings in Cookstown, Magherafelt & Dungannon for Clergy & Churches Fora to assist in the development and delivery of their annual programme of activities.</p> <p>Engage Churches & Clergy fora across the Mid Ulster region in biannual workshop style events to improve relationships across the region. Increase membership across the region by at least 5 new Clergy members</p>	3	<p>Good Relations officers to maintain and support existing relationships between clergy & churches fora improving the civic leadership role for the clergy and churches and continued relationship building with elected members.</p> <p>Good Relations officers to engage clergy and churches within Magherafelt with a proposal to building a Churches & Clergy Fora to compliment Dungannon & Magherafelt.</p>	<p>£12,000 Clergy & Churches Fora GR Officers ICPP ISE</p>
<p>Maintain & improve region wide support to strategic initiatives delivering a mechanism to improve the rights of migrant workers and BME and traveller communities, and other S75 groups as identified</p>	<p>Grant aid to innovative projects supporting migrant worker rights. Support the two main projects delivered within the region by non-governmental organisations STEP and CSWAN covering migrant rights based programs across the region</p>	4	<p>Provide financial support for migrant worker based programmes. Good Relations Officers to advocate on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council. Good Relations Officer to monitor and evaluate migrant worker rights projects.</p>	<p>£42,000 10,000.00 CWSAN 15,000.00 STEP 8,000.00 An Tearmann 2,500.00 COSTA 5,500.00 Individual Initiatives driven within Council GR Officers</p>
<p>2.2 Shared space accessible to all. To Promote and increase the provision of neutral space within the Mid Ulster region.</p> <p>Increase in programme activity through direct action at specified venues</p> <p>Physical increase in numbers attending Good Relations directed activity</p>	<p>To support projects & programmes at shared community venues in the rural districts in delivering increased shared space accessible to all. Venues supported to develop activities/programs aimed at inclusivity and social integration in rural areas reducing sectarianism and sense of shared space</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Reduce community tensions; improve integration and sharing through provision of neutral safe venues.</p> <p>Build upon delivery of increased community confidence and add community capacity.</p>	<p>£10,000 Cookstown Nominated Venues</p> <p>£10,000 Community & voluntary sector Council led</p>

<p>An improvement in attitudinal belief through evaluation on community feelings on noted centres</p> <p>Improvement in leadership and mainstreaming of Good Relations across Mid Ulster. Number of study visits/workshops/good practice shared and upskilling for Good Relations Support and capacity building of Council members</p>	<p>Support ten groups to increase hire of community facilities outside own communities to develop further programs</p> <p>Establish and facilitate a Good Relations Forum of elected members across Mid Ulster to provide leadership and continuous review of Good Relations Link closely with Equality to support with Good Relations issues identified</p> <p>Mainstreaming Of Good Relations through regional meetings and delivery of any thematic training/workshops/study visits as required to upskill current Good Relations Department & leadership</p> <p>Host one region wide study visit upskilling GR team and members through facilitated workshops based on Best practice Models available including Community Planning Model in Scotland</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Provide “Shared” venues in rurally isolated and divided villages throughout Mid Ulster Region and reduce the sense of community exclusion.</p> <p>Build capacity of Good Relations department within new Mid Ulster Council through experiential training allowing best practice models to be viewed and learning to be applied within the new region wide demography.</p> <p>Develop and facilitate a Mid Ulster Good Relations Member Forum of elected Councillor representation from across Mid Ulster and host quarterly meetings with a view to monitoring Good Relations within the region and building capacity to review delivery and be flexible to Good Relations issues that may arise for Council within equality and other areas</p>	<p>programmes PCSP SWARD</p> <p>£12,000 Good Relations Officers Administration Resources PR Companies Human Resources Agreed OFMDFM Forum Elected members Internal Meetings</p>
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Our Safe Community;

Shared Aim: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety

Strategic Outcomes: 3.1 Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation;

3.2 A community where places and spaces are safe for all

Outcome including local outcomes identified by GR Audit	Good relations indicators/ measures	Actions /Project to deliver Outcome (ranked in order of priority)	Budget and resources
<p>3.1 Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation; Initiatives across Mid Ulster region To create a community perception where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.</p> <p>To achieve an increase in hate crime reporting in parallel to PSNI reporting and third party reporting statistics.</p>	<p>Develop and deliver a Mid Ulster PR campaign promoting a hate crime apt to increase reporting of hate incidents and crimes and give further support to potential victims.(Ad-Shel, radio, social media) 18 bus shelters including main towns of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt at strategic Post Primary Schools to raise awareness of the Campaign Target 300 hits annually within the App showing success of the campaign</p> <p>4-6 round table discussions updating partners on issues arising within integration</p> <p>3 Specific partner meetings to develop solutions to current issues arising</p> <p>Potential emergency community/ statutory meetings to react to incidents and alleviate further social tension</p>	<p>1 To integrate a ‘Hate crime’ app in partnership with the PSNI and community support networks across the Mid Ulster District Council area which will support anti hate and anti-racism initiatives.</p> <p>2 Good Relations Officers to host bi-lateral discussions with agreed organisations in the co-ordination of increased reporting and initiatives supporting eradication of Hate and Anti – Racism measures.</p>	<p>£18,000 GR officers PSNI STEP CWSAN NIHE Community Groups Estate Residents</p> <p>£6,000.00 Good Relations Officers PCSP Elected members Statutory Rights Based Organisations SELB?NELB Schools Churches Council Venues</p>

Our Cultural Expression.

Aim: to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced

Strategic Outcomes: 4.1 Increased sense of community belonging;

4.2 Cultural diversity is celebrated

Outcome including local outcomes identified by GR Audit	Good relations indicators/ measures	Actions /Project to deliver Outcome (ranked in order of priority)		Budget and resources
4.1 Increased sense of community belonging; To create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced. A measured increase in community participation at council led events and venues. An increased sense of mutual respect for diverse traditions and identities. Increased attendance at multi-cultural festivals.	Develop increased levels of participation at community base arts and cultural venues. Support for 12 activities/dramas/performance on an annual basis Develop increased audience attendance at community based arts and cultural venues. 2,000 to attend cultural events hosted annually Develop and deliver 3 pilot projects across the Mid Ulster Region promoting cultural diversity and social cohesion. 1,000 community members to participate as audience within projects/activity Develop and deliver a unique Mid Ulster Social media project based on anti-racism/anti sectarianism. 400 young people through schools to become involved in the project	1 2 3	Good Relations officer to engage arts organisations to deliver bespoke drama/theatre aimed at encouraging social integration. Good relations officers to deliver a series of social media workshops highlighting the power of social media and cultural expression within Mid Ulster. Good relations officers to coordinate 5 entertainment based projects showcasing the wealth of cultural diversity now in the region.	£50,000 Good Relation officers Arts & Culture staff Burnavon Theatre Bridewell Ranfurly house Socially Awkward Drama Blues Festival on The Hill The Clans are Coming New Dramas Cultural Artists

<p>4.2 Cultural Diversity is celebrated;</p> <p>An increase in attendance at annual cultural events</p> <p>Number of diverse cultural groups becoming involved in festivals/events within the region</p> <p>To increase in fusion of different cultural activities within events</p> <p>To increase in direct support to new communities to deliver cultural events such as International Christmas/National Cultural days etc.</p>	<p>Increase understanding and awareness of traditions and culture through delivery and organising of shared events</p> <p>Increase community cohesion and participation by 1500 attending Cultural parade and activities through town centre formally seen as belonging to one community.</p> <p>Highlight local cultural traditions whilst embedding good relations principles within the events continually building relationships</p> <p>Using music, drama to demonstrate common heritage and culture and allow the establishment of bonds between the two main traditions. 12 events annually used to promote attendance of 2,000 within centres promoted as shared space</p>	1	July celebrations/St Patrick's Day/Burns Night/Picnic in The Park/Cookstown Together.	£40,000
		2	Good relations officers to develop and promote a series of cultural celebration at Council venues highlighting the value of shared space, diversity.(reducing community tension and flag flying at sensitive periods)	£15,000

Good Relations Action Plan / Policing Community safety Partnership Complementarity guidance notes: 2015-2016

1. When demonstrating complementarity between PCSP and the GR programme provide detail that clearly explains how these actions support the other plan, that no duplication of activity or funding occurs and how you ensure overlaps of provision do not occur. Clear identification of potential risk of duplication is required.
2. Where PCSP activity is currently undefined within themes/objectives that are complementary to the GR programme please note unknown at this time.

PCSP Complementarity – please note that the PCSP Actions for the Mid Ulster Area for 2015-16 are undefined at this time. There follows an account of how the Good Relations actions for 2015-16 could reasonably be expected to be co-ordinated with possible PCSP activity (based on recent PCSP priorities and themes).

Corporate theme/ Organisation/ GR theme	
DCGRP Actions (1) 2015-2016	PCSP Activity
	(Please illustrate how the PCSP programme complements the District Councils Good Relations Plan. Where there are clear similarities between the GR AP and PCSP Objectives and or actions please indicate what actions will take place to ensure no duplication of funding.)
Children and Young People	<p>Co-ordination of engagement: Good Relations and PCSP Action Plans commonly focus on work with groups in the community such as school populations, other young people, targeted geographical communities and neighbourhoods, minority ethnic groupings etc. This leads to the risk of loss of opportunity to maximise impact on themes of shared interest, or lack of co-ordination leading to some groups being engaged with repeatedly at the expense of others. Good Relations actions will be proactively co-ordinated with PCSP activities which are concerned with engagement with schools or youth organisations, community organisations or with minority ethnic cultural bodies and support organisations.</p> <p>Joint planning and delivery: Where appropriate, events and activities will be jointly planned and / or delivered to maximise resources and avoid duplication in relation to themes such as tackling activities motivated by hate and / or sectarian attitudes. There will be co-ordination between Summer Camps / Schemes and PCSP-led diversionary activities aimed at young people, where appropriate. Synergy will be promoted and duplication avoided.</p> <p>Sharing of information to maximise impact: Information on relevant needs and issues gathered by Good Relations and PCSP staff through the planning and delivery of events and activities will be shared to inform the delivery of the respective action plans. Good Relations and PCSP staff will engage with fora established and supported under their respective areas of work – for example, the Mid Ulster Youth Council, PSNI engagement mechanisms under PCSP etc.</p>

DCGRP Actions (1) 2015-2016	PCSP Activity (Please illustrate how the PCSP programme complements the District Councils Good Relations Plan. Where there are clear similarities between the GR AP and PCSP Objectives and or actions please indicate what actions will take place to ensure no duplication of funding.)
Our Shared Community	<p>Co-ordination of engagement: Good Relations actions will be co-ordinated with PCSP activities which are concerned with engagement with local community organisations, churches and clergy and with local organisations providing support to minority ethnic groups or migrants.</p> <p>Joint planning and delivery: Where appropriate events and activities will be jointly planned and/or delivered to maximise resources and avoid duplication in relation to themes such as supporting minority ethnic communities and migrants, anti-racism and tackling hate crime. Human trafficking awareness is an example of an area for co-ordination and co-operation. Where activities are jointly planned and implemented, it will be clear how they are supported via each Action Plan – PCSP and Good Relations, with respective responsibilities, respective financial contributions where relevant etc. Through its engagement with local community organisations, the PCSP will indirectly support the delivery of the Good Relations action centred on the improved use of community venues by all sections of the community.</p> <p>Sharing of information to maximise impact: Information on relevant needs and issues gathered by Good Relations and PCSP staff through the planning and delivery of events and activities will be shared to inform the delivery of the respective Action Plans. Good Relations and PCSP staff will engage with fora established and supported under their respective areas of work – for example, the Mid Ulster Clergy and Churches Forum. In addition, upskilling actions for Good Relations staff will take account of issues which are also of interest to the PCSP and will inform staff so that effectiveness of co-ordination between the Good Relations and PCSP Action Plans for 2015-16 is enhanced.</p>

DCGRP Actions (1) 2015-2016	PCSP Activity (Please illustrate how the PCSP programme complements the District Councils Good Relations Plan. Where there are clear similarities between the GR AP and PCSP Objectives and or actions please indicate what actions will take place to ensure no duplication of funding.)
Our Safe Community	<p>Co-ordination of engagement: There will be liaison with PCSP for the delivery of all activities under the ‘Our Safe Community’ objectives. All engagements with community or neighbourhood organisations and other key stakeholders for activities under this objective will be undertaken jointly.</p> <p>Joint planning and delivery: A joint approach will be employed for the planning and delivery of the Mid Ulster PR Campaign to address hate crime through the development of an app and other associated activities. PCSP and Good Relations staff will work together with other stakeholders to maintain awareness of issues of joint interest in relation to community safety including in crisis / emergency situations to aid prompt response. This will include joint support to residents / community groups to develop reactionary activities where required to alleviate further tension and upheaval. PCSP and Good Relations staff will work closely to support effective dialogue and response to hard / contentious issues where this is appropriate to the issue at hand – for example, bonfires, flags, graffiti.</p> <p>Sharing of information to maximise impact: Appropriate communication and co-ordination mechanisms will be agreed following the identification of final PCSP actions for 2015-16 but partner meetings, meetings with community / neighbourhood groups and round table discussions have all been identified within the Good Relations action plan as tools to facilitate sharing of information.</p>

DCGRP Actions (1) 2015-2016	PCSP Activity (Please illustrate how the PCSP programme complements the District Councils Good Relations Plan. Where there are clear similarities between the GR AP and PCSP Objectives and or actions please indicate what actions will take place to ensure no duplication of funding.)
Our Cultural Expression	<p>Co-ordination of engagement: There will be ongoing liaison with PCSP as outlined above.</p> <p>Joint planning and delivery: A joint approach will be employed for the planning and delivery of the Mid Ulster Social Media project under this objective. Good Relations staff will co-ordinate with PCSP staff so that this schools based initiative complements other work under the PCSP Action Plan 2015-16 (specific actions to be determined).</p> <p>Sharing of information to maximise impact: In particular, information will be shared to ensure the successful and co-ordinated delivery of the planned Social Media project through a good practice approach which draws on Good Relations and PCSP expertise to deliver anti-racism and anti-sectarianism messages and responses.</p>

Key priority	Mid Ulster Good Relations Program (100%)
Children and Young people	£37,000
Shared Community	£144,000
Safe Community	£40,000
Cultural Expression	£105,000
Programme Development Including officers working on development and empowerment of local communities in Good Relation activity and maximisation of investment (Salaries and Administration)	£216,000
Total	£542,000

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Subject **Community Planning**

Reporting Officer **Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities**

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update on progress relating to the development of a Mid Ulster Community Plan.

2	Background
2.1	<p>At previous meetings members have been updated on the progress to date regarding the development of a Mid Ulster Community Plan and process. The following areas are being progressed:</p> <p>Mid Ulster wide Community Planning Engagement</p> <p>Mid Ulster Data Analysis Study</p> <p>Mid Ulster Community Planning Capacity Building Programme</p> <p>Local Government Community Planning Guidance</p>

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p><u>Mid Ulster wide Community Planning Engagement</u></p> <p>Compilation of all the engagement sessions has been complete.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Mid Ulster Data Analysis Study</u></p> <p>The statistical data analysis is finalised and a report is now available which will be issued to all members.</p> <p>Mark Conway (Venturei) who supported with the engagement analysis will present the findings of the reports and key outcomes for going forward.</p> <p>Following the presentation of the reports to members a further meeting will be scheduled with the key Government stakeholders to support discussion on the future planning.</p> <p>A summary version of the Engagement Report will be issued to all the community representatives who attended the engagement events.</p> <p>The reports will be important for Mid Ulster in commencing the development of a Community Plan in partnership with the local community and government departments/agencies.</p>

3.3	<p><u>Community Planning Capacity Building Programme</u></p> <p>General community planning capacity building sessions for Mid Ulster have been scheduled as per previous update.</p> <p>Local Government Community Planning Guidance. The legislation remains outstanding and the guidance is currently out to formal consultation. Please see attached Mid Ulster Council proposed response in Appendix. 1.</p>
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4	Resource Implications
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The Community Planning is being delivered within agreed budget.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Human resources</u></p> <p>As per previous update; staff from across the three Councils are currently delivering the Community Planning actions.</p>

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

6	Recommendations
6.1	To note the update on the Mid Ulster Community Planning process as outlined and presentation by Mark Conway.
6.2	To approve a Mid Ulster Council response to the DoE Community Planning Operational Guidance.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1 - Guidance Response
7.2	Appendix 2 – NILGA response to the DoE NI Consultation on Draft Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning

Response to the Pre Consultation on Community Planning Statutory Guidance

Mid Ulster Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the formal consultation on the Draft Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning.

Council would like to endorse the response as provided by NILGA alongside the comments to the consultation questions provided.

Question 1: Is the guidance, clear specific and proportionate?

As per our previous response Mid Ulster Council feels that the guidance is not specific or proportionate to all partners. The Community Planning process is based upon a strong partnership approach particularly between Councils and Government Departments and Statutory Agencies; however throughout the document different language is used with regard to each partner remit and responsibility. When referencing the role of Council it uses terminology such as 'must', whereas when referencing the other Government partners it reads 'should'.

Question 2: Do you feel the guidance will help you implement community planning?

As per the response to Question 1 if the same remit and responsibilities are not shared by the Government Statutory Partners a Community Plan may prove difficult or indeed impossible to implement. Council has a limited remit for delivery and following a comprehensive Community Planning consultation process with local people, many of the issues raised and identified as priorities for Mid Ulster are the remit of Government Departments and Statutory Agencies.

The guidance infers that Government Departments and Statutory Agencies will demonstrate 'good will.' This is weak in tone, gives inadequate direction and

does not sufficiently address a situation whereby Government Department and Statutory Agencies chose not to participate.

Question 3 Do you feel that one year is sufficient time frame to develop a community plan and is not what alternative would you suggest?

In light of the delay in finalising legislation and guidance it may be appropriate to extend the timeline for a 6 month period, which would allow for adequate 'sign off' by Councils and all relevant partners, bearing in mind that the Councils also have to adhere to a 12 week consultation process on the completed plan.

Question 4 What would you define as a reasonable degree of consensus reached to enable decision making?

With reference to the issues raised in Question 1; if there was stronger guidance regarding the remit and responsibility of all partners then the need for consensus and possible conflict would be lessened.

Good practice models of how consensus works elsewhere maybe worthy of in depth consideration. However it is important to note that the good practice from Wales and Scotland is based on a wide remit of Council powers for delivery.

Question 5 Is the guidance clear in respect of equality & good relations duties?

Equality and Good Relations is clearly referenced within the document.

Question 6 Does the guidance sufficiently define partner roles and responsibilities?

As per previous comments in question 1, Mid Ulster Council concurs with the sentiments expressed by NILGA that the roles and responsibilities of the Government Departments and Statutory Agencies are not sufficiently clear and explicit. Indeed they are ambiguous and will leave Councils severely

restricted in their ability to oversee the comprehensive implementation of the Community Plan.

Summary

The Community Planning process and legislation provides a real opportunity for Council and Central Government to work together alongside our communities to maximise resources, target services more effectively and to secure further EU and other investment. It is critical that all partners have a clear and concise remit to support the effective implementation of this legislation.



NILGA response to the DOENI Consultation on Draft Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning

27th January 2015

INITIAL DRAFT – WITHOUT PREJUDICE

The following response was drafted further to local government officer consideration of the issues involved, and is now forwarded to councils for comment, and to assist in developing local responses.

This response will be considered and finalised by the NILGA Executive on 13th February, and NILGA would be grateful for receipt of any additional comments or views from shadow councils prior to that date, if possible. The response date for this DOENI consultation is 9th March 2015.

Any queries in relation to this paper should be directed to Karen Smyth at the NILGA office. k.smyth@nilga.org (028 9079 8972).

**Derek McCallan
Chief Executive**

27th January 2015

1.0 Introduction

The Northern Ireland Local Government Association is the representative body for district councils in Northern Ireland. The membership is currently comprised of the 26 local borough, district and city councils. NILGA represents and promotes the interests of local authorities and is supported by all the main political parties in Northern Ireland, and will be reconstituted to align with the new 11 councils for April 2015.

Council-led community planning will be hugely important for local government, and for all residents of Northern Ireland. NILGA was therefore keen to respond to this consultation, in collaboration with community planning officers from the 11 shadow councils.

We trust that the views of local government will be taken into account, and look forward to working with the Department, the 11 councils, and the future statutory and non-statutory partners as the new community planning system develops in Northern Ireland.

2.0 Context

The following comments are made in relation to the structure and content of the draft 'Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning', published for public consultation in December 2015.

This response provides views on:

- Key issues for councils arising from the guidance
- The questions posed by the department within the consultation document
- Issues with the structure and content of the document – suggested amendments

The drafting of this response was informed by a meeting of community planning officers on 22nd January 2015, held to discuss concerns with the Statutory Guidance document and to provide suggestions as to how it could be improved.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 Timing of Consultations

As observed previously, in our response to the consultation on the draft Local Government (Statutory Partners) Order (NI) 2015, the finalised statutory guidance, and indeed the community planning process as a programme of work, will be heavily dependent on how the service delivery providers within departments are to be categorised within the community planning context. This draft response has been written prior to the publication of the finalised Order, or even the Department's response to the information it received via the consultation. There is therefore a certain degree of speculation in the following response, based on informal conversations with Departmental officials, and these areas of uncertainty are clearly outlined.

3.2 Differences in Language used throughout the draft Guidance document

Whilst accepting that the duties placed on councils, partners and departments are different in legislation, it is noticeable throughout the guidance document that the language used in relation to councils is much stronger than that used for other participants, and this difference is marked when contrasting the treatment of councils to that of partners and departments. Paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and paragraphs 3.17 - 3.21 in particular, require a great deal of strengthening. Local government would be keen to see these paragraphs rewritten in stronger, more positive, action-oriented terms – more 'must' rather than 'should'.

Paragraph 3.21 whilst strengthened somewhat by the inclusion of the input of the Partnership Panel, is still placing a very loose commitment on central government departments. Where the evidence based needs and priorities of a District Council area *clearly demonstrate* the requirement for central government action and contribution, departments must be required to participate in Community Planning at local level. The current wording is completely unsatisfactory – i.e. "It is possible that departments **may** be invited to participate in Community Planning at local level.... and it is for each department to **consider** the implications of this in consultation with local government." This undermines any potential for Councils to guarantee the necessary input from central government to the Community Planning process.

Conversely, the document is perhaps too flexible in relation to community engagement, and the Department should note that meaningful community engagement is likely to be a key driver for elected member buy-in. It is accepted however, that there is a need to allow some local flexibility in how the community is engaged. The principle of *accountability* to communities should be promoted more clearly, whilst avoiding the guidance becoming too prescriptive.

The style of the language changes throughout the document. It is not always clear if it is aimed at the elected members, officers, partners or community representatives. It is difficult to create a middle ground in guidance which has to be appropriate for such a wide audience, but this Guidance falls short. For example Paragraph 5.2 states ‘Nevertheless, the Minister intends that....’ which is not appropriate language for the main body of the guidance document and would be better placed in the foreword.

The document is repetitive as it explains and paraphrases the Act several times (such as ‘the community planning process includes the production and review of the community plan’) which gives an impression that it is lacking in substance.

3.3 Role of Ministers and Departments

As the Department for Environment will already be aware, councils are keen to ensure that departments are fully aware of, and prepared for, a substantive participative role in the community planning process, and that this is especially true of departments with direct service delivery responsibilities. **The overwhelming view of councils is that if ‘buy-in’ from government departments cannot be achieved, then council-led community planning will face significant difficulty.** We need to see tangible commitments emerging at an early stage of the community planning process.

NILGA is keen to ensure that Ministers are fully supportive of the community planning process through the work of the Political Partnership Panel, and that they drive the effort to encourage departments to work better together with each other, and with local government. NILGA is keen to work towards a better system of government in Northern Ireland, with the Programme for Government and council-led plans designed and operating in an integrated way, potentially working towards a system of Single Outcome Agreements and/or a One Public Estate programme tailored to Northern Ireland arrangements.

In the short-term absence of direction arising from the Department’s consultation on the Statutory Partners Order, NILGA would again emphasise that given the peculiarity of Northern Ireland government, in that departments deliver services as well as policy, more thought needs to be given as to how to tie Departments more effectively into the process.

The Department is therefore again strongly encouraged to explore the possibilities for drawing Departments into the Community Planning Process, preferably as statutory partners, and to ensure this is done for what are critically important areas of work. In particular, a focus is required on the involvement of the Department of Employment and Learning (responsible for job centres) and Department for Regional Development (particularly Transport NI and Public Transport Services).

The constraints affecting the ability of these Departments to be statutory partners must be identified and satisfactorily addressed. This may be a longer term exercise than can be addressed through this

consultation and may require changes to Primary legislation. NILGA would support the Department in relation to any efforts made in this regard. The necessity for central government departments to *financially* engage in community planning to make it a success, is also highlighted.

It would be useful in the short-medium term, to explore the potential, for example, for a system of SLAs or MOUs between key departments and the 11 councils, to further expand on the Departments' duty to 'promote and encourage'. **This must be considered in the guidance, and we would therefore propose that a section in this regard is inserted into the document after a strengthened paragraph 3.21.**

The underlying principle for identifying and involving statutory – and indeed, non-statutory - community planning partners should be based on their contribution to achieving the agreed community planning outcomes. Involvement should not be based merely on the legal/organisational status of the potential partner.

Councils have been encouraged to provide the DOENI with examples of difficulties experienced locally, as a result of the service delivery units of departments working at cross purposes with other potential community planning partners, adversely impacting on local development and regeneration projects.

3.4 Concerns re Resourcing

NILGA has some concerns that scepticism may develop quickly in relation to community planning amongst members, particularly if there is difficulty in identifying funding streams for this work. Councils, even after the 2015 reforms, will be responsible for managing less than 6% of the public sector budget, and will be faced with negotiating shared community planning budgets with departments and agencies with much more financial 'clout'. Councils will have a huge job in managing the expectations of the community and the current budgetary environment could actively work against these new local plans and policies. Local government will be keen to promote community planning as a means of using money more effectively across government, but this will require the policy support of DOENI, not least in the finalised Statutory Guidance document. Additionally, a united voice from the Political Partnership Panel as a driver for change, requiring ongoing government commitment and the related revision of the Programme for Government, will be crucial to the operation of community planning, and the provision of necessary finances.

3.5 Links to other Policy and Strategy

3.5.1 Equality, Good Relations and Social Inclusion

NILGA would be keen to ensure that this section also explicitly referenced the Racial Equality Strategy.

3.5.2 Sustainable Development

NILGA has serious concerns in relation to the policy drift on sustainable development. The implementation plan has run its course and there is no sign of a revised plan, or strategy. Councils have been active in working towards compliance with the statutory duty, and it is now clear that this duty has been expanded through the Local Government (NI) Act 2014, particularly in its references to well-being in S66(2) and to sustainability in the general duty of improvement at S84.

It would appear that the Act is giving councils increased responsibility at local level for delivery of what was a central government role, and it will be vitally important that clear guidance is produced in relation

to these enhanced and codified responsibilities. It is acknowledged that this may take some time, and that there will be a need to work closely with DFP, Carnegie and potentially the Cabinet Office What Works centres, to develop this work.

3.5.3 Rural Proofing

On the basis of recent policy meetings with DARD officials, NILGA has been made aware that the Agriculture and Rural Development Minister is keen to link her proposed new policy and legislation on Rural Proofing to the council-led community planning process. A consultation process is soon to commence, which will last for 8 weeks, the new maximum consultation period under the terms of the Stormont House Agreement.

Given the crossover between the two consultation periods, NILGA would suggest that DOE officials and DARD officials meet to discuss the potential for and timing of an addendum to the Statutory Guidance in relation to Rural Proofing legislation.

3.6 Links to Performance Management

The links between community planning and the forthcoming council performance management framework will need to be crystal clear. It will be vital to ensure that the new system is clear on which issues are under council control. NILGA is looking forward to engaging with councils and the Department in the development of a suitable new system over the next number of months.

4.0 Consultation Questions

Question 1: Is the guidance clear, specific and proportionate?

See above comments in relation to language used throughout the document. NILGA has serious concerns that the guidance document suffers from a lack of the robustness which we believe is necessary to ensure that community planning is given the required priority by government departments and partners. If we are to work together to ensure that community planning acts as the 'key over-arching framework for other Partnerships and initiatives at regional, local and neighbourhood level' the guidance needs to be strong, and must assist in driving top-down participation within departments, particularly as this impacts on local service delivery.

Further amendments to wording are provided below in section 5.0 of this response.

Question 2: Do you feel the guidance will help you implement community planning?

It is vital that the guidance, when finalised, *supports* councils in their endeavours to ensure that community planning is successful in achieving its objectives. Weak wording at this stage has the potential to undermine those efforts from the outset.

Although the guidance for councils is clear, the best way for the Department to assist councils in implementing community planning is to be strong and clear about the requirements for **each** group of participants.

Question 3: Do you feel one year is a sufficient time frame to develop a community plan and if not what alternative would you suggest?

Consensus is developing within the local government sector that to produce a plan within the year could be counterproductive to local relationships and may result in a poor quality plan. Councils would prefer to take more time over this piece of work, and to produce a plan of high quality that will provide a robust baseline for development. The prevailing view is that to adequately and appropriately engage the community will take time, and certainly in the first instance, will require a culture change, as more actively participative communities develop.

It is therefore proposed that a progress report/high level draft plan could be provided to the department at the end of the first year, with the final agreed plan published by the end of year two. This would not preclude councils from publishing a plan earlier, should they so wish.

Question 4: What would you define as a reasonable degree of consensus reached to enable decision making?

It would be useful if more information could be provided in the guidance as to how consensus is to be achieved. There is a lack of clarity in the draft in relation to achieving consensus, and we would seek detailed guidance, in particular on how to achieve consensus on the core aspects of the plan.

It is noted that the Welsh Guidance provides advice in relation to the development of local governance arrangements that ensure clarity about delegation and reporting back to partner bodies, agreeing joint projects, how proposals will be taken forward within [partner] organisations' decision making and planning processes and how any disagreements will be resolved.

Advice of this nature would be helpful and if not included in the statutory guidance, a supplementary advice note should be supplied.

Question 5: Is the guidance clear in respect of equality and good relations duties?

Equality and Good Relations is heavily and clearly referenced within the guidance, as is Together Building a United Community. The Race Relations Strategy should be referenced.

Question 6: Does the guidance sufficiently define partner roles and responsibilities?

The guidance sets out the partner roles and responsibilities as defined in the Local Government (NI) Act 2014, however NILGA would be keen to reinforce the comments made in relation to the use of language and depth of content across the piece. This has the potential for misinterpretation as to the required level of commitment and involvement of the different partners, particularly involvement of departments. NILGA trusts that DOENI officials are working assiduously to address the concerns that have already been highlighted by local government in relation to this issue, and will make the necessary substantive changes to the final document. It will be key to the success of community planning in Northern Ireland for DOENI

to support councils in ensuring that all participants in the process understand their role and the required commitment to the process. It is likely to be necessary to engage in wider capacity building for Departments, at the centre and particularly for local service delivery units, as the 2015-16 year progresses.

More work will be required in relation to the interface with the voluntary and community sector, given that community planning is intended to be a bottom-up process. The voluntary and community sector participants may require advice and support in relation to governance and it will be important for councils to be aware of potential sources for relevant information and finance.

It will be important to elected members to ensure as far as possible that the participants from the voluntary and community sector are representative and accountable.

5.0 Suggested Amendments to Structure and Content

The following proposed amendments follow the structure of the draft guidance document, for ease of reference.

Paragraph 2.7 - 2.9 and fig 1

It would be helpful to link, more effectively, this section of the guidance to the section on the Partnership Panel. It would also be helpful as previously stated in our pre-consultation comments, to link Fig 1 to EU policy, which often has a direct impact at local level.

At present the guidance does not outline a mechanism for how community planning will feed into the programme for government, and although we would envisage that the Partnership Panel will provide a conduit, explicit reference should be made to the development of a process for building the 'bridge' to which Paragraph 2.9 refers.

Paragraph 3.2

It would be helpful if this paragraph explicitly referred to partnership resourcing or shared financial commitment.

Paragraph 3.3

It is suggested that the last sentence of this paragraph be supplemented, so that it reads; "*As lead partner the council is responsible for making arrangements for community planning in its area and working with partners to ensure the necessary resources are available for the process.*"

Paragraph 3.4

Bullet point 2 should be augmented to read "Ensuring that the commitments set out in the council equality *and good relations schemes* are applied...."

An additional bullet point should be included in this paragraph, to read; "*Identifying potential funding streams*".

Paragraph 3.6

See response to Q4 at Section 4.0 above.

Paragraph 3.7

Reference to 'disabled people' should be changed to 'people with disabilities'.

Paragraphs 3.9 – 3.16 Statutory Partners and Paragraphs 3.17 – 3.21 Duty on Departments

It is anticipated that this section of the guidance will change radically once the final decisions have been made in relation to the Statutory Partners Order. The views of local government are well rehearsed above as a follow-on to the responses submitted to the Partners Order consultation. Local government expects that in the absence of an expanded list, at the very least a requirement will be introduced into the Statutory Guidance for Departments with service delivery aspects to enter into formal agreements with councils (and potentially each other) in relation to community planning and joint action.

NILGA is extremely concerned to note Paragraph 3.18 which states that “Departments will be working more closely with Councils on the ***delivery of central government strategies and programmes.***”

There is no mention or emphasis on the need for central government to work towards the delivery of the Community Plan.

The wording of these paragraphs should be strengthened as highlighted earlier. Examples of weak and ambiguous language are to be found at Point 3.19 and 3.20, where it states Departments “*should*” engage with Councils and “*should*” seek to integrate community planning outcomes into corporate and business planning. At the very least the Guidance should state that Departments “*must*” engage with Councils and “*must*” integrate community planning into corporate and business planning.

Paragraphs 3.22 – 3.30 The Community and Paragraphs 3.31 – 3.35 Support Partners

NILGA acknowledges that this section of the document must remain flexible to a certain degree, however to support councils, we would recommend that the Department provides an advisory note as a supplementary document to the Statutory Guidance, providing examples of assessment tools that it deems suitable for use in Northern Ireland.

NB: NILGA will soon be constructing a Community Planning resources library on its website, drawing together information from a variety of different sources, but it would be extremely useful to have a series of ‘Department Endorsed’ advice notes to expand upon the Statutory Guidance.

Paragraph 4.1

It is recommended that the specific reference to the business community on line 8 of this paragraph is removed, with the sentence finishing “other additional partners”. It is also noted that there is no reference to central government departments on the list of likely members.

Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2

As mentioned above, it would be helpful to link the comments on the Partnership Panel to the strategic introductory comments at paragraphs 2.7 – 2.9.

The use of the word “may” when describing the duties of the Partnership Panel could be construed as portraying a weak role for the Panel. Paragraph 5.1 provides a sound description of the Partnership Panel

but in Paragraph 5.2 it could be interpreted as having a less influential role. The Partnership Panel must encourage appropriate and timely collaborative working by both central and local government and address regionally significant issues which impact on the delivery of the community planning across all 11 council areas.

Paragraph 6.8

Some queries have been raised as to why there is explicit mention of the Community Planning Toolkit and NICCY guidance in this section of the Statutory Guidance. It might be better to include resources such as this in a separate advice note.

Paragraph 6.11

NILGA notes the reference to an 'outcomes based approach' in this paragraph, but would suggest that reference to a timescale for a move to this approach might provide some helpful clarity.

Paragraph 11.2 Reaching Consensus

Please note comments in relation to Q4.

Paragraph 11.5 Timeframe for first plan

Please note comments in relation to Q3

Part 12

The title of this part of the document should include 'accountability'. The reference to how the council and its partners make themselves accountable to the community at paragraph 12.4 could be more prominent.

Performance Improvement

It is noted that this part of the document is relatively high level. This area of work is still in development and the aspirations of this section of the Guidance will be tested over time.

6.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is the NILGA view that the Guidance still requires significant amendment, particularly to strengthen the legislation in response to recommendations made through the public consultation on the draft Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (NI) 2015. We therefore trust that the Department will have regard to the suggestions made above and change the Statutory Guidance document accordingly.

We look forward to working with the Department in continuing to develop a substantive Guidance document and corresponding advice notes.

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Subject	Mid Ulster PCSP – Draft Action Plan 2015/2016
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>To present and seek approval for the draft Transitional Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety (PCSP) Action Plan 2015-2016. This plan reflects the successful outcomes of the existing PCSPs and the latest statistical research and consultation. It is a requirement by the Dept of Justice and the NI Policing Board to have an action plan to cover the transition period until the new Mid Ulster PCSP is in place. Once established the new Mid Ulster PCSP can amend this plan or develop a new one.</p>

2	Background
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are statutory bodies established under the Justice Act Northern Ireland 2011. They replaced Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) on 1 April 2012, bringing together the functions and responsibilities of both bodies under one new PCSP. • The PCSP consists of Councillors, Independent Members, bodies designated by the Northern Ireland Assembly, and locally designated bodies. The maximum number of Councillors and Independent Members is 19, (10 Councillors, 9 Independents) and there are seven bodies designated by the Northern Ireland Assembly (NIHE, PSNI, Youth Justice Agency, Probation Board, Fire and Rescue Service, Education and Library Board, Health and Social Care Trust). • The role of the PCSP is to help make communities safer by focusing on priority policing and community safety issues in order to deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety. • This is carried out through a process of consultation and engagement with the local community, identifying and prioritising issues of concern and preparing and delivering plans detailing how these can be tackled. • A Policing Committee sits within the overall PCSP and is comprised of the political and independent members who monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime. • In line with RPA, the three existing PCSPs in Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Magherafelt will cease to exist on 31 March 2015. They will be replaced by one Mid Ulster PCSP which will have 10 councillors and 9 independent members. • The Northern Ireland Policing Board is currently undertaking a process to recruit Independent Members and it is expected that new PCSPs will be reconstituted (commence with all Members in place) in June 2015. • The Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Policing Board Joint Committee has requested that a draft PCSP Action Plan is prepared for 2015/2016. The submission date for the draft Action Plan 2015/2016

	<p>was 27 February 2015 but will only be submitted once council has approved it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the draft Action Plan is to ensure front line delivery during the first year of the new PCSPs and should include projects which have an effective impact on tackling community safety and policing issues and are relevant to the needs of the area. • Action Plans are required so that Letters of Offer can be issued to Councils. This is intended to maintain operational delivery during the transition from existing PCSPs to the new partnerships. • Joint Committee funding for the Mid Ulster PCSP 2015/2016 is £315,571. This represents an approximate 30% reduction on the funding allocated across the three existing PCSPs in 2014/2015. • Joint Committee has also recommended a cap of 20% on administration costs of the PCSP.
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3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>The draft Mid Ulster Action Plan 2015/2016 has been developed in line with the following Joint Committee Strategic Objectives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To successfully deliver the functions of the PCSP, • To improve community safety by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and • To improve community confidence in policing <p>Within each of above objectives are measures for delivery.</p>
3.2	<p>The Plan details the major policing and community safety issues across the Mid Ulster area (PSNI Statistics). The findings of the Mid Ulster wide Community Planning consultation have been used to identify priority community concerns about policing and community safety.</p> <p>Utilising this information, the draft Action Plan sets out a programme for operational delivery during the first year of the PCSP that addresses priorities and local needs, reflects good practice, and is evidentially robust.</p>
3.3	<p>The Joint Committee's 20% cap on administration costs has been adhered to, with the remainder of staff salaries (80%) allocated to project delivery.</p>
3.4	<p>Once established the new Mid Ulster PCSP can amend this plan or develop a new plan.</p>

4	Resource Implications
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u> – £46,375 Mid Ulster Council funding (this has already been included in the 2015/16 Council budget and no additional funding is requested)</p>
4.2	<p><u>Human resources</u> - 6.3 members of staff</p>
4.3	<p><u>Assets and other implications</u> – all existing PCSP assets will transfer over to the new Mid Ulster PCSP in line with Council policy</p>

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

6	Recommendations
6.1	To approve the draft Transitional Mid Ulster PCSP Action Plan 2015/2016 for submission to the Joint Committee

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1: Draft Transitional Mid Ulster PCSP Action Plan 2015-2016

MID ULSTER POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Draft Transitional Action Plan

2015-16



Policing & Community
Safety Partnership

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Introduction

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are statutory bodies established under the Justice Act Northern Ireland 2011. They replaced Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) on 1 April 2012. Both the DPP and CSP functions and responsibilities are now delivered under the new PCSPs.

The aim of PCSPs is to help make our communities safer by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in each local council area. The Partnership is funded by the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) through the Joint Committee. The Mid Ulster Council also provides funding to the partnership.

To help make communities safer PCSPs will:

- Consult and engage with the local community on the issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety. The Policing Committee has a responsibility to provide views to the relevant district commander and the Policing Board on policing matters.
- Identify and prioritise the particular issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled.
- Monitor – a Policing Committee comprising the political and independent members will monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.
- Deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety in their district, directly through their own actions, through the work of their delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

The PCSP has a main body consisting of Councillors, Independent Members, bodies designated by the NI Assembly, and locally designated bodies. This body will consult, develop and agree local action plans that will be delivered through partnership working and based on local needs.

A Policing Committee is formed from the Councillors and Independent members sitting on the PCSP. The purpose of the Policing Committee is to provide views on policing in their area, monitoring the performance of the Police against the local Policing Plan and ensure the Police deliver against local priorities and take forward work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety within the district. This will complement the work of the wider PCSP that will take forward initiatives to improve community safety in the local area.

The PCSP will undertake monitoring of performance against its plan. It is envisaged that all relevant partners should be required to show how they have contributed to this and that performance reports may be informed by a range of qualitative and quantitative information.

Research Summary

The Department of Justice and the NI Policing Board have requested that an action plan be put into place to cover the transitional period until the new Mid Ulster PCSP is established. Consultation has been undertaken and a transitional action plan has been developed to address the local issues. This action plan is a working document and it is expected that issues may be expected to emerge requiring further consideration and inclusion into the plan.

Recorded Crime

The top crime types by volume in 2013/14 for Mid Ulster District were:

1. Criminal Damage
2. Violence without injury
3. Violence with injury
4. Other Theft
5. Shoplifting

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

There have been significant reductions in incidents of antisocial behaviour both over the last year and in the last five years. However ASB incidents are still a high volume.

Fear of Crime

Fear of crime at night overall and especially among the 65+ age group remains high

Violent Crime

Violence with injury (including homicide) has decreased since 2011.

Domestic Burglary

Domestic Burglary has decreased significantly from 2009 to 2013

Drugs

Possession of drugs had dropped in the last three years across the Mid Ulster area. Trafficking of drugs had increased in the Dungannon & South Tyrone area but has dropped in 2013.

Alcohol Related Anti-social Behaviour Incidents

Cookstown Council area has the highest level of alcohol related antisocial behaviour incidents with Magherafelt council area having the lowest level.

Cookstown council has the highest level of alcohol related crimes with Dungannon and South Tyrone council area having the lowest level.

Perception of Local Area

The majority of survey respondents perceive their local area to be improving with only a minority feel it is getting worse.

Top Problems From Surveys

The top three problems recorded from the main survey were

1. Boy Racers/Speeding
2. Drug Abuse
3. Vandalism and criminal damage

The top three problems recorded from the youth survey were

1. Boy Racers/Speeding
2. Drug Abuse
3. Vandalism and criminal damage

Research Results

Desktop research and consultation (as part of the community planning process) was carried out in order to inform the development of the action plan. This consultation included a main community planning survey, a youth community planning survey, and twelve public consultation community planning events.

Recorded Crime

Since 2009 there has been a steady reduction in the number of recorded crime incidents across the Mid Ulster district.

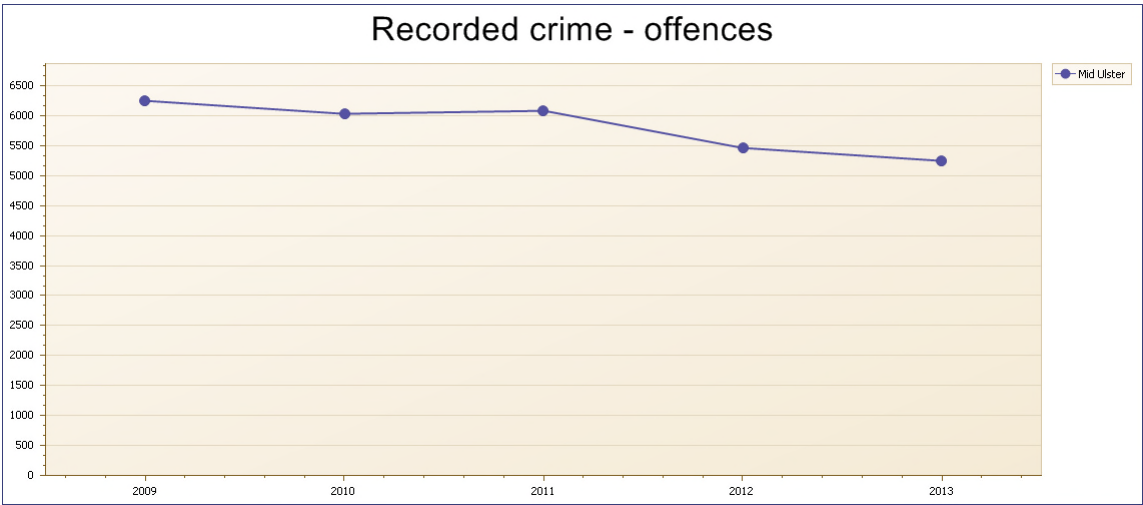


Table 1: Recorded Crime Incidents by Mid Ulster area 2009-2013

Of the three existing council areas, Magherafelt historically has the lowest number of recorded crime incidents. Levels in Dungannon have reduced year on year and Cookstown is showing a small decrease over the three years.

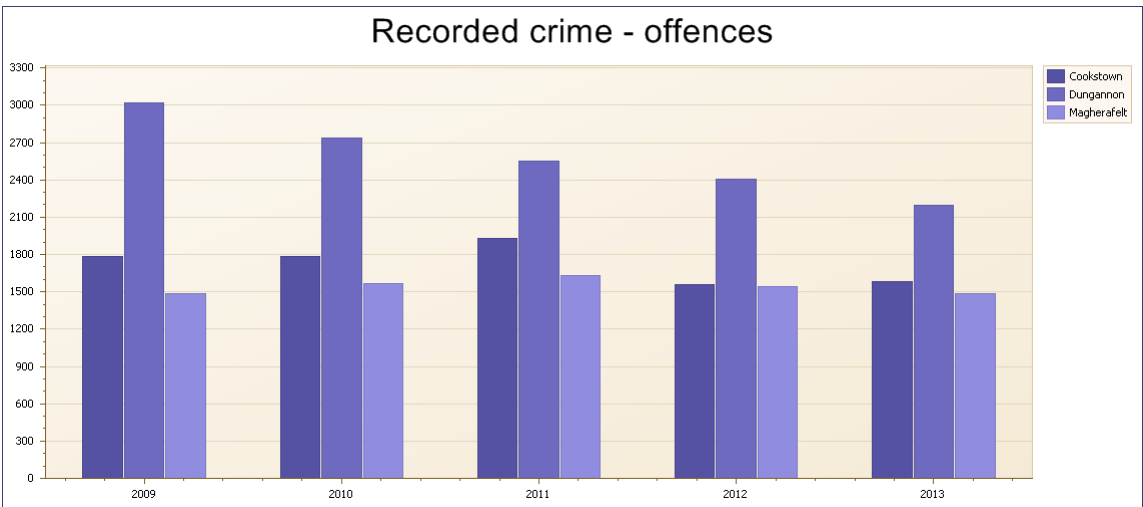


Table 2: Recorded Crime Incidents by existing council area 2009-2013

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Statistics

From 2009/10 to 2013/14 incidents of ASB reduced across the Mid Ulster district.

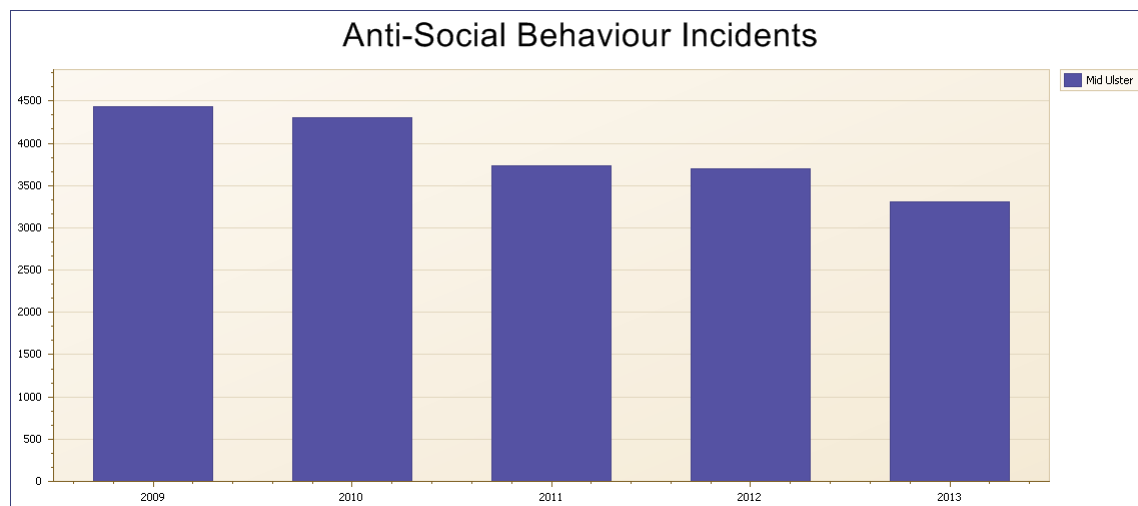


Table 3: ASB Incidents by Mid Ulster area 2009-2013

Of the three existing council areas, the highest number of incidents for antisocial behaviour is historically in the Dungannon & South Tyrone council area. The other two existing council areas show a steady reduction from 2009/10 to 2013/14.

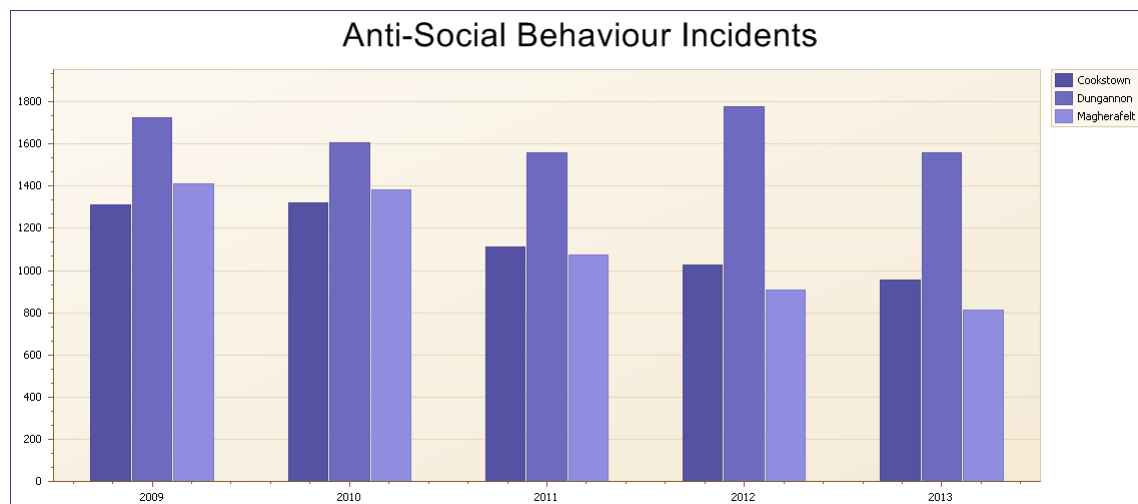
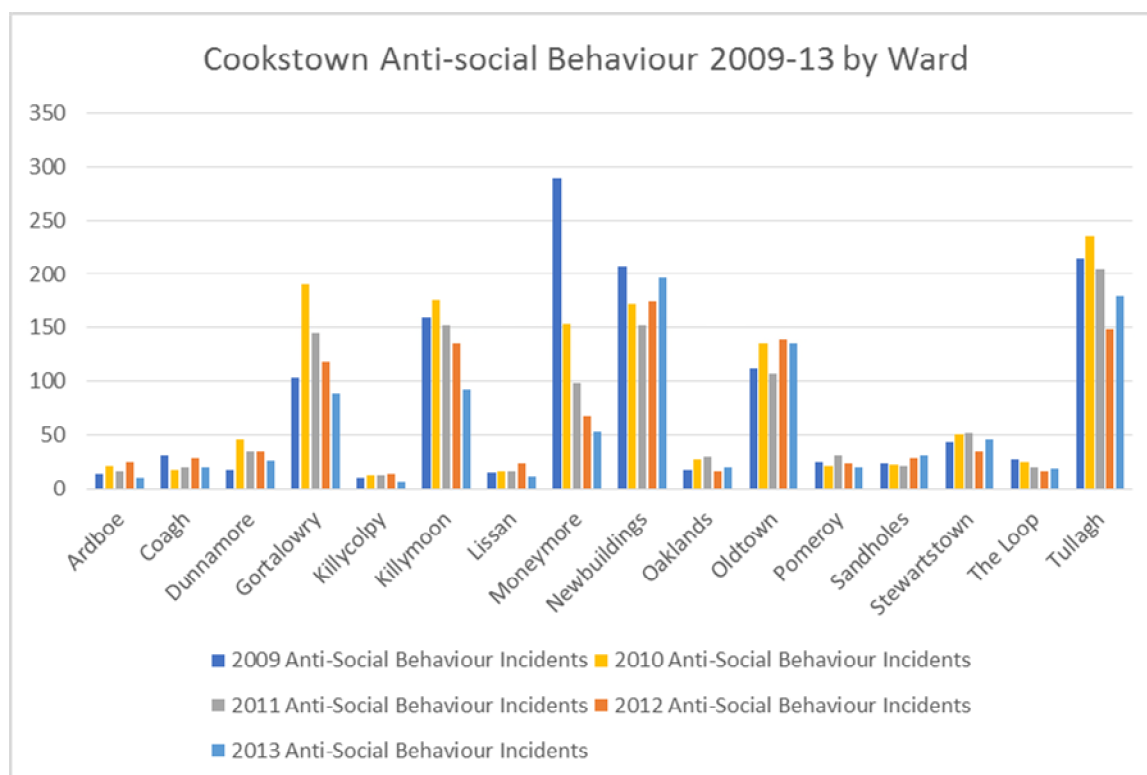
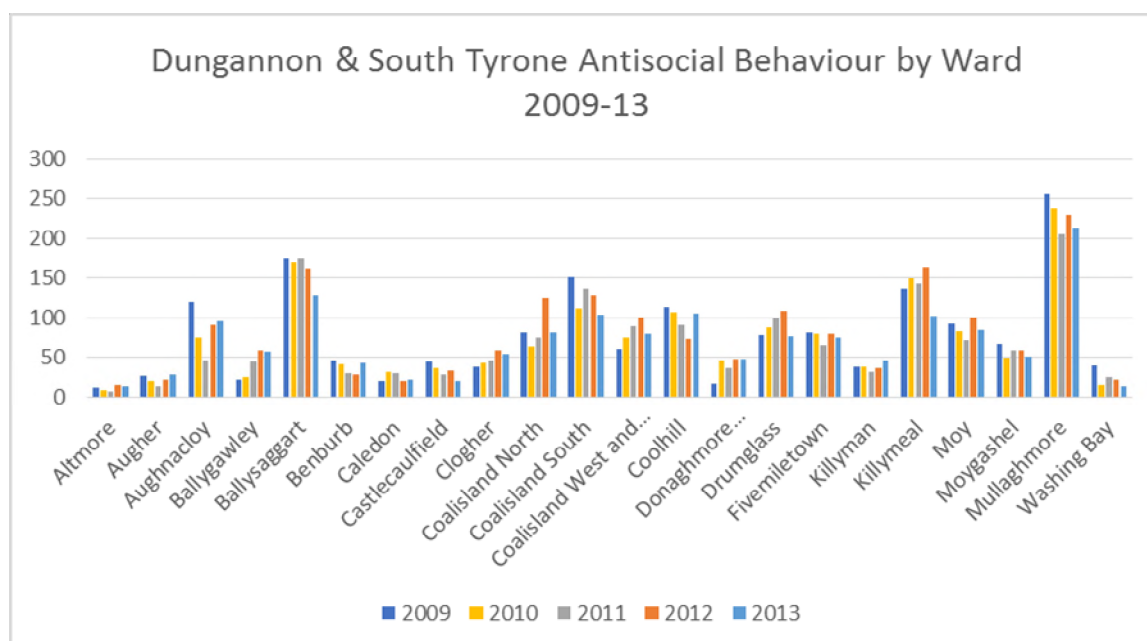


Table 4: ASB Incidents by existing council area 2009-2013

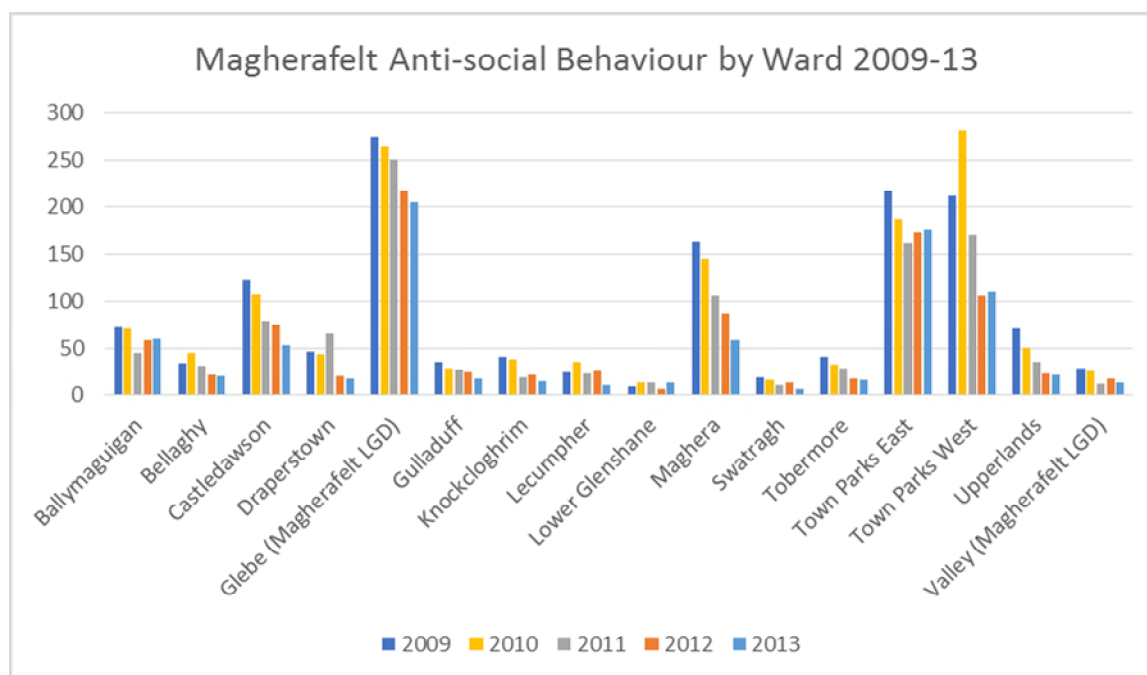
The table below provides a breakdown of anti-social behaviour in the Cookstown Council area for 2009-13. The existing wards with highest levels are New Buildings, Tullagh, and Oldtown.



The table below provides a breakdown of anti-social behaviour in the Dungannon & South Tyrone Council area for 2009-13. The wards with the highest levels are Mullaghmore, Ballysaggart and Coolhill.



The table below provides a breakdown of anti-social behaviour in the Magherafelt Council area for 2009-13. The wards with highest levels are Glebe, Towns Parks East, and Town Parks West



Violence with Injury

Violence with injury (including homicide) has decreased from 2011 to 2013 after increasing from 2009 to 2011. It is now at lower levels than 2009.

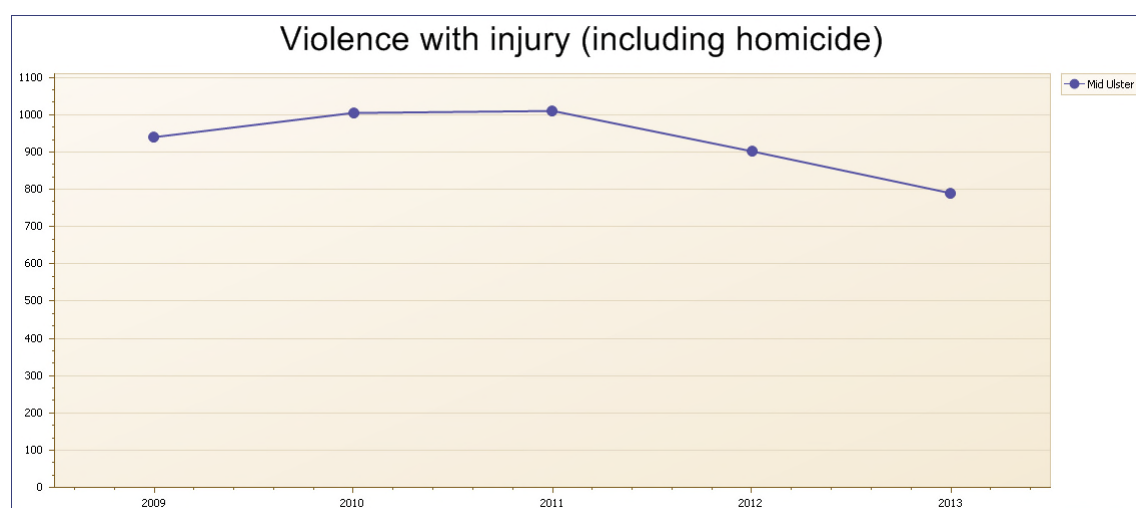


Table 5: Violence with injury (including homicide) by Mid Ulster area 2009-2013

Of the three existing council areas, the Dungannon & South Tyrone council area has the highest level of Violence with injury. Incidents in all three councils have reduced in the last two years.

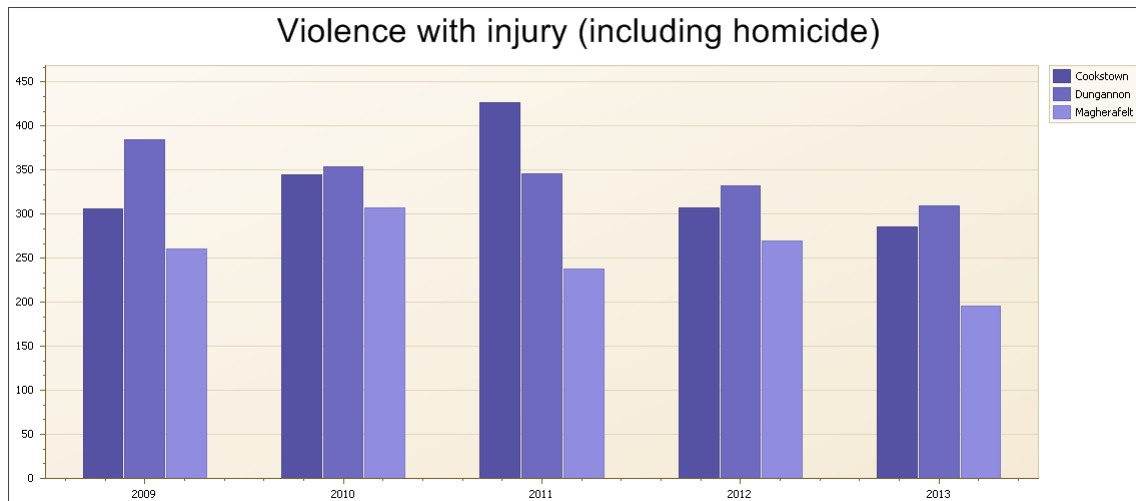
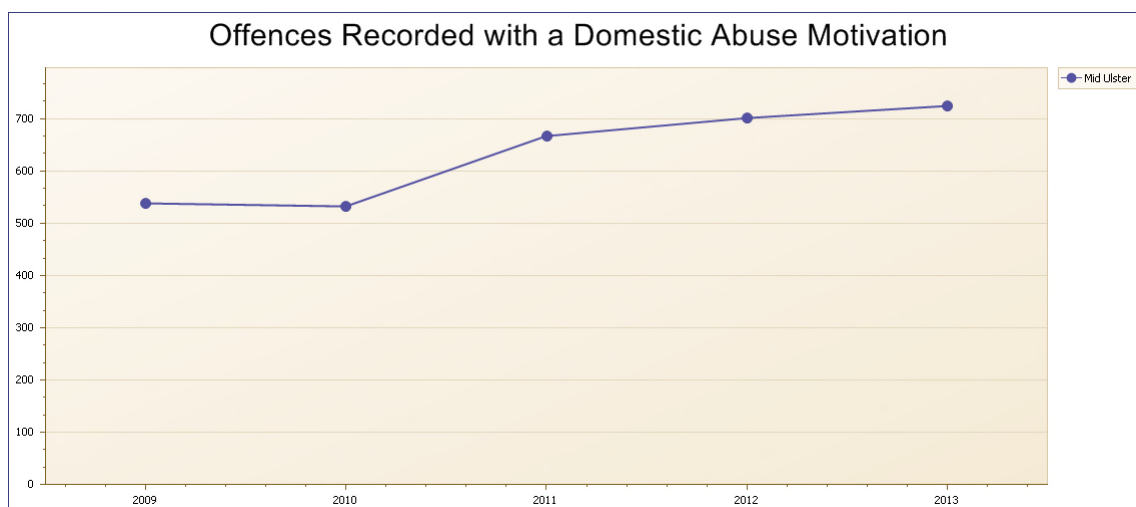


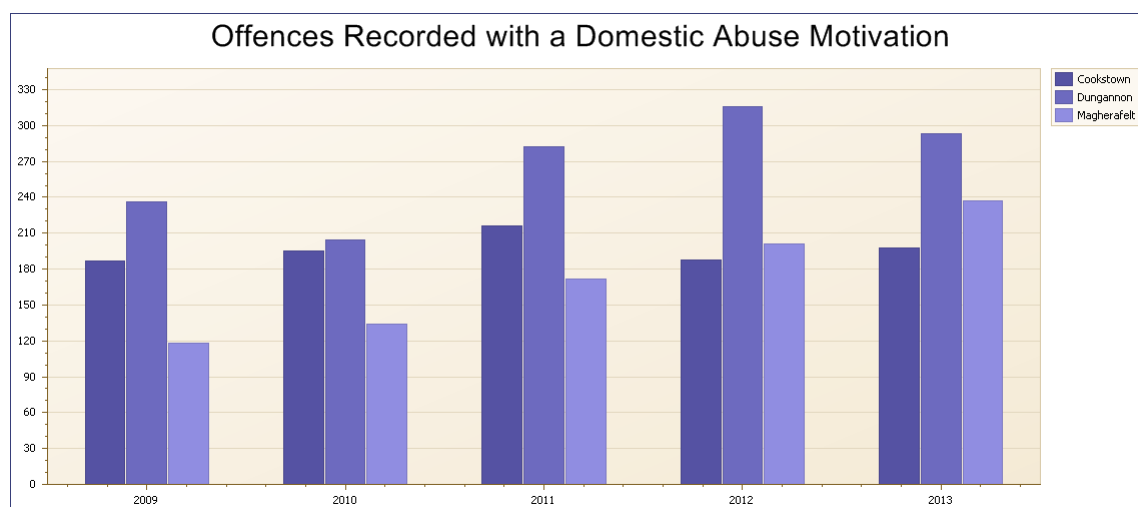
Table 6: Violence with injury (including homicide) by existing council area 2009-2013

Domestic Abuse

Reported offences with a Domestic Abuse motivation has risen over the last five years in the Mid Ulster area.



Of the three existing areas Dungannon has the highest number of incidents.



Domestic Burglary

Domestic Burglary has decreased significantly from 2009 to 2013.

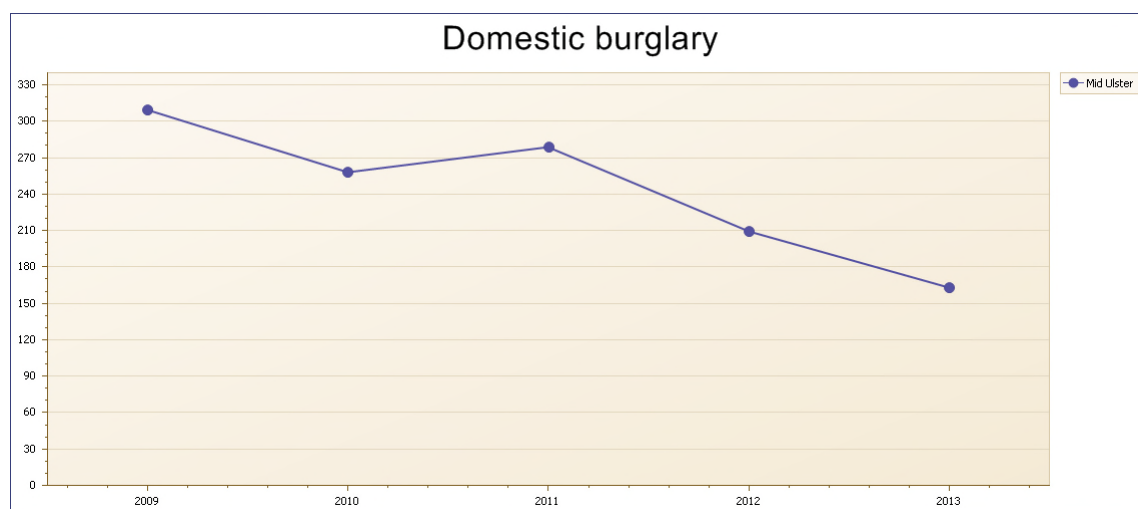


Table 8: Domestic Burglary Mid Ulster 2009-13

Of the three existing council areas, the Dungannon & South Tyrone council area has the highest level of Burglary though this has decreased significantly over the past four years.

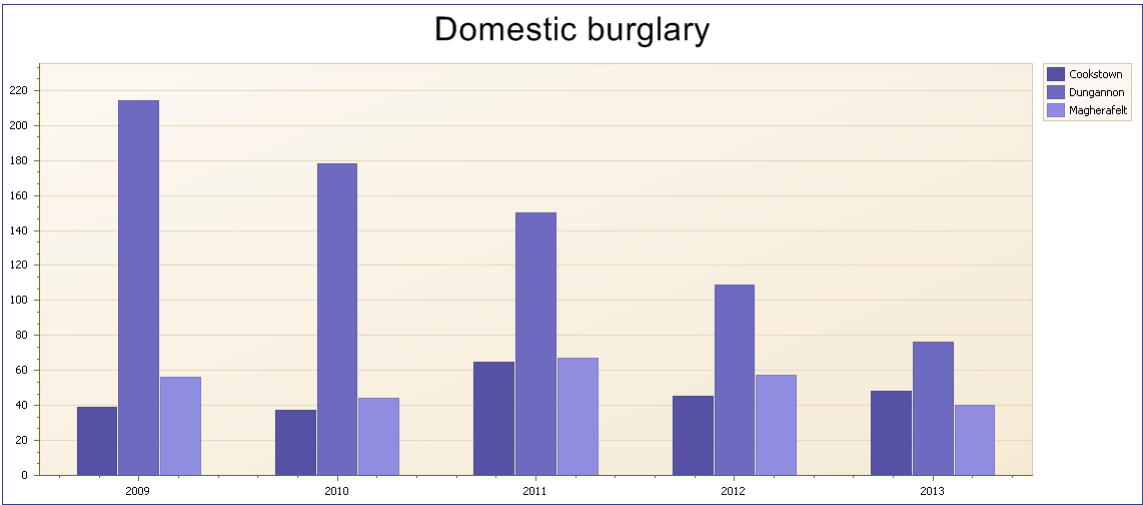
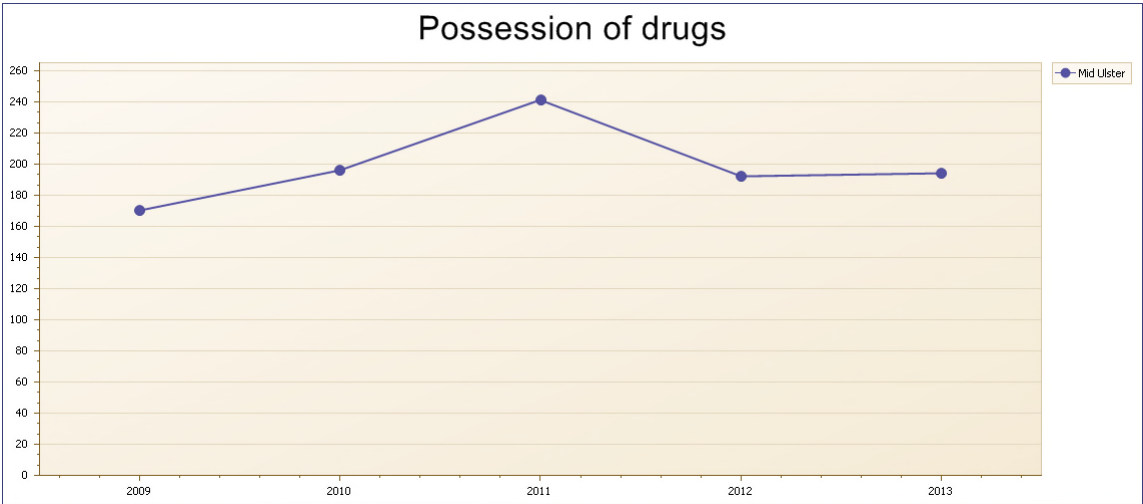


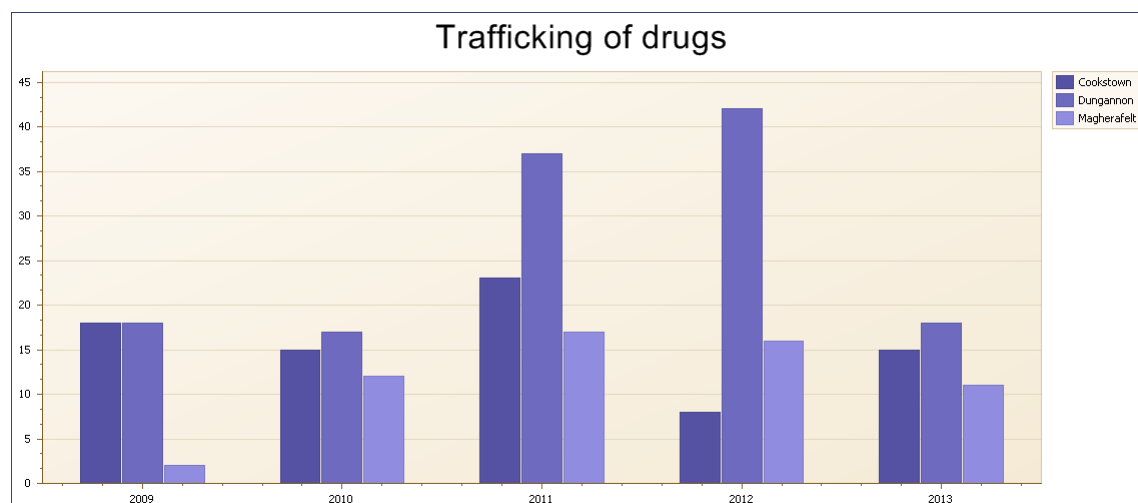
Table 8: Domestic Burglary existing councils 2009-13

Drugs

Possession of drugs had dropped in the last three years across the Mid Ulster area.



Trafficking of drugs had increased in the Dungannon & South Tyrone area but has dropped in 2013.



Alcohol Related Anti-social Behaviour Incidents

Cookstown Council area has the highest level of alcohol related antisocial behaviour incidents with Magherafelt council area having the lowest level.

	PFYTD			FYTD		
	All	Alcohol Related	Alcohol as % all	All	Alcohol Related	Alcohol as % all
Cookstown	713	150	21.0%	708	132	18.6%
Dungannon	1173	140	11.9%	1,051	147	14.0%
Magherafelt	599	72	12.0%	671	79	11.8%

PFYTD – Previous financial year to date

FYTD – Financial year to date

Alcohol Motivated Crimes

Cookstown council has the highest level of alcohol related crimes with Dungannon and South Tyrone council area having the lowest level.

Magherafelt	FYTD Recorded			PFYTD Recorded		
	all	alcohol related	alcohol as % all	all	alcohol related	alcohol as % all
Domestic violence with injury	44	40	40	40	21	52.5%
Non domestic violence with injury	123	89	89	89	59	66.3%
Most Serious Sexual Crime	25	19	19	19	7	36.8%
Violence without Injury	244	250	250	250	89	35.6%
Criminal damage	232	214	214	214	34	15.9%
Total all crime	1019	239	23.5%	1019	239	23.5%

Dungannon	FYTD Recorded			PFYTD Recorded		
	all	alcohol related	alcohol as % all	all	alcohol related	alcohol as % all
Domestic violence with injury	68	34	50.0%	58	36	62.1%
Non domestic violence with injury	132	77	58.3%	139	80	57.6%
Most Serious Sexual Crime	26	7	26.9%	41	6	14.6%
Violence without Injury	264	81	30.7%	256	71	27.7%
Criminal damage	268	34	12.7%	325	62	19.1%
Total all crime (excl undercount)	1427	265	18.6%	1526	285	18.7%

Cookstown	FYTD Recorded			PFYTD Recorded		
	all	alcohol related	alcohol as % all	all	alcohol related	alcohol as % all
Domestic violence with injury	30	10	33.3%	39	23	59.0%
Non domestic violence with injury	153	110	71.9%	170	109	64.1%
Most Serious Sexual Crime	21	5	23.8%	19	1	5.3%
Violence without Injury	156	70	44.9%	196	93	47.4%
Criminal damage	215	43	20.0%	236	47	19.9%
Total all crime (excl undercount)	984	266	27.0%	1105	305	27.6%

PFYTD – Previous financial year to date

FYTD – Financial year to date

Survey Results

2014 Main Survey

The following information has been extracted from the 2014 community planning main survey responses

Impression of local area

79.3% of respondents have lived in their local area for more than 15 years.

79.3% of respondents stated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with their local areas as a place to live. 4.6% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Only 9.8% of respondents stated that their local area was changing for the worse. 48.9% stated that it was changing for the better and 35.7% stated that it was not really changing.

Fear of Crime

Overall 36.4% of respondents are concerned or very concerned about crime during the day compared with 59.1% who were concerned or very concerned about crime after dark.

Looking at the 65+ age group, 71% of respondents stated they were very concerned or concerned about crime at night.

Personal Safety

85% of respondents stated that their personal safety was good or very good. Only 2% stated that their personal safety was poor or very poor.

Biggest Problems

The top three problems recorded were

1. Boy Racers/Speeding
2. Drug Abuse
3. Vandalism and criminal damage

2014 Youth Survey

The following information has been extracted from the 2014 community planning youth survey responses

Impression of local area

62.1% of respondents stated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with their local areas as a place to live. 6.6% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Only 9.6% of respondents stated that their local area was changing for the worse. 22.4% stated that it was changing for the better and 52.2% stated that it was not really changing.

Fear of Crime

Overall 10.8% of respondents are concerned or very concerned about crime during the day compared with 45.4% who were concerned or very concerned about crime after dark.

Personal Safety

85% of respondents stated that their personal safety was good or very good. Only 2% stated that their personal safety was poor or very poor.

Biggest Problems

The top three problems recorded were

1. Boy Racers/Speeding
2. Drug Abuse
3. Vandalism and criminal damage

Strategic Assessment

Strategic Objective 1 – to successfully deliver the functions of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for the area

Key priorities:

- Engage with local community and statutory groups
- Implement the PCSP's plan
- Put in place relevant implementation structures and delivery mechanisms
- Raise awareness of PCSP, crime problems, and projects

Strategic Objective 2 – to improve community safety by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Key priorities:

- To reduce the level of ASB, including anti-social driving
- To reduce the level of violent crime, including alcohol related crime
- To reduce fear of crime and reduce the risk of being a victim of crime, especially among older people

Strategic Objective 3 – to improve community confidence in policing

Key priorities:

- Ensure local accountability
- Ensure that policing delivery reflects the involvement, views and priorities of local communities
- Ensure improved policing service delivery in partnership with local communities;
- Ensure effective engagement with the police and the local community
- Ensure engagement with police is built into projects

Action Plan

The action plan has three strands:

1. To successfully deliver the functions of the Policing and Community Safety partnership for the area.
2. To improve community safety by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
3. To improve community confidence in policing

To Successfully Deliver the Functions of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for Mid Ulster District

Aim	To form and successfully deliver the functions of the Mid Ulster PCSP
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and undertake consultation and engagement with the community to identify community safety and crime concerns using a variety of methods including surveys, focus groups and engagement events • Develop and Implement the PCSP's plan, and organising the work of the partnership to meet priority needs; • Putting in place implementation structures and delivery mechanisms that will contribute to a reduction in crime and the enhancement of community safety in the Partnership's area, directly through the Partnership's own interventions, through the work of its delivery groups or through support for the work of others. • To develop PCSP Members capacity through a Capacity Building Programme of Member Training including equality/diversity training • To increase the community's knowledge and understanding of the PCSP, its role and functions and promote engagement with the PCSP • To raise awareness of the community safety activities and preventative measures available to the public. • To undertake the administrative function of the PCSP
Actions	<p><u>Project 1.1:</u> Form and deliver functions of the PCSP</p> <p><u>Project 1.2:</u> Awareness Raising of PCSP, community safety activities and preventative measures available to the public</p>
Inputs	<p><u>Key Personnel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCSP Councillors and Independents • Policing and Community Safety Partnership Staff • Bodies designated by NI Assembly and by local designation <p><u>Budget</u></p> <p>Project 1.1: £28,759.80 (£2,000 operational and £26,759.80 staff)</p> <p>Project 1.2: £41,759.60 (£15,000 operational and £26,759.80 staff)</p> <p>Joint Committee Funding: £48,631.60</p> <p>Council Funding: £21,888</p> <p>TOTAL COST: £70,519.60</p>

Outputs	<p><u>Project 1.1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hold regular PCSP meetings b. Consult with local community through regular engagement including CPLCs c. Implement PCSP action plan d. Establish and Maintain relevant subgroups, ie ASB forum, NTE forum, Violent Crime e. Hold Policing Committee meetings with PSNI f. Provide reports as required by Code of Practice <p><u>Project 1.2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement communications strategy with at least two awareness raising campaigns developed b. Hold themed public meetings c. Maintain and develop neighbourhood watch
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful delivery of the functions of the PCSP through preparation and implementation of the Partnership's Plan, full compliance with statutory requirements and increased awareness of the role and function of the PCSP • To contribute to an decrease in antisocial behaviour and crime, and increase community safety in Mid Ulster District
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular PCSP meetings • Hold Policing Committee meetings • Hold Delivery subgroups meetings • Carry out consultation process • Develop at least two awareness raising campaigns
Evaluation	Evaluation of project to include monitoring of outputs and outcomes

To Improve Community Safety by tackling Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

Aim	<p>To contribute to a decrease in ASB in Mid Ulster District Council area</p> <p>To contribute to a decrease in Violent Crime in Mid Ulster District Council area</p> <p>To contribute to a decrease in the Fear of Crime in Mid Ulster District Council area and reduce the risks of being a victim of crime</p>
Objectives	<p>To reduce the level of ASB across the Council area with specific input into areas identified locally as having the highest incidence of ASB.</p> <p>To reduce the level of violent crime, including alcohol related violent crime, across the Council area with specific input into areas identified locally as having the highest incidence of violent crime.</p> <p>To reduce fear of crime and reduce the risk of being a victim of crime through raising awareness of the community safety activities and preventative measures available to the public.</p>
Actions	<p><u>Project 2.1: ASB Forum</u></p> <p><u>Project 2.2: Night-time Economy Group</u></p> <p><u>Project 2.3: Violent Crime</u></p>
Inputs	<p><u>Projects 2.1: ASB Forum</u></p> <p><u>Key Personnel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing and Community Safety Partnership Staff • ELB Youth Service • Council • Community/Voluntary Sector Groups • PCSP Members & Designated Agencies <p><u>Budget</u></p> <p>£62,202 (£32,000 operational and £30,202 staff)</p> <p><u>Project 2.2: Night-time Economy Group</u></p> <p><u>Key Personnel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing and Community Safety Partnership Staff • Council • Local Vintners & Business related to Night Time Economy • PCSP Members & Designated Agencies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community/Voluntary Sector Groups <p><u>Budget</u> £55,202 (£25,000 operational and £30,202 staff)</p> <p><u>Projects 2.3: Violent Crime</u></p> <p><u>Key Personnel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policing and Community Safety Partnership Staff ELB Youth Service Council Community/Voluntary Sector Groups PCSP Members & Designated Agencies <p><u>Budget</u> £49,341 (£19,141 operational and £30,200 staff)</p> <p>TOTAL: £166,745 Joint Committee Funding: £166,745</p>
Outputs	<p><u>Project 2.1: ASB Forum</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hold forum bimonthly Identify hotspot areas Develop action plan of initiatives to reduce ASB to build capacity of communities in dealing with ASB <p><u>Project 2.2: Night-time Economy Group</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forum meets bimonthly Forum identifies hotspots Forum develops action plan of initiatives to reduce violent crime <p><u>Project 2.3 Violent Crime</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify hotspot areas Develop action plan of initiatives to reduce violent crime
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to a reduction in reports of ASB across Mid Ulster Council area To concentrate these efforts in areas associated with the highest incidence of ASB based on Police statistics and the views and experiences of the local community. To raise awareness among young people regarding ASB and its effect on the community To engage with communities on the issue of ASB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. To contribute to a reduction in reports of violent crime in Mid Ulster Council area f. To concentrate these efforts in areas associated with the highest incidence of violent crime and alcohol related crime g. To contribute to a reduction in fear of crime across Mid Ulster Council area h. To raise awareness among young people regarding their affect on the community i. To reduce the risk of being a victim of crime through awareness raising
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish/Maintain subgroups and deliver on relevant projects • Each project to deliver against the objectives as outlined in their respective funding applications • Each project to adhere to spend profile • Routine monitoring of project measured against objectives and budget profile • Completion of evaluation at completion of each project
Evaluation	Evaluation of project to include monitoring of outputs and outcomes

To Improve Community Confidence in Policing

Aim	To ensure local accountability and policing delivery that reflects local community priorities through engagement and confidence building
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance; • Ensuring that policing delivery reflects the involvement, views and priorities of local communities; • Ensuring improved policing service delivery in partnership with local communities; • Ensuring effective engagement and confidence building with the police and the local community, with specific emphasis on engagement with working class communities and young people. • Ensure engagement with police is built into projects
Actions	<u>Project 3.1: Policing Committee & Confidence Building</u>
Inputs	<u>Key Personnel:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCSP Councillors and Independents • PSNI • Policing and Community Safety Partnership Staff <u>Budget</u> £37,698.40 (£10,000 operational and £27,698.40 staff)
Outputs	<u>Project 3.1: Policing Committee</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular policing performance meetings • Engage and involve local communities on policing issues • Monitor performance of local policing plan • Provide reports as required in Code of Practice • Deliver confidence building projects
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to an increase in community confidence in policing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities are engaged in local policing • PCSP projects have an 'engaging with the police' aspect.
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular Policing Committee meetings to monitor police performance • Hold at least two themed meetings per annum. • 'Engaging with the Police' included in at least two PCSP projects.
Evaluation	Evaluation of project to include monitoring of outputs and outcomes

Appendix 1: ASB Forum and NTE & Violent Crime Group

ASB FORUM	
Aim	To maintain the ASB forum in order to reduce ASB throughout the district
Objectives	To reduce ASB across the district
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work jointly to address problems. • Develop and implement an action plan to reduce asb
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members time and resources • Project funding
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB Forum hold regular meetings • ASB projects developed and implemented
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to a reduction in ASB
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement at least four initiatives by Mar 2016
Evaluation	Evaluation of project to include monitoring of outputs and outcomes

ASB Forum Action Plan

The ASB Forum will have a rolling action plan reviewed at each meeting. Below is the current action plan for existing projects across Mid Ulster.

	Action	Delivered by
1	Bi-monthly provision of asb statistics	PSNI
2	Schools Engagement Information Projects	Schools, PSNI, PCSP Staff
3	Football projects incl cage soccer, Halloween football and midnight soccer	PCSP Staff, PSNI
5	Youth Diversion Projects	NEELB, SEELB, PSNI, PCSP Staff
6	Engagement with Young Drivers on antisocial driving including holding awareness events	PCSP Staff, Motor sports Clubs, PSNI,
7	Develop information and activities events for youth	PCSP Staff, Youth Service, PSNI
8	Maintain and develop Information Screens across district	PCSP Staff
9	ASB - Who Does What promotion	PCSP Staff
10	Intergenerational initiatives	PCSP Staff, PSNI, Agewell, Youth Service
11	Where's your child tonight campaign	PCSP Staff
12	Implement LIFE Scheme	PCSP Staff, NIFRS
13	Support for Youth Clubs in diversionary activities	PCSP Staff, Youth Clubs, NEELB, SELB

Night Time Economy (NTE) Group	
Aim	To contribute to a reduction in violent crime, antisocial behaviour, and the fear of crime across Mid Ulster District
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the incidents of ASB across the district • To reduce the incidents of violent crime across the district • To reduce the fear of crime amongst night-time economy users across the district
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked multi agency initiatives based upon development and provision of initiatives to engage and deter as agreed by the group. • Public awareness campaign based upon providing factual information re crime in the area.
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of hotspots by analysis of reported violent crime and ASB to Police. • Staff time from night-time economy group • Development and implementation of at least two night-time economy initiatives
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Times and locations of hotspots identified • Residents and night-time economy users aware of problems and initiatives • Local residents more aware of progress.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB reduced • Violent crime reduced • Reduction in fear of crime • Partnership between statutory and business owners for addressing asb
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold bimonthly meetings • Hot spot areas identified • Development of two night-time economy initiatives annually • Implementation of two night-time economy initiatives annually
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of project to include monitoring of outputs and outcomes

NTE Plan

The NTE Group will have a rolling action plan reviewed at each meeting. Below is the current action plan for existing projects across Mid Ulster

	Action	Delivered by
1	Bi-monthly provision of night-time economy analysis	PSNI
2	Maintain and develop text alert system	PCSP Staff
3	Targeted police presence	PSNI
4	Drugs awareness events for vintners	PCSP Staff, TIPSA, Breakthru,

		Vintners
5	Work with off-sales on reducing sale of alcohol to minors through campaign	PSNI, PCSP Staff, Off-Sales
6	Maintain and develop Radiolink	PCSP Staff, PSNI
7	Support Street Reach/Street Pastor Groups	Group
8	Penalty Notice Campaign	PCSP Staff
9	Develop and manage CCTV on behalf of Council	PCSP Staff

G

Subject	Transfer of Water Recreational Facilities to Mid Ulster District Council
Reporting Officer	Anne-Marie Campbell

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	Update Development Committee in relation to the forthcoming inspection and maintenance arrangements associated to the transfer of DCAL Water Recreation Facilities to Mid Ulster District Council as from 1 st April 2015.

2	Background
2.1	<p>As part of the Reform of Local Government the Minister for the Environment announced the suite of functions identified for transfer to Local Government with an effective date of 1 April 2015. Included within the suite of functions to transfer from central to local government are Local Water Recreational Facilities. DCAL currently have management responsibility for four water recreational facilities identified for transfer to the Mid Ulster Council.</p> <p>These sites are listed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardtrea Bridge (Cookstown District Council) • Ballysaggart Lough (Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council) • Glenmore (Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council) • Coalisland Canal & Towpath (Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council)

3	Key Issues
3.1	Site inspections attended by DCAL /Rivers Agency and Council officials to all four locations in January 2015 agreed that no significant maintenance issues existed that would impede transfer.
3.2	DCAL is to complete renewal of the Lease Agreement for Ardtrea Bridge prior to transfer (expiry date 31 st December 2014). DCAL have agreement on a new lease for a period of 20 years dating from 1 st January 2015.
3.3	DCAL is resolving a lessor's outstanding issue in relation to Ballysaggart Lough landowner prior to transfer. It remains an outstanding issue however a resolution remains the responsibility of DCAL post transfer of assets.
3.4	Negotiations with River's Agency on an amended Service Level Agreement for the continuation of routine maintenance works at all transferred sites was not successful. The River's Agency has declined to enter into any extended arrangements with Mid Ulster District Council. Council will be required to undertake the routine maintenance work associated with these transferred sites.

4	Resource Implications
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>DCAL have confirmed a transfer of £20,424 p.a. (factored into block grant) which represents the average annual cost of maintenance across all four sites (taking into account imposed cuts of 11.2%).</p> <p>Transferring annual lease payments = £1,335.00 (subject to periodic review)</p>
4.2	<p><u>Human resources</u></p> <p>Mid-Ulster Council will undertake all routine maintenance on all four sites as from 1st April 2015. Estimated annual labour cost £28,845, based on a four man squad/fifteen week per annum maintenance programme.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Assets and other implications</u></p> <p>Mid-Ulster District Council may consider the hire or procurement of specific grounds maintenance/grass cutting equipment to facilitate increased number of sites and frequency of maintenance visits.</p>

5	Other Considerations
5.1	Review of existing maintenance/grass cutting resources and frequency of seasonal maintenance cycle to manage within existing resource pool.

6	Recommendations
6.1	That the Development Committee endorses the recommendation to Council with regard to Mid Ulster District Council undertaking maintenance of the four transferred sites as from 1 st April 2015.

7	List of Documents Attached
	None

H

Subject: **Harmonized Opening Hours/Public Holiday Closures, Commercial Hire Fees and Charges and Discounted Member and Staff use of Leisure and Parks Facilities.**

Reporting Officer: **Anne-Marie Campbell**

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval for the introduction of harmonized Opening hours, Public Holiday Closures, Commercial Hire Fees and Charges and discounted rates for Member and Staff use of Leisure and Parks Facilities.
2	Background
2.1	Opening hours
2.1.1	All Facilities across the three existing Councils have varied opening hours. Please see Appendix 1 for details
2.1.2	It is believed prudent to consider these Opening Hours across Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC).
2.2	Public Holiday Closures
2.2.1	All Facilities across the three existing Councils have varied Public Holiday Closures. Please see Appendix 1 for details.
2.2.2	It is believed prudent to harmonize these Public Holiday Closures across MUDC.
2.3	Commercial Hire Fees and Charges
2.3.1	All Facilities across the three existing Councils have varied Commercial Fees and Charges. Please see Appendix 2 for details.
2.3.2	It is believed prudent to harmonize these Commercial Fees and Charges across MUDC.
2.4	Discounted Rates for Member and Staff Use of Leisure and Parks Facilities
2.4.1	There are various approaches to discounted rates for Member and Staff use of Leisure and Parks facilities across the three existing Councils. Please see Appendix 3 for details.
2.4.2	It is believed prudent to harmonize these and to propose a new approach.

3	Key Issues																																																
3.1	Opening Hours																																																
3.1.1	Recommendation																																																
3.1.2	<div>Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities</div> <div>It is proposed that Cookstown Leisure Centre and Maghera Recreation Centre have the following general Opening Hours:</div> <table><tr><th>Day</th><th>Times</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>Monday</td><td>6.30am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Tuesday</td><td>6.30am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>6.30am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Thursday</td><td>6.30am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Friday</td><td>6.30am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>9.00am – 5.30pm</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>2.00pm – 6.00pm</td><td>**</td></tr></table> <div>Dungannon Leisure Centre will open at 07:00 as there is no public demand to open earlier. This will however be kept under review.</div> <div>*Gym, Pool (CLC and DLC) and Classes only rest of facilities do not open until 7.30am</div> <div>**Maghera Recreation Centre will open at 11.30am</div> <div>It is proposed that Meadowbank Sports Arena, Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Moneymore Recreation Centre have the following general Opening Hours:</div> <table><tr><th>Day</th><th>Times</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>Monday</td><td>9.00am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Tuesday</td><td>9.00am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>9.00am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Thursday</td><td>9.00am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Friday</td><td>9.00am – 10.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>9.00am – 5.00pm</td><td>*</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>Subject to bookings</td><td>**</td></tr></table> <div>Please note Moneymore Recreation Centre will close during 2015/16 for refurbishment work.</div> <div>*Moneymore Recreation Centre may close at other times subject to bookings.</div> <div>**Meadowbank Sports Arena will open on Sundays</div>	Day	Times		Monday	6.30am – 10.00pm	*	Tuesday	6.30am – 10.00pm	*	Wednesday	6.30am – 10.00pm	*	Thursday	6.30am – 10.00pm	*	Friday	6.30am – 10.00pm	*	Saturday	9.00am – 5.30pm		Sunday	2.00pm – 6.00pm	**	Day	Times		Monday	9.00am – 10.00pm	*	Tuesday	9.00am – 10.00pm	*	Wednesday	9.00am – 10.00pm	*	Thursday	9.00am – 10.00pm	*	Friday	9.00am – 10.00pm	*	Saturday	9.00am – 5.00pm	*	Sunday	Subject to bookings	**
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3.1.3	<div>Caravan Parks/Bowling Greens</div> <div>It is proposed that Ballyronan, Dungannon , Fivemiletown Caravan Parks open on 1st March and close on 31st October annually.</div> <div>It is proposed that Drumcoo, Fairhill, Fivemiletown and Magherafelt Bowling Greensopen on 1st April and close on 30th September annually.</div>																																																

3.2	Public Holiday Closures																
3.2.1	<p>Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities</p> <p>It is proposed that Cookstown Leisure Centre, Dungannon Leisure Centre, Greenvale Leisure Centre, Maghera Recreation Centre, Meadowbank Sports Arena, Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Moneymore Recreation Centre are closed on Public Holidays as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Bank/Public Holiday</th><th>Facility</th></tr> <tr> <td>New Year's Day</td><td>All facilities closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Easter Sunday</td><td>All facilities closed (not PH/BH)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Easter Monday</td><td>All facilities closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>12th July</td><td>All facilities closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>13th July</td><td>All facilities closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>25th December</td><td>All facilities closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>26th December</td><td>All facilities closed</td></tr> </table> <p>All Facilities may be required to open on any Public Holiday due to specific one-off bookings.</p> <p>When Greenvale Leisure Centre is open on a Bank/Public holiday it is not envisaged that Maghera Recreation is also required to be open.</p>	Bank/Public Holiday	Facility	New Year's Day	All facilities closed	Easter Sunday	All facilities closed (not PH/BH)	Easter Monday	All facilities closed	12 th July	All facilities closed	13 th July	All facilities closed	25 th December	All facilities closed	26 th December	All facilities closed
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26 th December	All facilities closed																
3.3	Commercial Hire Fees and Charges																
3.3.1	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>It is proposed that organisations who are charging a fee for their service should themselves be charged 50% on top of the normal hire charge for the facility. Examples of such organisations are: Slimming Clubs, External Pilates and Yoga. Other external Group Class provision may need to be considered e.g. Martial Arts. There may be an element of Sports Development in a particular activity, the provision of which could be seen as beneficial to the locality. The delivery of such an activity may attract a favourable tariff.</p> <p>Large event promotions e.g. Concerts are negotiated with the promoters on an individual basis. Consideration given to type of event, duration of, staff involved and any special requirements.</p>																
3.4	Discounted Member and Staff Use of Leisure and Parks Facilities Recommendation																
3.4.1	By providing employees with discounted access to sport and leisure facilities, MUDC may improve staff wellbeing and job satisfaction, as well as raise retention rates. The welfare of members and employees has a direct impact on the success of the council.																
3.4.2	<p>Because of these MUDC benefits from lower absenteeism levels, happier, more productive members and staff, in particular Leisure and Parks staff, it is proposed that members and staff are offered a 50% discount on the full Facility Membership card. This will cost members and staff who wish to take up the offer £15.00 per month for full membership of all following facilities:</p> <p>Cookstown Leisure Centre, Dungannon Leisure Centre, Greenvale Leisure Centre, Maghera Recreation Centre, Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Meadowbank</p>																

	Sports Arena and Moneymore Recreation Centre.
3.4.3	Use of the Greenvale Leisure Centre by staff and members forms part of the Leisure Services Management Service Agreement. The cost to individual members and staff is £12.50 per month. It is proposed that due to the contractual arrangements, Mid Ulster Staff can take up this offer for £12.50 per month to use the Greenvale Leisure Centre only.
3.4.4	MUDC Finance Department will take the necessary fee per month from the salaries of staff who wish to take up the offer. Members will pay the Finance Department the necessary fee per month on invoice.
3.4.5	Members and staff will be informed that Inland Revenue may view this as a benefit in kind and at some point may wish to tax the benefit as such.
3.4.6	This discount will be offered to MUDC Members, Full time, Part time and Casual staff who have worked more than 20 hours in the previous month.

4	Resource Implications
4.1	Financial There are no financial implications to above as all costs will be met by existing budgets.
4.2	Human Resources Existing staff will carry out all required actions.
4.3	Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support - Not applicable
4.4	Other - None

5	Other Considerations
5.1	The public must be informed of all changes to existing Opening Hours, Public Holiday Closures and Commercial Hire Fees in advance of 31 st March 2015.

6	Recommendations
6.1	That the Development Committee recommend to Council the above as outlined.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1 - Existing Opening Hours and Public Holiday Closures
7.2	Appendix 2 - Existing Commercial Fees and Charges
7.3	Appendix 3 - Existing Discounted Member and Staff Use of Sport and Leisure Facilities

Appendix 1 - Indoor Leisure Opening/Closing Times and Public/Bank Holiday

	Dungannon		Cookstown					Magherafelt					
	Leisure Centre	Comments	Leisure Centre		Moneymore	MUSA	Comments	Leisure Centre	Comments	Maghera	Comments	Meadowbank	Comments
Monday	7.00am -10.00pm		6.30am – 10.00pm	Gym and Pool open at 6.30 rest of building not open to 07.30	9.30am – 10.00pm	8.30am – 10pm		7.00am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	7.30am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	9.00am -10.00pm	
Tuesday	7.00am -10.00pm		6.30am – 10.00pm	Gym and Pool open at 6.30 rest of building not open to 07.30	9.30am – 10.00pm	8.30am – 10pm		7.00am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	7.30am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	9.00am -10.00pm	
Wednesday	7.00am -10.00pm		6.30am – 10.00pm	Gym and Pool open at 6.30 rest of building not open to 07.30	9.30am – 10.00pm	8.30am – 10pm		7.00am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	7.30am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	9.00am -10.00pm	
Thursday	7.00am -10.00pm		6.30am – 10.00pm	Gym and Pool open at 6.30 rest of building not open to 07.30	9.30am – 10.00pm	8.30am – 10pm		7.00am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	7.30am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	9.00am -10.00pm	
Friday	7.00am -10.00pm		6.30am – 10.00pm	Gym and Pool open at 6.30 rest of building not open to 07.30	9.30am – 10.00pm	8.30am – 10pm		7.00am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	7.30am -10.00pm	6.30am Boot Camps	9.00am -10.00pm	
Saturday	9.00am – 5.00pm		09.00am – 6.00pm		9.30pm – 5.00pm	8.30am – 5pm		8.00am – 5.00pm		9.00am – 5.30pm		9.00am – 5.30pm	
Sunday	1.45pm – 6.00pm		2.00pm – 6.00pm	Saturday per bookings		8.30am – 5pm (as per bookings)		12.00am – 5.00pm		11.30am – 6.00pm		9.00am – 6.00pm	

Bank/ Public Holidays

Easter Sunday	Closed	Not PH/BH	Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	
Easter Monday	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	
Easter Tuesday	Closed		Open		Closed	Closed		Open		Open		Open	
May Day	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Open		Open		Open	
Spring	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Open		Open		Open	
12 th July	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	
13 th July	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	
August	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Open		Open		Open	
Christmas Eve	Open	Not PH/BH	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Open		Open	
Christmas Day	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	
Boxing Day	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	
27 th December	Closed		Open		Open	Closed		Open		Open		Open	
New Years Day	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	
St Patricks Day	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed		Open		Open	
						Open if requested							

Appendix 2 COMMERCIAL/NON COMMERCIAL

Cookstown Policy:	Commercial prices are 34% increase on non-commercial prices Room Hire
Cookstown MUSA	£10.00
Dungannon Policy:	Commercial prices are 100% increase on non-commercial prices. Special events (main hall) starting price £1,750.00 plus any additional costs. Registered charities 25% reduction
Magherafelt Policy:	Commercial/Non commercial rates apply for Indoor Arena, main hall and Room hire.

Appendix 3 - Existing Arrangements for Members and Staff use of Council Sport and Leisure Facilities

Cookstown District Council

Members, Full and Part Time members of staff have free use of non-booked facilities at off peak times in Cookstown Leisure Centre, Mid Ulster Sports Centre and Ballyronan Marina. Interested members and staff are issued an ID card and a Cookstown Leisure Centre Membership Card which they must produce on use of facilities.

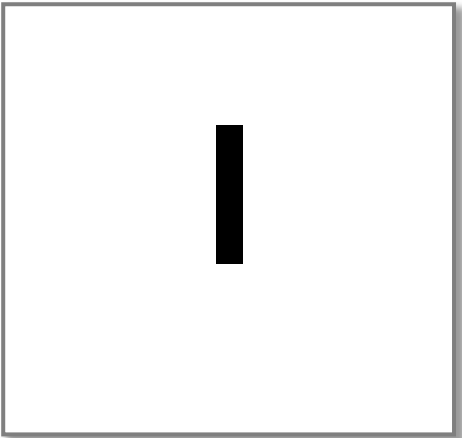
Casual members of staff are awarded a quarterly ID card based having worked at least 20 hours in the previous quarter. Staff are informed that the Inland Revenue may view this as a benefit in kind and may choose to tax employees on this.

Magherafelt District Council

Full, Part Time and Casual members of staff are allowed free use of facilities based on a points system earned from the number of hours worked in the previous four weeks. Only those facilities not already booked by the public can be used and with group activities only Council employees may use the facilities. Staff must produce a "Staff Facilities Scheme Card" to use facilities.

Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council

Full, Part time and casual members of staff are charged £1.00 for swimming, Fitness Suite, Health Suite. For those activities involving more than one person e.g. five a side, squash and badminton charge is £1.00 per person. Facilities cannot be pre-booked and are only available Monday to Friday, 7.00am to 7.00pm.



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

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

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

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>A number of key activities and decisions are being progressed as detailed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Health and Safety</p> <p>After a recent Health and Safety report to Committee, a Sub Group has been established within Sport and Leisure in order to address a number of highlighted issues. Risk assessments and action lists are being reviewed and an accident reporting system, in liaison with IT, is being established. A separate report to Committee is being presented on this matter.</p> <p>• Sports Development Baseline</p> <p>Information has been compiled to provide indication of the scope of the Sports Development programme that is currently being delivered across the Mid Ulster area. It includes an analysis of Sports Development activities across Mid Ulster and possibilities for future development. A further paper will be presented to Council with recommendations for integrating existing programmes.</p> <p>• Audit of Outdoor and Indoor Recreation Facilities</p> <p>An exercise is currently being completed to identify and categorise all provision within the existing Council areas, including parks, play areas, trails, walks, water recreation etc. It is planned that a GPS mapping exercise can be produced providing an overall picture of the facilities within MUDC and the operational management arrangement associated with each facility.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation A separate paper is being submitted with recommendations in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Times 2. Bank/Public Holidays 3. Commercial Hire 4. Discounted Fees for Members and Staff • Service Level Agreements and Maintenance Contracts Information on Service Level Agreements and maintenance contracts is currently being collated. It is anticipated that, eventually many of these will be streamlined which may provide greater efficiencies within the new Council. • DCAL Water Recreation Sites Further to previous information, the Rivers Agency has indicated that service support should be provided by MUDC. A separate report on this matter is included for Committee consideration.
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4	Resource Implications
4.1	Financial - None
4.2	Human Resources - None
4.3	Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support - None
4.4	Other - None

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

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

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	None

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Subject	Development and Regeneration Update
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh

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

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

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>A number of key activities have been progressed as detailed in Appendix 1. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Economic Development Plan (2015-2018) A Draft Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan was formulated and presented by RSM McClure Watters Consultants to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Ulster Council Local Economic Development Plan Working Group on Thursday 29 January 2015 at 6pm in Cookstown District Council Offices, and Mid Ulster Council Development Committee on 5 February 2015 in Cookstown District Council Offices. <p>Members provided feedback and comments at each meeting with an updated presentation subsequently circulated via email to Development Committee Members for review. Further consultation can be facilitated if requested by Members. Following Members' review, it is proposed that the Draft Plan is then presented back to the public, including those key stakeholders and businesses who contributed to the economic development consultations in Autumn 2014, for their input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing on a range of economic development initiatives as outlined within Appendix 1.

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

5	Other Considerations
5.1	None

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

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1 – Development and Regeneration Progress Report for March 2015.

Development and Regeneration Working Group

Progress Report for March 2015

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
Pursue and secure match funding for production of new Baseline Study for Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera)	30/4/15	Ongoing.
Complete Mid Ulster Tourism Plan	31/5/15	TOR will be issued after Community Planning consultation process with a view to appointment of professional support.
Provide necessary input data and evidence towards ongoing preparation of Mid Ulster Community Plan	30/4/15	Qualitative data analysis has been completed and is in report format and will be circulated to all Members. Quantitative data analysis will also be presented to Members in the near future.
Produce a new Foreign Direct Investment App for Mid Ulster	30/4/15	Finalising app development with final version due by end of April 2015.
Mid Ulster Advice Service – review of current provision and recommendations for future delivery	31/3/15	Service Level Agreements for existing providers are currently under consideration for 2015/2016.
Produce a Mid Ulster Business Directory	31/5/15	Work ongoing to create a Mid Ulster Business Directory. Challenging due to the volume of business data involved and the need to ensure a consistent approach is adopted across Mid Ulster.
To develop and agree an approach towards Grant – Aid consideration and allocation across Mid Ulster, commencing 1 st April 2015	31/3/15	Williamson Consulting finalising draft recommendations for Grants and Advice provision for end March 2015.
Complete an interim Mid Ulster Economic Development Action for 2015-2018	31/3/15	<p>A Draft Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan is being formulated and was presented by RSM McClure Watters Consultants to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Council Local Economic Development Plan Working Group on Thursday 29 January 2015 at 6pm in Cookstown District Council Offices, and • Mid Ulster Council Development Committee on 5 February 2015 in Cookstown District Council Offices. <p>Members provided feedback and comments at each meeting, with an updated presentation subsequently circulated via email to Development Committee Members for review. Further consultation can be facilitated if requested by Members. Following Members' review, it is proposed that the Draft Plan is then presented back to the public, including those key stakeholders and businesses who contributed to the economic development consultations in Autumn 2014, for their input.</p>

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
To have an agreed approach for Arts, Culture and Heritage offering	31/3/15	Sharing practice across Councils ongoing. A substantial number of familiarisation visits are underway.
Prepare a Good Relations Strategy for Mid Ulster	31/3/15	Strategy development ongoing in liaison with OFMDFM. Draft Strategy to be equality proofed.
Finalise discussions with DSD on Urban Regeneration, Community Development and Neighbourhood Renewal. Determine viability of four Environmental Improvement Schemes	31/3/15	DSD delivery will remain as it for 2015/2016. Discussions ongoing with DSD on budget for 2015/16. Environmental improvement schemes under consideration by DSD.
Shape the structure and approach for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme (2014-2020); and • PEACE IV Plan (2014-2020) 	31/3/15	Social partners' election process to LAG Board completed in February 2015. Council to lead on development of Strategy in consultation with LAG. Peace IV programme direction pending.
Shape the content of future European Programmes, including Interreg V, ERDF, ESF etc	Ongoing	Interreg V – Ongoing discussions re potential projects ESF – Employability Bid submitted in partnership with the South West College, Omagh & Fermanagh District Council and Health and Education partners, assessment is currently taking place and awaiting outcome. ERASMUS – Mid Ulster Sports Project in development for 2017 Other projects in development; education and creative arts projects in partnership with schools and community.
Discuss and agree Town Centre Action Plans and associated funding for 2015/2016	31/3/15	Officers are preparing new town centre action plans for each of the 4 designated towns in Mid Ulster.
Review existing programmes to determine 'gaps in provision' will occur before future funding becomes available	31/3/15	Action complete.
Develop Development budget for 2015/16	31/3/15	Work in progress.

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Subject	Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
Reporting Officer	Adrian McCreesh / Maggie Bryson, CDC

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

2	Background
2.1	<p><u>Local Action Group formation</u></p> <p>Members will be aware from previous reports that a new Local Action Group (LAG) for Mid Ulster will be established responsible for the delivery of funding within Mid Ulster through the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. The new LAG will form as a limited company with directors comprised of elected members and social partners.</p>
2.2	<p><u>2007-2013 Rural Development Programme – current status and closure process</u></p> <p>SWARD (South West Action for Rural Development) received an allocation of £20.5m under the current RDP (2007-2013) which included administration funding. Of the £17.1m allocated against project funding, almost £17m has been spent to date across over 300 projects funded. Remaining spend is expected to be achieved by March 15.</p> <p>An exit strategy has now been drafted which will be implemented for programme closure activities.</p>

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>Both social partner and elected member (on an interim basis) representation to the new Local Action Group for Mid Ulster is now complete.</p> <p>As reported at the January meeting DARD will now issue a competitive call for applications to select the new LAGs. It is envisaged this process will be completed by early March. Appointed LAG's will then be instructed to develop draft interim Local Development Strategies. DARD has indicated that Councils will assist the LAG's in the preparation of their Local Development Strategy and with applicant animation through a Service Level Agreement between DARD and Councils. A draft of the Service Level Agreement has been forwarded to Council officers. DARD has also issued for review a draft Contract between the LAG and Council for administrative and financial services for the duration of the 2014-2020</p>

	<p>programme period.</p> <p>Both of these documents are being reviewed as clarification will be needed from DARD on a number of issues.</p>
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4	Resource Implications
4.1	<u>Financial</u> – N/A
4.3	<u>Human resources</u> - N/A
4.4	<u>Assets and other implications</u> - N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	N/A

6	Recommendations
6.1	N/A

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	N/A