

Report on	1) Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme 2.1 Phase 1 - Evaluation Report 2.2 Phase 2 - Reserve List 2) Home Office – EU Settlement Scheme 3) Cookstown Continental Market 4) Village Renewal Project 5) Coalisland Public Realm 6) Hong Kong Trade Visit 7) GDPR Business Seminar 8) Mid Ulster Skills Forum 9) World Butchers Challenge 10) Broadband Correspondence from Dept for the Economy 11) Economic Development Achievements 2017/18
Date of Meeting	Thursday 10 May 2018
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development
Contact Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.

2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme</p> <p>2.1.1 Phase 1 – Evaluation Report Phase 1 of Mid Ulster's Village Spruce Up Scheme was completed within the 2017/18 financial year with work completed on 70 village properties.</p> <p>2.1.2 Phase 2 - Reserve List Council approval was previously granted to deliver Phase 2 (the reserve list) of Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme to offer businesses/commercial properties grant aid of up to 75% per property for eligible works, capped at £5,000 per property. The villages eligible to apply are based upon the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the development of the Area Plan 'strategic settlement evaluation – position paper', with the additional village of Moygashel. In total the delivery of the scheme's reserve list is £156,000:- this includes the grant aid, and the services of a Chartered Architect to manage overall delivery of the scheme.</p>
2.2	<p>Home Office – EU Settlement Scheme Council has received correspondence from NILGA on 11 April 2018, advising that two Council areas (Mid Ulster and Belfast) have been selected to take part in a Home Office study regarding an EU Settlement Scheme.</p>
2.3	<p>Cookstown Continental Market- 2-3 June 2018 One of the events identified in the Economic Development Regeneration Plan for 2018/2019 is the delivery of Cookstown Continental Market. The Market has been identified as one of Councils strategic events for 2018/2019 and takes place on Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 June 2018.</p>
2.4	<p>Village Renewal Project Council is leading on the Village Renewal Scheme included within the Rural Development programme 2014 -2020.</p> <p>Council will make an application to the Local Action Group for the village renewal programme and will lead on development and delivery. The LAG has allocated a budget of £2.15m in grant aid to the Village Renewal Scheme for the implementation of strategic and minor works within agreed villages. Council will contribute match funding of 25%, to compliment the funding from RDP.</p>
2.5	<p>Coalisland Public Realm A design team has been appointed for the £2.75M redevelopment of Coalisland town centre. The scheme will include works to The Square, Main Street, Lineside, Dungannon Road, Stewartstown Road, Barrack Street, Barrack Square, Station Rd and Washingbay Road. The overarching aim of the project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a safe, high-quality pedestrian-friendly environment; ▪ Revitalise and reinvigorate the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre; ▪ Be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles; ▪ Have free flowing traffic and retain most on-street car parking. <p>The works will include the provision of new high quality natural stone paving, street furniture, tree planting, signage, lighting and drainage and will be developed in compliance and co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure and to current DDA standards.</p>

2.6	<p>Hong Kong Trade Visit It was agreed by Council in February 2018, that in association with Invest NI, Council would host a Trade Visit for senior buyers from Hong Kong's agri-food sector to visit Mid Ulster. This event took place on 18 & 19 April 2018.</p>
2.7	<p>GDPR Business Seminar 16 May 2018 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force from Friday 25th May 2018. GDPR replaces the Data Protection Act, with greater scope and fines for those who fail to comply with new regulations in relation to storage and handling of personal data.</p>
2.8	<p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum The Mid Ulster Skills Forum was set in April 2017 to maximise the potential for economic growth and enhance the area's competitiveness, support and encourage entrepreneurship, promote stronger alignment between employment, training and economic development in the local area, and to ensure that learning and skills directly contribute to employment, growth and economic success for local residents and businesses.</p>
2.9	<p>World Butchers Challenge The World Butchers Challenge took place in Northern Ireland for the first time from 19-22 March 2018 at Titanic, Belfast. There were 13 teams participating; Ireland and 12 teams from overseas.</p>
2.10	<p>Broadband Correspondence from Dept for the Economy The Department for the Economy (DfE) has provided an update on their current broadband initiatives.</p>
2.11	<p>Economic Development Achievements 2017/18 There has been huge volume of economic development projects completed during the 2017/18 financial year. It is an opportune time to summarise these to reflect on our achievements.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme –</p> <p>3.1.1 Phase 1 – Evaluation Report An evaluation report on Phase 1 of Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme is attached on Appendix 1.</p> <p>During Phase 1, a total £195,876.28 of grant aid was awarded to 70 properties across the Council area, with private sector leverage of £101,272.10. Grants ranged from £131.25 to the £5,000 maximum with the average being £2,798.23. 8 applications received the maximum £5,000 grant. To date Phase 1 of the scheme has made a huge impact throughout our local villages and feedback from grant recipients is very positive.</p> <p>3.1.2 Phase 2 - Reserve List The reserve list of 44 applicants have been issued with a Letter of Offer on 28 March 2018 detailing their award, elements eligible for funding and that works must commence by Monday 14 May 2018.</p> <p>In relation to applications VSS17/64 & VSS17/157 an error has been identified in each application regarding the grant aid awarded. Upon review of application VSS17/64 &</p>

	<p>VSS17/157, McCarter Hamill Architects, who have been appointed by Mid Ulster District Council to independently assess the scheme, identified an additional element of funding which the applicants should have been awarded grant aid towards to the combined value of £1,065.</p>
3.2	<p>Home Office – EU Settlement Scheme</p> <p>Council is in receipt of correspondence from NILGA (Appendix 2) on behalf of the Home Office to advise that Mid Ulster Council has been selected alongside Belfast City Council to participate in a study being undertaken by the Home Office relating to an EU Settlement Scheme. Both areas have been chosen due to their high number of migrant workers. The Home Office has commissioned Britain Thinks to undertake the survey.</p> <p>Participation in the scheme involves;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting with a select group of Chief Executives to elicit concerns and issues from across the UK. • A forum where they can engage with employers towards (end of June 2018). • A public information evening inviting EU citizens to attend (end of June 2018). <p>The Home Office envisage the public information evening will contain a welcome address by the Council Chair, presentation by the Home Office on how the EU Settlement Scheme will work, followed by questions and answers. It may also be appropriate to involve wider organisations that provide advice and guidance to migrant workers to either speak at the event or have information stands.</p> <p>Council is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree dates as soon as possible for the events at the end of June 2018. • Council may have to provide some funding towards organising both events such as room hire, catering costs etc. • Council to promote the event via appropriate channels.
3.3	<p>Cookstown Continental Market – 2 – 3 June 2018</p> <p>This event is Cookstown's signature town centre event each year drawing in footfall last year of 20,000 people over the course of two days. This year the event will be delivered over two days Saturday 2 June 9am-9pm and Sunday 3 June 11am-7pm. The event costs are £37,000, of which £30,000 has been provided for in Council's economic development budget and £7,000 in Council's tourism budget. Further income of £3,500 will emanate from Market Place Europe (the event organisers) and income from the delivery of BrickFest in the Burnavon over the two day period. Event funding relates to expenses such as advertising/promotion, hire of equipment, street entertainment, musical entertainment etc.</p>
3.4	<p>Village Renewal Project</p> <p>A number of Village projects are currently being delivered as outlined below –</p> <p>Ballygawley – Works completed</p> <p>Playparks – Caledon, Granville, Augher and Tobermore – Works completed.</p> <p>Upperlands – Letter of Offer received and works ongoing on MUGA, Planning submitted for Playpark element.</p> <p>Maghera – Designs to be finalised and presented to Community</p>

	<p>Newmills, Castlecaulfield, Benburb & Gulladuff – Currently finalising Concept designs and community sign off.</p> <p>Ardboe – Planning application has been submitted.</p> <p>Legal agreements are being processed through the legal team. Economic Development staff are currently compiling all the leases and completing the application forms and business cases to be submitted to the LAG.</p> <p>Economic Development Officers are also currently working on the next phase of Villages which indicatively at this stage includes – Upperlands Playpark, Swatragh, Churchtown & Lissan, Moortown, The Loup, Desertmartin, Clonoe, Ballinderry & Ballylifford, Orritor and Broughderg, Killyman & Eglis.</p>
3.5	<p>Coalisland Public Realm</p> <p>The VISSUM Traffic Modelling survey was presented to DEA Members on the 18th April 2018. A presentation to Primate Dixon P.S. took place on the 9th April 2018 which highlighted the importance of creating a safe attractive Town Centre.</p>
3.6	<p>Hong Kong Trade Visit</p> <p>Officers worked closely with representatives from Invest Northern Ireland and developed a programme whereby senior buyers from the agri-food sector in Hong Kong travelled to Mid Ulster to meet local agri-food companies.</p> <p>Five sets of senior buyers from the agri-food sector in Hong Kong visited Mid Ulster on 18th and 19th April 2018. The buyers were also accompanied by representatives from the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education who have close links with CAFRE. The following activities took place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 18th April 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Company visits to 4 major food producers in Mid Ulster (Moy Park, Linden Foods, Dunbia and Karro). ○ Networking Dinner in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown featuring local produce on the menu. Guests included senior buyers from Hong Kong and representatives from Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, representatives from Chinese Consul General's office in Belfast, officers from Invest NI and CAFRE, local agri-food companies and Chair and Vice Chair of Council and Committees. • Thursday 19 April 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet The Buyer event at CAFRE's Loughry Campus where 16 local agri-food producers were introduced to the buyers from Hong Kong and Republic of Ireland. <p>The event proved very successful and progress regarding the development of supply chains will be monitored in the coming months.</p> <p>Following the visit, the following message was received from Ms Jenny Liu, Regional Director (Trade and Investment) Hong Kong and Macau.</p> <p><i>“On behalf of myself and the HK delegation, many thanks to all at Mid Ulster for the wonderfully warm and well organised reception that we received. Team Invest NI look forward to future business links between the two regions!”</i></p> <p>Photos of the visit are attached on Appendix 3.</p>

3.7	<p>GDPR Business Seminar</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council has over 8,000 Vat registered businesses in our district, many of which may not be aware of the new GDPR regulations or the implications of non-compliance. With that in mind, Council has organised a GDPR Business Seminar, in partnership with Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Workspace to deliver a practical event for local businesses to gain an understanding of what they need to do to ensure compliance.</p> <p>The event will take place on Wednesday 16th May 2018, from 8am-10am in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown. A competent GDPR advisor will deliver an overview of the regulations and how businesses can prepare and implement processes to comply with the regulation and a local business person will share their experience of taking steps towards compliance. A light breakfast will be served at the start of the event. Admission is free to local businesses and the event will be promoted widely to encourage companies to attend. Members are also welcome to attend, if interested.</p>
3.8	<p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum</p> <p>Minutes of Mid Ulster Skills Forum Meeting held on the 13th December 2017 are attached Appendix 4.</p>
3.9	<p>World Butchers Challenge</p> <p>Prior to the World Butchers Challenge Competition at Titanic, Belfast, Council facilitated a visit of 120 butchers to Mid Ulster on 16 March 2018. This included site visits to large food companies, award winning butchers (Lowe's and MacMahon's), followed by a tour of the Innovation Centre at CAFRE's Loughry Campus, and culminated by a nose to tail live butchery demonstration.</p> <p>Council has received a note of thanks (Appendix 5) from the organiser, Mrs Rhonda Montgomery, Montgomery Food International, Aughnacloy, thanking Council for their financial assistance and help in organising a successful event. Our congratulations are extended to Team Ireland winning the overall WBC competition.</p>
3.10	<p>Broadband Correspondence from Dept for the Economy</p> <p>Correspondence received from the Department for the Economy (DfE) dated 9 April 2018, advising that the Superfast Rollout Programme (SRP) to the value of £17m is due for completion in June 2018. The Superfast Rollout Programme has provided improved superfast broadband services to numerous premises across areas of Mid Ulster. It delivered new fibre optic telephone lines to cabinets, and in some rare cases to premises.</p> <p>DfE is currently undertaking plans for delivery options for the £150m broadband fund under the confidence and supply agreement, which includes engagement with politicians and industry stakeholders. (See Appendix 6).</p>
3.11	<p>Economic Development Achievements 2017/18</p> <p>Council's economic development strategy 'Our Plan for Growth' has four key themes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic Growth 2. Employability & Skills 3. Urban and Rural Regeneration 4. Infrastructure and Connectivity <p>As we embark upon a new year, we thought it was worthwhile to take stock of what was delivered and achieved during the last year alone (2017/18), under each of the four thematic headings.</p> <p>The report on Appendix 7 provides a short synopsis of the main economic activities undertaken.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Phase 2 - Reserve List Provision of £156,000 funding has been included in Council's Economic Development Budget</p> <p>Home Office – EU Settlement Scheme Provision of budget for resourcing the various meetings such as room hire etc. Costs not yet known but cover will be made from within the economic development budget.</p> <p>Cookstown Continental Market- 2 – 3 June 2018. Provision of £30,000 funding has been included in Council's Economic Development budget & £7,000 funding has been included in Council's Tourism Budget</p> <p>GDPR Business Seminar Provision of £800 funding has been included in Council's Economic Development Budget</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>All Projects Officers Time</p> <p>Cookstown Continental Market- 2 – 3 June 2018. It is envisaged that the human resources required for the event will be met within Council. Market Place Europe (event managers of Cookstown Continental Market) will provide staff on-site to manage/co-ordinate/provide security, and the costs for this are entirely borne by Market Place Europe. There is the additional cost this year for the employment of a third party to implement the Road Closure as per the new Road Closure Order.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Cookstown Continental Market- 2 – 3 June 2018:- The event plan will be presented for approval at the SAG on Wednesday 16 May 2018. A risk assessment forms an integral part of the plan. Council's Corporate Health & Safety Manager will be updated on all activities as and when confirmed prior to the event.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Phase 2 - Reserve List Delivery of this scheme is on the basis of previous business enhancement schemes delivered in Town Centres. This scheme makes provision for rural businesses in agreed villages to gain support to improve their business premises (internally and externally).</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Phase 2 - Reserve List No rural needs implications. Positive contribution to rural villages where businesses were eligible to apply.</p> <p>GDPR Seminar – Open to all businesses to attend, both urban and rural.</p>

6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme - Phase 1 – Evaluation Report</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Correspondence from Home Office re EU Settlement Scheme</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Hong Kong Trade Visit Photos</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Mid Ulster Skills Forum – Minutes 13 December 2017</p> <p>Appendix 5 – World Butchers Challenge</p> <p>Appendix 6 - Broadband Correspondence from Dept for the Economy</p> <p>Appendix 7 - Economic Development Achievements 2017/18</p>