



Report on	Economic Development Report – OBFI 1) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.11.19 2) Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Evaluation Report 3) NI Apprenticeship Week 2020
Date of Meeting	12 March 2020
Reporting 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>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.11.19 Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019 along similar lines to the Forums / Partnerships already operating in Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Maghera. The Forum is a strategic body that provides advice and guidance to town centre stakeholders regarding the growth and development of Coalisland town centre.</p>
2.2	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Evaluation Report To mark Global Entrepreneurship Week, the inaugural Mid Ulster Enterprise Week took place from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd November 2019. Spearheaded by the Council with support from other key stakeholders, a week-long programme of 27 free events was held across the district focused on allowing people to explore their enterprising potential, whether they're at pre-start, start or growth stage.</p>
2.3	<p>NI Apprenticeship Week 2020 The Department for the Economy facilitated the first Apprenticeship Week in NI from 3rd to 7th February 2020 to demonstrate how apprenticeships work for individuals, businesses, communities and the wider economy. As part of the weeklong programme of activity and events, Mid Ulster Skills Forum in partnership with the Council and supported by the Department for the Economy (DfE) hosted a 'Mid Ulster Apprenticeship Employer Event' on Friday 7th February 2020 at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown. One of the main objectives within the Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan is to increase the quantity of apprenticeships in Mid Ulster.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.11.19 Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 5th November 2019 are attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Evaluation Report The inaugural Mid Ulster Enterprise Week took place between Monday 18th and Friday 22nd November 2019, held for the most part at business venues across the district. The 27 events during the week ranged from drop-in business advice clinics to specific workshops focussed on everything from financial fitness to developing a compelling sales pitch, with four large scale events also on the agenda, including a major Job Fair, Launch of the MEGA Network, New Business Showcase and a Business Funding and Support Event. An Evaluation Report of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week is included in Appendix 2. A short video to encapsulate some of the business events during the week can be viewed at https://youtu.be/7tWmHU6dfzQ</p>
3.3	<p>NI Apprenticeship Week 2020 A number of events took place right across Northern Ireland as part of the first Apprenticeship Week NI from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February 2020.</p> <p>The ‘Mid Ulster Apprenticeship Employer Event’ was hosted by Mid Ulster Skills Forum in partnership with Council and Department for Economy (DfE) to promote awareness of the benefits, value and importance of apprenticeships to local businesses. The event was held on Friday 7th February 2020 in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown and was attended by more than 30 local employers across a range of key sectors in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Speaking at the event was Michael Gould from the Department for the Economy, Ruth Moore from local company Sandvik and Colleen O’Boyle from Mallaghan Engineering and winner of the Higher Level Apprentice Award 2020, who shared their experiences from both an employer and apprentice perspective. In addition representatives from the Colleges of Further and Higher Education; South West College, Northern Regional College and CAFRE’s Loughry Campus, explained how apprenticeships work for employers and the specialisms offered at each College. Attendees enjoyed a networking lunch to round off the morning event.</p> <div data-bbox="226 1579 791 2002">  </div> <div data-bbox="810 1579 1378 2002">  </div>

4.	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human: Officer Time
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members;
5.1	Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.11.19 Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on 5 November 2019.
5.2	Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Evaluation Report Note the Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Enterprise Week held on 18-22 November 2019.
5.3	NI Apprenticeship Week 2020 Note update on Mid Ulster Apprenticeship Employer Event held on 7 th February 2020 during NI Apprenticeship Week.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum – 5.11.19 Appendix 2 - Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Evaluation Report