



17 June 2021

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
3. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 4. | Ballygawley Playing Fields – Lease of GAA Pitch | 3 - 6 |
| 5. | Mountain Bike NI Consortium Proposal 2021-22 | 7 - 22 |
| 6. | Walk NI Consortium Proposal 2021-22 | 23 - 40 |
| 7. | Halloween and Christmas Corporate Events 2021 | 41 - 44 |
| 8. | Community Development Report | 45 - 74 |
| 9. | Economic Development - OBFD | 75 - 96 |

Matters for Information

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 10 | Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 May 2021 | 97 - 124 |
| 11 | Update - Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown | 125 - 128 |
| 12 | Community Development Service Improvement Plan 2021-22 | 129 - 148 |
| 13 | Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2021-22 | 149 - 166 |

14	Economic Development Service Improvement Plan 2021-22	167 - 194
15	Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan 2021-22	195 - 212
16	Economic Development - OBFi	213 - 300
17	The Queen's Green Canopy – Platinum Jubilee 2022	301 - 304

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

Matters for Decision

18. Tender for Supply, Installation and Servicing of a range of fitness equipment at Greenvale Leisure Centre
19. Mobile Catering Concessions
20. Update on Catering provision at Seamus Heaney HomePlace
21. Tourism Destination Branding

Matters for Information

22. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 May 2021
23. Economic Development - CBFi

Report on	Ballygawley Playing Fields – Lease of GAA Pitch
Date of Meeting	17th June 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure

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 information to Members on correspondence from Errigal Ciaran GAC and to seek approval for Officers to enter into a new lease arrangement.
2.0	Background
2.1	During May 2021, Officers received formal correspondence from Errigal Ciaran GAC to consider the lease of 1 x GAA pitch at Ballygawley Playing Fields.
2.2	Currently, within the perimeter of the Mid Ulster District Council lands at Ballygawley Playing Fields, there is 1 x GAA pitch, 1 x Soccer pitch, tennis courts, MUGA, changing pavilion, walking trail and car park.
2.3	The 1 x GAA pitch is currently operating under a long term lease and additionally there is a building for community use with another lessee under the agreement of a long term lease with Council. All other remaining facilities can be utilised for public use and can be booked/paid for where relevant with the Council's leisure department.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Previously in October 2000, the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Council entered into a 25 year lease with the Ballygawley Sport and Leisure Trust (BSLT) with agreed terms on an annual rent with periodic reviews throughout the term. This initial agreement included the pitch and tennis courts and the BSLT was a partnership of different sporting codes.
3.2	In 2011, Members within the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Council agreed to initiate the renegotiation of the lease but with a change of title to Errigal Ciaran GAC with a view to an extension for a further 25 year term.

3.3	In 2012, Members within the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Council agreed to amend the existing lease with BSLT to remove the tennis courts from the lease and return to the operational control of the Council. This was after confirmation was received that the tennis club was no longer an active partner. (minute reference: SSDC-3-24/01/12)
3.4	Thereafter, a new lease with drafted with revised terms and amended title to reflect Errigal Ciaran GAC. Both sets of legal representatives were engaged and a letter of offer to extend the lease for a new period of 25yrs was issued to Errigal Ciaran GAC (to run from April 2012 to March 2037) however was never formally executed.
3.5	Errigal Ciaran GAC have a side agreement whereby annual rent is paid for a key holding arrangement to gain access to the onsite changing pavilion.
3.6	The initial lease is due to expire in 2025. Errigal Ciaran GAC have now asked to formally resurrect previous discussions and agreements that were undertaken with the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Council and are seeking to enter into a new lease under the title of their club name for the GAA pitch. It may consider future financial investment within the relevant area and evidence of long term tenure is generally a requirement to satisfy potential funding bodies – generally the standard term would be 25 years.
3.7	Therefore, it is proposed that Officers liaise with Council legal services to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascertain conditions and agreements associated with change of title from the Ballygawley Sport and Leisure Trust (BSLT) to Errigal Ciaran GAC and if permissible and agreeable to all parties, draft terms for a new lease of 25 years for 1 x GAA pitch with possibility of extension • Engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain current market value for rental/leasing options for 1 x GAA pitch and incorporate into a new lease with agreed rent review conditions.
3.8	Subject to mutual agreement on above, that Council proceed to finalise the lease extension.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Land and Property Services – assessment costs to be derived from existing revenue budgets.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:

	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and approve that Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascertain conditions and agreements associated with change of title from the Ballygawley Sport and Leisure Trust (BSLT) to Errigal Ciaran GAC and if permissible and agreeable to all parties, draft terms for a new lease of 25 years for 1 x GAA pitch with possibility of extension • Engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain current market value for rental/leasing options for 1 x GAA pitch and incorporate into a new lease with agreed rent review conditions. • Subject to mutual agreement on above, that Council proceed to finalise the lease extension.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Mountain Bike NI Consortium Proposal 2021-22
Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th June 2021
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of service
Contact Officer	Anne Reid Parks/Countryside Development Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Council approval to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2021-22
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mountain Bike NI Consortium was established to raise the profile of Northern Ireland's new mountain bike trail centres within the UK and Republic of Ireland markets.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) have developed marketing expertise and knowledge of the mountain bike market to deliver the MountainBikeNI Consortium (a partnership between three local authorities and the National Trust) with the collective aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Northern Ireland as a World Class Mountain Bike Destination • Oversee activation of MountainBikeNI.com brand across each trail centre to increase 'cross-sell' opportunities • Secure a major sponsor for Northern Ireland's new National mountain bike trail centres • To combine budgets to deliver specialist targeted marketing campaigns in partnership with Tourism Ireland <p>Mountain Bike NI is delivered by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI), its work was previously directed and funded by its four 'core funders' namely Sport NI, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Tourism Northern Ireland and Inland Waterways Unit of the Department of Infrastructure.</p> <p>With significant cuts in government funding, this is no longer the case, with ORNI delivering its strategic not-for-profit role under a number of new arrangements. In 2016 / 2017, ORNI successfully established the Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium to ensure local authorities could continue to benefit from the success of MountainbikeNI.com by continuing to contribute to the Mountain Bike NI Consortium – local authorities can reap the following benefits:</p>

2.2	<p>Outdoor Recreation NI is able to provide the following added value to those councils supporting the MountainBikeNI Consortium:</p> <p>A consortium approach provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economies of scale in campaign costs, project costs such as MTB Research • The ability to cross sell between trail centres i.e. consumers interested in or visiting the Mourne based trails will learn about the Davagh Trails and vice versa • A greater potential to attract (via tender) a sponsor • Improved brand, destination and product recognition
2.3	<p>Marketing Foundation</p> <p>The following marketing foundation is already in place – reducing the need for supporting councils to further invest elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MountainBikeNI.com website attracting 63,449 visits in 2020/21 (37% increase from 2019/2020) • E-marketing Database of 12,807 • Social media following of 26,070 (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
2.4	<p>Expertise & Knowledge</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland is a not-for-profit organisation whose role is to develop, manage and promote outdoor recreation across Northern Ireland therefore those councils supporting the consortium benefit from its significant expertise and knowledge.</p>
2.5	<p>Product knowledge gained from:</p> <p>Proactive campaigning for 10+ years for the development of mountain biking in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Driving the development of Rostrevor, Castlewellan, Blessingbourne, Castle Ward and Barnett Demesne Mountain Bike Trails</p>
2.6	<p>Visitor Safety knowledge gained from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of Visitor Safety Group (VSG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Staff training investment including VSG and other relevant workshops • Mountain bike market knowledge gained from proactive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ benchmarking from competitor destinations ◦ Engagement with UK and ROI wide industry experts ◦ Staff training investment including learning journeys and industry conferences
2.7	<p>Marketing expertise gained from:</p> <p>10+ years of proactively promoting outdoor recreation / activity tourism in Northern Ireland via Outdoor Recreation NI platforms such as OutdoorNI.com. WalkNI.com</p> <p>10+ years delivering activity tourism marketing outputs for Tourism Northern Ireland</p>

3.0	Main Report																			
3.1	Outdoor Recreation NI will continue to assign staff resources to the MountainBikeNI Consortium in order to continue to promote Northern Ireland as a 'must visit mountain bike destination'. Whilst promotion will take place under the MountainBikeNI umbrella brand each destination will be clearly differentiated within marketing activity.																			
3.2	The focus of marketing activity will be within Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in order to deliver on key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase number of visits within each trail centre• Increase the engagement of mountain bikers with the local economy i.e. increase economic impact																			
3.3	Partner	MUDC	NMDDC	BCC	FODC															
	Partner Support	£13,000	£16,666	£5,000	£5,000															
	Sponsorship Contribution	£5,000	£10,000	0	0															
	Partner Total	£18,000	£26,666	£5,000	£5,000															
	% of Delivery Capacity	33%	49%	9%	9%															
3.4	<table><tr><td>Campaigns Source</td><td>Amount / £</td><td>% of campaign delivery</td></tr><tr><td>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</td><td>2,000</td><td>50%</td></tr><tr><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td><td>1,000</td><td>25%</td></tr><tr><td>Fermanagh & Omagh</td><td>1,000</td><td>25%</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>4,000</td><td>100%</td></tr></table>					Campaigns Source	Amount / £	% of campaign delivery	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	2,000	50%	Mid Ulster District Council	1,000	25%	Fermanagh & Omagh	1,000	25%	TOTAL	4,000	100%
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Fermanagh & Omagh	1,000	25%																		
TOTAL	4,000	100%																		
3.5	<p>In 2021 / 2022, proactive promotion in Northern Ireland will be achieved via MTBNI's extensive web visitors, e-zine subscribers and social media followers. A ROI focused campaign is proposed to encourage as allowed by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Accountability: The MountainbikeNI.com consortium will be managed by ORNI's Marketing Manager who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree an annual work programme including KPIs• Provide Quarterly progress reports• Hold two meetings per year to report on progress, discuss campaigns etc.																			

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Mid Ulster District Council will contribute £14,000 as a participating Consortium Partner. The expenditure is within current Parks Service revenue budget allocations.
	Human: Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approval is sought to participate as a Consortium Partner with the Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £14,000 to 2021-22 campaign.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix Mountain Bike Marketing Consortium Proposal 2021/2022 Mountain Bike Marketing Consortium Report 2020-21

Proposal for the delivery of the MountainBikeNI Consortium 2021 – 2022

March 2021

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) has prepared this proposal in order to request support from trail managing Councils for the financial year 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022.

This proposal outlines:

1. Overview of Outputs
2. Added value gained from adopting a consortium approach
3. Proposal for 2021 / 2022

1. Overview of Outputs:

Outdoor Recreation NI will continue to assign staff resources to the MountainBikeNI Consortium in order to continue to promote Northern Ireland as a 'must visit mountain bike destination'.

Whilst promotion will take place under the MountainBikeNI umbrella brand each destination will be clearly differentiated within marketing activity.

The focus of marketing activity will be within Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in order to deliver on key objectives:

- Increase number of visits within each trail centre
- Increase the engagement of mountain bikers with the local economy i.e. increase economic impact

Partner	MUDC	NMDDC	BCC	FODC
Partner Support	£13,000	£16,666	£5,000	£5,000
Sponsorship Contribution	£5,000	£10,000	0	0
Partner Total	£18,000	£26,666	£5,000	£5,000
% of Delivery Capacity	33%	49%	9%	9%
Fundamental Outputs				
Mountain Bike NI Consortium	✓	✓	✓	✓
MountainBikeNI.com Website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customer Interaction	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trail Centre Specific Outputs				
Trail Cards E-commerce	✓	✓	x	x
Mountain Bike NI Trails Team (Volunteer Ranger Scheme)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sponsorship Liaison	✓	✓	x	x
Marketing Outputs				
NI Marketing via MTBNI Channels	✓	✓	✓	✓
ROI Marketing Campaigns	✓ (£1000)	✓ (£2000)	x	x (£1000)
Destination Support / Business Upskilling	✓	✓	x	x

A. Fundamental Outputs

A.1. MountainBikeNI Consortium

- Act as the Secretariat for the MountainBikeNI Consortium - minimum of 2 meetings per annum
- Agree meeting dates, venue, agenda and circulate minutes
- Prepare and agree annual work programme and provide a progress report on a quarterly basis

A.2. MountainBikeNI.com Website

- Manage and maintain the MountainBikeNI.com website including:
 - All Trail Centres
 - Manage Trail Centre Profile including event calendar in liaison with trail managers
 - Update of Trail Conditions (diversions, closures etc) as required in liaison with trail managers
 - National Trail Centres Only
 - Proactive liaison with local tourism service providers (accommodation and eatery) to ensure their web profiles are targeted to the mountain bike market and offers are available in line with campaigns
- Continue to provide high quality and accurate information and content (as required) for Tourism Northern Ireland's consumer website DiscoverNorthernIreland.com
- Provide accurate information and content (as required) for councils' tourism websites
- Proactive Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) to ensure competitive Google Ranking for key terms in both Great Britain (GB) and Republic of Ireland (ROI) markets

A.3. Customer Interaction

- Deal with customer enquiries via telephone, email and social media in a timely manner

B. Trail Centre Specific Outputs

B.1. Trail Cards

- Manage and maintain the e-commerce platform within MountainBikeNI.com
- Proactively engage with tourism service providers and relevant retail outlets to encourage stocking and sale of trail cards
- Facilitate any reprint / redesign of trail cards¹
- Provide quarterly report of trail card sales within overall work programme report

¹ Additional budget will be required for trail card design and print costs

B.2. MountainBikeNI Trails Team (Volunteer Ranger Scheme)²

- Lead the recruitment of MTB volunteers and manage database
- Communicate dates of maintenance days and allocate volunteers
- Manage MountainBikeNI Trails Team Facebook Group
- Proactively publicise the work of the MountainBikeNI Trails Team
- Organise a training and reward programme in conjunction with the trail sponsor

B.3. Sponsorship Liaison

- In partnership with National Trail Centre managing councils recruit a title sponsor for MountainBikeNI.com and the National Trail Centres
- Agree annual support programme with sponsors and act as key liaison to maximise benefits of both parties
- Manage the ongoing relationship with the sponsor

C. Marketing Outputs

C.1. NI Marketing via MTBNI Channels

- Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from NI based Mountain bikers via:
 - Design and implementation of the annual content, social media and e-marketing plan against key segments and trigger points
 - Create and circulate positive media stories to local and NI media re mountain biking and events, ensuring prominent destination / local authority message (as appropriate)

C.2. ROI Marketing Campaigns

- Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from ROI based Mountain bikers via:
 - Delivery of a targeted campaign activity (within budget – proposed £4,000) to include editorial, advertorial, advertising (online / offline bundles), advocacy, PR FAM Trips

² Council partners to deliver maintenance days including provision of lunch

C.3. Destination Support and Business Upskilling

- Business Upskilling:
 - Support Council workshops for local tourism service providers
 - Proactive engagement with local tourism service providers (accommodation, eateries and activity providers) to ensure:
 - their offering is targeted to the mountain bike market i.e. 'MTB Friendly'
 - innovative offers are available in line with campaigns
 - increased awareness of MTB product offering within their destination
 - Update of on-line toolkit for local tourism service providers including visitor profiles and requirements, product and service advice, marketing recommendations / opportunities and best practice benchmarking
- Destination Support:
 - Provide support to Council Tourism teams to accurately incorporate the promotion of mountain biking within a wider tourism offering

2. Added value gained from adopting a consortium approach

Outdoor Recreation NI is able to provide the following added value to those councils supporting the MountainBikeNI Consortium:

Consortium Approach

A consortium approach provides the following benefits:

- **Economies of scale** in campaign costs, project costs such as MTB Research
- The ability to **cross sell** between trail centres i.e. consumers interested in or visiting the Mourne based trails will learn about the Davagh Trails and vice versa
- A greater potential to attract (via tender) a **sponsor**
- **Improved brand, destination and product recognition**

Marketing Foundation

The following marketing foundation is already in place – reducing the need for supporting councils to further invest elsewhere:

- MountainBikeNI.com website attracting 63,449 visits in 2020/21 (37% increase from 2019/2020)
- E-marketing Database of 12,807
- Social media following of 26,070 (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

Expertise & Knowledge

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland is a not-for-profit organisation whose role is to develop, manage and promote outdoor recreation across Northern Ireland therefore those councils supporting the consortium benefit from its significant expertise and knowledge.

- Product knowledge gained from:
 - proactive campaigning for 10+ years for the development of mountain biking in Northern Ireland
 - driving the development of Rostrevor, Castlewellan, Blessingbourne, Castle Ward and Barnett Demesne Mountain Bike Trails
- Visitor Safety knowledge gained from:
 - membership of Visitor Safety Group (VSG)
 - staff training investment including VSG and other relevant workshops
- Mountain bike market knowledge gained from proactive:
 - benchmarking from competitor destinations
 - engagement with UK and ROI wide industry experts
 - staff training investment including learning journeys and industry conferences
- Marketing expertise gained from:
 - 10+ years of proactively promoting outdoor recreation / activity tourism in Northern Ireland via Outdoor Recreation NI platforms such as OutdoorNI.com. WalkNI.com
 - 10+ years delivering activity tourism marketing outputs for Tourism Northern Ireland

3. Proposal 2021 / 2022

Delivery of Outputs

Partner	MUDC / £	NMDDC / £	BCC / £	FODC / £
Partner Support	13,000	16,666	5,000	5,000
Sponsorship Contribution	5,000	10,000	0	0
Partner Total	18,000	26,666	5,000	5,000
% of Delivery Capacity	33%	49%	9%	9%

Campaigns

Source	Amount / £	% of campaign delivery
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	2,000	50%
Mid Ulster District Council	1,000	25%
Fermanagh & Omagh	1,000	25%
TOTAL	4,000	100%

In 2021 / 2022, proactive promotion in Northern Ireland will be achieved via MTBNI's extensive web visitors, e-zine subscribers and social media followers.

A ROI focused campaign is proposed to encourage as allowed by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.



MOUNTAINBIKENI.COM MARKETING CONSORTIUM

WORK PROGRAMME AND REPORTING

(APRIL 2020 – 2021)*

* Due to the impact of COVID-19 (including temporary trail centre closures), ORNI delivered the outputs of the MTBNI Consortium from 1st August 2020 – 31st March 2021. An essential communication service was maintained between 1st April 2020 – 31st July 2020.

INCREASING AWARENESS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

*denotes where extra programme budget may be required on a case per case basis

	WORK TO BE DELIVERED (2020-2021)	PROGRESS
MountainBikeNI Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as the Secretariat for the MountainBikeNI Consortium - minimum of 2 meetings per annum Agree meeting dates, venue, agenda and circulate minutes Prepare and agree annual work programme and provide a progress report on a quarterly basis 	3 Consortium meetings held online – August 2020, February 2021 and March 2021.
MountainBikeNI.com Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and maintain the MountainBikeNI.com website including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Trail Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage Trail Centre Profile including event calendar in liaison with trail managers Update of Trail Conditions (diversions, closures etc) as required in liaison with trail managers National Trail Centres Only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual update of downloadable online destination guides Proactive liaison with local tourism service providers (accommodation and eatery) to ensure their web profiles are targeted to the mountain bike market and offers are available in line with campaigns Continue to provide high quality and accurate information and content (as required) for Tourism Northern Ireland's consumer website DiscoverNorthernIreland.com Provide accurate information and content (as required) for councils' tourism websites Proactive Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) to ensure competitive Google Ranking for key terms in both Great Britain (GB) and Republic of Ireland (ROI) markets 	<p>April – July 2020 Essential updates provided regarding impact of COVID restrictions</p> <p>August 2020 – March 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gortin Glens Forest Park Trail Centre added Unique users increased by 50% from same period last year – 52% of these were new users New content included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 news articles 7 blogs Regular updates re trail conditions / closures / diversions – gained through regular interaction with trail managers / rangers.
Customer Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with customer enquiries via telephone, email and social media in a timely manner 	<p>Daily interaction with mountain bikers primarily via social media direct messages (DMs) – providing advice and answering trail centre related queries</p> <p>Regular interaction with trail centre managers – providing feedback from public e.g. fallen trees and gaining updates re trail conditions / closures and diversions</p>

Trail Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and maintain the e-commerce platform within MountainBikeNI.com • Proactively engage with tourism service providers and relevant retail outlets to encourage stocking and sale of trail cards • Facilitate any reprint / redesign of trail cards • Provide quarterly report of trail card sales within overall work programme report 	Online trail card sales were suspended due to COVID-19
Sponsorship Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with National Trail Centre managing councils recruit a title sponsor for MountainBikeNI.com and the National Trail Centres • Agree annual support programme with sponsors and act as key liaison to maximise benefits of both parties • Manage the ongoing relationship with the sponsor 	<p>Chain Reaction Cycles secured as official sponsor for 2020/2021.</p> <p>Ongoing liaison with CRC to roll out the month-by-month sponsorship plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRC sharing MTBNI content via their extensive communication channels • CRC using NI Trail Centres as backdrop for film / photos shoots for content features • CRC donating prizes for MTBNI online competitions (used to build e-zine database and social media following)
NI Marketing via MTBNI Channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from NI based mountain bikers via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Design and implementation of the annual content, social media and e-marketing plan against key segments and trigger points ○ Create and circulate positive media stories to local and NI media re mountain biking and events, ensuring prominent destination / local authority message (as appropriate) 	<p>The domestic market was MTBNI's focus in 2020 / 21. Promotion was undertaken via MTBNI's established and engaged channels i.e.</p> <p>E-zine – 7 e-zines distributed to 11,150 subscribers</p> <p>Blogs – 7 blogs developed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to prepare for an accident on the trails • What do Gortin Glens Forest Park MTB Trails look like? • Mountain Biking Memories • Mountain Biking & Mental Health • Is this trail for you? • 7 Bits of advice for new mountain bikers • Sperrin View Glamping Davagh Forest <p>Social media c.30,000 following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook – 24,281 Page Likes – 3% increase • Instagram - 2,780 Followers – 11% increase • Twitter: 2,743 Followers – 5% increase

		<p>The marketing activity was responsive to ongoing changes in COVID-19 guidelines / restrictions ensuring mountain bikers were aware of how changes in restrictions impacted them</p> <p>There was an increased focus on those new to mountain biking providing them with information on how to engage with the trails</p>
NI Marketing Campaigns – MUDC Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from NI based Mountain bikers through the further enhancement of activities under C.1 via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery of a targeted campaign activity (within budget – proposed £2075) to include editorial, advertorial, advertising (online / offline bundles), advocacy, PR FAM Trips 	The paid media summer 2020 campaign cancelled due to Covid-19.
ROI Marketing Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from ROI based Mountain bikers via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery of a targeted campaign activity (within budget – proposed £13,000) to include editorial, advertorial, advertising (online / offline bundles), advocacy, PR FAM Trips 	The paid media ROI marketing campaigns were cancelled due to COVID-19.
Destination Support and Business Upskilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Upskilling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support Council workshops for local tourism service providers ○ Proactive engagement with local tourism service providers (accommodation, eateries and activity providers) to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ their offering is targeted to the mountain bike market i.e. 'MTB Friendly' ▪ innovative offers are available in line with campaigns ▪ increased awareness of MTB product offering within their destination ○ Deliver on-line toolkit for local tourism service providers including visitor profiles and requirements, product and service advice, marketing recommendations / opportunities and best practice benchmarking ○ Distribution of two e-newsletters to relevant stakeholders re marketing campaign updates, promotional opportunities and support • Destination Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide support to Council Tourism teams to accurately incorporate the promotion of mountain biking within a wider tourism offering 	Ongoing.

EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS

MountainBikeNI Trails Team (Volunteer Ranger Scheme¹)

- Lead the recruitment of MTB volunteers and manage database
- Communicate dates of maintenance days and allocate volunteers
- Manage MountainBikeNI Trails Team Facebook Group
- Proactively publicise the work of the MountainBikeNI Trails Team
- Organise a training and reward programme in conjunction with the trail sponsor

Currently 140 MTBNI Volunteer registered

Due to COVID-19 only 1 volunteer maintenance session took place at Castlewellan – 5 attended.

Report on	Walk NI Consortium Proposal 2021-22
Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th June 2021
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of service
Contact Officer	Anne Reid Parks/Countryside Development Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Council approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2021-22
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>WalkNI.com is delivered by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI), its work was previously directed and funded by its four 'core funders' namely Sport NI, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Tourism Northern Ireland and Inland Waterways Unit of the Department of Infrastructure.</p> <p>With significant cuts in government funding, this is no longer the case, with ORNI delivering its strategic not-for-profit role under a number of new arrangements. In 2016 / 2017, ORNI successfully established the WalkNI Marketing Consortium to ensure local authorities could continue to benefit from the success of WalkNI.com.</p> <p>By continuing to contribute to the WalkNI Consortium – local authorities can reap the following benefits:</p> <p>Solid Foundation: Significant investment has already been made to establish a website, e-marketing and social media channels</p> <p>Engaged Visitors: As indicated by 'WalkNI Key Stats' the website / brand has a strong engagement from the target market.</p> <p>Combined Resources: The small investments from a number of local authority partners can be combined to produce an outcome greater than the sum of its parts.</p> <p>Cross Sell: There will be opportunities to cross sell between destinations i.e. visitors to the Mourne Mountains will be able to learn about the Causeway Coast and Glens and vice versa.</p> <p>Redeveloped Website: A redeveloped WalkNI.com was launched in October 2019. The new look website provides an enhanced user experience, be responsive across platforms (mobile,</p>

	tablet, desktop) and can avail of the latest interactive mapping.
2.2	Within Mid Ulster District Council – WalkNI.com incorporates detailed information on 29 no walks, ranging from short walks of under 5 miles to longer walks over 20 miles.
2.3	<p>WalkNI Marketing Consortium Proposal 2021/2022</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>WalkNI.com attracted 655,427 users making 1,044,266 visits from 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 (a 45% and 55% increase on the previous year respectively) confirming its position as the definitive guide to walking in Northern Ireland. With 62% of visits from Northern Ireland, 24% from Great Britain, 10% from Republic of Ireland it is clear the website is an important platform for locals and tourists alike.</p> <p>It is clear that walking brings significant tourism and local participation benefits:</p>
2.4	<p>Local Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63% reported going outdoors for exercise everyday during COVID-19 lockdown, a much higher proportion than the 28% reported in the annual household survey (CHS 2017/18)¹ • 51% expect to spend more free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown
2.5	<p>Tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking or rambling is the most popular activity (36%) undertaken by Northern Irish residents on domestic overnight trips • Hiking or cross-country walking was the most popular sporting activity (12%) undertaken by external overnight visitors whilst in Northern Ireland.⁴ • Intention by the Republic of Ireland market to take a short break post COVID-19 lockdown continues to increase – 48% intend to take a short break in Ireland / Abroad in the next 6 months
2.6	<p>WalkNI.com Key Stats:</p> <p>The followings statistics clearly highlight the reach and engagement level of WalkNI.com:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 655,427 users (2020) • 1,044,266 web visits (2020) • 29,919+ social media subscribers (across Facebook, Twitter & Instagram) • 25,310 e-newsletter subscribers • Key driver of walking product information and content to DiscoverNorthernIreland.com

2.7	<p>Rationale and Benefits: WalkNI.com is delivered by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI), a not-for-profit organisation with the vision ‘To create a happier, healthier society where enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors improves wellbeing.’</p> <p>In recent years, ORNI has transformed from an entirely core funded position to now deliver its strategic not-for-profit role through a variety of arrangements including delivering for Strategic Partnerships, Consortia, Service Level Agreements and on a project by project basis. In 2016 / 2017, ORNI successfully established the WalkNI Marketing Consortium to ensure local authorities could continue to benefit from the success of WalkNI.com. The consortium is therefore entering into its sixth year. By continuing to contribute to the WalkNI Marketing Consortium – local authorities can reap the following benefits:</p>
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p>Partnership Approach: Funding from DAERA (NIEA's) Environment Fund ensures that all Councils receive free walk listings on WalkNI.com. Councils that wish to proactively promote their walking offer to the local population and tourist can avail of the activity of the WalkNI Marketing Consortium. The two available packages are outlined below:</p> <p>3.2 Regional Partner An area which has a portfolio of walking product, access, infrastructure and supporting tourism services to meet the demands of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local walkers • Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is a key part of a wider itinerary <p>Partners in the past have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ards & North Down Borough Council • Belfast City Council • Fermanagh & Omagh District council • Mid Ulster District Council <p>3.3 National Partner An area which has a portfolio of walking product, access, infrastructure and supporting tourism services to meet the demands of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local walkers • Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is key part of a wider itinerary • Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is the primary reason to visit

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking Clubs from Republic of Ireland <p>Partners in the past have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Newry, Mourne & Down District Council 						
3.5	<p>Delivery Costs for the WalkNI Marketing Consortium - 1st July 2021 – 31st March 2022:</p> <p>In order to continue the proactive marketing activity for Regional and National Partners, ORNI will dedicate staff time through a combination of ORNI's Marketing Manager and a Marketing Officer.</p> <p>The anticipated contributions are as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Partner Level</td><td>2021/22</td></tr> <tr> <td>National</td><td>£6,890</td></tr> <tr> <td>Regional</td><td>£3,445</td></tr> </table> <p>Accountability:</p> <p>The WalkNI.com consortium will be managed by ORNI's Marketing Manager who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree an annual work programme including KPIs Provide Quarterly progress reports Hold two meetings per year to report on progress, discuss campaigns etc. 	Partner Level	2021/22	National	£6,890	Regional	£3,445
Partner Level	2021/22						
National	£6,890						
Regional	£3,445						
4.0	Other Considerations						
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications						
	<p>Financial: Mid Ulster District Council will contribute £3,445.00 as a participating Regional Partner. This is included in Parks 21/22 revenue budgets.</p>						
	<p>Human: Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.</p>						
	<p>Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>						
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments						
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>						

	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approval is sought to participate as a Regional Partner with the Walking NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £3,445.00 to 2021-22 campaign. The expenditure is budgeted for within current Parks Service allocations.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix Walk NI Marketing Consortium Proposal 2021/2022 Walk NI Marketing Consortium Key Stats 2020/2021

WALK NI

WALKING IN
NORTHERN IRELAND



31/03/2021

WalkNI Marketing Consortium Proposal 2021/2022

Introduction:

WalkNI.com attracted 655,427 users making 1,044,266 visits from 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 (a 45% and 55% increase on the previous year respectively) confirming its position as the definitive guide to walking in Northern Ireland.

With 62% of visits from Northern Ireland, 24% from Great Britain, 10% from Republic of Ireland it is clear the website is an important platform for locals and tourists alike.

It is clear that walking brings significant tourism and local participation benefits:

Local Participation:

- 63% reported going outdoors for exercise everyday during COVID-19 lockdown, a much higher proportion than the 28% reported in the annual household survey (CHS 2017/18)¹
- 51% expect to spend more free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown²

¹ Engaging with the Outdoors during COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland 2020, ORNI

² Engaging with the Outdoors during COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland 2020, ORNI

Tourism:

- Walking or rambling is the most popular activity (36%) undertaken by Northern Irish residents on domestic overnight trips³
- Hiking or cross-country walking was the most popular sporting activity (12%) undertaken by external overnight visitors whilst in Northern Ireland.⁴
- Intention by the Republic of Ireland market to take a short break post COVID-19 lockdown continues to increase – 48% intend to take a short break in Ireland / Abroad in the next 6 months⁵

WalkNI.com Key Stats:

The followings statistics clearly highlight the reach and engagement level of WalkNI.com:

- 655,427 users (2020)
- 1,044,266 web visits (2020)
- 29,919+ social media subscribers (across Facebook, Twitter & Instagram)
- 25,310 e-newsletter subscribers
- Key driver of walking product information and content to DiscoverNorthernIreland.com

Rationale and Benefits:

WalkNI.com is delivered by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI), a not-for-profit organisation with the vision 'To create a happier, healthier society where enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors improves wellbeing.'

In recent years, ORNI has transformed from an entirely core funded position to now deliver its strategic not-for-profit role through a [variety of arrangements](#) including delivering for Strategic Partnerships, Consortia, Service Level Agreements and on a project by project basis. In 2016 / 2017, ORNI successfully established the WalkNI Marketing Consortium to ensure local authorities could continue to benefit from the success of WalkNI.com. The consortium is therefore entering into its sixth year. By continuing to contribute to the WalkNI Marketing Consortium – local authorities can reap the following benefits:

Solid Foundation:	Significant investment has already been made to establish a website, e-marketing and social media channels
Engaged Visitors:	As indicated by 'WalkNI Key Stats' the website / brand has a strong engagement from the target market
Combined Resources:	The small investments from a number of local authority partners can be combined to produce an outcome greater than the sum of its parts.
Cross Sell:	There will be opportunities to cross sell between destinations e.g. visitors to the Mourne Mountains will be able to learn about the Sperrins and vice versa.
Redeveloped Website:	A redeveloped WalkNI.com was launched in 2019 providing an enhanced user experience, responsiveness across platforms (mobile, tablet, desktop) and availing of the latest interactive mapping.

³ Northern Ireland Domestic Tourism 2018, NISRA

⁴ External Overnight Trips to Northern Ireland 2016, NISRA

⁵ https://covid19.failteireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19_Consumer-Sentiment-and-Behaviour_18-May_FINAL.pdf

Why Outdoor Recreation NI?

The benefits of ORNI delivering the project are:

- Not-for-profit:** ORNI's not-for-profit status means that all the investment will be retained within this project
- Product Knowledge:** ORNI has significant knowledge of Northern Ireland's walking portfolio gained through its strategic role in walking development, management and promotion since 1999 and more specifically since the launch of WalkNI.com in 2006
- Volunteer Rangers:** ORNI deliver a Walk Volunteer Ranger Programme which audits over 200 Quality Walks, Ulster Way and Waymarked Ways. This ensures information provided to the customer can be accurately verified on a regular basis
- Track Record:** ORNI has been successfully delivering the MountainBikeNI Consortium since 2012 and the WalkNI Marketing Consortium since 2016

For more information on Outdoor Recreation NI see www.outdoorrecreationni.com

Partnership Approach:

Funding from DAERA (NIEA's) Environment Fund ensures that all Councils receive free walk listings on WalkNI.com. Councils that wish to **proactively promote** their walking offer to the local population and tourist can avail of the activity of the WalkNI Marketing Consortium. The two available packages are outlined below:

Regional Partner

Definition:

An area which has a portfolio of walking product, access, infrastructure and supporting tourism services to meet the demands of:

- Local walkers
- Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is a key part of a wider itinerary

National Partner

An area which has a portfolio of walking product, access, infrastructure and supporting tourism services to meet the demands of:

- Local walkers
- Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is key part of a wider itinerary
- Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is the primary reason to visit
- Walking Clubs from Republic of Ireland

Marketing Activity

All Councils receive WalkNI.com Website Listings

- Annual audit of routes and incorporation in public liability insurance for private landowners
- Regular content management e.g. updating route info, news items, events

However, those investing in the WalkNI Marketing Consortium receive proactive inclusion within the following marketing activity. It is this key activity which drives visitors towards specific sections of the website.

Marketing Activity	Regional	National
Northern Ireland Promotional Campaigns including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature inclusion within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ WalkNI Blog http://walkni.com/blog/ ◦ WalkNI E-zines min 12 e-zines per year to 12,310+ NI contacts ◦ WalkNI Social Media Channels (Daily posts) • PR in Regional and National Press via WalkNI Awards and other initiatives 	Y	Y
Republic of Ireland Visitors Promotional Campaigns including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature inclusion within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ WalkNI Blog http://walkni.com/blog/ ◦ WalkNI E-zines min 12 e-zines per year to 4,138+ ROI contacts ◦ WalkNI Social Media Channels (Daily Posts) • PR in Regional and National Press 	Y	Y*
Walking Club Promotional Campaigns including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-marketing to 566 walking club contacts • Promotion via Mountaineering Ireland and Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs 	N	Y

*** National Partners will receive double the level of inclusion within campaigns than Regional Partners**

Accountability:

The WalkNI.com consortium will be managed by ORNI's Marketing Manager who will:

- Agree an annual work programme including KPIs
- Provide Quarterly progress reports
- Hold two meetings per year to report on progress, discuss campaigns etc.

Support Required:

Partner Level	2021/22
National	£6890
Regional	£3445

If you have any questions or queries regarding this proposal, please contact:

Chris Scott
Head of Operations
Outdoor Recreation NI
chris@outdoorrecreationni.com
07894354544

A person wearing a blue jacket and a backpack stands on a rocky, grassy hillside, looking out over a valley. In the background, there is a dark lake and rolling hills under a blue sky with some clouds. The text 'WALK NI' is overlaid in large white letters, with a vertical line separating 'WALK' and 'NI'. Below 'NI', the text 'WALKING IN NORTHERN IRELAND' is written in smaller white letters.

WALK NI

WALKING IN
NORTHERN IRELAND

WALKNI CONSORTIUM – KEY STATS 2020/2021

WEBSITE

- Website Visitors:
 - 655,427 Users
 - Increase of 45% on previous year

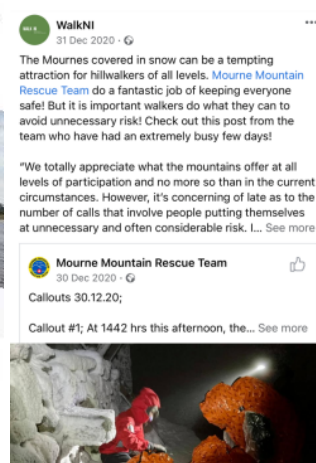
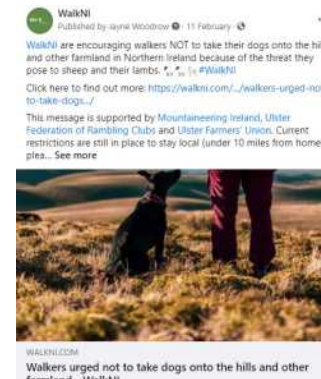
- Website Sessions:
 - 1,044,266 sessions
 - Increase of 55% on previous year

- Website visitor by Location:
 - NI – 407,964 users (**71% increase** on previous year)
 - GB – 155,928 (**30% increase** on previous year)
 - ROI – 65,193 (**32% increase** on previous year)



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Social Media followers:
 - 29,919+ followers across all social channels
 - Increase of 20% on previous year
- Following by channel:
 - Facebook – 20,256 followers (increase of 17% on previous year)
 - Twitter – 6,647 followers (increase of 10% on previous year)
 - Instagram – 3,016 followers (increase of 49% on previous year)



E-ZINE DATABASE

- Total subscribers – 25,319 subscribers
- NI Database:
 - 12,310 subscribers
 - Monthly communication
- ROI Database:
 - 4,138 subscribers
 - Stay connected communication x 2



Stay Home, Stay Safe, Be Inspired! Take a virtual 'Dander Aroon' Northern Ireland!

Join Graham Little as he explores five trails along the coast of Northern Ireland and unlocks their connection to the Ulster-Scots. Through a series of short videos Graham encourages us to explore these hidden gems for ourselves and additional bonus videos help bring the trails to life!

Each walk is inspired by their links to the early Ulster-Scots arrival in Northern Ireland. From tales of smugglers on the Antrim coast and traditional Ulster-Scots poetry, to insights into the history of the people who first settled on these shores there is something for everyone! you might even learn a new word or two!

Check out our latest blog linked below to discover more about these walking trails and their fascinating links to the Ulster-Scots and access special bonus videos.

['Danders Aroon' Blog](#)



While some of you may have your Christmas decorations up already, we are still celebrating all things autumn. From taking time out to enjoy a mindful walk through a forest, to the exciting announcement of a world famous walking trail set to make its mark in Ireland, there is something for everyone in this issue of the WalkNI E-News.

With indoor Covid-19 restrictions in place, the outdoors is a popular location to meet up with others. That's why we've packed this e-newsletter with a variety of ways to get you, your family and friends out and about. Please remember to maintain social distancing and dispose of litter responsibly.



Take A Mindful Walk Through The Forest

There is strong scientific evidence that visiting a forest environment can have a positive impact on your wellbeing and forest bathing, which is known in Japan as *shinrin-yoku*, helps to reduce stress by connecting with the forest through our senses of sight, hearing, taste and touch. Check out our latest blog where we share our top 5 forest walks to help refresh your body, mind and spirit this autumn in Northern Ireland.

[Read More](#)

CAMPAIGNS & SUPPORT

- MyNI 'Get into Nature' Campaign Support
- Support for ORNI and NIEA walking research – Participant recruitment
- WalkNI Awards 2020 – Over 1,700 Public votes
- 'Danders Aroon' Ulster-Scot walks with Graham Little
- 'Right Side of Outside' Campaign Launch



WALKNI COVID-19 COMMUNICATION

- Up to date news articles on the latest COVID-19 Guidance and Restrictions
- E-zines communicating any changes to Guidance and Restrictions
- Social media messages backing Guidelines and Restrictions
- Promotion of growing issues concerning Consortium members – litter, overcrowding etc.
- Promotion of local trails rather than beauty spots – ‘Hidden Gem Walks’



A person wearing a blue jacket and a backpack stands on a rocky ridge, looking out over a vast landscape. In the background, there is a large lake and rolling hills under a blue sky with some clouds. The person is standing on a rocky path, and the landscape is rugged and scenic.

WALK NI

WALKING IN
NORTHERN IRELAND

Report on	Halloween and Christmas Corporate Events 2021
Date of Meeting	17 June 2021
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

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 an update on Halloween and Christmas corporate events and seek approval for recommendations.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Planning for corporate events is extremely challenging in this fluid environment. Event planning is an annual process which involves a minimum of 9-12 months preparation that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation between vital stakeholders at least 6-12 months prior to each event. • The development of unique event concepts; • Procurement and the gathering of valid Health and Safety documentation is a lengthy process. • Alongside these a marketing plan which must be developed, designed and implemented.
2.2	This report has been compiled after extensive communication with Council's Corporate Health and Safety team.
2.3	In addition, the corporate events teams have had regular discussions with other councils' events teams across NI. The outcome from these meetings is a collective approach in the delivery of safe corporate events throughout Northern Ireland.
2.4	Safety is paramount in addition to rebuilding the confidence and health and wellbeing of local residents within the Mid Ulster District at the same time as protecting the reputation and financial interests of the Council.
2.5	Mid Ulster District Council has placed third out of the eleven local authority areas with a total of 12,733 positive Covid-19 cases.
2.6	Latest Executive Guidance/Legalisation valid from 24 May 2021 states up to 500 people can attend outdoor gatherings. For the purposes of the Regulations,

	<p>spectators and event participants are regarded as two separate gatherings. The maximum number of spectators that can attend events will be limited to 500 people. The maximum number of participants in the event, including performers and staff, will also be limited to 500 people. The organiser must also take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus.</p>
2.7	<p>Pilot events permitting 1000 spectators have been permitted for logistical and operational learning. It is not known when or if the results of the learning will be published as these might inform plans for the safer return of all types of larger audience-based events.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>There is still a great deal of uncertainty regarding events. The events team have often been left with more questions than answers. Now more than ever, a risk based approach must be taken, however Council is not in control of the external factors and in this fluid environment these could change. The main points to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccination programme is on target, most over 40's have received at least their first vaccine. The number of positive cases has been on the steady decline which reduces the pressures on our health service. • The number of cases of Covid-19 is greatest in the autumn and winter periods, and as a result it is difficult to accurately forecast the infection rate in October 2021. Factors such as the season, recommencement of the School year, foreign travel associated with the end of the summer vacation period and vaccine uptake in younger age profiles may influence COVID infection. • Guidance from the NI Executive still recommends a safe social distancing space of 2m. • In permitting the return of 1000 spectators to the Irish Cup final the legislation required the event organiser to obtain relevant information including information related to booking and the, taking, or the results of, a rapid COVID Lateral Flow Test. If such requirements remain this may result in increased administration and management in addition to having potentially significant financial and resource implications to Council in providing events safely. Particularly during peak times like Halloween and Christmas where there are five events scheduled over one weekend, this would have a significant impact on the number of staff required to facilitate the events. • It is also difficult to predict outdoor space maximum capacities for the Halloween and Christmas events as this could change at any given moment. The current regulations will be reviewed on 10 June 2021. • It is important to highlight that if the maximum number of spectators currently permitted to attend Halloween or Christmas events is limited to 500 people; should these current maximum capacities remain in legislation approximately only one sixth spectators attending these events in 2019 could legally attend.

3.2	<p>Furthermore, event budgets would not be reduced to reflect this, in fact operational and health and safety costs may increase expenditure to accommodate social distancing, queue management first aid requirements and hand sanitising etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk of non- ticket holders attending the area outside the event arena. Depending on the probability of this occurring and the level of risk associated the PHA and/or the PSNI could cancel the event due to public safety. • Most of the Halloween and all the Christmas events occur within Mid Ulster town centres. Restricting the numbers and capping the audience in this environment would prove extremely difficult. Shop fronts and footpaths would have to always remain clear. <p>Corporate events have both economic and social benefits to residents and businesses within Mid Ulster. As a result of Covid-19 life has dramatically changed; Covid Restrictions, social distancing, face masks and hand sanitiser has become the new 'norm'. Events cannot be organised as they were before Covid, changes will have to be made with the aim of taking small steps to creating a new way of doing things whilst building and restoring confidence.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human: n/a
	Risk Management: Adhering to the Executive guidance and advice from our Health and Safety team is paramount. We must continue to follow the legalisation and guidance yet be mindful restrictions could be introduced again.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council do not organise any corporate events inviting large numbers of people to gather in unmanaged sites or town centres where safe capacity numbers cannot be managed and maintained, as this could potentially encourage non-compliance to the current Government Legalisation and guidance.
5.2	Council owned sites in each town will be identified where safe events could take place to celebrate Halloween and Christmas within the Mid Ulster District.

5.3	A programme of entertainment specific to the topography of each site will be examined based on executive guidance.
5.4	Town centre activities will also be investigated which will not include large gathering of people but will enhance the atmosphere.
5.5	The events team will compile an update report in September which will include proposals of events to celebrate Halloween and Christmas within the Mid Ulster District.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	17 th June 2021
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan – Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Martina Totten Community Planning Coordinator

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	Community Grants; to agree the community development grant awards.
1.2	Community Emergency Support Funding; to agree the final allocation of emergency support funding
1.3	Peace update – to update members on Peace IV
1.4	Community Development – to note the community development update.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants – Council annually distributes over £1million in community grant funding per annum under 12 community annual grant programmes and the capital discretionary grant.
2.2	Emergency Support Funding – DFC allocated Council a final award of £85,599. An allocation of £43,500 was agreed for the summer poverty programme in May Committee. A final allocation of £42,000 is to be allocated to ongoing Foodbank / SVP provision.
2.3	Peace IV – Council facilitates the delivery of the Peace IV programme.
2.4	Community Development includes the following areas: Community Support, Good Relations, PCSP, Connecting Pomeroy and facilitation of Community Planning.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Community Grants – Council delivers the community grants across a number of themes – community development general, arts, heritage, community venues, sports and sports capital. The grants are delivered along with arts and leisure departments of Council. Total grants to strategic groups is 74, to small group development is 108 to date (some rolling and further ones to complete), and to capital is 32. Please refer to Appendix 1 for grant awards.</p> <p>Summary allocations:</p> <p>The strategic grants are allocated on a 3 year rolling programme, with 2021 – 2022 as year 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Community Development, £36,450, 8 awards, budget £45,000. Two amendments from previous; one organization is no longer operational and a second organization has taken over a greater area of delivery. Remainder of budget £8550 to strategic sports, and sports development. 2. Strategic Community Arts £85,000, 6 grant awards, budget £85,000. 3. Strategic Sports £78,065, 7 grant awards, budget £75,000, one additional application from Netball NI. £3,065 overspend to be offset from strategic community development. 4. Strategic Events; a total of 9 awards to a value of £44,000. Budget £75,000 (£10,000 of this is from good relations). Note to hold this budget in the instance Council does not receive DFC festival funding of £28,800 (this was not allocated last year to Councils due to social distancing, no confirmation this year to date). The above events will be subject to the governing body or event organiser seeking permission to deliver with social distancing requirements and own risk plans. 5. Venues - £81,000, 44 awards, budget £80,000. Two amendments from previous; one group decided to transfer to small arts, culture, heritage grant and a new venue has been developed as part of the Rural Development Community Service Centre programme. <p>All of the above allocations to be provided to groups as an upfront payment with flexibility provided for usage targets, as per previous years to allow groups to pay continuing overheads and sustain into the future. Claims will continue to be processed based on full allocation of spend.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Community, Culture, Arts & Heritage Development; a total of 150 awards to a value of £129,480, budget £130,000– Three ineligible applications, 2 being double category and 3 ineligible. <p>Funding to be allocated based on 50% advance (pending group request) and claims as per delivery.</p>

	<p>7. Sports Capital with Sports & Leisure Section; a total of 32 awards to a value of £100,568 with a budget of £120,000; reallocate balance (£19,432) to small sports development.</p> <p>Sports Development with Sports & Leisure Section; a total of 57 awards to a value of £62,084 – one ineligible as not a recognised Sports, two did not meet minimum threshold. To be redirected to festivals. Total budget £30,000; Overspend £32,084 to be allocated £8,000 from sports representative as don't expect full spend this year, £19,432 from sports capital & remainder from CD Strategic £5485</p> <p>8. Good Relations; one application and one award at a value of £700. Budget £35,000. This is a rolling programme.</p> <p>Funding to be allocated to small sports development and good relations based on 50% advance (based on request from Group).</p> <p>9. Local Community Festivals; Opened May, to come to Committee for recommendations in July.</p> <p>10. Sports Representative Grant; No applications. This is a rolling programme.</p> <p>11. Festive Lights Grant; this will be allocated in July as per last year awards per village settlement.</p> <p>12. Schools Sports Grant; this will open in due course, budget £10,000.</p>
3.2	<p>Emergency Support Funding DFC</p> <p>It is proposed to allocate the remaining emergency support funding of £42,000 to the following areas, pending demand and continued monitoring of support claims to date, to allow continued support to Foodbanks and SVP's who have been helping those most in need. The support period will be over the summer months.</p> <p>Dungannon- £10,000 – SVP and Vineyard Cookstown- £10,000 - SVP Magherafelt- £8,000 –Hope and SVP Coalisland- £5,000 – Coalisland Foodbank and SVP Maghera- £5,000 – The Link and SVP Clogher Valley- £4,000 – Hope/FMT and SVP Total £42,000</p>
3.3	<p>Peace IV</p> <p>Council submitted a proposal to Peace IV, as previously agreed by Council, for the development of shared space outdoor activity spaces in our main towns. The funding is to support outdoor activity and social distancing for extended periods of time, and includes awnings, barriers, heaters, seating and planters. The locations are Dungannon (in front of Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House), Cookstown (side of Burnavon), Magherafelt (Diamond), Coalisland (at start of Canal).</p>

3.4	<p>The proposal has been successful at a value of £298,000 alongside programme funding to allow the engagement of young people through cross community contact at a value of £62,400.</p> <p>An extension has been allowed to the Peace IV programme to December 2021 to allow for all activity to complete.</p> <p>Community Development Update</p> <p>Community Support The Community Support team continues to work with groups regarding the delivery of grants to respond to their communities.</p> <p>Grants Update Festival Grant open at present with recommendations to committee in July.</p> <p>Emergency Support Funding The leisure vouchers are being allocated to young people on FSM's via the post primary school.</p> <p>The play engagement programme is in development. Please note an update to the play programme. At present the EA is allocating up to £5000 to schools to run summer schemes. The programme is now closed and a number of schools are delivering to the same target audience as Council proposed programme.</p> <p>Dungannon area - all of the primary schools in the Dungannon area are planning on delivering summer schemes in July and August. To avoid duplication and support the schools provide for a larger number of children it is proposed to provide the play facilitators and some refreshments to the school summer schemes to allow for additional children rather than duplicate sessions.</p> <p>Magherafelt area – one primary school in Magherafelt is delivering a summer scheme Magherafelt primary school. It is proposed to deliver facilitation to support this summer scheme and run the other sessions at MUSA targeting the other 2 primary school children.</p> <p>Cookstown area – as previous, if schools are not delivering summer schools TBC.</p> <p>Areas Maghera and Fivemiletown – again one school in each area is delivering a summer scheme and facilitators would be provided and then another session arranged in each area (Maghera Leisure Centre and FMT Youth Annex) to target the other school children. Coalisland is as per previous at Gortgonis.</p> <p>Good Relations Good Relations is currently delivering the new Plan for 2021 – 2022.</p> <p>Peace IV Local Action Plan – Delivery of the grants and programmes are continuing, an extension has been provided to allow completion for September 2021 where possible. A blend of online and direct delivery will take place over the summer in line with social distancing guidance.</p>
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	<p>Connecting Pomeroy – Design to stage 4 is near completion in consultation with the partner groups. Design concepts for the Forest and Public realm are available upon request to view.</p> <p>The PCSP Plan 2021 – 2022 is currently being delivered.</p> <p>Please see attached PCSP minutes for information in Appendix 2.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Grants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Arts £85,000 2. Strategic Community Development £36,400 3. Strategic Sports £78,065 4. Strategic Events £44,000 (remaining budget to be held) 5. Venues £81,000 6. Community, Arts and Heritage Development Grant £129,480 7. Sports Development Grant £62,084 8. Sports Capital Grant £100,568 9. Good Relations £700 <p>Emergency Support Funding £42,000 DFC and £20,000 Good Relations Poverty programme</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To agree the Community Grant Awards
5.2	To agree the Emergency Support Funding
5.3	To note the Peace IV Update
5.4	To note the Community Development update
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 Community Grants</p> <p>Appendix 2 PCSP Minutes</p>

Appendix 1 – Grant Award Recommendations

Strategic Arts & Culture Grant (Maximum £20,000)

No	Organisation Name	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Bardic Theatre	Bardic Theatre Productions	1	£20,000	£20,000
2	Brantry Area Rural Dev Assoc (BARD)	Bard Arts & Culture Programme	7	£12,150	£5,000
3	Carntogher Community Association	Carntogher Community Arts Project	2	£20,000	£17,500
4	Craic Theatre and Arts Centre	Accessible Arts For All	1	£20,000	£20,000
5	Glasgowbury	Cornstore Creative Hub	3	£20,000	£15,000
6	Open Door t/a The Hub BT80	The Hub Community Arts	6	£10,000	£7,500
				Total	£85,000
				Budget	£85,000

Score	Band	Award
30-39	7	£5,000
40-49	6	£7,500
50-59	5	£10,000
60-69	4	£12,500
70-79	3	£15,000
80-89	2	£17,500
90+	1	£20,000

Strategic Community Development (Maximum £8,000)

No	Organisation Name	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	COSTA (COSTA & CWSAN)	Mid Ulster Community Development Support Service 2021 / 2022	1	£8,000	£8,000
2	First Steps Women's Centre	Money Management Programme	3	£8,000	£6,000
3	Hope Magherafelt	CAP Debt Centre, Magherafelt Foodbank	4	£5,350	£3,000
4	Mid Ulster Community Services Ltd T/A Out & About Community Transport with CDM Community Transport	Community access/ Transport for Wheelchair Users	4	£8,000	£5,000
5	Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre	Mid Ulster Volunteer support	3	£8,000	£6,000
6	Mid-Ulster Women's Aid	Training and Development Programmes for vulnerable people	5	£8,000	£4,000
7	The Rural Centre	The Rural Centre: Erasmus+ Funding, Training /sharing between regions	4	£2,400	£1,450
8	Willowbank	Your Rights Your Voice Your Say – lobbying and support	6	£8,000	£3,000
				Total	£36,450
				Budget	£45,000
				Underspend U/S	£8,550

Score	Band	Award
40-49	6	£3,000
50-59	5	£4,000
60-69	4	£5,000
70-79	3	£6,000
80-89	2	£7,000
90+	1	£8,000

Community Venue Grant (Maximum £3,000)

No.	Organisation Name	Venue	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	Aghaloo and Blackwater Community Ass	Aughnacloy	1	£3,000	£3,000
2	Aughintober Regeneration	Cabragh	5	£2,550	£1,000
3	Ballysaggart Area Community Association	Dungannon	2	£3,190	£2,500
4	Bann Valley Community Group	Clady	3	£3,100	£2,000
5	Bawn Development Association	Aughnacloy	5	£2,200	£1,000
6	Bonn Cultural group	Pomeroy	4	£3,209	£1,500
7	Brocagh and District Regeneration Group	Dungannon	2	£3,000	£2,500
8	Broughderg Area Development Association	Broughderg	1	£3,000	£3,000
9	Caledon Regeneration Partnership	Caledon	4	£10,637	£1,500
10	Cavanakeeran Community Ass	Pomeroy	5	£3,000	£1,000
11	Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society	Castlecaulfield	3	£3,350	£2,000
12	Clonoe Rural Development Agency	Coalisland	1	£3,000	£3,000
13	Coalisland & District Development Ass	Coalisland	3	£3,000	£2,000
14	Crossdernott Bowling Club	Crossdernott	5	£2,000	£1,000
15	Derrytresk Youth & Community Group	Derrytresk	2	£7,732	£2,500
16	Fivemiletown Community Development Ass	Fivemiletown	5	£3,000	£1,000
17	Galbally Youth & Community Association	Galbally	1	£3,000	£3,000
18	Glenageeragh Pipe Band	Augher	6	£3,380	£750
19	Glór na Speiríní	Draperstown	6	£1,200	£750
20	Involve (NI)	Magherafelt	3	£3,000	£2,000
21	Kilcronaghan Community Association	Kilcronaghan	1	£3,000	£3,000
22	Kildress Wolfe Tones	Kildress	1	£3,000	£1,500
23	Killeeshil & Clonaneese Historical Society	Killymaddy Centre	5	£2,124	£1,000
24	Killeeshil Community Centre	Killeeshil	1	£3,000	£3,000
25	Killyman St Marys GAC	Killyman	5	£9,063	£1,000
26	Kinturk Cultural Association	Kinturk	3	£15,000	£2,000
27	Knocknagin Hall Committee	Knocknagin	4	£4,391	£1,500
28	Loughans Cultural and Development Ass	Ballygawley	5	£11,270	£1,000

No.	Organisation Name	Venue	Band	Requested	Awarded
29	Maghera Cross Community Link	Maghera	1	£3,000	£3,000
30	Maghera Historical Society Heritage/Culture	Maghera	4	£3,000	£1,500
31	Moneyneena & District Development Init.	Moneyneena	1	£3,000	£3,000
32	Moygashel Community & Cultural Ass	Moygashel	5	£4,664	£1,000
33	Muintir Na Mointeach	Washingbay	2	£3,000	£2,500
34	Northern Counties Development Ass	Swatragh	4	£3,000	£1,500
35	Pomeroy Development Projects Ltd	Pomeroy	1	£6,500	£3,000
36	RBL Club Cookstown	Cookstown	5	£3,000	£1,000
37	Stewartstown Development Ass	Stewartstown	3	£5,300	£2,000
38	TABBDA Company Ltd	Ballyronan	1	£3,000	£3,000
39	Tamnamore Community Development Ass	Tamnamore	5	£3,120	£1,000
40	Termoneeny Community Association	Termoneeny	3	£3,000	£2,000
41	Tobermore Community Projects	Tobermore	4	£3,000	£1,500
42	Tobin Centre Ltd	Moortown	5	£3,000	£1,000
43	Tirgan Community Association Ltd	Tirgan	4	£3,754	£1,500
44	Upperlands Community Development Ltd	Upperlands	4	£3,000	£1,500
				Total	£81,000
					Budget £80,000

Band Score Award

40-49	6	£750
50-59	5	£1,000
60-69	4	£1,500
70-79	3	£2,000
80-89	2	£2,500
90+	1	£3,000

Strategic Sports Development Grant (Maximum £15,000)

No.	Organisation Name	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
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1	Derry GAA	Employment of Games Development Officer within Mid Ulster Council (Derry)	1	£16,500	£15,000
2	Irish FA Foundation	Grassroots and Schools Football Development Project	1	£20,000	£15,000
3	Netball Northern Ireland	Mid Ulster Netball for All	3	£3,096	£2,065
4	Tyrone GAA	Mid Ulster Council / Tyrone GAA Games Promotions Officer	1	£15,670	£15,000
5	Swim Ulster Limited	Full time Swimming Development Officer / Coach	3	£20,000	£10,000
6	The Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union	Rugby in the Community	2	£14,250	£12,500
7	Ulster hockey	Mid Ulster Hockey Support	1	£8,500	£8,500

Total £78,065
Budget £75,000
OS £3065

Score	Band	Award
50-59	5	£5,000
60-69	4	£7,500
70-79	3	£10,000
80-89	2	£12,500
90+	1	£15,000 - £20,000

Strategic Events Grant (Maximum £8,000)

No	Organisation Name	Title Of Event/Project	Band	Request	Award
1	Brantry Bard Sessions Group	Brantry Fleadh 2021	5	£8,000	£4,000
2	Cookstown & District Motorcycle Club (Road Racing) Ltd	The 2021 Cookstown 100 Road Races	3	£8,000	£6,000
3	Cookstown Motor Club	Closed Roads Stages Rally 2021	5	£16,400	£4,000
4	Cycul Ltd	Lap The Lough Cycling Festival	2	£8,000	£7,000
5	Dungannon Gaelic Forum	St Patrick's Day Parade 2022 in Dungannon	3	£8,000	£6,000
6	Irish Junior Open Committee	Irish Junior Open Tour Championship Finale	5	£9,500	£4,000
7	Pomeroy Social Activity Group	Santas Magical Forest	3	£14,500	£6,000
8	The Great Rossa Run	The Great Rossa Run	6	£17,750	£3,000
9	Tri Limits Triathlon Club	Tri Tyrone 2021 - Irish Championships	5	£8,000	£4,000
				Total	£44,000
				Budget U/S	£75,000 To be held

Score	Band	Award
40-49	6	£3,000
50-59	5	£4,000
60-69	4	£5,000
70-79	3	£6,000
80-89	2	£7,000
90+	1	£8,000

Arts Culture & Heritage Com Dev Small Grants - 2021-2022 (Maximum £1200)

	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	1st Aughnacloy Cubs and Beaver Scouts	Community	Outdoor & zoom activities for Cubs/ Beavers	4	£1,223	£840
2	1st Ballygawley Guide Unit	Community	Girlguiding Ballygawley	4	£2,640	£840
3	1st Ballygawley Scout Group	Community	1st Ballygawley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	6	£2,870	£600
4	1ST Culnady Boy's Brigade	Community	What can we do?	2	£2,700	£1,080
5	1st Loy Guides	Arts	Positive Crafting	3	£1,200	£960
6	Ambassadors Youth Community Group	Community	Equipment -educational video/presentations	5	£1,435	£720
7	Augharan Pipe Band	Culture	Project 21/22	5	£1,936	£720
8	Aughintober Regeneration	Culture	Re-launch, re-connect Aughintober	5	£1,200	£720
9	AUsome Kids	Community	AUsome Arts and wellbeing for all		£1,200	£1,200
10	Ballinascreen Men's Shed	Community	Outdoor furniture making	5	£500	£500
11	Ballinderry AOH	Culture	Post Lockdown - Restoring AOH	3	£1,200	£960
12	Ballygawley local History Group	Culture	Monthly talks and annual historical outings	3	£1,936	£960
13	Ballymacall True Blues Flute Band	Culture	Annual Programme 2021-2022	3	£1,750	£960
14	Ballymaguigan Community Development	Culture	Manage Moyola Waterfoot Nature	2	£2,136	£1,080
15	Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	Culture	Running Costs and Tuition	4	£1,195	£840
16	Blackhill LOL 681	Culture	Moving Forward in this Centenary Year	2	£1,200	£1,080
17	Blackwater Community Barge	Culture	Keeping afloat	3	£1,199	£960
18	Brackaghreilly and District Community	Community	Promoting Culture in Brackaghreilly	3	£1,700	£960
19	Cairde Droim nDamh	Community	Carn Táchair 'Adopt a Spot' Project	3	£1,200	£960
20	Caledon Community Centre	Community	Caledon Community Centre	1	£1,200	£1,200
21	Caledon Guides & Rangers	Community	Caledon Guide Programme	5	£1,175	£720
22	Caledon In Bloom	Community	Caledon In Bloom 2021	4	£2,096	£840
23	Campa Chormaic	Culture	Campa Chormaic	3	£4,000	£960
24	Castledawson Royal British Legion	Culture	The Royal British Legion in the Community	2	£1,200	£1,080
25	Ceoltóirí Luraigh Machaire Rátha Carn Tóchair	Culture	Tionscadal na n'óg	5	£360	£360
26	Coagh & District Local History Group	Culture	2021/22 Programme of Events	5	£1,200	£720

27	Coagh and Drummullan Network Group	Community	Community - Coming out of lockdown	4	£1,130	£840
28	Coagh Community Crossroads Club	Community	Arts & Crafts Learning Programme	5	£2,482	£720
29	Coalisland Clonoe Comhaltas CCE	Culture	Coalisland Clonoe CCE Weekly Classes	2	£1,200	£1,080
30	Cookstown AOH	Culture	AOH - A New Dawn in Mid Ulster	5	£1,200	£720
31	Cookstown Community allotments	Community	Our Outdoor Spaces !	5	£1,200	£720
32	Cookstown District Lodge No3	Culture	Centenary Northern Ireland	4	£3,580	£840
33	Cookstown Multiple Support Help/Support	Community	2021 Tractor Run	6	£1,400	£600
34	Cookstown North community group	Community	communitive benches	5	£1,400	£720
35	Cookstown Rangers (Girlguiding)	Community	Me in Mind	6	£1,200	£600
36	Cookstown Royal British Legion Branch	Culture	VE/VJ Commemoration Event	3	£1,200	£960
37	Cookstown Standard Bearers Association	100 years	Northern Ireland Centenary 2020-2021	2	£1,200	£1,080
38	Coolnafranky Park residents Association	Community	Christmas & Easter activities.	5	£1,508	£720
39	Crilly Pipe Band	Community	Northern Ireland Centenary Celebrations	2	£1,355	£1,080
40	Cró Na Cille	Community	Cro ná Performance	4	£1,200	£840
41	Curran Heritage Culture Community Ass	Culture	Curran Community Engagement	2	£1,200	£1,080
42	Derganagh Training & Development Ass	Community	First Aid Training – Volunteers in groups	5	£1,365	£720
43	Derryloran Band	Culture	Covid 19 Enable Practise	6	£2,950	£600
44	Desertcreatives	Arts	Wheels	3	£1,200	£960
45	Desertmartin Parish Church	Community	Desertmartin Church Past and Present	3	£1,200	£960
46	Donaghmore District Community Assoc.	Arts	The heART of village life	3	£1,200	£960
47	Donaghmore Girls Friendly Society	Community	Enhancing GFS activities	5	£1,000	£720
48	Donaghmore Historical Society	Culture	History lectures and cultural activity	4	£1,200	£840
49	Donaghmore Horticulture Community	Community	Summer Colour for Donaghmore	3	£1,200	£960
50	Drummullan Community Group	Community	The Engage Project	2	£1,200	£1,080
51	Drumnacross Guiding Star LOL	Culture	Northern Ireland Centenary events 2021	3	£2,000	£960
52	Dunamore Community Association	Community	Dunamore Community Asso 2021 Activities	3	£1,350	£960
53	Dungannon & South Tyrone Kraft Circle	Community	Dungannon and South Tyrone Kraft Circle	4	£1,570	£840
54	Dungannon Area All Stars	Community	'Star Pots' One for you - one for me	3	£1,010	£960
55	Dungannon Cookstown Camera Club	Arts	Visualising Mid Ulster	3	£360	£360

56	Dungannon Silver Band	Culture	Youth Academy	3	£4,400	£960
57	Dungannon Swifts Charitable Trust	Community	Mental Health 'Coping Through Football'	4	£1,200	£840
58	Dungannon Visually Impaired Peoples Club	Community	Dungannon VIP Club (Visually Impaired)	3	£1,200	£960
59	Dungannon west recycled Teenagers	Community	Reducing isolation and loneliness	3	£2,415	£960
60	Eastvale & Kilcoole Com. Cultural group	Community	Community recovery, emerge & revitalise	3	£1,440	£960
61	Edentilone Pipe Band	Culture	Purchase of Equipment; band tuition	6	£1,200	£600
62	Fardross Pipe Band	Culture	MUSIC YOUTH CHALLENGE	4	£1,200	£840
63	Fivemiletown Estates Group	Community	Fivemiletown Community in Action 2021	5	£1,060	£720
64	Fivemiletown Half Door Club	Community	Fivemiletown Half Door Club 2021	4	£500	£500
65	Friends of Aughnacloy Day Centre	Community	"Enjoying time out with my friends"	3	£2,560	£960
66	Friends of the Somme Mid Ulster Branch	Culture	Programme of Events 2021	3	£1,400	£960
67	Gathered Voices Choir	Community	Gathered Voices Community Choir	5	£1,200	£720
68	Girlguiding Moneymore	Community	Back to Guiding	2	£1,200	£1,080
69	Glenburn Community Association	Community	Glenburn Community Activities 2021	5	£640	£640
70	Golden Star Temperance RBP 979	Culture	RBP 979 hall	3	£1,977	£960
71	Granaghan and District Women's Group	Community	Virtual crochet	4	£1,000	£840
72	Greenfingers @ An Ráth Dubh	Community	'Móin na nlonadh - ag Fás mar Phóbail'	3	£1,200	£960
73	Groundforce	Community	Never Forgotten	3	£1,200	£960
74	Hilltop Highland Dancers Dergina	Culture	Building back together, bigger and better	3	£1,197	£960
75	Institute of Irish Leadership	Culture	Feile Gaeltacht Thir Eoghain 2021	5	£4,153	£720
76	Joseph Devlin Memorial Hall	Culture	Our Hall for the community	2	£1,200	£1,080
77	Kildress area youth club	Community	post Lockdown Projects	3	£1,200	£960
78	Kildress Health Matters	Community	Post Covid Events	3	£1,200	£960
79	Kildress Kare	Community	Kildress Kare 2021	2	£1,200	£1,080
80	Killen Community Residents Group	Community	Decorate Walls on Park Play area	3	£3,500	£960
81	Killyman & District Cultural Grp	Culture	Kilyman community - post Lock downs !	4	£1,300	£840
82	Kilnaslee community development group	Culture	Kilnaslee centenary celebration	3	£1,435	£960
83	Knockloughrim Community Development	Community	Community Activities	3	£1,200	£960
84	Knockloughrim Fife and Drum Club	Culture	Musical and Communal Development 2021	5	£990	£720

85	Leckagh Neighbourhood Partnership	Community	100 years of history and culture	2	£1,200	£1,080
86	Liberty Church	Community	Mother Toddler, Community arts, support	3	£1,200	£960
87	Lilac-Coalisland Loughshore Men's Shed	Community	Living Well Coalisland	3	£10,300	£960
88	Lough Fea Ladies Group	Community	Lough Fea Ladies Learn Life Lessons	4	£1,200	£840
89	Loughshore Community Services Ltd	Community	LSC Community Development Project	2	£1,200	£1,080
90	Loup & District Historical Society	Heritage	Historical Talks/Presentations / Field Walks	4	£1,200	£840
91	Maghera Parish Caring Association	Heritage	A time of Socialising and education	3	£1,200	£960
92	Maghera Women's Institute	Heritage	Programme of Events 2021-22	5	£1,200	£720
93	Magherafelt Welfare Group	Community	Mental Health and Wellbeing.	4	£1,200	£840
94	Magherafelt Women's Group (Kidz Lodge)	Community	Crafting Our Way to Wellbeing	3	£1,200	£960
95	Me You and Them	Community	Here For You	1	£2,000	£1,200
96	Mid Ulster Floral Art Society	Community	Fun and Friendship through Flowers	4	£2,214	£840
97	Milltown Area Community Association	Community	Help for the community.	4	£1,440	£840
98	Moneymore Art Group	Arts	Help for the community.	5	£3,058	£720
99	Moneymore Heritage Trust Limited	Heritage	Extend Community Meeting Facility	5	£1,340	£720
100	Montober LOL 661	Culture	Montober, our community's place in NI	3	£1,200	£960
101	Moree Community Association	Culture	100 years past and the future.	5	£1,110	£720
102	Mowillian Hall Development Association	Community	St Andrews concert / St Valentines Ceilidh	4	£1,690	£840
103	Moygashel Lambeg Drumming Club	Culture	Tuition and programme of events 2021/22	5	£4,000	£720
104	Muintirevlin Historical Society.	Community	4 History Talks and 1 historical field trip	4	£580	£580
105	Mulnagore Coronation Accordion Band	Culture	Mulnagore Coronation Band 2021-2022	6	£1,100	£600
106	Murley Silver Band	Culture	Resumption of indoor banding	3	£1,200	£960
107	MUVE	Community	The crafty men and hens	6	£1,200	£600
108	Naiscoil Ghreanachain	Culture	Grow Wild	4	£1,100	£840
109	O4O Cookstown Ltd	Community	O4O's Thursday afternoon arts and crafts	6	£1,200	£600
110	Orritor History Group	Heritage	Orritor 2021	5	£1,600	£720
111	Parkview Community group	Community	Parkview - Our Community	4	£1,250	£840
112	Pomeroy Afterschool	Community	Summer Art	2	£1,304	£1,080
113	Pomeroy Comhaltas	Community	Autumn Workshops	3	£1,200	£960

114	Pomeroy District Sports and Cultural Ass	Culture	Centenary Stone	3	£1,200	£960
115	Pomeroy in Bloom	Community	Create flower arrangements	2	£3,730	£1,080
116	Pomeroy Players	Arts	Annual Drama Festival Production	4	£1,200	£840
117	Rhone Valley Community Group	Community	Syerla Hall Venue & Activities 2021	3	£2,827	£960
118	Richmond Primary School PSG	Community	Wellness, Health, Education Restart	3	£2,350	£960
119	Rock and District Historical Society	Heritage	Remembering our Shared Past	3	£900	£900
120	Roughan Silver Band	Culture	Brass Blast - Youth Academy Development	5	£1,200	£720
121	Sandholes Community Group	Community	Promoting Sandholes Community Group	4	£1,200	£840
122	Simpson Grant Association	Community	Providing a Dergina Community Facility.	3	£1,575	£960
123	South Derry Down's Syndrome Group	Community	Summer Scheme	3	£1,200	£960
124	South Tyrone Family History Society	Community	Research townlands/family history/culture	2	£1,255	£1,080
125	Sperrin Kidz	Community	Development of Children's Choir	2	£1,200	£1,080
126	Sperrin U3A	Community	Visit Killymoon / Davagh Forest; Speakers	5	£1,175	£720
127	St Colman's Parish Community Group	Community	Get Going again	4	£1,200	£840
128	St. John Bosco Community Association	Community	Building Our Community	2	£2,050	£1,080
129	Stewartstown & District Environmental Outreach	Community	Allotments	5	£3,250	£720
130	Stewartstown & District Village Forum	Community	Let's get growing	5	£1,200	£720
131	Stewartstown Community Group	Community	Stewartstown Community in Action	5	£1,100	£720
132	Superstars Club	Community	The Greatest Showman	1	£2,640	£1,200
133	Syerla And District Pipe Band (SADPB)	Culture	Tuition to young people to compete	4	£1,200	£840
134	Termoneeney Young at Heart Club	Community	Termoneeney Young at Heart Club Activity	5	£5,100	£720
135	The Ballyeglish Society	Heritage	The Ballyeglish Project	6	£1,200	£600
136	The Craft Class St. Swithin's	Community	Traditional/ Contemporary Craft Activities	4	£1,200	£840
137	The Geordie Hanna Traditional Singing Society	Arts	Book-Geordie Hanna"The Man&The Songs"	4	£2,880	£840
138	The Low Country Native Irish Honeybee	Community	Native Irish Honeybee Queen Rearing/ Day	6	£1,202	£600
139	The Mid Ulster Festival of Creative Arts	Arts	Camp Creative	4	£1,200	£840
140	The Regimental Ass Of The UDR	Community	St Patrick Celebration	2	£1,190	£1,080
141	The Tuesday Club	Community	Arts & Crafts Tuesday afternoon.	6	£1,200	£600
142	The Zacchaeus Outreach Project	Community	Health and Wellbeing for young people	3	£1,200	£960

143	Times of Refreshing Ministries	Community	Peaced Together/ Peaced Together Junior	4	£1,197	£840
144	Tobermore District LOL 11	Culture	Community Working Together	2	£1,200	£1,080
145	Tobermore Old Standard LOL 131	Culture	Brighter Days in the Community	4	£1,200	£840
146	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Culture	To provide tenor drum tuition	4	£1,200	£840
147	Washingbay Art Group	Arts	Washingbay Art Programme 2021/ 2022	4	£1,200	£840
148	William Kerr Memorial Pipe Band	Culture	Instruments, NI 100 Centenary Bench/Table	4	£1,200	£840
149	Woodschapel Beaver Scouts	Community	Craft, cultures, heritage and science.	5	£1,385	£720
150	Woodschapel Mothers' Union	Culture	Reconnect Outing	5	£1,100	£720
	Total			Total	£129,480	
				Budget	£130,000	

Note: where a group has asked for an amount that is lower than the % of the stated maximum they will be allocated this amount

Ineligible

	Derrylaughan GAC – double category sports	DC
	Derrytresk Youth & Community Group – double category venues	DC
	C Goal – share holder element CIC	Ineligible
	GLH projects – SLA Council	Ineligible
	St John's Church of Ireland, Moneymore - ineligible	Ineligible

Score	Band	Award
90+	1	£1,200
80-89	2	£1,080
70-79	3	£960
60-69	4	£840
50-59	5	£720
40-49	6	£600
30-39	7	£480

Sports Capital Development (Max £5,000 based on 50% match funding)

No	Organisation Name	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Awarded
1	Blackwater Watersports	Trailer and safety boat	6	£5,000	£2,500
2	Brocagh Emmetts G F C	New Drainage/ Sand Carpet - Training Pitch	5	£10,050	£3,000
3	Clady and District Angling Club	River Clady - Stiles projects	4	£4,000	£2,000
4	CLG & CC Naomh Colum Cille, Oilean Agus Cluain	Electrical rewiring of club house	5	£12,984	£3,000
5	Coagh United Football Club	Replacement Fence At CUFC	6	£9,750	£2,500
6	Cookstown Fr Rock's GFC	Installation of new Catch Nets	4	£4,435	£2,218
7	Cookstown RBL Football Club	Floodlighting pitch, gazebbos– eligible costs	6	£5000	£2,150
8	Desertmartin GAC St Martins GAC	Galvanised goal posts	7	£3600	£1,800
9	Donaghmore GAA	Spectator Fencing Project	5	£12,960	£3,000
10	Dungannon Rugby Football Club	Upgrade of training pitch floodlights	3	£3,800	£1,900
11	Dungannon Tennis Club	Floodlight Provision	5	£9,516	£3,000
12	Dungannon Thomas Clarkes GFC	Ground Improvements	5	£13,200	£3,000
13	Edendork GAC	Club Capital Investment 2021	4	£12,135	£3,500
14	Emmets GAC Slaughtneil	Walking Track	2	£43,815	£4,500
15	Erins Owen Lavey GAC	Lavey GAC Terracing Project	3	£11,752	£4,000
16	Galbally ABC	Amateur Boxing Development	5	£12,300	£3,000
17	Galbally Pearses GFC.	Upgrading of Hall	4	£25,000	£3,500
18	Killymuck Clay Pigeon Club	Killymuck Clay Pigeon Looking Ahead	6	£5,000	£2,500
19	Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh	Ball Stops Project	4	£17,496	£3,500
20	Moyola Park AFC	Improving accessibility at Mill Meadow	4	£18,000	£3,500
21	Na Fianna Runners	Na Fianna Runners - "Light the Way"	3	£12,010	£4,000
22	Naomh Colm Baile na Scríne GLC	Ballinascreen Sports facilities access project	3	£15,850	£4,000
23	O'Donovan Rossa GAC Magherafelt	Sports Centre of Excellence	4	£11,500	£3,500
24	Ogra Colmcille	Walking track upgrade	5	£10,700	£3,000
25	Pomeroy Plunketts GAC	Improving appearance of Plunkett Park	4	£10,000	£3,500

26	Pomeroy Plunketts Handball Club	Handball Alley Renovation	4	£10,000	£3,500
27	St Malachy's GAC Castledawson	Sports Facility equipment enhancement.	5	£18,900	£3,000
28	St Patricks GAC Loup	Spectator Fencing Upgrade	4	£16,400	£3,500
29	St. Michaels GAC Lissan	Provision of New Ball Stop Nets	4	£10,740	£3,500
30	Tri Limits Triathlon Club	Youth Link	4	£9,850	£3,500
31	Watty Graham GAC	Changing Rooms Refurbishment	3	£11,500	£4,000
32	Wolfe Tones Bellaghy GAC	Bellaghy GAC ladies/disabled toilet facilities.	4	£11,850	£3,500
				Total	£100,568
				Budget	£120,000

Underspend of £19,432 to be allocated to Small Sports overspend.

Score	Band	Award
90+	1	£5,000
80-89	2	£4,500
70-79	3	£4,000
60-69	4	£3,500
50-59	5	£3,000
40-49	6	£2,500
30-39	7	£2,000

Small Sports Grants (Max £1,500)

No	Organisation Name	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Acorns AC	Beginners to 5K and Beyond Running	4	£1,500	£1,050
2	Ballinascreen Camogie Association	Girls Physical Literacy Programme	1	£1,500	£1,500
3	Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	'Back out and play' programme	4	£1,500	£1,050
4	Ballyronan Boat Club	Return to Sailing	6	£1,530	£750
5	Bellaghy Wolftones GAC	Getting Girls Active through GAA	3	£1,500	£1,200
6	Blackwater Riversports Club	Blackwater Watersports Club Development Project	7	£1,500	£600
7	Clogher Eir Og GAC	Ball Stop Provision	4	£1,500	£1,050
8	Coagh Sports Centre	Purchase of Marquee	4	£1,500	£1,050
9	Coalisland Na Fianna GFC	Extension to Fianna Fit 4 Life	5	£1,725	£900
10	Cookstown Fr Rock's GFC	Development and Provision of Youth Activities	1	£2,210	£1,500
11	Cookstown Hockey Club	Field Hockey Building back better!	1	£1,500	£1,500
12	Cookstown Royal British Legion Football Club	Let Them Play	3	£1,500	£1,200
13	Cookstown Youth Football Club	All-girls Football Development Centre @ CYFC	2	£1,485	£1,350
14	Cumann Fionnbarra Naofa (St Finbarrs)	Pop up Gazebo to support Covid Officers at events	3	£1,500	£1,200
15	Derrylaughan GAC	Post Covid Youth Development & Coaching Program	1	£2,918	£1,500
16	Dungannon Amateur Boxing Club	Return to Boxing at Dungannon Amateur Boxing Club	5	£1,500	£900
17	Dungannon Rugby Football Club	Getting back to normal	2	£1,304	£1,304
18	Dungannon Kickboxing Club	Protective Sporting Environment	7	£1,163	£600
19	Dungannon Tigers FC	Dungannon Tigers Clubday	5	£1,300	£900
20	Edendork GAC	Mini Mals	4	£1,500	£1,050
21	Emmets GAC Slaughtneil	GAA Club Season	2	£1,500	£1,350
22	Erins Own Lavey GAC	Lavey GAC - Summer Scheme	1	£1,500	£1,500
23	Fivemiletown United FC	Football for Teenagers: Returning to Sport Post-Covid	5	£1,240	£900
24	Galbally Pearses	Return to Sports for all	3	£1,500	£1,200
25	Island Wheelers Cycling Club	Island Wheeler Development	5	£1,760	£900
26	Killymoon Rangers Football Club	Return to Sport at Killymoon Rangers FC	6	£1,500	£750
27	Killymuck Clay Pigeon Club	Community at Heart	4	£1,200	£1,050

28	Maghera Strollers Football Club	Pitch Hire, Match Day Costs & Equipment.	6	£1,500	£750
29	Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh	Swatragh Active Sports Project	2	£1,500	£1,350
30	Mid Ulster Netball Club	MUNC 2021/22	3	£1,500	£1,200
31	Moneymore Clay Pigeon Club	Moneymore Clay Pigeon Club 2021	6	£1,500	£750
32	Moneymore GAC	Moneymore Active Community Project	1	£1,500	£1,230
33	Moortown St Malachys GAC	Widening Our Sports profile	1	£1,500	£1,500
34	Moyola Clay Target Club	Moving Forward	4	£1,500	£1,050
35	Moyola Park AFC	Re-establishing our senior female section	6	£1,136	£750
36	Moyola Park AFC Youth	TEAM 2021 (Together Everyone Achieves More)	5	£1,500	£900
37	Na Fianna CC	Spin 4 Life	5	£1,725	£900
38	Na Fianna Runners	Couch 2 5K	4	£2,700	£1,050
39	Naomh Colm Baile na Scr��ne GLC	Winter Sports Project	5	£1,500	£900
40	Naomh Colum Cille CLG	'Come and Try' programme	4	£1,500	£1,050
41	Naomh Treasa Camogie Club, Dungannon	Outdoor & Indoor Coaching Programme 2021/22	1	£1,500	£1,500
42	Newmills Football Club	Club Running Costs for Season 2021/22	4	£2,700	£1,050
43	O'Donnovan Rossa Camogie Magherafelt	Rossa Camogie Youth - Equipment & Coaching	5	£1,500	£900
44	O'Donovan Rossa GAC Magherafelt	Magherafelt EBA Initiative	1	£1,500	£1,500
45	Pomeroy Plunketts	New Nationals Gaelic Football Tasters	4	£1,500	£1,050
46	Pomeroy Plunketts Handball	Handball for Girls	4	£1,500	£1,050
47	Pomeroy Plunketts Ladies	Gaelic for Girls	4	£1,500	£1,050
48	Rainey Old Boys RFC	Girls Rugby Project	3	£1,500	£1,200
49	Square Wheels Cycling Club	Bikeability	4	£1,500	£1,050
50	St Malachy's GAC Castledawson	Ladies and Girls Fitness Class provision	6	£1,500	£750
51	St. Mary's Bowling Club Killeeshil	St Mary's Bowling Club - Bowling Events & Activities	5	£1,080	£900
52	St. Michael's GAC Lissan	Fitness & Wellbeing Course	3	£1,500	£1,200
53	Stewartstown Harps GAC	Introducing and coaching Gaelic in local primary sch	4	£1,500	£1,050
54	Tobermore United Football Club	Looking Ahead	2	£1,500	£1,350
55	Tulach Og	Online training classes with primary schools	3	£1,860	£1,200
56	Tyrone Ladies GFA	Return of females to sport at Tyrone Ladies	4	£1,500	£1,050

57	Watty Graham GAC	Watty Grahams CLG Girls Sport Programme	4	£1,500	£1,050
				Total	£62,084
		Overspend to be allocated £8,000 from sports representative, £20,072 from sports capital & remainder from CD Strategic £3,945		Budget Overspend	£30,000 £32,084

Ineligible

CueBall Snooker Club Tobermore	No GB affiliation
Greenhill tug of war club	Failed to meet minimum score
Leo`s boys and girls tug of war club	Failed to meet minimum score

The above grants will be referred to the festivals grant

Score	Band	Award
90+	1	£1,500
80-89	2	£1,350
70-79	3	£1,200
60-69	4	£1,050
50-59	5	£ 900
40-49	6	£ 750
30-39	7	£ 600

Good Relations (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	Aughnacloy and Truagh	Community	Cross community	4	£1,000	£700.00
Total						<u>£700.00</u>

Bands	Score	%
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90+	100%

Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership held on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 2.30pm via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor Christine McFlynn (Chair), Councillor Frances Burton, Councillor Anne Forde, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Meta Graham, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor Dominic Molloy, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Councillor John McNamee

Alexandra Black (Vice Chair), Ciaran McElhone, Seán MacGoilla Cheara, Julie McKeown

Inspector Andy Archibald (PSNI), Superintendent Mike Baird (PSNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Orla Murtagh (SH&SCT), Sergeant Cara Suiter (PSNI)

Apologies: Sue Chada, Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer)

In Attendance: Michael McCrory (PCSP Manager) Celene O'Neill (PCSP Officer), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting commenced at 2.35pm.

PCSP166/20 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

PCSP167/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

PCSP168/20 MINUTES OF POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 were approved by Members.

PCSP169/20 MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

PCSP170/20 VICE CHAIR ELECTION

The Chair informed Members that the election process to appoint a PCSP Vice Chair has now taken place, solely amongst the Independent Members, and congratulated Alexandra Black on her recent appointment.

The Vice Chair thanked the Chair and advised Members that she is looking forward to the day when we can all meet in person.

PCSP171/20 NEW UNIFORM BRIEF FOR NIPB

Superintendent Baird advised Members that PSNI are currently trialling a new uniform for their officers in a number of areas across Northern Ireland and is the first change in uniform to take place in 20 years. He referred Members to the presentation document containing photographs and costings and asked Members for comments.

Members did not comment.

PCSP172/20 COOKSTOWN NORTH COMMUNITY GROUP – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the 'Expression of Interest' submitted by Cookstown North Community Group who are seeking funding for the purchase of a 'Speed Indicator Device' which would be permanently based on Morgan's Hill Road, Cookstown.

Following a discussion, Members agreed that PCSP would be willing to provide funding for the purchase of a SID, with the proviso that the group are made aware and are happy that the SID would have to be moved to other areas in Cookstown for periods of time as and when a need arises. The PCSP Manager will arrange to meet with Cookstown North Community Group and clarify the conditions of funding and will report back to Members at the next meeting.

PCSP173/20 UPDATE ON PCSP DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR 2021/2022

The PCSP Manager advised Members that a PCSP Action Plan was drawn up two years ago covering 2019/2022. This Action Plan is reviewed annually to ensure that the projects being delivered are still relevant and that all areas of concern are being targeted effectively. Under normal circumstances, PCSP would have had numerous engagement projects and events, which are a great source of identifying issues of concern raised by residents across the district, but due to Covid-19 this has not been possible. As an alternative an on-line 'Community Safety Survey' was conducted and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators were consulted in order to obtain their views and collate statistics in relation to issues in their area.

The PCSP Manager provided information on the following sections of the PCSP Draft Action Plan for 2021/2022;

- Community Audit and Statistics
- Community Consultation Survey
- Turning the Curve

The Chair thanked the PCSP Manager for providing the update on the Draft Action Plan for 2021/2022, stating that it is an extensive piece of work and asked Members for their comments.

Superintendent Baird referred to the following areas

- Fear of Crime – Mid Ulster District has a higher level of ‘perception’ of crime and ‘fear of crime’ compared to other districts and given that Mid Ulster has the 2nd lowest level of crime across the service and the 2nd highest level in outcomes, it is difficult to know how this can be further addressed.
- Burglary – The level of burglaries have decreased this year, but the ‘perception’ and ‘fear of crime’ is evident.
- Crime overall is down by 7% and by 10% in Mid Ulster District.
- Domestic Violence which is recorded as Domestic Motivated Crime is the highest recorded, but it has reduced by 1 from 739 last year to 738 this year, the outcome rate has increased to 33%.
- Agricultural Crime – remains unchanged
- Hate Crime – the majority of these crimes are damage to bi-lingual signage, not harm against a person.

In response to a question from Councillor Burton whether all burglaries and crimes are reported to the PSNI, Superintendent Baird stated serious crimes are being reported and the vast majority of theft and burglaries are being reported but accepted that low level theft may not always be reported.

Members were in agreement with the Draft Action Plan for 2021/2022.

PCSP174/20 INDUCTION TRAINING FOR PCSP INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The PCSP Manager stated that the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) had hoped to arrange Induction Training for the new Independent Members, but due to Covid-19 this has not been possible. In light of this, it is proposed to have a Microsoft Teams meeting chaired by Alexandra Black (Vice Chair) for the Independent Members, which will provide them with the opportunity to ask questions and become more familiar with the PCSP Action Plan and all the Projects. This meeting will be held in the New Year.

PCSP175/20 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)

The PCSP Manager sought approval from Members to utilise the budget underspend to procure a further 10 Speed Indicator Devices, which will help alleviate the current waiting list across Mid Ulster. This underspend has arisen as a result of YEP Projects not happening due to Covid-19.

Members were in agreement with this proposal.

Proposed: Councillor Brian McGuigan
Seconded: Councillor John McNamee

PCSP176/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PROCUREMENT OF PCSP PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

In response to a request from Councillor Burton regarding the procurement of PCSP Promotional items, the PCSP Manager advised that a list is currently

being drawn up and will include the purchase of 'Lip Balms' which promote the Domestic Violence helpline number and also 'Flashing Armbands' which are in great demand.

COVID-19 UPDATE

In response to a question from Councillor Burton regarding the public's compliance with lockdown restrictions, Superintendent Baird advised that Mid Ulster Covid-19 figures were the highest, but are slightly down, but given the recent lifting of lockdown restrictions, the figures are on the rise again. There has not been a large number of 'house parties' reported across Mid Ulster, but funerals and wakes across the District have been a contributing factor to the increase in Covid-19 figures.

Superintendent Baird stated that compliance is reasonably good in the majority of cases, there has been some issues within Night Time Economy and restaurants, where 7 licensed premises were served with a 'Notice to Close'. As venues re-open over the weekend, there is a plan in place regarding enforcement and educating and following discussions with the Chief Executive, there is joint work planned with Council which will be rolled out next week. In light of Covid-19 figures rising again, it is probable that a further lockdown will have to happen in the new year.

BREXIT – 31 DECEMBER 2020

Superintendent Baird advised Members that they are currently making preparations to deal with any possible 'Brexit' protests that may occur as the transition period comes to an end on the 31 December 2020 and asked Members to make them aware of any known protests being organised, especially around the border areas.

BOY / GIRL RACERS IN DRUM ROAD AREA OF COOKSTOWN

Councillor Graham raised concerns about boy/girl racers on the Drum Road area of Cookstown especially on Saturday nights, the individuals appear to congregate around Drum Manor. She also highlighted the Upper Kildress Road, Glenarny Road and Orritor Road areas where anti-social driving is happening and asked if PSNI could increase patrols to discourage this activity.

In response, Superintendent Baird advised that their 'Christmas Drive Campaign' has already been launched and the information provided by the Member will be passed on to the local inspector to arrange increased patrols in these areas.

RE-LOCATION OF SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)

In response to a query from Councillor McNamee regarding the re-location of a SID to the Main Cookstown/Omagh Road where the Drum Road meets the Black Hill Road, the PCSP Manager advised that a SID has now been installed on this stretch of road and apologised for not updating the Member earlier.

Councillor Burton referred to an area along the A5 leading out of Aughnacloy travelling towards Ballygawley, where St Mary's Chapel, a Nursing home, and a residential area is located and asked if a SID could be installed as there has been a number of recent accidents and vehicles tends to speed up

as they leave the town. She also asked if the PSNI could increase patrols in order to deter speeding in this area.

The PCSP Manager advised that this location will be added to the waiting list for a Speed Indicator Device to be installed.

PCSP177/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 2.30pm.

The Chair thanked Members for attending the meeting and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

The meeting ended at 3.58pm.

Report on	1. Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 21/22 2. Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 3. 4C Ur Future Live Careers Event 4. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 5. NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request
Date of Meeting	17 June 2021
Reporting Officer	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>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 21/22 The Rural Micro Business Development Scheme funded through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI) will run again in 21/22 subject to approval of a business case and budget within the Department. July 21 has been targeted as a potential opening date for this year's scheme.</p> <p>Approval for Mid Ulster Council to participate in the 2021/22 Scheme was granted at the May 2021 Council meeting.</p>
2.2	<p>Labour Market Partnership (LMP) The Department for Communities (DfC) is working with all NI Councils in the establishment of Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs). There will be one regional LMP, supported by local LMPs within each Council area. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The Labour Market Partnership (LMP) provides a unique opportunity to greatly impact Council's priorities for skills and employability ensuring that an appropriate skills pipeline is available to local industry both now and in the future.</p>

programmes in Mid Ulster. It was also agreed that when the new partnership is set up that a strong worker focus be included with a strategic input from the trade union movement.

In summary, Interim LMPs are required to:-

- Undertake a Strategic Assessment;
- Consult on a regular basis with local communities, statutory, voluntary and private sectors;
- Confirm priority issues of concern;
- Develop and implement an annual Action Plan.

Proposed Delivery Vehicle and Membership of LMP in Mid Ulster

Council established the Mid Ulster Skills Forum in 2017, which has delivered on a number of initiatives and programmes including the establishment of the MEGA collaborative network. As a body representative of key partners and stakeholders in the employability and skills field, DFC have accepted that the existing Mid Ulster Skills Forum would be an appropriate vehicle to operate a local LMP through. The Forum reports directly to its parent committee from which it was established, in this case the Development Committee. It is now an opportunity to refresh and revamp the membership of the Skills Forum to align with the guidance set out by DFC in terms of the local LMP approach. It is recommended that the revised membership will comprise the following partners:-

Business Sector	The Forum shall have broad business representation from within Mid Ulster's key local sectors, with membership also from; Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership MEGA Network
Trade Union	The Forum shall have Trade union representation.
Public Sector	Department for Communities, Local Jobs & Benefits Offices, Local Careers Service, Health Trust, Department for Economy (Skills Branch), Invest NI
Education Providers	South West College, Northern Regional College, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) Cookstown & Dungannon Area Learning Partnership and Magherafelt Area Learning Partnership
Council	The Forum's Council representation shall comprise of 5 members drawn from the membership of the Council's Development Committee and using D'Hondt this would result in the following membership from political parties; 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP and 1 SDLP. Should any Member not be able to attend, they may nominate another representative from their party.
Community Sector	The Forum shall have VCS representation.

Indicative Budget Allocation

DfC have confirmed the undernoted indicative budget allocation for the local LMP in Mid Ulster for the Interim period 2021-22 (please note that this does not constitute a guarantee of any funding allocation, but to assist in the development

of interim Action Plans by providing an indication of the anticipated maximum budget for the area):-

	2021-22	2022-23*
Dept. for Communities	£468,088.68	£468,088.68
Dept. for the Economy (Skills)	£50,000.00	TBC
TOTAL:	£518,08.68	£464,088.68

* DfC anticipate that the indicative budget allocation for the period 2022-23 will remain the same as the current year.

Council will have the administrative lead for the operation of the local LMP. Therefore, DfC have allocated a portion of budget expenditure to appoint staff resources to provide secretariat support to the Partnership and manage the implementation of the agreed LMP Action Plan. A separate report on this issue will be brought to the Council's Policy & Resources Committee in due course.

Interim LMP Action Plan (2021-23)

A key objective of the LMP approach is to develop a two year Interim LMP Action Plan (2021-23) which will be locally focused and aligned to key strategic objectives identified within the Programme for Government, Community Plan, Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan and LMP member organisations' corporate plans. DfC will be issuing further information to Councils in respect of planning guidance for developing the Interim LMP Action Plan, including relevant templates to be completed.

It is intended to use the good work already completed through the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to formulate the Mid Ulster Interim Labour Market Action Plan. This is a fantastic platform from which to build and co-align Mid Ulster's Interim LMP Action Plan, whilst alongside carrying out some further data collection and consultation with local stakeholders to identify priorities and actions.

The costs of producing the Interim LMP Action Plan will be borne out of Council's budget allocation from the funders, which provides for both administrative (20%) and operational (80%) expenditure.

It is therefore recommended to Members to procure external professional support to assist preparation of an Interim LMP Action Plan 2021-23. A budget of £15,000 has been provisionally ring-fenced in DfC's budget allocation to Council in the current financial year.

4C Ur Future Live Careers Event

- 3.3 4C UR Future aims to run a series of regional "live" events in June 2022 across Northern Ireland to enable approx. 7,500 13-year-olds gain insights into their future career opportunities before they make their GCSE choices, and to provide career inspiration based on each young person's natural attributes and interests. Interactive games and work-based simulations will draw out and identify key strengths with a view to helping make better informed subject choices. Each pupil will receive a profile highlighting their strengths identified on the day and will be connected to suitable coaching and development activities following the event.

3.4	<p>Council officers met with Rachel Doherty (4C Ur Future) on Tuesday 18th May 2021 to discuss the company's proposal for Council to host one of the 4C Ur Future Live Career events during June 2022. The project was successfully piloted in 2019 at Ulster University but plans for future events in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to the pandemic. However, 4C Ur Future now hope to roll out the 2021/22 campaign which will commence with PR in June 2021, with registrations going live in Sep/Oct 2021, and a digital engagement campaign commencing in Nov 2021, before the "live" events take place in June 2022.</p> <p>The "live" event aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire, inform and enable young people to make the most of their opportunities • Encourage them to take the right path for them • Boost society and the economy • Help business share the existing and potential job opportunities within their organisations to young people at an early age <p>4C UR Future have identified the Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown as the most suitable venue in Mid Ulster. The event capacity is 750 and will cater for up to 7 schools in Mid Ulster. Based on an analysis of post primary school free school meals (<i>Source: Dept. for Education</i>) it is proposed that Officers engage with the undernoted schools to determine their interest in participating in this pilot project. *Please note that Cookstown High School has been added to ensure an even representation of post primary schools across the district:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Joseph's College, Coalisland 2. St. Patrick's College, Dungannon 3. Integrated College, Dungannon 4. Sperrin Integrated College, Magherafelt 5. Magherafelt High School 6. Holy Trinity College, Cookstown 7. Cookstown High School* <p>The event will be fully managed by 4C Ur Future staff and volunteers, with local assistance provided by the economic development team.</p> <p>The company has requested that Council host the event by providing the venue, catering (for volunteers and teachers), PA system and hire of tables and chairs. A briefing/proposal paper from 4C Ur Future and Partnership Agreement is attached in Appendices 1 and 2.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021</p> <p>Due to the pandemic and the ongoing uncertainty that exists, it is recommended that this year's Enterprise Week (8th – 12th November 2021) will be delivered virtually via a series of online, interactive webinars funded by Council with oversight from Council's economic development team. We propose to deliver a minimum of 10 virtual webinars throughout the week. Council is keen to build on</p>
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	<p>the success of previous Enterprise Weeks' and deliver a high quality and impactful programme of business focused events.</p> <p>The aim of Council's 2021 Enterprise Week programme is to provide a week of opportunity for local businesses and entrepreneurs to avail of advice and gather insights into what it takes to create, develop and sustain a business during a pandemic.</p> <p>A wide range of relevant business topics will be offered to ensure all sectors of industry are supported through specific webinars. Feedback from last year's event was very positive with many attendees supporting the virtual format as this enabled them to attend with limited time away from their work commitments and without the need to travel to and from a venue along with the opportunity to access the event recording at a later date.</p> <p>To build upon the success of the last two year's events, it is proposed to procure the services of a Management / Delivery Partner who will report to Council throughout the organisation, co-ordination and delivery of a comprehensive range of actions to ensure the smooth delivery of Enterprise Week 2021.</p>
3.5	<p>NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request</p> <p>The NOW Group focuses on supporting disadvantaged people who often slip through the net and become either long term unemployed or economically inactive and helps them explore and re-enter the labour market. To date, they do so through individualised and sector specific academies which ensures inclusivity for those who may struggle to attain either theory or experienced based qualifications.</p> <p>This new proposal (on Appendix 3) seeks to operate across all 11 Council areas in NI with a significant focus on areas of multiple and high deprivation and will help over 33% of those most disadvantaged people within our society.</p> <p>If successful in their bid, they will work in partnership with each Council to provide solutions to reduce skills gap, increase employability and map areas of labour market need to vocational training. The project will provide relevant data and research to increase preparation for entering into the post ESF funding era. The Programme Manager has indicated that they desire to establish new academies across NI, linked to where job opportunities exist, and propose these are aligned to digital and tourism/hospitality sectors.</p> <p>The NOW Group are inviting all 11 Councils to engage in collaborative support with their application and if successful, promotion of the programme to achieve outcomes within the Council area.</p> <p>There is no financial support requested from Council as part of this bid.</p> <p>It is therefore, recommended that Council provide a letter of support towards the NOW Group's project and permit the letter to be released to the NOW Group on</p>

	18 June 2021, as this is the closing date for all submissions to the Community Renewal Fund.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 21/22 Grant aid to be provided by DAERA subject to approval of business case. An administration budget of 10% of the funding allocation will be available to Council.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Subject to Members approval, £15,000 has been provisionally ring-fenced in DfC's budget allocation to Council to prepare a two year Interim LMP Action Plan for the period 2021-23.</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event A budget of up to £3,500 has been allocated within the Economic Development budget.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 An estimated budget of £28,000 has been set aside for Enterprise Week 2021 from Council's economic development budget. A proportion of these costs will be used to procure the services of a Management / Delivery Agent to co-ordinate, manage and organise all virtual events and promotion of Enterprise Week 2021.</p> <p>NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request No financial costs to Council.</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 21/22 Officers time</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Officers time</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event Officers time</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Officers time will be required to work with a Management / Delivery Partner in the development of a suite of events and to ensure the smooth running of Enterprise Week 2021.</p>

	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 21/22 Council policies and procedures will be adhered to in the roll out of this plan</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme Equality and Good Relations screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships To be considered.</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event To be considered.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships To be considered.</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event To be considered.</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:-</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme</p> <p>5.1.1 Approve delegated authority to the Chief Executive to accept the contract from DAERA for the 2021/22 TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme.</p> <p>5.1.2 Approve delegated authority to the Chief Executive to issue individual letters of offer under the Scheme, with maximum grant awards up to £4,999, in order to have funding issued to successful businesses as soon as possible after assessment.</p>
5.2	<p>Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</p> <p>5.2.1 Approve the Mid Ulster Skills Forum as the delivery vehicle to operate the local Interim Labour Market Partnership (LMP).</p> <p>5.2.2 Approve proposed revised membership as detailed in the report which</p>

	<p>includes 5 Councillors drawn from Council's Development Committee using the D'Hondt calculation which provides the following political member breakdown; 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP, 1 SDLP.</p> <p>5.2.3 Approve a budget of £15,000 towards the preparation of an Interim LMP Action Plan for Mid Ulster for the period 2021-23. Proceed to seek competitive quotations from suitably qualified organisations to undertake this work and delegate authority to the Council's Chief Executive to appoint the successful organisation to allow work to be progressed over the summer months.</p>
5.3	<p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event</p> <p>5.3.1 Approve funding support up to a maximum of £3,500 from Council's economic development budget, to host the pilot event in the Mid Ulster area and formally accept and sign the Partnership Agreement on Appendix 2, subject to legal team's review.</p> <p>5.3.2 Approve that officers engage with the following schools to determine their interest in participating in this pilot project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St. Joseph's College, Coalisland, - St. Patrick's College, Dungannon, - Integrated College, Dungannon, - Sperrin Integrated College, Magherafelt, - Magherafelt High School, - Holy Trinity College, Cookstown and - Cookstown High School.
5.4	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021</p> <p>5.4.1 Approve a budget of £28,000 for the entire delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 from within the existing Economic Development budget 2021/22.</p> <p>5.4.2 Approve Council proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management / Delivery Partner to manage and co-ordinate the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021. The costs for such to be apportioned from within the budget detailed at 5.4.1. Approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful Management/Delivery Partner following the procurement exercise to allow work to commence over the summer months.</p>
5.5	<p>NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request</p> <p>Approve that Council provide a letter of support to the NOW Group to accompany their bid to the Community Renewal Fund, and to release the letter on 18 June</p>

	2021, as this is the closing date for all submissions to the Community Renewal Fund. (Note, no financial support is requested from Council).
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 - Briefing Proposal 4C Ur Future</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Partnership Agreement 4C Ur Future</p> <p>Appendix 3 – NOW Group Community Renewal Collaboration Request</p>

APPENDIX 1



2021-2022 Plans

4C UR Future aims to run ten **Live** events in June 2022 hosted by different council areas across Northern Ireland. Four councils have already agreed to host.

Mid Ulster

COUNCIL BRIEFING

4C UR Future Live is a series of regional events to be held in June 2022 around Northern Ireland to enable as many 13-year-olds as possible gain insights into their future career opportunities, before they make their GCSE choices.



4C UR Future Live events follow-on from a hugely successful pilot event held in 2019, which saw almost 1,200 young people from eight local schools gather at Ulster University, Jordanstown, for a day of sector-related skills and challenges. The pilot was supported by over 120 volunteers from 30 cross-sectoral companies and aimed to highlight young peoples' natural attributes and talents, and potential future career choices.

4C UR Future Live is not a dry and boring information-based event. Instead, young people take part in a range of interactive games and work-based skills challenges, that are specifically designed to draw out and identify their key strengths, all with a view to helping them make better-informed subject choices and career planning.

4C UR Future collaborates with key employers, companies, and the main sector groups within the Northern Ireland economy to inform young people in the skillsets that are desirable both now, and in the future. An industry-led Steering Team has already been established to finalise plans for 2022, and to make the all-important connections with the business sector.

4C UR FUTURE is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company. We exist to engage, inform, and inspire young people to become the best version of themselves, optimising their opportunity to contribute to society and the economy.

Our approach is specifically designed to enhance equality of opportunity. We enable each individual to explore their own unique combination of positive attributes, talents, and learning styles relative to their peer group, and align them with emerging work trends and employability criteria.

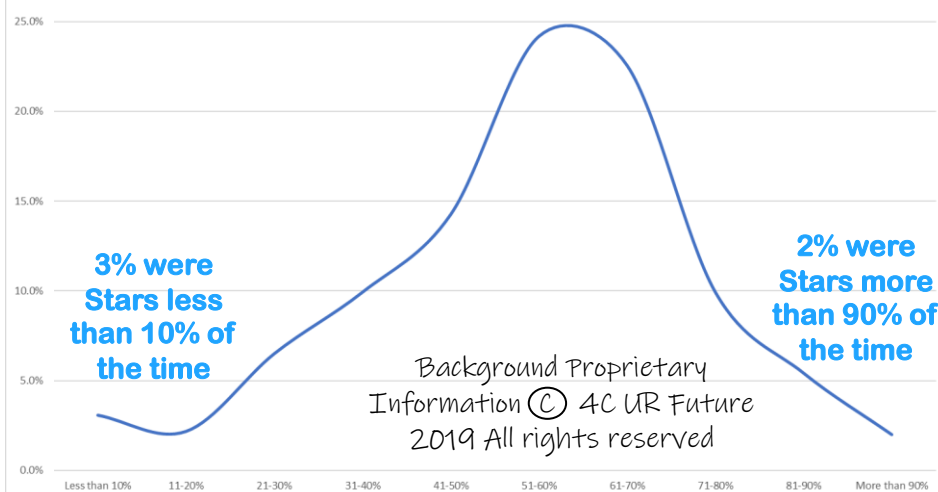
We connect individuals with suitable coaching and development activities. Our collaborative approach assists underrepresented individuals gain greater access to meaningful work and economic opportunities.



PHASE 1 PILOT DATA

Headline Results - Our young people are stars!

Graph showing percentage of participant was recorded as a star at something



Games are designed to reflect competencies required in the (future) world of work and the range of games chosen reflect the diversity of careers and ensure there was something for everyone. Participant teams (of 4-6 people) assessed their team performance and with facilitator's help, identified team members who shone in a particular aspect in that game.

The 4C UR Future **Live** events aim to:

- Inspire, inform, and enable young people to make the most of their opportunities
- Enhance equality of opportunity by ensuring all young people are aware of subjects and career paths that provide options that work for them.
- Boost confidence and awareness in young people in relation to their capabilities.
- Help businesses share their existing and potential opportunities with young people at an early and pivotal age.

Why?

- There are approximately 22,000 young people aged 13 in Northern Ireland.
- Research shows that for young people who receive 4 inspirational interventions about the world of work, the results can be life-changing.
- While it may be deemed important to focus on those from deprived areas, one of the critical success factors of **4C UR Future** is the all-compassing nature of participants, with the opportunity for every child to shine and receive peer recognition.
- The world of work has changed beyond all recognition in recent years and it continues to change at a fast pace. Traditional subject choices and career aspirations simply aren't as relevant or straightforward as they used to be. There is a huge range of new options and it's

vital that we get that message across to teachers, children, and their parents.

- There is a need for a coordinated, cross-sector and collaborative approach to provide clarity.

How?

- The **Live** events involve businesses from start to finish and have a game approach.
- Each young person is enabled to explore their own unique combination of positive attributes, talents, and learning styles, and to align them with emerging work trends and employability criteria.
- To ensure the data is useful and informative, it is important that complete year groups from schools attend the event
- We aim to demystify the confusion surrounding careers. The world of work is changing so fast, it is very difficult to keep up to date. Understandably, it's an area where some teachers struggle, and some schools admit that they don't do very well.
- We would like to expand our programme for teachers at the event with relevant Sector Briefings
- **4C UR Future** provide all pre-planning, event management, liaising with business and schools.
- **Free to schools - 4C UR Future** will also provide transport for children in the local area (up to 20 mins away from the venue).



2021-2022 Plans:

4C UR Future plans to run ten **Live** events for 7,500 13-year-olds, on a regional basis around Northern Ireland, in 2022. We would like to run the events in as many council areas as possible and have businesses and schools already engaged.

Longer-term, we would love to offer **4C UR Future Live** to every council area, but for 2022 we want to ensure that we maintain quality and don't overstretch our volunteers.

Running the **Live** events in June is a deliberate choice. In consultation with the schools, the last few weeks of Year 9, before the young people embark on Year 10 and make their all-important GCSE subject choices, is optimal.

One of the industry experts attending the event and watching the young people go through their paces noticed that a young man who had an unusually high level of manual dexterity. When he was told this, it was clear that he'd never received that kind of praise before.

"But does his manual dexterity mean that he'd make a great butcher, a great mechanic, or a great surgeon? That's the kind of question that we'd love to help him to answer."

Mid Ulster Council

4C UR Future Live is an ideal collaboration opportunity that will compliment and support Council's efforts in:

- Supporting inward investment, economic growth, and the development of business start-ups through the nurturing and development of essential skills pipelines.
- Compliment the work of MEGA.
- Supporting young people in making critical subject and career choices through understanding their natural attributes and talents.
- Providing Social Value Impact through delivering an engaging, collaborative, and cross-sectoral intervention for young people, at a critical point in their education journey.

The Asks

- Would Council host this event in June 2022? See outline plan on the next page showing the Ulster University Indoor 3G Pitch 40mx60m floorplan – this would be adjusted for the Council's facility.
- Hire of tables and chairs and a PA system. We are currently working on an NI-wide contract

and we are asking Councils to pay for their area proportionately.

- Provision of catering for approx. 100-120 company volunteers and 20-30 teachers, plus 30 people for the set-up day. We are currently working on an NI-wide contract option and will provide further details toward the end of May.
- Children will bring their own packed lunches.



RMS Ver 1 230220

Mid Ulster Arena

60m x 25m and 35m x 21m

Initial Feasibility Layout

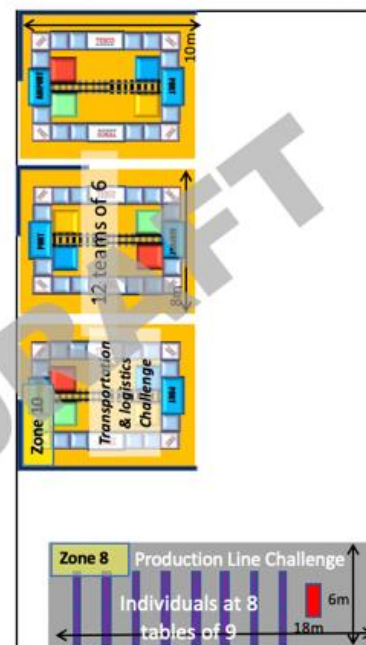
**PILOT
PHASE 2**

Assumptions

June 2020
11 rotations (1 spare)
68 pupils per rotation

748 Pupil Participants

Background Proprietary
Information © 4C UR Future
2020 All rights reserved



**4C UR
FUTURE
LIVE**

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Partnership Agreement

1	Parties	<p>(1) 4C UR Future is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company, whose registered address is Catalyst Innovation Centre, Queens Road, Belfast, BT3 9AD. Company No: NI659959.</p> <p>and</p> <p>(2) Mid Ulster District Council</p>
2	Campaign Commencement Date	TBC – June 2021
3	Event Dates	TBC – June 2022
4	Event Details	<p>4C UR Future LIVE is a series of regional events to be held in June 2022 across Northern Ireland to enable approx. 7,500 13-year-olds gain insights into their future career opportunities before they make their GCSE choices, and to provide career inspiration based on each young person's natural attributes and interests.</p> <p>The 2021/22 campaign commences with PR in June 2021, with registrations going live in Sep/Oct 2021, and a digital engagement campaign commencing in Nov 2021, before the LIVE events take place in June 2022.</p> <p>This Agreement covers the 2021/2022 campaign.</p> <p>Following detailed investigation, the [LOCATION] would be a suitable venue to run this event and is available on the dates shown above.</p>
5	Council Commitments	<p>Council will be responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with [LOCATION] to agree contractual arrangements and payment for use of the venue for the dates stated above. • Provide support for the set-up of tables, chairs, and other resources (as detailed in the floorplan, a final version of which will be provided in March 2022). 4C UR Future are currently negotiating a regional contract for set-up provision, for which Council would be required to contribute an equal proportion relative to their event. • Ensure a PA system is available that has the scope to cover the entire event space for making announcements during the event. • Provide catering for up to 200 volunteers and teachers on the event day/s; and unlimited tea and coffee. • Provision of portable toilets, if required – facilities TBC. • Provision of safety/access ramps for use on the day, if required – facilities TBC. • Ensure there is adequate WiFi for use at the event. • Cover any additional venue/resource costs required to run this event <p>Optional:</p> <p>4C UR Future's activities are currently financially supported by Member Companies. Some of the hosting Councils have offered to provide financial assistance to support the costs of running the event for approx. 750 young people, which is also pivotal in supporting the on-going objectives of 4C UR Future such as the development of an industry-led Careers Portal, at approx. £20 per head, a total of £15,000.</p>
6	Partnership Package	<p>Mid Ulster District Council's logo will be included on all promotional materials sent to schools, parents, and businesses (either printed or electronic) for the event taking place within the borough. Council's logo will also be included on the new 4C UR Future website, and there will be opportunities for Council to engage with 4C UR Future and their local schools and business community in the creation and</p>

		distribution of content. There will be an opportunity for the Council to invite local Councillors and local press to attend on the event day/s.
7	Payment Dates	Invoices relating to the event will come directly to the Council and should be paid within 14 days prior to the event taking place.
8	School Engagement	<p>4C UR Future and its Event Sub-Team members will make contact with all schools in the Mid Ulster District Council area within a max. 20-minute travel radius of the venue to make logistical arrangements. Council is of course welcome to support school outreach. Communications should be pre-approved by 4C UR Future.</p> <p>Should schools be located further than a 20-minute travel time from the venue but be able/willing to accommodate travel arrangements to be at the venue on-time, this will be considered. For the smooth running of the event and to maximise the participation of young people, prompt arrival for registration is crucial. We hope to inspire up to 750 young people through this event, subject to venue capacity.</p> <p>Follow-up communications with the school and young people will be via email and the 4C UR Future Careers Portal, including the provision of a Personal Positive Profile for each young person who participates in the event.</p>
9	Other notes	It may be possible to include schools from other Council areas that fit within the travel distance to this venue. Mid Ulster District Council will be informed of schools from other Council areas that may be able to attend.
10	Notices	<p>Any notices in respect of this agreement should be sent to Rachel Doherty, Managing Director, 4C UR Future, by email at rachel@4curfuture.com.</p> <p>[INSERT POINT OF CONTACT FOR COUNCIL REGARDING NOTICES].</p>

Other Terms, specific to this Agreement are as follows:

This Partnership Agreement has been entered into on the date stated below. By signing this Partnership Agreement, you are confirming the accuracy and agreeing to be bound by the general Terms and Conditions attached to this Partnership Agreement, which together form the terms of this agreement ('**Agreement**').

4C UR Future

Council

Signed:

Signed:

Date:

Date:

If this Partnership Agreement is not signed, this Agreement will be entered into on the date the Council Partner confirms by email that the Terms are acceptable; or if no such confirmation is received by 4C UR Future within five (5) business days of the Council Partner receiving this Agreement (whether by email in the form of an attachment or a hyperlink) these Terms shall automatically be deemed to be accepted by the Council Partner from the Campaign Commencement Date.

EVENT CHECKLIST

Task/Activity	Completed
Venue Risk Assessment.	
Venue floorplan provided.	
Confirmation of venue secured by Council.	
Confirmation of catering provision for up to 30 people for set-up day.	
Confirmation of catering provision for up to 200 people for event day.	
Confirmation of continuous tea and coffee for event day.	
Confirmation of tables and chairs.	
Confirmation of suitable PA system.	
Confirmation of suitable number of toilets.	
Confirmation of suitable safety/access points.	
Fire Evacuation Plan provided by venue.	
Confirmation of parking and access arrangements.	
Confirmation of venue point of contact.	
Description of number of venue staff available on the event day and an outline of their remit for events held on the premises.	
Confirmation that ancillary rooms, other than toilets, can be locked on the day of the event.	



4C UR Future general Terms and Conditions relating to the Partnership Agreement (“General Terms”)

1. Interpretation

- 1.1 The following definitions and rules of interpretation apply in this Agreement:

Definitions

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday in Northern Ireland.

“Confidential Information” means all confidential information (however recorded or preserved) disclosed by a Party to this Agreement or its Associates (as defined below in clause 4.1(h)) to the other Party and/or that Party's Associates in connection with the supply of Services and the Deliverables by 4C UR Future, and any other information that would be regarded as confidential by a reasonable business person in relation to the business, affairs, customers, clients, suppliers, plans, intentions, opportunities of the disclosing Party, and/or the provision of the same Services.

“Partnership Pack” means the pack containing information for the Partner to use in relation to the Event and the fulfilment of the Partnership Package, to be sent by 4C UR Future to the Partner following the date of this Agreement.

“Intellectual Property Rights” means all patents, rights to inventions, utility models, copyright and related rights, trademarks, service marks, trade, business, and domain names, rights in trade dress or get-up, rights in goodwill or to sue for passing off, unfair competition rights, rights in designs, rights in computer software, database rights, semi-conductor topography rights, moral rights, rights in confidential information (including know-how and trade secrets) and any other intellectual property rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered, and including all applications for and renewals or extensions of such rights, and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection in any part of the world.

“Notices” has the meaning attributed to it in the Partnership Agreement.

“Partner Materials” means any material that the Partner provides to 4C UR Future during the Term, which promotes the Partner's participation in the Event.

All terms referred to in the Partnership Agreement shall have the meanings given to them in the Partnership Agreement.

- 1.2 The General Terms set out the general Terms and Conditions applicable to this Agreement and are supplementary to the Partnership Agreement, which sets out the specific details of the Partnership Package applicable to this Agreement.
- 1.3 Where any provision contained in the Partnership Agreement conflicts with any provision of these General Terms, the General Terms shall prevail.
- 1.4 The headings in this Agreement are for ease of reference only and shall be disregarded in construing or interpreting the Agreement.
- 1.5 A reference to "writing" or "written" includes email.
- 1.6 Any words following the terms "including", "include", "in particular" or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.

2. Term

The Partnership Package shall commence on the Commencement Date and continue until expiry of the Campaign End Date (when it shall terminate automatically without notice), unless terminated earlier in accordance with clause 10 ('Term').

3. 4C UR Future's Obligations

- 3.1 4C UR Future warrants that, during the Term, any Event that 4C UR Future hosts will be hosted with reasonable care and skill.
- 3.2 Subject to the payment of the Charges and Expenses and any Other Costs (as applicable), 4C UR Future shall provide the Partnership Package to the Partner.
- 3.3 4C UR Future shall have the right to make any changes to the Event that are necessary to comply with any applicable law or safety requirement, or which do not materially affect the nature or quality of the Partnership Package, and 4C UR Future shall notify the Partner in any such event.
- 3.4 4C UR Future shall have the absolute right, at any time, to refuse to publish or use any Partner Material where 4C UR Future has indicated that it will not permit such content to be used and/or 4C UR Future reasonably believes that such Partner Material is unsuitable and/or of an inappropriate quality or nature. To the extent reasonably practicable, 4C UR Future will suggest amendments to the Partner Material to comply with 4C UR Future's requirements.

4. Council Partner Obligations

- 4.1 The Council Partner warrants that:
- (a) The Terms set out in the Partnership Agreement are accurate and complete;
- (b) If the performance of any element of the Partnership Package requires the use of any Partner Materials then the Partner shall provide 4C UR Future promptly (and in any event no later than any date agreed by the Parties) with the Partner Materials at no charge;
- (c) The Partner Materials will not, when used in accordance with this Agreement, infringe any Intellectual Property Rights of any third party and suitable waivers of moral rights have been obtained, where relevant;
- (d) The Partner Materials are not in any way obscene, defamatory, or blasphemous, and not contrary to provisions of any applicable law, regulation, or code of practice;
- (e) All Partner Materials submitted to 4C UR Future for publication online, or as part of downloaded licensed software applications, will be free of any viruses;
- (f) The Partner shall ensure it has obtained any necessary authorisations, including consents, permissions, rights, or releases, that might be required to use such materials in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;
- (g) All Partner Materials shall apply any legal notices as may be reasonably required from time to time by 4C UR Future;
- (h) Where the Partnership Package and/or any Partner Materials include any images of, and/or interviews, and/or statements, and/or any other type of communications that are from or are purported to be from the Partner's directors, employees, agents, sub-contractors, and/or authorised representatives (**“Associates”**), or any information or documentation of a



similar nature, the Partner shall procure the appropriate consents, permissions, and releases required to enable 4C UR Future to publish same;

- (i) The Partner has full authority to enter into this Agreement and is not bound by any agreement with any third party that adversely affects, conflicts, or competes with this Agreement;
- (j) The Partner has, and will maintain throughout the Term, all necessary powers, authority, and consents to enter into and fully perform its obligations under this Agreement; and
- (k) It owns or is solely entitled to use the Partner Materials and any other material supplied to 4C UR Future in relation to this Agreement;
- (l) The Partner will, at all times, maintain an appropriate level of insurance cover (to a reasonable extent as is standard in the Partner's industry) in relation to any participation by or on behalf of the Partner in relation to the Event/s, and will provide 4C UR Future with reasonable evidence of such insurance in force from time to time at the request of 4C UR Future.
- (m) In the event that the Partner materially breaches any Term of this Agreement, at any time, it agrees that 4C UR Future may, in its absolute discretion, appoint an alternative Partner for the Event in question and/or obtain an alternative Partnership Package, which is not provided by the Partner, and the Partner shall indemnify and keep indemnified 4C UR Future against all costs, liabilities, and other expenses 4C UR Future incurs as a result (including but not limited to the cost to 4C UR Future obtaining an alternative Partner and/or Partnership Package).
- (n) The Partner agrees that it will provide 4C UR Future, upon reasonable request, with any evidence of its compliance with any of the obligations in this clause 4.
- (o) For the avoidance of doubt, the Partner acknowledges and agrees that, unless it is given specific rights in writing by 4C UR Future as part of the Partnership Package (in which case any rights shall be limited to the extent that is expressly provided for in the Partnership Pack), it has no right whatsoever to contact or market to, in any way, any of 4C UR Future's school or business contacts in relation to the Event(s) and/or any Partnership Package and/or any other service or product that may be offered by the Partner at any time.
- (p) The Partner acknowledges and agrees that it has no right to use any Confidential Information or Intellectual Property owned by 4C UR Future.

5. Payment Terms

- 5.1 The Partner shall pay the Charges, Expenses, and any Other Costs in accordance with the Terms of the Partnership Agreement (including on the Payment Dates set out in the Partnership Agreement).
- 5.2 4C UR Future shall invoice the Partner the Charges, Expenses, and any Other Costs agreed between the Parties, where reasonably practicable, in advance of the Event to which the Charges, Expenses, and any Other Costs apply, unless otherwise agreed in the Partnership Agreement.
- 5.3 The Partner shall pay all invoices within thirty (30) days of the date of the relevant invoice unless otherwise stated on the Partnership Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, all Charges, Expenses, and Other Costs due and payable to 4C UR Future will be paid at least 14 working days prior to any Event to which the Charges, Expenses, and Other Costs relate, unless otherwise agreed in writing by 4C UR Future.

- 5.4 All payments to be made by the Partner under this Agreement shall be paid free and clear of any deduction, withholding, bank charges, fees, duties, other transactional costs, set-off, or counterclaim (other than any deduction or withholding of tax as required by law).

- 5.5 If the Partner fails to make any payment due to 4C UR Future under this Agreement by the due date for payment, then, the Partner shall pay interest on the overdue amount at the rate of 8% per annum above Barclays Bank base rate from time to time. Such interest shall accrue on a daily basis from the due date until actual payment of the overdue amount, whether before or after judgment. The Partner shall pay the interest together with the overdue amount. Such amount shall be immediately recoverable by 4C UR Future as a debt.

- 5.6 If the Partner fails to pay 4C UR Future any amount by the Payment Due Date, then without prejudice to 4C UR Future's other rights or remedies, 4C UR Future shall have the right to immediately suspend the Partner's performance in relation to any Event (including, without limitation, in relation to the Partnership Package) until 4C UR Future has received payment of the overdue amount together with any accrued interest.

6. Termination

- 6.1 Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, either Party may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice to the other:

- a) If the other Party commits a material breach of any material term of this Agreement and (if such breach is remediable) fails to remedy that breach within a period of thirty (30) days after being notified in writing to do so; or
- b) If the other Party ceases carrying on business in the normal course, or shall call a meeting of its creditors or make a proposal for a voluntary arrangement within Part I of the Insolvency Act 1986, or for any other composition or scheme of arrangement with (or assignment for the benefit of) its creditors, or shall be unable to pay its debts within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986, or if a trustee, receiver, administrative receiver, or other similar officer is appointed in respect of all or any part of its business or assets, or if a petition is presented or a meeting is convened for the purpose of considering a resolution for its winding up (otherwise than for the purpose of a bona fide scheme of solvent amalgamation or reconstruction), or it is the subject of an administration order; or
- c) The other Party repeatedly breaches any Terms of the Agreement in such a manner as to reasonably justify the opinion that its conduct is inconsistent with it having the intention or ability to give effect to the Terms of this Agreement; or
- d) The other Party fails to pay any amount due under this Agreement on the due date for payment and remains in default not less than 14 days after being notified in writing to make such a payment.

- 6.2 Upon termination of this Agreement for whatever reason:

- a) The Partner shall pay to 4C UR Future all Charges, Expenses, and Other Costs due to 4C UR Future in respect of the Event(s)/Partnership Package up to and including the effective date of termination, together with all third-party costs to which 4C UR Future has committed in respect of the same at the effective date of termination;

- b) Each Party shall immediately deliver to, or dispose of, as directed by the other Party, any and all materials and property belonging or relating to the other Party, including all Confidential Information. 4C UR Future will retain the ability to use such materials for marketing purposes in accordance with clause 6.
- c) Any provisions of this Agreement that either are expressed to survive its termination, or from their nature or context it is contemplated that they are to survive such termination, shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination.

7. Force Majeure

- 7.1 Neither Party shall be liable for any expense, loss, or damage resulting from delay or prevention of performance of the Agreement that is caused by fires, floods, acts of God, strikes, riots, thefts, accidents, or any other cause whatsoever beyond their reasonable control that may delay or prevent the performance of their respective duties hereunder ("**Force Majeure Event**").
- 7.2 In the event of a Force Majeure Event, the affected Party shall notify the other Party as soon as reasonably practicable of the Force Majeure Event and likely consequences, and use all reasonable endeavours to mitigate the effect of the Force Majeure Event on the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes and extinguishes all previous drafts, agreements, arrangements, and understandings between them, whether written or oral, relating to its subject matter. Any reference to the Partner's Terms or Conditions in any correspondence between the Parties is incidental, and any such Terms and Conditions are hereby expressly excluded for the purposes of this Agreement.
- 8.2 No term of this Agreement is enforceable by any person not a party to it, whether pursuant to the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 or otherwise.
- 8.3 Neither Party may assign, novate, or otherwise transfer to any

third party any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement, whether in whole or in part, without the other Party's prior written consent.

- 8.4 Any Notice(s) given in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and sent by hand, recorded delivery post, or email to the addressee and address or email address set out in the Partnership Agreement, or such other addressee, address and/or email address as may be notified by the relevant Party from time to time in accordance with this clause.
- 8.5 Notices for 4C UR Future should be sent to the individual stated in the Partnership Agreement.
- 8.6 Notices shall be deemed to have been received by the addressee within three (3) Business Days of posting in the case of notices sent by post and within one complete Business Day if sent by email, subject to read receipt notification or confirmation that the email has been received.
- 8.7 All sums payable under this Agreement are exclusive of any Value Added Tax that may be payable.
- 8.8 No variation of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the Parties (or their authorised representatives).
- 8.9 No failure or delay by a Party to exercise any right or remedy provided under this Agreement or by law, shall constitute a waiver of that, or any other right or remedy or prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.
- 8.10 If any invalid, unenforceable, or illegal provision of this Agreement would be valid, enforceable, and legal if some part of it were deleted, the provision shall apply with the minimum modification necessary to make it legal, valid, and enforceable.
- 8.11 This Agreement, and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Northern Ireland, and the Parties agree that any disputes or claims shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Northern Irish courts.

NOW GROUP – COMMUNITY RENEWAL COLLABORATION REQUEST

From: Sean Hanna <sean.hanna@nowgroup.org>
Sent: 12 May 2021 12:35
To: Fiona McKeown <Fiona.McKeown@midulstercouncil.org>
Subject: NOW Group - Collaboration

Fiona

Hope you're well.

I was wondering if you had some availability to discuss some proposals NOW Group have in relation to working in collaboration with Mid Ulster Council, particularly given the recent announce of Community Renewal funding. NOW Group are considering an application and are hoping to get a letter of endorsement from all 11 councils, supporting our proposal.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,

Sean Hanna
Programme Manager
NOW Group
15-17 Grosvenor Road
Belfast, BT12 4GN
Mob: 07827777843
Email: sean.hanna@nowgroup.org
Twitter: @NOW_Group | @lovelyloaf

Please note: I work full time Monday to Thursday and to 3.30pm on Friday

Charity number: NIC100093, Company number: NI043774
The NOW Project Ltd T/A NOW Group

Enclosed: Annex 1 – NOW Group Briefing Document on Community Renewal Fund Proposal

Community Renewal Fund – NOW Group Briefing document.

NOW Group are an award winning social enterprise supporting people with learning difficulties and people with autism / neurodiverse conditions into jobs with a future.

Our pioneering approach to tackling issues for disadvantaged people and creating equality of opportunity when exploring and entering the labour market has had exceptional success. Our focus is supporting people who often slip through the net and become either long term unemployed or economically inactive. 93% of our participants gain relevant, vocational qualifications and experience. This has led to 38% of our participants supported into jobs and maintaining a sustainment rate of 88% over 6 months.

Our individualised and sector specific academies can be delivered at entry to level 2 standards. This ensures inclusivity across people who may struggle with attaining either theory or experienced based qualifications to enter their local workforce. Our agility to react and pivot our academies to changing local economic trends and provide solutions to employers has resulted in us being a leading provider for previous local and European programmes.

We are only too aware of the growing skills gap for the people who enter our programmes and the need for additional support to assist them to recover and catapult back from the bleak period caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

We believe that we can offer a solution of a short-term intervention to increase employment opportunities with a long-term impact of sustained employment which leads to increased economic activity within local areas.

Community Renewal Fund

The Community Renewal Fund was launched on the 3rd March 2021 and is regarded as a precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, viewed as one of the key EU successor funds. We believe our proposed project maps directly to the main investment areas: Skills; Local business: Communities and place: Supporting people into employment

Programme Parameters and Timeline

We are acutely aware of the tight timeline as the submission deadline is 18th June 2021.

We are eligible to apply for the programme as a Social Enterprise and we fall within the criteria element. “Any formally constituted community organisation, charity, or public body, the private sector, Local Government and the Northern Ireland Executive Departments and agencies”.

Scope and Geographical Area

The project will operate across all 11 council areas of Northern Ireland with a significant focus on areas of multiple and high deprivation. Estimates from the 2018 Labour Force Survey (LFS) indicates a the rate for NI of 39.8%. This project will therefore support over 33% of those most disadvantaged people within our society.

We will work in partnership with each Council to provide solutions to reduce skills gap, increase employability and map areas of labour market need to vocational training. This project will provide relevant data and research to increase preparation for entering into the post ESF funding era.

NOW Group are inviting council to engage in collaborative support with our application process and promotion of programme to achieve outcomes within council area.

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 13 May 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Ashton*, Black, Burton*, Clarke*, Corry*,
Cuddy*, Doris*, Elattar*, Hughes*, Kearney*, Kerr,
Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Wilson*

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr McCreesh**, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Browne**, Head of Tourism
Mr Gordon, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill**, Head of Parks
Ms Linney**, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown**, Head of Economic Development
Mr Greer, ICT Support
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillor S McGuigan***

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr McNamee in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

D078/21 Apologies

None.

D079/21 Declarations of Interest

The Chair Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

D080/21 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that this was his last meeting as Chair of the Development Committee and wanted to thank Officers and staff for all their help and support during what could only be described as a very difficult year. He also wanted to thank the Vice-Chair, Councillor Black and all members for their support as these meetings contributed towards plenty of good work being carried out for the good of the district and hoped that a corner was being turned for the better and wished the incoming Chair and Vice-Chair the very best for the year ahead.

Councillor Doris also thanked the Chair for his tremendous work throughout the past year during difficult circumstances and also the Vice-Chair and committee members for their valuable input.

Councillor Doris enquired if there was an update on the Ferry Bridge issue as this was something Sinn Féin had lobbied for a long time and was seeking to find out if the project had progressed any.

The Chief Executive advised that during a previous discussion it was agreed that Officers would go away and look at this as it was a legacy agreement and the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure had informed of a legal agreement between Craigavon Council and Dungannon Council in 2009. He said that it was his understanding that Craigavon were assuming the repair and maintenance responsibilities of the bridge, although it was agreed that any costs associated would be shared 50/50 with each of the two Councils being responsible for upgrading each of their own sides of the bridge by way of pedestrianisation, access and seating etc. with clarity being received by the Solicitor who had went through the legal agreement. Mid Ulster's side of the bridge had been looked at and the Head of Property Services was doing an exercise on terms of an upgrade and enhancement with any costings being carried out in conjunction with colleagues of ABC as there was an onus to have both sides of the bridge upgraded. He said that there was a hope that ABC would look at their side of the bridge and would encourage them to carry out a survey of the bridge to make sure it was still fit for purpose as they do need to be accessed every few years for health & safety and quality reasons. He said that he would be anticipate the Head of Property Services bringing back a report to the Environment Committee before the end of July as this was fairly imminent.

Councillor Doris thanked the Chief Executive and said that it was great to hear that progress was being made and also wanted to thank the determination of the local community on both sides of the bridge for their persistence on the matter.

Councillor Molloy enquired about the terms of ownership and whether there would be no transfer as Mid Ulster owns the Tyrone side of the river and anything would be transferred with no ambiguity there.

The Chief Executive advised that he had scanned the agreement himself, but the Director of Public Health & Infrastructure and the Head of Property Services were heavily involved in it and appeared that there was a clear responsibility for our side

and ABC for their side and a shared expenditure for any upgrade, maintenance and enhancement of the bridge.

Councillor Burton advised that she had raised this issue in the past regarding the bridge at Caledon from Craigavon side and had been approached by Caledon Regeneration Partnership who had asked her to raise the concern regarding the need for a general tidy up as it was in a dilapidated state. She advised that she had liaised with the Head of Property Services who indicated that he would go away and identify whose responsibility the bridge was and asked if there was any update and if there wasn't, could this be investigated as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive said that he would follow this issue up with the Head of Property Services as a matter of urgency and an update would be provided to the member.

D081/21 Deputation – Killeeshil and Galbally First Responders

Councillor Kerr advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the deputation from Killeeshil and Galbally First Responders could not make the meeting tonight to make their presentation.

The Chair asked that an invitation be reissued to Mr McCaughey inviting him back to a future meeting to make his presentation.

D082/21 Regional and Minority Languages Bursary Programme 2021/22 and Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22

The Head of Culture & Arts presented previously circulated report to:

1. Update Council on the proposed Regional and Minority Language Bursary programme 2021/22
2. Update Council on the proposed Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2021/22
3. Seek decision from Council regarding approval to publicly advertise both programmes.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as there had been a lot of people disappointed last year as courses and activities were cancelled due to Covid and hoped this year all being well that these would now go ahead as people would be delighted to get back to doing residential courses and for groups to organise events.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second the proposal, but wanted to highlight the issue of anti-Irish racism and the continuous attacks on the Irish language signage across the community. He said that he didn't want to see this escalating as there was a small determined bunch of people intent on attacking Irish culture at every opportunity and said there was a need to send a message out that this would not deter the promotion of the Irish language as there was nothing to be ashamed of in promotion and something that this Council was very good at. He said that personally he would like to see more work done, but felt that there had been the right balance

struck and was important that every opportunity at committee meetings and full Council that a message be sent out that this hatred which fuels these attacks be called out at every opportunity as this will not win.

Councillor Ashton referred to the Irish Language Funding Activity Programme and enquired why it wasn't the Regional Minority Language Funding Activity Programme or was there a separate programme opened for the Ulster Scots activity.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that this was the Irish Language Activity Fund which was run every year as part of the Council's Irish Language Action Plan. Every year there was a public call for groups involved in the promotion and development of Irish language within the region to provide mechanisms where they could further develop the Irish language within their local community and this was what the activity funding was designed to support.

Councillor Kerr said that he wished to reflect on Councillor Monteith's comments and advised that he also was contacted on a weekly basis regarding the attacks on dual language signage and could nearly identify which signs they were as it seemed to be the same concentrated effort. He said that there needed to be maturity shown as dual language was not threatening anyone, because if he was to be offended by the English language, he wouldn't leave the house and would call on the people responsible to desist immediately and consider contributing something positive to society instead of attacking signs.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to:

- i) Publicly advertise the Regional and Minority Language Bursary Programme 2021/22.
- ii) Issue a public call for Expressions of Interest for support under the Irish Language Activity Programme 2021/22.

Councillor Ashton sought clarification regarding the Ulster Scots funding and whether there was an Activity Funding Programme and where this sat within this regional funding.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that this didn't sit within this funding programme, but in the past Ulster Scots was funded separately through Arts & Culture for example Ulster Scots Language classes delivered in the Bridewell, the Burnavon and other locations within the region.

Councillor Ashton enquired why the two languages were treated differently through the funding stream and asked if this was something that needed to be brought back to the Regional Minority Group on how the Ulster Scots programme was being delivered.

The Chair said that this was two separate activities as one was a language and one was not a language and more of a dialect and advised that there had been programmes around the Ulster Scots and this was just being done different.

The Head of Culture and Arts provided clarification to members on how the language bursaries were delivered and advised that these were broadened to extend to all Regional and Minority languages and this scheme was open to any individual who wanted to enroll on a residential course to learn a regional minority language, whether that be Irish or Ulster Scots. The Irish Language Activity Fund was exclusive for the promotion of the Irish language and part of the Irish Language Programme but the Ulster Scots Language Activity doesn't fit within our Irish Language Programme and therefore is delivered within the Arts and Culture Programme in partnership with organisations such as the Ulster Scots Community Network.

The Chair advised that this was part of the Council's Irish Language Policy.

Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and said that he had travelled extensively through Scotland and Wales where there was numerous Gaelic and Welsh signage across the board and heavily programmed as this was their first language of choice. He said that there needed to be an acceptance of the Irish language as ratepayers were paying the price for replacing signage which was damaged and this should not be tolerated any longer and now was the time for prosecutions.

The Chair referred to the Environment Committee where the number of reported damaged signage was brought. He said that this was criminal damage and was at a stage for PSNI to get involved due to high number of attacks involved right across Mid Ulster.

D083/21 Virtual Tours – Hotel Cluster

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to propose supporting the Mid Ulster Hotel Cluster with the development of virtual tours for weddings and conferences.

Councillor Doris said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as this had been a particular difficult year for the hospitality and events sector and Mid Ulster were fortunate to have an extensive range of venues. She said that anything that the Council could do to help the people in that industry should be encouraged and would like to take this opportunity to recognise the work done in providing video coverage of Coalisland Town Centre including Eden Blooms, The Perfect Gift, No. 5 Clothes Shop etc. which was absolutely fantastic with upwards of 3,000 views, which was brilliant advertisement for the town and great to see things reopening and felt that social media was the way forward and would be a great help to a struggling industry. She commended Officers for making the videos in Coalisland which were brilliant.

Councillor Burton said that it was important to promote other areas as there didn't seem to be much promotion in the South Tyrone side and felt that it was important to make it as wide as possible. She said that there were a lot of tourists travelling

through our area to Fermanagh and it would be important that they stop and spend time in our district. She said that she was aware of the nine hotels identified right across the geographical area but enquired about other venues like Blessingbourne as they also provide a venue for wedding receptions and asked if this venue was ruled out because it wasn't a hotel.

The Head of Tourism advised that this project identified the nine designated hotels and not venues like Blessingbourne as they were being supported through other programmes such as the Heritage Destination Programme which was funded through DAERA before Christmas. He advised that there would be opportunities for other establishments to avail of future initiatives but this was primarily for the hotel cluster.

Councillor Black stated that this was a good initiative and at the start he wondered if the boat was missed slightly, but now people can view wedding venues in person but if it was going to be used on website then it would be an abstainable option for many people who cannot attend in person and commended officers for their work. He enquired if there was any other support in the pipeline for hotels in particular.

The Head of Tourism advised that through the weekly webinars, hotels were supported and a specific cluster set up with various different speakers being brought in to help them in relation to funding and support.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to support the production of virtual tours for Mid Ulster Hotels.

D084/21 Community Development

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report:

1. Peace Plus Response – to agree the response to Peace Plus
2. Community Development – to note the community development update

She advised that grants had closed yesterday and would be brought to the next committee.

Councillor Molloy welcomed the report on the Peace as it was a good response across the board as it was in-depth and covered a lot of ground. He referred to connectivity relating to blueway/greenway and said he was aware of ongoing work with ICBAN in relation to this kind of a project, especially with Ulster Canal in particular, but seems to be a far off development at our end.

He proposed that options be looked at in conjunction with ABC to include River Blackwater alongside Ulster Canal to get some kind of a project together with a lobby group as there was a better chance of getting progress if working together in conjunction.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to second Councillor Molloy's proposal as there was a need to keep the pressure on with ABC to push this project forward.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to:

- i) To approve the Response to Peace Plus.
- ii) To note the community development update
- iii) Look at options in conjunction with ABC to include River Blackwater alongside Ulster Canal to get some kind of a project together with a lobby group as there was a better chance of getting progress if working together in conjunction.

The Head of Community Development advised that this was something that could be brought forward as this was originally in the lobbying group with the old Blackwater Partnership, with a lot of research and studies which could be pulled out again and brought forward.

Councillor Corry thanked the Head of Community Development on a very detailed and comprehensive report. She referred to 4.3 'Victims and Survivors' referenced within the document and asked what that meant.

The Head of Community Development advised that in the documents Peace Plus would always put in 'Victims and Survivors' as this would provide a strong support programme and then they are funded directly by SEUPB and not through any intermediaries. She concluded by saying that they were focused within the plan.

Councillor Kerr stated that it was a very comprehensive report but wished to raise a few issues on the following items within the report:

- 1.1 There was a need to include poverty as correctly identified. Poverty and the lack of opportunity is linked as people from lower economic and social status are not as likely to succeed compared to someone from middle or upper class backgrounds.
- 1.2 Agree with an organised community lead initiative which can help identify localised issues and with the correct resources can hopefully help alleviate the situation.
- 2.3 Absolutely agree with help developing and enhancing workers skills. He drew attention to comments within the report stating that Mid Ulster Council had a great number of private sector enterprises and felt the workers morale should also be encouraged. Access to trade union membership, employer's opting into living wage scheme, legislation which encourages labor representation at board of Directors level at the larger corporation as all wages were set by collective bargaining instead of individual lobbying. Private sector workers

should have the same entitlement as the public sector at a more local level to help workers and fight on their behalf as we seen in the recent global pandemic where workers were shafted at the first opportunity when trouble was looming. Some of these employers receive many grants and logistical support from regional and national bodies.

- 2.4 Would definitely support the transfer of regeneration powers and budgets from the Department to local authority as there were better feelings on the ground on what intervention and investment was needed. The enhancement of broadband was badly needed in all our areas as the global pandemic has exposed the weaknesses and shown light with home schooling and working from home, and said that this was now the time to move towards a universal broadband as this should be considered as a basic human right, same as access to water or housing. Fibrus was handed millions of pounds of public funding to upgrade the North's broadband but local residents in more rural areas have made contact with him saying that they have been charged double in comparison to the same packages in the Coalisland area. Affordable broadband should be available to all residents not some based on location.
- 3.3 Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing needs investment within this sector. We should be encouraging young people to talk, especially young men or adolescents. There is a need to try and change the mindset of young people especially around sexism, misogyny, relationships and respect for one another.

Councillor Ashton referred to the wider Community Development part on Grant Aid and said due to Covid, community festivals had to be suspended and as things were starting to lift, now was the time to try and get communities back engaging in community work on the ground and proposed to reopen the rolling grant, subject to Health & Safety and adhering to the Public Health message if ratified by the Executive on 24 May, we should see the commencement of public gatherings.

The Head of Community Development referred to latest guidance of over 30 and up to 500 based on a risk assessment and advised that some groups may be able to carry out a risk assessment and some may struggle and asked for some flexibility on the community grant if it is to be reopened to allow for both numbers and also other ways of doing it in the event of someone wishing to do a smaller festival alongside some internet provision that this be allowed for some flexibility.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second Councillor Ashton's proposal as she was 100% correct, despite restrictions easing up and weather permitting that events be held outdoor rather than indoor and with the restrictions the Head of Community Development was alluding to that this be opened out and be ready to engage with the communities to get them back out and doing their work.

He referred to the Peace Response and commended the report and stated that it was very well put together and commended the glaring omission where our officers pointed out on poverty not being mentioned what so ever where poverty was well rehearsed at numerous meetings by members around housings etc. and said that he personally would be very critical of Peace particularly in many of the working class communities. He said that whilst it served a function in some areas in some sectors, but the reality

on the ground was the same areas were experiencing very often the same problems 25 years later after 3 or 4 Peace programmes and grassroots feelings was that this was done to them and at them rather than them having any involvement in really what were the issues for them. He said that groups were forced to being something that they were not interested in being to qualify and the professional and voluntary community sector had hoovered up the money at every opportunity this point needed to be made. He commended the work which had been done on it but we do need to move from community initiatives to a household, family, individual based on targeting the ability and income of families where the income should be improved coming into the house, housing standard of the house, and holistic review of the education. He stated the houses were a major issues around the standard of housing with little or no money spent within the private sector or the public sector in improving the standard of living since the financial crash 2007-2008. He commended Officers on their efforts delivering the project but Peace did not do what it was supposed to do and lift people out of poverty.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to reopen Community Festival Grant, engaging groups back into community work, subject to Health & Safety and Public Health message.

Councillor Cuddy stated that some good points had been raised by previous Councillors regarding the Peace programme and the jury's out on whether it has made any difference. He referred to the period 2021-2027 and enquired what was going to happen after that date going forward.

The Head of Community Development advised that there was a commitment up to 2027 and after that date funders were already looking at a Shared Future Prosperity Fund where pilots were already being rolled out. She anticipated that the new set up would continue on after the Peace programme ended and looked to be a lot more flexible

Councillor Burton concurred with most of the previous comments and agreed that Peace done a certain amount of work but would wonder sometimes about the amount of money which had been spent and not anywhere near the improvements that it should have brought at this point years on. She stated that it seemed to a certain extend to be the same people who benefitted year on year and if it were to bring people together, it was the same people on the same trip which done away with what the Peace programme was all about. She said that hopefully the country was coming out of Covid and a lot of houses were not up the standard of living for families and felt that there should be a totally different way of looking at gauging poverty as there would be a lot of people out of work after this traumatic time goes by and people living in houses which still have wooden window frames watching their curtains blowing in the wind and yet have young children which have damp in their bedrooms. She said that she was aware of a mother with cupboards in her house that she cannot keep food in because they are that damp and also children developing asthma due to the

dampness of their home and felt that money should be targeted in a much better focused way to try and elevate genuine poverty.

The Chair said that some great comments were raised and wanted to refer to the administration part of Peace and for anyone who attend these meetings would see the unnecessary bureaucracy that there was all the time and leaving people waiting for months and months to be paid.

D085/21 Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan – Pilot Children and Youth Wellbeing Scheme

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report as part of the Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan, summer hunger and youth mental health are issues identified for action. To seek to address these issues it is proposed to deliver a pilot initiative for children and young people to both engage them in fun activities to support their mental wellbeing and alongside this, address some level of summer hunger.

Councillor Corry said this was an excellent scheme from Mid Ulster District Council and DfC to combat holiday hunger and was aware of a lot of members being vocal on that. She also referred to young people's mental health and wellbeing and how it was evident that this had increased due to Covid.

Councillor Corry sought clarification on the following:

- i) Pilot 1 – Children's Wellbeing plan – referred to where the five main towns and also Fivemiletown being included and asked if there was a possibility for other towns to be incorporated or if anyone can come in from other towns as poverty wasn't just in the five main towns and Fivemiletown.
- ii) Pilot 2 – Youth Wellbeing - enquired if the catchment area was the same as the previous of five main towns and Fivemiletown and if anyone can come into the towns from other areas also.
- iii) Soccer cages for smaller villages and towns - advised that Councillor Elattar and herself have been working with young people in the Draperstown's area due to some bother and part of this was down to boredom. She asked if there was any other activities that could be considered rather than football and soccer as some children were not interested in sport.

The Head of Community Development referred to Child's Play and advised that the five main towns were targeted to areas of high poverty and Fivemiletown was included due to distance, but said that the areas would be mainly estates because the numbers were restricted due to the capacity of play facilities and what they can accommodate as the estate areas which were being targeted would be difficult to bring in people from other areas for what was being planned. She said that it was anticipated that a number of summer schemes would be taking place in our local leisure centres and facilities and these would be promoted by the Head of Leisure who would be putting together a booklet on what other schemes were available. She stated that a number of schools would be picking up a number of summer schemes given the Education Authority funding that was issued and another fund which was promoted today by the Youth Service which was circulated amongst groups for summer schemes. The

summer scheme which was being brought forward was very much targeted at poverty and hoped that the others would pick up around it.

She referred to the youth vouchers and advised that these were not just for town based and being allocated across the whole district for any young person within that age group on free school meals and would be for each individual in receipt of a free school meal place.

Councillor Corry referred to soccer cages and asked if there were any other activities as some children were not interested in soccer, football or other sports.

The Head of Community Development advised that officers would try and establish what other summer schemes were happening in the community, but in relation to this programme this was the capacity which was being carried out this summer but there would be no way that all villages could be accommodated on this one. She advised that going forward there was going to be a lot of activity in relation to the current grants which have gone out as a lot of calls have been received already and it was anticipated that these would be promoted as far as possible through the community newsletter which should be off help.

Councillor Monteith said that this was a great initiative especially towards primary school age group, but would have slight concern regarding the older group identified regarding recruitment as it could be difficult to encourage the older children to avail of the services especially those living within socially deprived areas as a lot of those activities are not within those areas. He said that it was well known that young people from socially deprived areas do not usually go outside their areas especially during the summer and times like that and felt that officers should engage with the Education Authority to try and involve outreach and street workers to try and engage young people and make them aware of these facilities being made available and co-ordinate an approach to encourage them to avail of these as he would have a fear that the ones who want the most would be the most reluctant to come forward due the stigma attached. He said that the younger group of children would be more parent driven and the older the children would be more driven by the young person themselves so if they are not availing of it, discussing it or their peer groups not availing of it, there would be a difficulty trying to get them involved otherwise. He stated that there were hundreds of summer schemes and would be worthwhile working with them in conjunction with the organisers to see if some lunches or free packed lunches could be provided in some parks for an hour a day for everyone so that the stigma would not be attached to an individual person who was in receipt of free school meals. This would stop this stigma of deprivation as older children do not want to be different to their friends and it was important to engage with them to avail of this programme without feeling uncomfortable doing so. He said that there were opportunities here for the community to buy into the programme like pop up sandwich bars and a free packed lunch for anyone who wants it within those areas and may be some which do not fit the criteria for free school meals but this wouldn't be the end of the world if getting out to everyone and would take the stigma away from deprivation.

Councillor Doris said that she completely agreed with Councillor Monteith in terms of engagement with the older groups and was aware of the good working relationship Council had within her area and would be definitely be very important to engage with

them. She also agreed with Councillor Corry's comments regarding not all children/youth being interest in soccer, football or sports and advised that the ground work that the Youth Services carries out was absolutely invaluable and said that she would be happy to second the proposal as it was a brilliant initiative coming from DfC and was aware of how passionate Minister Harney was about this kind of thing. She concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments around the meals and advised that there had been an Honesty Café run by Dungannon & Coalisland Surestart at the Junction back in 2018/2019, which was a great initiative as people went in and donated whatever they could afford and no-one was aware of what anyone paid and this in turn addressed hunger without the stigma. She concluded by saying that this was a good report and would make a tangible difference for a lot of families within the area and would very much welcome it.

Councillor Kearney commended the report and said that the Head of Community Development had recently outlined this at the Education Skills Community Planning group and was very well received by the statutory agencies and showed this Council trying to do its best for the young people. He sought clarification on the 2–3 sessions in Maghera and said that this was obviously a restricted programme in relation to the three larger towns and asked if this was 2–3 sessions over 2 or 3 days or a 2 to 3 day spot.

The Head of Community Development advised that 2-3 days has been put in at the moment based on what can be received for the facilitation as a lot of the Facilitators were not beginning to get really busy, but hoped to carry out 3 sessions in ie. Coalisland, Maghera and Fivemiletown and proposed in the towns 2–3 sessions which would be replicated again in another week at a later period to pick up the numbers as it was anticipated to have higher numbers due to the concentration of the estates which were being targeted.

Councillor Kearney stated that he noticed that the Education Minister had allocated funding of £5,000 per week to certain schools and felt that there could be a certain crossover with schools, but felt that this was a great scheme and was aware of some Teachers being very keen to help out for two weeks and wanted to acknowledge that over the past number of years that the Education & Skills Group had really blossomed and a great buy in with permanent people coming to it. He wanted to acknowledge the work being carried out by the Head of Community Development and officers as it was a real hard task.

Councillor Burton thanked the Head of Community Development and her team on the work which has been put into this initiative. She wanted to mention that there was a Housing Estates Group in Fivemiletown and obviously the youth annex there and also a football team and asked if the Council were intent on linking in with those groups as part of the initiative and how the Council could work with that area.

The Head of Community Development advised that the proposal for Fivemiletown was to use the annex because they are partner with the Council's Leisure Department and there was the intent to target the estates and work through the Estates Group. She said that specialist play facilitators would be brought in as it would be too difficult to manage volunteers and would not be linking in with the Sports groups. Our Leisure

Services would be providing summer schemes and there is also an EA grant to support community summer scheme activity.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers:

- i) To agree to the proposal to deliver the pilot children's wellbeing play scheme.
- ii) To agree to the proposal to deliver the pilot youth wellbeing scheme.

In response to the Chair's comments around stigma for socially deprived areas, the Head of Community Development advised that her department had partnered with Leisure Services to develop the voucher in a generic format that is alongside the £1 programme scheme run by Leisure Services. The voucher can be used to accommodate friends and family, so not to differentiate between the person paying and the person not and there is nothing on the card to state "free school meals". All this programme would be known for was trying to engage our young people into the Leisure Centres through different promotional campaigns. In relation to play, there would be food provided to all. She said that there had been some thought about putting some healthy snacks into the Leisure Centres for the set times that the youth were using it (after lunch to early evening) whether a person was in receipt of a free school voucher or not.

She advised that the Council had worked with STEP in the past with regard to the Honesty Café and this was something that Officers could try and re-engage on. At the moment Council have been trying to link with the FareShare Programme with local schools and if the schools were going to be doing summer schemes, then officers would try and identify further links. She stated that alongside the FareShare Programme, promotion could be incorporated with the EA grant to encourage clubs to provide snacks to allow all children to participate. In terms of Honesty Café, other models would be investigated for Cookstown and Magherafelt also.

D086/21 Ballyronan Boat Club – Development Proposal

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to engage with Ballyronan Boat Club in relation to scoping the potential for Club House development proposals at Ballyronan Marina.

Councillor Clarke advised that by reading through the report he could see the longstanding set up in Ballyronan which was one of the most prime sites and well used over the years. He said that he was in Ballyronan last week and had seen the work which had been carried out resulting in an even better site and would be happy to propose the recommendation due to the scope of history and interest.

Councillor Kearney concurred with Councillor Clarke's comments and said that the Halloween event attracted thousands of people to the area and would be happy to second the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to progress discussions with Ballyronan Boat club and assist in creating a development proposal/concept plan for presentation to a future Development Committee meeting.

D087/21 Pricing Tariff for Ballyronan House Boats

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for tariff structure associated to the provision of new house boat accommodation units introduced to Ballyronan Marina for 2021-22 season.

Councillor Clarke advised that this was a wonderful development and passed on his credit to everyone involved in bringing this project forward as it was going to be outstanding.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers:

- i) To approve the proposed tariff structure as presented for the Ballyronan House Boat accommodation units at £120 per night, per boat for a minimum stay of two nights.
- ii) To approve the discretionary pricing flexibility as and when required under the Scheme of Delegation to the Director to allow scope for sales promotions, site specific usage trends, etc.

D088/21 Economic Development – OBFD

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

i) Mid Ulster Economic Development Action Plan 2021/22

Councillor Elattar congratulated officers on the amount of work they have carried out as there was some very exciting schemes to revitalise local communities when things open up again.

She said that she had one issue in relation to Appendix 1 – 5.4 – Mid Ulster Business Awards 2021 and wanted to ensure that an award would not be sponsored for an event which involved Dalradian.

The Head of Economic Development advised members that further information on the Awards had been sought from JPI Media, including details of funders and how the event would be promoted across Mid Ulster, especially in the Clogher Valley area. When such details are received, a report will be brought back to Committee for a decision on whether to contribute funding towards the event. Meantime, she said the Awards have been included in the Action Plan, in principle, to ring-fence funding until Members have all the information to make an informed decision.

Councillor Elattar said that she would be happy to propose the action plan.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar

Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve those projects and costs within the Economic Development Action Plan for 2021/22.

Councillor Wilson commended the Head of Economic Development on her very comprehensive report but wished to raise a few issues on the following items within the report:

- 2.3 Reducing Dereliction and Vacancy Levels in Dungannon Town Centre –
He was aware of concerns in Dungannon but felt this was unreasonable as this was also happening in other towns like Cookstown and Magherafelt. He felt that it was wrong to stick to one town only and consideration should also be given to other towns.
- 2.1 Provision of Wi-Fi in 5 main towns plus Bellaghy –
He felt that this was unreasonable for Bellaghy to be afforded the benefit of Wi-Fi as there were other areas like Coagh who should also benefit.
- 2.5 Small Grants Business Marketing Scheme –
He felt that £300 for digital capabilities was a bit tight and that £500 should be considered as it could attract more businesses and make it more worthwhile.
- 4.3 Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme (Year 3 of 4) 2021/22
He said that there were quite a number on the reserve list from the last time and asked if they would be moved up or would they have to reapply.

The Head of Economic Development responded to Councillor Wilson's comments:

- 2.3 Dereliction in Dungannon – She advised this related to a previous Council decision to provide funding to advance a Pilot Dereliction Scheme in Dungannon, subject to DFC providing match funding.

- 2.1 Provision of Wi-Fi in Bellaghy – She advised that no wi-fi signal was available in Bellaghy village and ahead of the official opening of the Heaney Centre, a wi-fi service was provided in the area and ongoing fees related to this are funded from Council's Economic Development budget, in addition to those relating to the district's five largest towns.
- 2.5 Small Grant Business Marketing Scheme – She advised that personally she would desire to develop this into a much larger scheme but currently a budget of £150,000 is all that is available from Council's Economic Development budget. Allocating a smaller grant of £300 would assist a minimum of 500 businesses, or alternatively offering a grant of £500 would assist 300 businesses. She stated that a number of requests have been made to DfC and DAERA for funding but to date no match funding has been provided but this would be kept under review.
- 4.3 Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme – She advised that 72 Letters of Offer to the value of £250,000 have been issued to traders for the current year (2021/22 – which is year 3 of 4 of the scheme). A reserve list of projects remains for Year 4. She noted if there was any funding slippage this year, then projects from the ranked reserve list would be moved up accordingly and funded. It is anticipated, those projects remaining on the reserve list, will be funded next year, subject to members approval of the economic development budget (2022/23).

Councillor Wilson disagreed with project going ahead in Dungannon as every town like Cookstown and Magherafelt had their own issues with dereliction and vacant properties and would be a useful exercise to see how much money was spent in each town. He said that he could understand the Heaney Centre availing of Wi-Fi and just because something was put in a small village, it was unfair that other small villages were being overlooked for the same opportunities.

Councillor Ashton enquired if officers had investigated an Online Job Fair for Employers.

The Head of Economic Development advised that prior to the pandemic a large Mid Ulster Job Fair was held in Cookstown Leisure Centre with up to 50 businesses from the area present, seeking to fill job vacancies as well as offering apprenticeship opportunities. The event was well attended by the public and students alike, seeking to find work. She said discussions are ongoing with DfC to determine the feasibility of co-hosting another Job Fair in Mid Ulster in 2021 as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week in November 2021. Discussions are at an early stage and Members will be kept informed.

Councillor Ashton enquired if officers had investigated a Job Fair for Employers.

The Head of Economic Development advised that prior to Covid an event had been ran in Cookstown Leisure Centre with up to 50 employers in a room advising and meeting the public and students on possible job opportunities. She said that these unprecedented times resulted in very different circumstances and discussions were ongoing with DfC to see if there were any possible opportunities or how it could be done but this would be down to government guidance. She advised if this did go

ahead that this event would tie in with Enterprise Week pending a risk assessment on numbers allowed to attend.

Councillor Ashton advised that ABC had ran a very successful virtual Job Fair recently and asked if something similar should be considered for Mid Ulster Council.

Councillor Kerr enquired if there was any update on meeting with Roads Service regarding the major resurfacing scheme to compliment the Public Realm Scheme in Coalisland.

He referred to the Spruce Up Scheme and said that he would again like to mention the boundaries which exclude businesses outside of these borders and would urge that this be looked at so all businesses could avail of the scheme.

The Chief Executive advised that the issue relating to the Public Realm Scheme had been referred back to the Environment Committee. He assured the committee that he would forward on an update to all members tomorrow as a matter of urgency.

In relation to the query regarding the Spruce Up Scheme, he advised that currently Council were in year 3 of a 4 year programme. He said he is aware of members views that should a future scheme be developed after this scheme ends, it should be open to all businesses across Mid Ulster, and said it shall be.

The Head of Economic Development referred to item 2.5 – Small Grants Business Marketing Scheme and sought clarity from Members on the grant level. The report proposes a grant of £300 to 500 businesses or whether Members wished to opt for Councillor Wilson's suggestion to increase the grant to £500, which would support 300 businesses.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to agree the recommendation of grants up to £300 to a minimum of 500 businesses for marketing and digital activities.

Councillor Burton said that she fully supported as many businesses as possible being included as it was important to broaden out the scheme as some help was better than no help at all.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Dungannon Enterprise Centre.

Councillor Molloy referred to Public Realm Scheme in Coalisland and stated that there were still concerns around Dungannon's scheme regarding issues around kerbing which still needed to be resolved and said that an update was required.

The Chair stated that there were similar issues in Cookstown regarding the Public Realm Scheme and suggested that a possible way forward would be to arrange a DEA meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that a Dungannon DEA meeting be arranged to raise concerns relating to issues around Dungannon Public Realm Scheme.

ii) Mid Ulster Traders Recovery Action Plan

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve Mid Ulster Traders Recovery Action Plan.

iii) Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 21/22

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve participation of MUDC in the 2021/22 Rural Micro Business Development Scheme (subject to approval of funding from DAERA).

D089/21 Railway Park

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to present to Members a Business Case concept for the addition of a 3G pitch to the previously approved Railway Park project.

Councillor Molloy advised that good work was being done in the background on scoping exercises to support the need for this project and was aware of this being discussed at ongoing DEA meetings regards Railway Park Development. He said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation and was aware about concerns regarding the risks around flooding as the area was prone to be a wetland, but if ongoing development was going to take care of that he was happy to support the recommendation.

Councillor Monteith said that the issues got a good hearing at previous DEA meetings and had to say he that this working group was one of the most beneficial DEA

meetings ever set up by the Council over the last 5 to 6 months. He said that this DEA Working Group had been very beneficial and not just to resolve issues relating to Railway Park but also the Walkway at Drumcoo and Windmill Wood. It was very beneficial and some good ideas came from Officers and a lot of positivity had come out of it as there has been good engagement with the community and the tide was beginning to turn. He said that the community have finally realised that the Council were serious about committing and developing the area and was a good idea as it could become a good working park for all sections of the community including people from disadvantaged areas trying to access facilities. He said that there should be no difficulty in asking groups to help manage activities and ad hoc kick-a-bout sessions (recreational) as a diversionary measure from other things and felt that this project was something members both here and legacy should be proud off.

Councillor Monteith said that he may need to declare an interest as he was involved with some of the groups who may become involved with Railway Park Project in the future.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that Railway Park project had been discussed numerous times in DEA meetings. In regard to this Council going to spend £1m on this section of the Linear Park said it was a great step forward on a concept of a path around the whole parameter of Dungannon town which was something that members all signed up into in the old legacy Dungannon Council and now being taking forward by MUDC. He advised that 2/3 has already been completed within the last 10-15 years with some great sections, but have got nowhere near the final section as yet. He said that £1m spend on the area was very welcome but raised concern regarding the wetlands as when he was growing the land flooded like a lake and this could result in a major issue in the next 10-15 years when people do not clean out their drains, similar to the Linen Green and a park would recover very quickly but a 3G pitch wouldn't recover as quickly as an green open space.

He said that he was also concerned about the management of the facility as it was a £500k project for the 3G pitch plus expenses and felt that it would have been more beneficial to have been linked into a cluster. He stated that there was going to be a great project done by the Clarke's which was only a thousand yards away and through Neighbourhood Renewal spend upwards to £1m was agreed which would be a great facility and at the top of Lisnahull and a benefit to everyone in the area. He felt that the £500k being spent for a 3G pitch could've been spent on a linkup from the Donaghmore Road, Quarry Lane or from Milltown down to Dungannon Park and felt that there was a missed opportunity from Linear Park to around the town as there was an ambition for people to be able to walk or cycle around the parameter of the town and through other communities. He felt that the first £1m was great, but felt that this £500k was a step too far as this could have been spent on further sections around Dungannon town, but had no intention of voting against the recommendation as Dungannon DEA Councillors all work very well together and great to get the money, but felt that there was an opportunity lost here.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve the Business Case concept for the addition of a 3G pitch to the Railway Park project and give approval for the development of this concept via an ICT team and the submission of full planning permission.

Matters for Information

D090/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 April 2021

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 April 2021.

Councillor Doris referred to D061/21 – Defibrillator signage at Canal Work and enquired if there was any update.

The Chief Executive advised that he would provide an update to the member first thing in the morning.

Councillor Doris referred to D063/21 – Brown tourism signage and advised that there was a proposal at the last Development meeting that a letter be issued to the Department of Economy in terms of lobbying for them to take this on in place of DfI Roads and asked if this was actioned.

The Head of Tourism advised that the letter was currently be compiled at present and the issue was raised at the last Tourism Development Committee meeting where they wanted to do this alongside what was being done at the moment. He said that this would go to the Chair of the Tourism Development Committee and then would be forwarded on to the relevant statutory agency involved for consideration.

Councillor Kerr referred to D063/21 – Washingbay Walkway – he enquired if there was any update on the situation of a gate at Washingbay Walkway and improving play provision for younger children. He advised that concerned parents had contacted him regarding the gate situation as it was in a very close proximity of a shoreline pathway.

He referred to D064/21 – Cappagh Public Realm Scheme and proposed that a report to be brought back on Cappagh Public Realm Scheme or that it be put this on the agenda for the relevant committee for a review.

He advised that at the last meeting it was stated that larger settlements within MUDC got priority and taking on smaller locations would be discouraged due to finance and manpower. The residents of Cappagh deserve to be treated the same as those living in larger settlements of Coalisland, Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Maghera and disparity needs to be looked at and was sure any extra cost wouldn't be large or resources to deal with this wouldn't be immense.

The Chair advised that the 2nd matter on Cappagh Public Realm would have to be referred to the Environment Committee.

The Head of Parks advised that officers were aware of a number of issues around Washingbay with some proposals coming through from a Councillor and a Community Group. He advised that due to the opening of Washingbay Play Park, a few different designs were being considered as the gate has to be self-closing and the larger the opening, the heavier the gate would be. He stated that the gate was 100m from the Loughshore and wasn't right on the edge but felt that the biggest concern would be traffic due to the site being really busy and officers were looking to see if it was feasible for cars to get that close to the playpark. He said that investigations would be ongoing on best method for the gate and would be put in place as quickly as possible.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Kerr's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that concerns in relation to Cappagh Public Realm be brought to attention of the Environment Committee.

Councillor Monteith referred to D061/21 – He referred to local fundraising and the drive for aid for East Timor and said at the last meeting it was discussed about having a DEA meeting with those involved. He said that this meeting hasn't happened and sought clarity when the meeting was anticipated to take place.

He also referred to D070/21 – He said that he had proposed at last month's meeting that an update relating to the Ann Street Development be provided and stated that to date there has been no update and asked officers when this was expected to happen. He said that there was considerable rumors going around and answers were not readily available for people and clarity was needed to be going out in the public domain and a DEA meeting arranged as soon as possible.

The Head of Community Development in referring to issues relating to East Timorese advised that within the last number of weeks officers had been trying to get the two or three groupings together, however this has not been possible. We are still engaging with the TAIS group and they are happy to meet however the other groups are not keen on formalised meetings, however officers were still liaising with all groups. She said that officers would still to pursue meeting engagement.

The Chief Executive in referring to Councillor Monteith's query on Ann Street advised that Mr McCreedy and himself had met with the Developers and updated them on the request from Council and sought an update on where they currently where. He said that it was proposed to hold a DEA meeting on week commencing 24 May for members on Ann Street Development and also invite Moorfields Developers to provide an update to all present.

D091/21 Facility Update – US Grant and The Bridewell

Members noted update on the enhancements to both US Grant and The Bridewell.

Councillor Burton referred to US Grant and wanted to record the appreciation from the local people especially on the upgrade to the playpark as this would be a great facility

going forward. She said that US Grant's was a great stop for tourists and there was a hope that people would be visiting from America which has already begun and hopefully this would work out in the long term.

She enquired if there were any future opportunities for funding through Ulster Scots as there were still some people lobbying in relation to some more material being provided in the park for older children as it seemed to be geared towards the younger children and asked if this was an option to be looked at going forward.

The Head of Tourism said that in regards to the funding there had been two lots applied to US Grants, with the Access and Inclusion Funding being the one that was actually used for the play area and the interpretation of the Ulster Scots for the two different lots of £30k. He advised that officers were working very closely with the Ulster Scots Agency with regards to the further marketing of that particular site plus others and currently liaising with them regarding further opportunities going down the line.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that if there was an opportunity for funding at US Grants that this be progressed as this needed to be as wide ranging as possible in terms of local people and for people coming on tours.

Councillor Corry thanked the Council on the work they have been doing on accessibility but advised that an a member of the public in the past had raised an issue in relation to the Bridewell regarding access, accessible toilet and changing places facilities because of the different level of need and didn't want to be taking up space for someone who may need an accessible bathroom. She enquired if people still had to purchase a key to use the changing places facility as it was unfair to ask people with a disability to pay to use the bathroom and said that it would be beneficial if the Council had a general key to give out to users without a charge.

The Head of Tourism advised that the changing places at the Bridewell was controlled by staff at the front reception with no charge or key to gain access to facilities.

D092/21 Economic Development Report – OBF1

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (MURDP)
- Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group
- Bank of Ireland (Dungannon) Branch Closure

Councillor Clarke advised that today there was the regular LAG/DAERA update meeting and DAERA officials came across very calm and reassured on the progress and delivery of Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme. He said that usually they

would have been a little excited coming up to the end of the financial year due to this unpredictable year, but the Council had no concerns as a very successful programme has been delivered with everything under control and wanted to take this opportunity to thank staff involved in delivering the programme based in Gortalowry House on how they have excelled in their role and brought this so far and so well through the programme and undoubtedly to a very successful conclusion. He said that job creation had been tremendous in the circumstances, taking into account the economic and Covid situation and so many jobs created in the times that we are in.

He stated that he had serious concerns about what the subsequent Rural Development Programme would be like as we are at the closing stages of the current programme and there was an understanding that there would be a follow up programme. He said that there was no format on knowing what this would be like and usually prior to this there would have been a lot of consultation, publicity and well known on how it was going to be run and delivered and priorities. We don't know how it is going to be delivered or whether it would be run by a local strategy partnership approach which has been tried and tested and indications are that DAERA may take this in-house or in some other form and felt that this was too slow in coming to a conclusion. He said that there was no idea on what level of funding that may be available and whether the new programme would address the concerns, issues and priorities of individual Council areas as the previous programmes had done. He said that he would be very afraid of the ability of DAERA to deliver an in-house programme due to the number of people employed as it was way below for the current operations that they were involved in and if we move towards DAERA, there were people who do not have the experience in delivering such a programme in which our officers have delivered in the last number of years.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that an urgent meeting be requested at a high level between our Chief Executive and Minister for DAERA to get clarity on how this was going to be progressed.

The Chief Executive advised that the committee over the last year had raised concerns both individually and through Council and more significantly through NILGA and Councillors Burton and Kearney had been at the forefront of committees in raising this at Stormont. He said that the Council had made it very clear regarding the loss of these programmes and match funding which the Head of Economic Development used for the delivery of her programme and over the last 4 and half years this has accounted for £28m across Mid Ulster and this was the amount of money levered in to match fund and invest in businesses and right across rural communities. He stated if this funding goes then this would leave a huge gap which needed to be plugged and as Councillors Burton, Clarke and Kearney had stressed previously at NILGA that the concern would be that this would not be plugged pound for pound by Central or UK Government.

He said that he agreed entirely with the second issue raised by Councillor Clarke and that the Council had a fantastic relationship with DAERA with many previous LAG members and Chairs on this committee who knew the feeling of scoring projects night after night with officers and the work that officers do with community groups, voluntary groups, sports clubs, farmers, businesses etc. and DAERA do not do that and they will not do that at a local level. He said that he would have the same concerns regarding a new form of this programme being moved away from the local LAG structure. The LAG structure was designed for one reason as it worked from the bottom up and that was why it worked so well in this part of the world because it was embraced and applied with the evidence speaking for itself. He said that he shared members concerns and would go with the will of the committee in seeking a meeting with the Minister and Senior Officials or whoever the new Minister may be as it was a very worthy request and so hugely significant for Mid Ulster, vastly more than any other Council.

Councillor Kearney said that he couldn't agree more with the previous speakers as he had an opportunity on behalf of NILGA to address the Finance committee at Stormont to warn them of our concerns. He advised that next year only £11m would be allocated cross the North which was a holding year before the shared prosperity fund which everyone was still planning about. He stated that the £11m would be shared amongst all the Councils compared to MUDC having £11m ourselves across the four years and felt that there were red lights flashing and would be concerned what was coming. He referred to all the work in which Council and officers had dedicated their time and all the jobs involved across the 11 Councils dispersing these funds and we now were at a crossroads and a need to take this on and have this crucial meeting to reinforce the points that Councillor Clarke and Chief Executive have raised.

Councillor Burton totally agreed with Chief Executive's remarks and felt there was a need to make our case be known as right across the whole of Mid Ulster which had benefitted from the Rural Development funding and we really need to ensure that going forward there was a bottom approach that people which knew best needed to be involved in the creation on how this money was going to be spent. She said that it was important that we make a case and have our voices heard.

The Chief Executive proposed that the best way forward would be to seek a meeting with the Minister as a starting part.

D093/21 Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2021/22

Members noted Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2021/22.

D094/21 Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy Update

Members noted update on Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy.

D095/21 Parks Service Improvement Plan 2021/22

Members noted Parks Service Improvement Plan 2021/22.

Councillor Kerr said that he had no problem with the report but wanted to propose that the Council encourage more disabled friendly park and picnic benches at their facilities. Recently a Council in the Belgian City of Bruges installed these picnic benches across its City which will make it more wheelchair accessible for users.

Councillor Molloy commended the report which included a lot of detail and referred to the Active Travel projects and asked if these were the six projects already seen going through Council and committees or were there proposals to be added to that.

The Head of Parks advised that these would be the current projects as this service improvement was for one year and would be trying to deliver as many of those six along with our partners in the 12 months if possible.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers that a report be brought back to a future meeting to introduce a similar initiative for Mid Ulster District Council and to make street furniture, picnic and park benches all wheelchair accessible with a similar design going forward.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to second Councillor Kerr's proposal as this was something she was passionate about for people with disabilities have accessibility. She said that some really good work done on the park equipment had been done and was aware of disabled accessible picnic tables being available at Peatlands Park also.

She asked that when officers were looking into the furniture for Coalisland Public Realm Scheme it may be worthwhile investigating disabled accessible furniture also as there had been a lot of work in the town making it wheelchair accessible.

D096/21 Mid-South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal Update

Members noted progress on the ongoing work in relation to the Mid-South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal.

Live broadcast ended at 8.55 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D097/21 to D100/21.

Matters for Decision

- D097/21 Tender for Direct Debit Bureau Services to Include an Online Joining/Membership Platform
- D098/21 Tender to supply willow to Cookstown Leisure Centre
- D099/21 Gortgonis Project

Matters for Information

- D100/21 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 April 2021

D101/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.05 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

Report on	Update - Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown
Date of Meeting	17th June 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure

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 an update to Members on progress of potential works to Cahore Playing Fields and the leasing request from a local club.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Previously in February 2021 (minute reference: D026/21), Members were advised of a formal request from Draperstown Celtic Football club (DCFC) for consideration to be given to upgrading the facilities at Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown and also for Council to consider entering into a formal leasing arrangement with the club. Members approved that Officers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a survey of Cahore Playing Fields and ascertain costs for potential works to the grass pitches • Engage with Council legal services and the landlord of Cahore Playing Fields to ascertain conditions associated with leasing and if permissible, engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain market value for rental/leasing options.
2.2	<p>Currently, Mid Ulster District Council leases land and pays an annual rent for Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown. There are 1 x GAA and 2 x Soccer pitches along with an onsite changing pavilion. Council administer bookings for the facilities as and when required and invoice the bookers accordingly for use. Council has responsibility for the full cost of facility maintenance, insurance and provides a staffing resource for bookings where relevant. In recent times, the two main users of the facilities are Draperstown Celtic FC and Ballinascreen GAC. Ballinascreen GAC have their own complex approx. 2.5 miles from the Cahore complex containing 3 x grass pitches.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Following the ratification of the February 2021 Development Committee report at the full Council meeting on 25th February and allowing for the subsequent "call in" period, on 8th March 2021, Council legal services were engaged to ascertain conditions associated with leasing.</p>

3.2	During March 2021 to mid-April 2021, Officers completed the drafting of individual maps for Land and Property Services(LPS) valuation purposes and a formal instruction was issued to LPS to ascertain leasing costs. During this period, Officers also engaged formally with the head landlord to seek permission to enter into formal discussions with the club(s) for potential sub-letting of the pitch(es). The head landlord has given permission for the process of potential sub-leasing to be progressed with relevant parties.
3.3	On the 25th May 2021, Council legal services liaised again with LPS to seek an update on progress of valuation request – LPS advised it may be a number of weeks due to current caseloads at LPS and it was agreed to schedule another update call during June 2021. At the point of drafting this report, no LPS valuation has been received yet.
3.4	During February 2021 – May 2021, Council officers and representatives of DCFC exchanged various phonecalls, emails and virtual meetings to discuss information on potential costs for ongoing maintenance, insurances, inspections,etc. This was to assist the club with information to build into their business case for potential future leasing and to help advise and assist their decision if leasing was a viable and sustainable option for the club. Additionally information was shared on what potentially could be included within a lease agreement to allow the club to make preparations if required. During this period, Council officers also sought cost estimates on potential works associated with drainage and fencing upgrades at Cahore Playing Fields.
3.5	It was anticipated to bring the cost estimates along with LPS valuations back to a future Development Committee for Members consideration. However during a virtual meeting with DCFC on the 12 th May 2021, the club advised they were now aware of a potential funding scheme that may be launched later this year by the Department of Communities/Sport NI and they wished to make preparations for a possible bid for funding for a 3G/4G pitch development. At this point it was mutually agreed that it may be beneficial to allow the funding bid to progress first rather than incur any potential unnecessary expenditure for the upgrade of grass pitches and fencing however that option could be explored again should the funding bid not materialise.
3.6	On the 19 th May 2021, Council officers took part in a virtual meeting with DCFC and their 3 rd party consultant that had been engaged to explore and develop proposals for a funding bid for a 3G/4G development. It is not yet known when the funding scheme will open for applications.
3.7	In the interim, while Council are awaiting LPS valuations, this should not prohibit any of DCFC ancillary work to develop further their business case or proposals should any future funding opportunities arise. If the funding process opens for applications prior to discussions on potential leasing being progressed by all parties, as the Council is now in receipt of approval from the head landlord for sub-letting, Council can if required offer a letter of support as part of any funding application should any evidence of current/future tenure be required. Whilst the criteria of any future funding scheme is not yet know, this letter of support element would be common practice and legalities around evidence of tenure are generally sought only if a funding bid has been approved.
3.8	If required, any further updates will be presented to a future Development Committee for consideration where relevant.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Land and Property Services – assessment costs to be derived from existing revenue budgets.</p> <p>Cahore Playing Fields Potential Works Costs – to be considered within future Development Committee Report – may require additional expenditure that may not be included within current budgets.</p>
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures and will continue to ensure a more robust and standardised approach across Leisure services and facilities.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: To be considered when future options are presented.
	Rural Needs Implications: To be considered when future options are presented.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Community Development Service Plan 2021 - 2022
Date of Meeting	17 th June 2021
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan – Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Martina Totten Community Planning Coordinator

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 present the Community Development Service Plan 2021-2022 for information.
2.0	Background
2.1	To support the delivery of services across Council directorates, annual service plans are developed.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Please see attached a copy of the Community Development Service Plan 2021 – 2022 at Appendix 1 .
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> As per plan <u>Professional Support</u> None
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> As per Council corporate Equality and Good Relations Plan/Policy
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> As per Plan and Council Corporate Risk Plan
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the Community Development Service Plan 2021 - 2022

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Community Development Service Plan 2021 - 2022



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Community Development Business & Communities

SERVICE PLAN - 2021 / 22

CONTENT

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
	Foreword	
1.0	OVERALL PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE SERVICE	
1.1	Purpose and scope of the service	
1.2	Responsibilities	
1.3	Customers & Stakeholders	
1.4	Performance Overview in 2021/22	
2.0	IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22	
2.1	Budget - 2021/22	
2.2	Staffing Complement – 2021/22	
2.3	Service Work Plan – 2021/ 22	
2.4	Risk Management of Service	
3.0	OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS	
3.1	Equality Duty	
3.2	Rural Needs Duty	

Foreword

At the start of 2020, Northern Ireland faced the spread of the global Covid-19 pandemic, which in turn has impacted on the way, Mid Ulster District Council delivers its services to communities. The Council's initial response was to protect frontline services, support the vulnerable in the community and ensure continuity of services.

On the Council's road to recovery and reinstatement of services, we have established 'Recovery Activities' that will enable the Council to learn from the impacts that Covid 19 caused, i.e. the new and emerging challenges that services face and the opportunities that have emerged from new ways of working. These 'Recovery Activities' will support the Council's Corporate Plan and this Service Plan will also support the delivery of these higher level objectives and associated outcomes for the residents of the District.

To make sure that we are transparent in what we are aiming to achieve, there is a series of activities outlined within the Service Plan. It should be noted, that it is proposed, that this will be a dynamic service plan, in light of Council's ongoing response to the Pandemic, reflecting the changing context within which it has been developed. Any changes that need to be made to the service plan (i.e. new actions added, or actions removed) will be reported to the Director of the Department as well as being reported as part of our 'business as usual' performance monitoring activity through committee papers during 2021/22.

1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Service

Community Development covers Community Development Support, Advice, Good Relations, Peace, Neighbourhood Renewal and facilitates Policing and Community Safety (independent of Council). The Section also has a responsibility for the coordination of Community Planning for the Council corporate.

The section is specifically responsible for the following functions:

Community Development Support

Provides capacity building and funding to the community and voluntary sector across Mid Ulster. The Council's grant aid programme include community venues, community development strategic support, community development small grant, festivals and events. This is part funded and delivered with the Department for Communities. In addition to the Council's grants programme, the Section provides support and guidance to groups on identifying other sources of funding for the community and voluntary sector.

The Community Development Support also supports local communities plan through village planning for the development of their local areas and supports with the delivery of these plans. Advice provision is provided under Contract and is part funded by the DFC.

Good Relations

Delivery is as per "Together Building a United Community Strategy". This is part funded and delivered with the NI Executive Department. The key principles are creating shared space, developing good relations between children and young people and developing cultural expression between our communities.

Peace IV

Delivery is seeking to promote peace and reconciliation across our communities, particularly focusing on children and young people and development and usage of shared space. This is part funded and delivered with the Special European Union Programme Body.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Council works in partnership with the Department for Communities to address areas poverty and deprivation in our areas with the highest levels of disadvantage within Mid Ulster: Dungannon West and Coalisland. This is part funded and delivered with the Department for Communities.

Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

Seeks to make Mid Ulster community safer. The PCSP consists of Councillors, Independent Members, bodies designated by the NI Assembly, and locally designated bodies. The will consult and engage with communities on issues of local concern and develop solutions to tackle crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. The PCSP also monitors the performance of the Police against the Policing Plan. The Partnership is funded by the Department of Justice (DoJ), and the NI Policing Board (NIPB), through the Joint Committee.

Community Planning

Mid Ulster District Council is responsible for the facilitation of the Mid Ulster Community Planning. This involves overseeing all of the partnerships, coordination of strategic action plans with partners and direct delivery of Council strategic Community Planning priorities including: Social Housing, Mental Health and Health and Wellbeing communities, Mid Ulster Poverty Plan, Mid Ulster community planning consultation responses, and facilitation of strategic areas such as infrastructure meetings, climate change.

The section is specifically responsible for the following functions:

- Community Planning Coordination for Council Corporate
- Community Development Support through delivery of grants, support to group development, community village plan delivery support.
- Provision of General Advice Services across Mid Ulster in partnership with the Department for Communities
- Good Relations delivery in partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive Office under the Together Building a United Community Strategy.
- Peace IV delivery across Mid Ulster
- Facilitation of Neighbourhood Renewal delivery in Coalisland and Dungannon in partnership with Department for Communities
- Facilitating the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Plan

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
• Community and Voluntary Sector
• Funding Departments
• Community Relations Council
• Statutory Departments
• Councillors
• Contract delivery agents
• Schools and College

1.4 Performance Overview in 2020/21

The Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the most significant challenges that Mid Ulster District Council has ever faced. It has required sudden and dramatic changes to the way we work, as Councillors and officers. The previous year has saw Council hold fast with front line service delivery and the section below outlines; our response during 2020 to 2021 i.e. what we achieved, the remaining challenges, and how our service made a difference.

2020/2021 Performance Response/ Overview (What we achieved- Measured Activities)	End of Year Progress Status: Activity was - Completed /Commenced/ Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting Pomeroy project commenced 	Stage 4 design complete and at PQQ tender stage Programme of activity 30% complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Grants delivered under 14 themes 	Over 600 groups supported £700,000 distributed to groups – mainly for sustainability of venues and activity, small supportive activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of PCSP across 	PCSP annual plan delivered through partnership – amended activity to take account of social distancing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of Good Relations 	Good Relations Plan delivered - over 12 programmes with a number of projects in each area, mainly online delivery & materials, and outside activity . Limited number of grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace IV delivery 	10 programmes & grants currently in delivery 6 capital shared space projects on site Total spend allocated £3.34mn budget £3.36mn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Advice Services 	General advice delivery across Mid Ulster – additional support of £100,000 to support during Covid 19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Renewal facilitated through a partnership approach 	Over 10 projects managed – some ceased and some online Current capital developments Gortgonis and Clarkes GAC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community buildings 	<p>Management of community buildings – mainly lease delivery – play group Clogher and Garners Hall partner adult learning via Trust delivery</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Planning Poverty Initiative 	<p>Management of the community planning process for Mid Ulster</p> <p>Poverty plan in place & overseeing delivery</p> <p>Social Housing initiatives</p> <p>Mental health initiatives & Health and wellbeing plans</p> <p>Economic and infrastructure initiatives</p> <p>Skills and education initiatives</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Parcel Scheme overseen 	<p>Food parcels scheme (in partnership with other departments)</p> <p>Over 1200 people supported each week for a period of 16 weeks from April to July where a food parcel of estimate £35 was distributed in partnership with over 30 local community groups each week, using over 100 volunteers.</p> <p>Grant funding of £30,000 was allocated to local groups along with £25,000 of PPE to support groups help their communities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency support funding overseen 	<p>Emergency Support Food and Fuel funding £225,000</p> <p>Support to local foodbanks and SVP – 10</p> <p>Over 5050 food packages and fuel given out to over 1500 people/families for a number of weeks.</p> <p>Fuel stamps of £40 delivered to 4250 families to help support with fuel pressure over this period. Partnership with 20 post primary schools & 89 of our 97 primary schools.</p> <p>Emergency Support to local Counselling</p> <p>£80,000 support to our 8 local community counselling services. Over 2500 counselling sessions to over 500 people.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Befriending scheme overseen 	<p>80 older and vulnerable people contacted a few days each week from April to July</p>

2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22

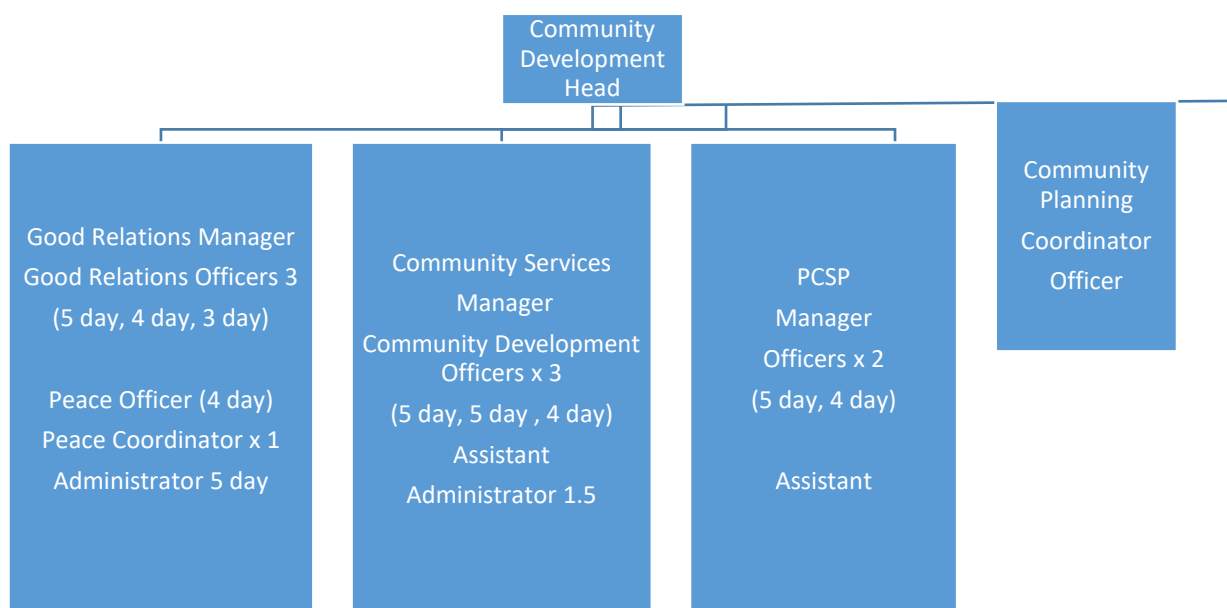
The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2021-22 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2021/22

Service Budget Headings	£
Community Grants, Incl sports and arts and culture spend	£1mn
Community Development General	£180,000
Community Centres (incl GLH)	20,000
Advice	226,000
Good Relations	415,000
PCSP	302,000
Neighbourhood Renewal- core (programme costs Dept Communities)	43,500
CCTV	30,000
Peace IV (2017 – 2020) £3,360,000	£1,000,000
Gross Budget	£2,216,500
Income Grants	£1,366,500
Net Budget for 2019-20	£850,000
Peace IV Shared Space Project	£5.1 million

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2021/22

Staffing	No. of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	3
Officers	12 people (10.5 accounting reduced hours)
Assistants	2
Administration	2.5



2.3 Service Work Plan - 2021/22

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form your Service Work Plan for 2021-22. This is a high-level capture of the Service activities as well as some improvement undertakings which the service will focus on throughout 2021-22. The Plan links to the Council's new 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes:

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2021/22

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		To oversee the development and partnership delivery of a poverty plan for Mid Ulster		
Link to Community Plan Theme:		Align to Corporate Plan Theme		
<i>CMP 5.3 Vibrant & Safe Communities - We have fewer people living in poverty and fewer areas of disadvantage.</i>		<i>Communities: 5.3 We will, along with our community planning partners, work to address poverty & deprivation across Mid Ulster Region.</i>		
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Deliver a poverty plan for Mid Ulster (Poverty Plan in Place)	Ongoing	Claire Linney/ Martina Totten/ Celene O'Neill	Number of partner poverty initiatives and interventions active in Mid Ulster by Council	Number of new programmes/ initiatives being progressed – 10
Facilitate the delivery through partnership of a poverty plan for Mid Ulster (Action Plan commenced)	March 2021	Claire Linney / Martina Totten/ Celene O'Neill	People receiving support to address poverty Long term PFG fewer people living in poverty and fewer areas of disadvantage	Number of people participating in initiatives/programmes NISRA
What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
As above				

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	To delivery community development and social engagement through grants			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 5.1 Vibrant & safe Communities - We are a safer Community</i>	<i>Communities: 5.1 We will open up & sustain accessible pathways to participation in leisure & outdoor rec activities which enhance health & well-being by providing hi quality, accessible facilities in local communities & thru programmes tailored 4 community</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Deliver on community grants under 14 themes for community engagement (3 year process in place for strategic grants – year 2)	March 22	Claire Linney/ Philip Clarke	Increased engagement of people in communities	Monitoring number attending events/activities
Support communities maximise funding to their area for community development / community engagement activity	March 22	Claire Linney/ Philip Clarke	Number of groups supported	Number of groups supported

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Online monitoring of grants	March 22	Claire Linney/ Philip Clarke	Greater sustainability for Groups	Group updates & numbers active

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	Deliver on Good Relations for Mid Ulster			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 5.2 Vibrant & Safe Communities - We have a greater value and respect for diversity</i>	<i>Communities: 5.4 We will support & promote respect for diversity & the integraton of our minority communities.</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)

Deliver on the Good Relations Plan in partnership with the Executive Office (TBUC)	March 2022	Claire Linney/ Oliver Morgan	Increase in the level of understanding & engagement of diverse communities	Number of people participating in programmes and activities
Complete Peace IV and commence new Plan for Peace Plus	March 2022	Claire Linney/ Oliver Morgan	Programme complete in line with targets for engagement New Plan being progressed	Number of people participating in diversity and cross community programmes and activities – targets achieved New Plan progressed

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
New Peace Plus Plan taking account of more strategic programmes	March 2022	Claire Linney/ Oliver Morgan	Increase in respect for diversity	Number of people participating and number of hate crime instances

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	To delivery community development and social engagement through grants			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 5.1 Vibrant & safe Communities - We are a safer Community</i>	<i>Communities: 5.4 We will support & promote respect for diversity & the integraton of our minority communities.</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Facilitate PCSP	March 21	Claire Linney/ Michael McCrory	Reduction in fear of crime and increased crime awareness	Number of people participating and level of fear of crime
Manage CCTV provision	March 21	Claire Linney/ Michael McCrory	Increased confidence in safe places	Recorded instances of crime

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
PCSP led by the PCSP Partnership				

Performance Measures: <i>Should include any measures as outlined in work above and relevant measures from Community, Corporate, Performance Improvement Plan, Statutory, Corporate Health Indicators etc.</i>	Is the Measure, Statutory, Corporate, Existing, or New?	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Target/Standard
Level of Poverty Mid Ulster	Community Plan				
Level of community engagement activity & volunteering	Community Plan				
Level of promotion of respect for diversity and hate crime incidents	Community Plan				
Level of fear of crime and instances of ASB	Community Plan				
Level of affordable and social housing	Community Plan				

2.4 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

The purpose of risk management is to manage the barriers which prevents the Council from achieving its objectives. This section of the service plan includes space for the Service to input their key risks (in summary form), which have been identified during the business planning process. The Council uses risk management to maximize opportunities and minimize risks. This improves its ability to deliver priorities and improve outcomes. This is why the Council deems it important to link business planning and risk management. Risk Management aims to:

- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level
- Assist with the decision making process
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and internal controls in the most effective way.

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2021-22.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	Failure to deliver on Mid Ulster Community Plan	Low	Partnership structure and agreements in place and signed off Community Plan and Action Plans by all partners. Regular update by the Board
2.	Failure to deliver on Peace IV Connecting Pomeroy	Low	Partnership working group in place and partnership agreements with all partners Regular communication and sign off at each stage
3.	Facilitation of PCSP as an independent body of Council	Low	PCSP minutes taken of all meetings and shared with Council for information PCSP roll out of actions under all Council governance policies regarding finance and procurement
4.	Failure to comply with policy and governance procedures	Low	Policies regularly updated to all staff Procedures followed regarding procurement and finance

Rating	Descriptor
16 - 25	Extreme Risk (immediate action required)
10 - 15	High Risk (urgent action required)
7 - 9	Moderate Risk (action required)
1 – 6	Low Risk (keep under review)

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

In carrying out our responsibilities, the Service is cognisant of the statutory duties placed upon the council in the delivery of its services. Whilst the Service operates, under various obligations it is however mindful of the changing context in which it operates and endeavours to mainstream the equality and rural needs duties in the design and delivery of our functions.

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

The council and by consequence our Service is committed to contributing towards its part in working towards fulfilling obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to ensure adequate time, staff and resources to fulfil our duties.

The Service will also work towards adherence to the council's Equality Scheme ensuring equality duties, together with promoting positive attitudes towards persons with a disability and the participation of people with a disability in public life when carrying out our functions.

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

The Service will be mindful of the rural needs of its customers when carrying out its functions and subsequent responsibilities, particularly in developing any new policies, plans or strategies throughout the year. In line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 we will give due regard to rurality in terms of needs in carrying out the activities within our Service.

All new policy and strategy undergoes an EQIQ and RNA with the Corporate Policy Officer.

Report on	Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2021-22
Date of Meeting	17 June 2021
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Michael Browne

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 present and inform the Tourism Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Service Improvement plan ensures that Tourism services are accountable, planned and clear, and that performance and improvement are a key element of service delivery. The Plan also assists in delivering the Council's mission and strategic outcomes set out in Council's Corporate Plan.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Tourism Department is responsible for the successful leadership and management of Tourism Service in Mid Ulster District Council. It plays a lead role in the delivery of the Mid Ulster District Council's vision and values and promotes the achievement of high standards of performance against Corporate and Service specific performance indicators.
3.2	The Tourism Department is responsible for the development and implementation of Mid Ulster District Councils Tourism Strategy. Manage and deliver Visitor Information Services for Mid Ulster through the Visitor Information Centres in Bellaghy, Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.
3.3	It is also responsible for the Culture change of Tourism delivery by becoming more commercially and customer focussed by maintaining and increasing domestic and international visitors and building and developing relationships with a wide range of stakeholders through business engagement.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: As per budgets approved by Council.
	Human: As delivered within Staffing resources approved by Council.

	Risk Management: Risks identified are detailed in the attached Service Improvement Plan
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Tourism provision is delivered by the officer team to be fully inclusive and is designed to encourage wide participation from all sections of the community and promotes and supports good relations between all sections of the community within Mid Ulster.
	Rural Needs Implications: Rural Needs have been considered in the formulation, development, and implementation of the Service Improvement Plan for Tourism Services 2021/22
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	For information, the Tourism Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2021/22



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Tourism

Business and Communities

SERVICE PLAN – 2021/2022

Date

Consulted within staff team

Discussed & signed off by Director

CONTENT

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
1.0	OVERALL PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE SERVICE	
1.1	Purpose and scope of the service	2
1.2	Responsibilities	2
1.3	Customers & Stakeholders	2
1.4	Performance Overview in 2020/21	2-4
2.0	IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22	
2.1	Budget - 2021/22	6
2.2	Staffing Complement – 2021/22	7
2.3	Service Work Plan – 2021/ 22	8-12
3.0	OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS: RURAL NEEDS AND RISK	
3.1	Equality Duty	13
3.2	Rural Needs Duty	13
3.3	Risk	14-15

1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Service

The Tourism Department is responsible for the successful leadership and management of Tourism Service in Mid Ulster District Council. It plays a lead role in the delivery of the Mid Ulster District Council's vision and values and promotes the achievement of high standards of performance against Corporate and Service specific performance indicators.

Key Functional Responsibilities: -

- Tourism – District wide strategic development
- Visitor Servicing – Located in Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Burnavon, Bridewell OM Davagh Dark Skies, US Grants and Ranfurly House
- Corporate Events – District Wide
- Tourism Business Engagement

1.2 Responsibilities

The Tourism department is responsible for the following functions:

- Responsible for the development and implementation of Mid Ulster District Councils Tourism Strategy.
- Manage and deliver Visitor Information Services for Mid Ulster through the Visitor Information Centres in Bellaghy, Cookstown, Dungannon, Davagh and Magherafelt.
- The Culture change of Tourism delivery by becoming more commercially and customer focussed by maintaining and increasing domestic and international visitors.
- Build and develop relationships with a wide range of stakeholders through business engagement.
- Develop the Tourism Service through the delivery of a programme of innovative events and activities that promotes tourism that will make Mid Ulster attractive and competitive.
- Identify sources of external funding opportunities for tourism development, formulating fund bids and liaising with funding bodies to maximise the tourism profile in Mid Ulster.

- Promote and support innovative ways of achieving Mid Ulster District Council's service aims and objectives through the Corporate Planning process and development, delivery and review of business plans and strategies.
- Contribute to corporate developments and initiatives to assist the Mid Ulster District Council to achieve its aims and objectives.
- Oversee the project management delivery of Tourism related strategic projects.
- Contribute to the development of Council's corporate governance framework and ensure it is consistently implemented.
- Ensure the provision and delivery of high quality and cost-effective events.
- Contribute to the development of Council's policies and procedures which promote high standards of service delivery.
- Provide guidance and professional advice to Stakeholders and elected members, ensuring clear communication, and delivery of Tourism objectives.
- Work with and consult members of the public, partners, and stakeholders, to ensure the provision of appropriate, effective and integrated tourism service.
- Communicate to staff the strategic objectives and targets for the Department.

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
• Tourism Northern Ireland
• Tourism Ireland
• National Trust
• DAERA
• Department for Infrastructure
• Sport NI
• Department for the Economy
• Sperrins Partnership Project
• Lough Neagh Partnership
• Tourism Trade
• Councillor members
• Funding Departments
• Event Organisers
• Mid & South West Economic Engine.
• Outdoor Recreation NI
• Ulster Scots Agency
• ICBAN

1.4 Performance Overview in 2020/2021

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2020-2021). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

The Tourism Department Improvement Plan for 2020/21 has contributed to the following objective set within the Corporate Improvement Plan.

1. To assist in the growth of the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to the district
2. To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online

2020/21 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
Broaden the visitor appeal of the Council's visitor attractions by increasing the visitor physical and augmented experience at OM Davagh Dark Skies and Ballyronan Marina.	Funding secured and Tandem appointed to develop and deliver a full augmented and immersive visitor experience that complements both Ballyronan and Davagh, to be completed August 2021.
To deliver Mid Ulster's 5-year tourism strategy.	As a result of the impact of COVID-19, the MUDC Tourism strategy, mid-term review was put on hold, with reviewing and remodelling required to take into consideration COVID-19 with a new focus on the local staycation market.
Increased Mid Ulster visitor digital presence. Website presences on Tourism NI 'Embrace a Giant Spirt' website and increase visitor interactive immersive experiences.	Council signed up to TNI website development programme.
To develop at least two new visitor experiences under the Tourism NI 'Embrace a Giant Spirt' brand with a specific focus under the development heritage pillar and utilising what Lough Neagh has to offer.	Funding secured from DAERA and Councils approval to develop 2 new experiences, to be completed by March 2022.

<p>To enhance the visitor experience at US Grants Homestead with new signage and improved visitor flow around the site.</p>	<p>Work completed March 2021.</p>
<p>Upgrade the welfare facilities at Bridewell Visitor Information Centre in Magherafelt to include disabled toilet and access on the main floor.</p>	<p>Work completed March 2021</p>

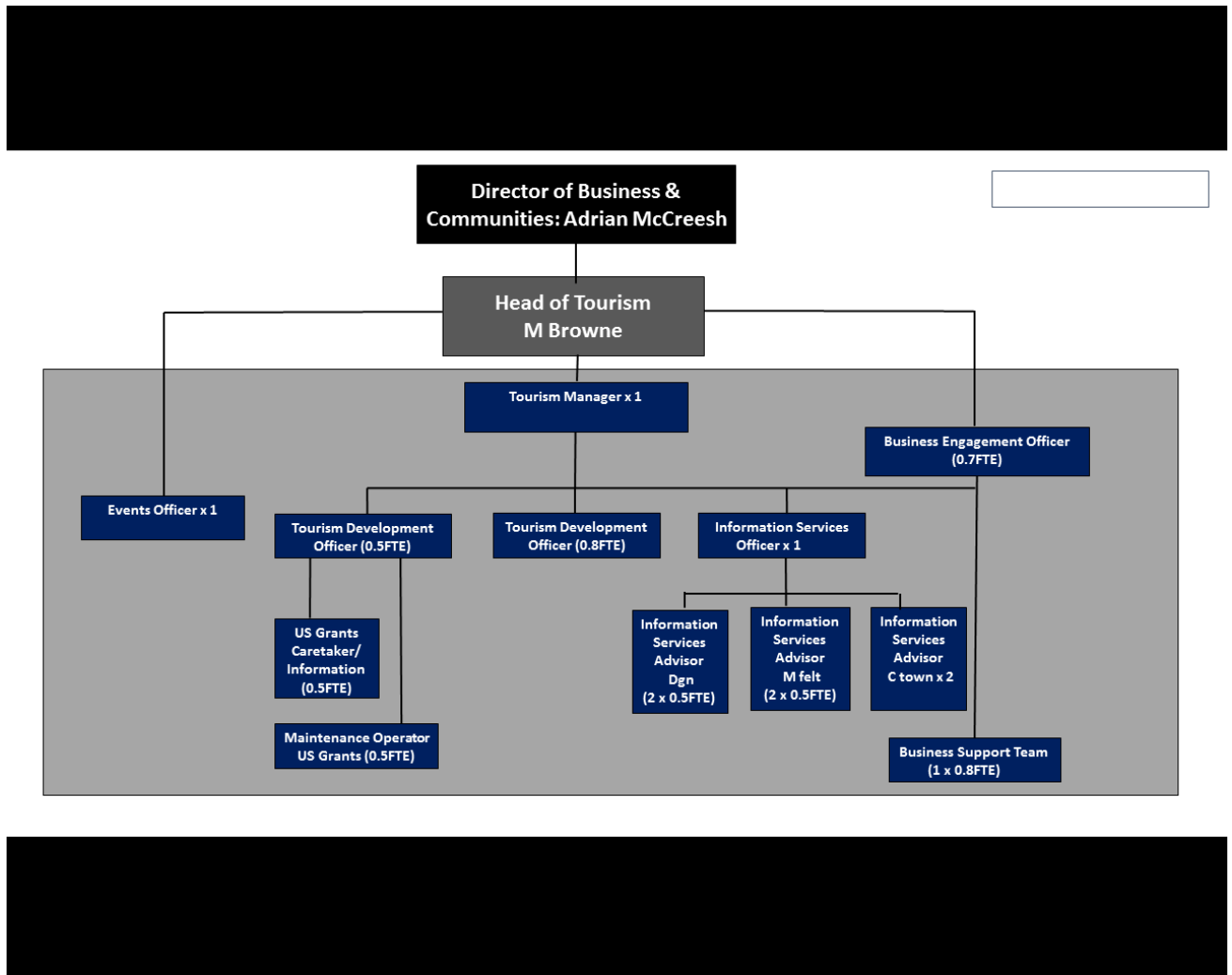
2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22

The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2020-21 to deliver its actions, activities, and core business.

2.1 Budget 2021/22

Service Budget Headings	£
Bridewell	£65,689
Events	£133,000
Tourism General	£448,645
US Grants	£7,365
Gross Budget	£654,699
Income	£60,486
Net Budget for 2021-22	£594,231

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2021/22



Staffing	No. of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	1
Officers	8
Casual	2
Total	12

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2021/22

This plan confirms the core activities and actions which will form your Service Work Plan for 2021-22. This should be a high-level capture of the Service activities and work which it will focus on throughout 2021-22. The Plan links to the Council's 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes.

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2021/22

Service Objective:	To deliver			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.3 Economic Growth - Our Towns & Villages are vibrant & competitive</i>	<i>Service Delivery: 2.1 We will improve services for our citizens through the development and delivery of an innovation agenda</i>			
Key Actions	By When (Dates)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know (Measures)
Considering COVID-19 we will review and develop a new programme of corporate events for the town centres across the district that consider social distancing with appropriate themes for delivery.	31/03/2022	S Arbuthnot Town Centre Managers M McKeown	To deliver inspiring, engaging events to enhance Mid Ulster Council's town centres and other event spaces. To be accessible to all visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities all taking into consideration COVID-19 guidelines. Maximise participation of our residents. To further develop, promoted and deliver high quality events.	Delivery of at least 6 corporate events from October – December 2021.* 20,000 visitor numbers/audience numbers attend corporate events.* Achieve a 75% customer satisfaction. *Figures subject to COVID-19 lockdown easing and public events and mass gatherings

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22 (actions)	By When (Dates)	Lead Officer(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know? (Measures)
Deliver a portfolio of events and activity programmes at the core MUDC venues.	31/03/2022	Sharon Arbuthnot Regeneration Managers	Programme of varied events and activities across main town centres seeking to engage a broad spectrum of participant and spectator audience	Facilitate at least 6 Corporate Events as part of calendar (reduced from 16) (Halloween & Christmas)

Service Objective:	To deliver			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy</i>	<i>Economy: 3.2 We will continue to build on our work to generate business diversification, innovation & expansion & increase in employment opportunities</i>			
Key Actions	By When (Dates)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know (Measures)
<p>Deliver upon the objectives within the Mid Ulster Council Tourism Strategy (Reviewed 2019).</p> <p>To review and update the Mid Ulster Council Tourism Strategy considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>To review and update the Mid Ulster Council Tourism Strategy aligned and linked to Tourism Northern Ireland's new brand and experiences, under 'Embrace a Giant Spirit'.</p> <p>Increased destination digital presences, website, and social media.</p>	31/03/2022	Head of Tourism & Tourism Team	<p>To deliver the objectives outlined in the MUDC tourism Strategy (Reviewed 2019).</p> <p>Strategic alignment with the national brand.</p> <p>Reinforce the national and local tourism brands.</p> <p>Increased staycation offering</p>	<p>Carry out a COVID-19 review.</p> <p>Develop and deliver a Mid Ulster Council destination brand and web site.</p> <p>Carry out ongoing perception research.</p> <p>NISRA tourism visitor statistics.</p>

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22 (actions)	By When	Lead Officer(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know? (Measures)
Deliver upon the objectives within the Mid Ulster Council Tourism Strategy (Reviewed 2019).	31/03/2022	Head of Tourism & Tourism Team	<p>To deliver the objectives outlined in the MUDC tourism Strategy (Reviewed 2019).</p> <p>Strategic alignment with the national brand.</p> <p>Reinforce the national and local tourism brands.</p>	<p>Implementation of the reviewed Mid Ulster District Council Tourism Strategy.</p> <p>Achieve reviewed outputs for 2021-22</p>

Service Objective:	To deliver			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.2 Economic Growth - We have more people working in a diverse economy</i>	<i>Economy: 3.6 We will work to deliver tourism investment and employment concentrating on Mid Ulster's three identified tourism strands</i>			
Key Actions	By When (Dates)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know (Measures)
<p>Develop a portfolio of systems and communications channels to keep the tourism sector informed and to ensure that they receive the latest and most current business information.</p> <p>Develop a series of webinars to support and inform the sector as we exit the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Deliver programmes that will support and create opportunities for the sector under one of more of the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' experiences.</p>	31/03/2022	Head of Tourism and Tourism Team	<p>Greater and more focused support for the tourism & hospitality business sector to ensure their business developments are more efficient.</p> <p>Supporting and developing new local experiences under the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' branding.</p>	<p>20% increase business participation on Council digital and social media tourism channels</p> <p>Develop and deliver 4 new 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' sub brands.</p>

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22 (actions)	By When	Lead Officer(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know? (Measures)
<p>Develop a portfolio of systems and communications channels to keep the tourism sector informed and to ensure that they receive the latest and most current business information.</p> <p>Develop a series of webinars to support and inform the sector as we exit the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Deliver programmes that will support and create opportunities for the sector under one of more of the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' experiences.</p>	31/03/2022	Head of Tourism & Tourism Team	<p>Greater and more focused support for the tourism & hospitality business sector to ensure their business developments are more efficient.</p> <p>Supporting and developing new local experiences under the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' branding.</p>	<p>Measure increased tourism traffic to website and social channels.</p> <p>Development of 4 new Mid Ulster sub brands under the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' brand by 31st March 2022.</p>

Service Objective:	To deliver			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.2 Economic Growth - We have more people working in a diverse economy</i>	<i>Economy: 3.6 We will work to deliver tourism investment and employment concentrating on Mid Ulster's three identified tourism strands</i>			
Key Actions	By When (Dates)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know (Measures)
<p>Progress and implementation of key capital projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy and construction teams appointed. Source, apply and agree funding streams. Design programmes of work established and agreed. 	From 1/4/2021 -31/03/2022	Head of Tourism, Tourism Team, Head of Technical Services	Product high quality, innovative and immersive experiences that will attract increased visitors and investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding sources agreed and in place. Implementation of programme of work at relevant constructions stages.

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22 (actions)	By When	Lead Officer(s)	What difference will it make? Outcomes/outputs	How will we know? (Measures)
<p>Progress and implementation of key capital projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davagh Solar Walk • Davagh Archaeological Walk • Davagh Giant Sculpture Project • Ballyronan Tourism Project 	From 1/4/2021 -31/03/2022	Head of Tourism, Tourism Team, Head of Technical Services	Product high quality, innovative and immersive experiences that will attract increased visitors and investment.	<p>Development of new high-quality visitor attractions.</p> <p>50% Increased visitor numbers to upgraded visitor attractions.</p>

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

In carrying out our responsibilities, the Service is cognisant of the statutory duties placed upon the council in the delivery of its services. Whilst the Service operates, under various obligations it is however mindful of the changing context in which it operates and endeavours to mainstream the equality and rural needs duties in the design and delivery of our functions.

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

The council and by consequence our Service is committed to contributing towards its part in working towards fulfilling obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to ensure adequate time, staff and resources to fulfil our duties.

The Service will also work towards adherence to the council's Equality Scheme ensuring equality duties, together with promoting positive attitudes towards persons with a disability and the participation of people with a disability in public life when carrying out our functions.

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

The Service will be mindful of the rural needs of its customers when carrying out its functions and subsequent responsibilities, particularly in developing any new policies, plans or strategies throughout the year. In line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 we will give due regard to rurality in terms of needs in carrying out the activities within our Service.

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

The purpose of risk management is to manage the barriers which prevents the Council from achieving its objectives. This section of the service plan includes space for the Service to input their key risks (in summary form), which have been identified during the business planning process. The Council uses risk management to maximize opportunities and minimize risks. This improves its ability to deliver priorities and improve outcomes. Therefore the Council deems it important to link business planning and risk management. Risk Management aims to:

- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives.
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level.
- Assist with the decision-making process.
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks.
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and internal controls in the most effective way.

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver Tourism Service business in 2020-21.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	Failure to miss deadlines for the development of marketing to inform visitors of what is on offer to the visitor.	6	To ensure that there is a robust marketing strategy with resources.
2.	Failure to deliver the tourism strategy action plan	6	Impact of Covid 19, closure of facilities and social distancing requirements as and when theatres and facilities re-open will have a significant impact on the ability of theatres and facilities being used to their full potential. Regular engagement with the sector currently being undertaken. Ongoing engagement with customer base being delivered via online platforms to ensure customer relationships are maintained during Covid 19 lockdown period. Regular team meetings discussing programming. Venue specific marketing staff in place across all three venues.
3.	Limited resources to develop strategic events.	6	Monitor and identify needs and external financial opportunities.

4.	Funding and other opportunities missed for MUDC area.	6	Ongoing scanning being undertaken by all officers. Team meeting agenda item, Officers have been assigned to investigate funding opportunities.
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As part of the recovery of the 1st wave of the Covid -19 pandemic, should a second or further waves occur we will switch to our emergency plans.

Rating	Descriptor
16 - 25	Extreme Risk (immediate action required)
10 - 15	High Risk (urgent action required)
7 - 9	Moderate Risk (action required)
1 – 6	Low Risk (keep under review)

Report on	Economic Development Service Plan Report 2021-22
Date of Meeting	17 June 2021
Reporting Officer	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 a copy of Council's Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22</p> <p>Each year all Council departments create a service work plan for the incoming year setting out key objectives. The Economic Development section provides a range of services including economic and business development initiatives, town and village regeneration projects, specific targeted support for rural areas through the Rural Development Programme and cross border activities.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22</p> <p>Economic Development section is specifically responsible for the development, implementation and management of Council's Economic Development, Rural Development, Town Centre and Village Regeneration Strategies and regularly inputting towards a range of other key strategic local and regional economic development initiatives. The Economic Development Service Plan in Appendix 1 outlines the key activities to be delivered during the 2021/22 financial year.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22 Funding to deliver the programmes and projects within the plan come from Economic Development budgets or from partner organisations.</p>
	<p>Human: Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22 Officers time</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22 Projects within the Plan are procured in line with Council or Funder's procedures, whichever is the most onerous.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22 N/A at present. Equality and Good Relations screening have been carried out prior of commencement of ongoing programmes and projects.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22 N/A at present. Rural Needs screening has been carried out prior of commencement of ongoing programmes and projects.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members:-
5.1	Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22 Note the Economic Development Service Plan for 2021/22
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 - Economic Development Service Plan 2021/22



Economic Development

SERVICE PLAN - 2021 / 22

CONTENT

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
	Foreword	2
1.0	OVERALL PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE SERVICE	3
1.1	Purpose and scope of the service	3
1.2	Responsibilities	3
1.3	Customers & Stakeholders	4
1.4	Performance Overview in 2020/21	5
2.0	IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22	10
2.1	Budget - 2021/22	10
2.2	Staffing Complement – 2021/22	10
2.3	Service Work Plan – 2021/22	11
2.4	Risk Management of Service	20
3.0	OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS	25
3.1	Equality Duty	25
3.2	Rural Needs Duty	25

Foreword

At the start of 2020, Northern Ireland faced the spread of the global Covid-19 pandemic, which in turn has impacted on the way, Mid Ulster District Council delivers its services to communities. The Council's initial response was to protect frontline services, support the vulnerable in the community and ensure continuity of services.

On the Council's road to recovery and reinstatement of services, we have established 'Recovery Activities' that will enable the Council to learn from the impacts that Covid 19 caused, i.e. the new and emerging challenges that services face and the opportunities that have emerged from new ways of working. These 'Recovery Activities' will support the Council's Corporate Plan and this Service Plan will also support the delivery of these higher level objectives and associated outcomes for the residents of the District.

To make sure that we are transparent in what we are aiming to achieve, there are a series of activities outlined within the Service Plan. It should be noted, that it is proposed, that this will be a dynamic service plan, in light of Council's ongoing response to the pandemic, reflecting the changing context within which it has been developed. Any changes that need to be made to the service plan (i.e. new actions added, or actions removed) will be reported to the Director of the Department as well as being reported as part of our 'business as usual' performance monitoring activity through committee papers during 2021/22.

1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Service

The Economic Development Section provides a range of services including economic and business development initiatives, town and village regeneration projects, specific targeted support for rural areas through the Rural Development Programme and cross border activities. More recently a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to progress projects identified within the Mid South West Growth Dea.

The Section also builds strategic alliances with partner organisations to maximise opportunities for the District's economic growth through leverage of additional funding or support provision. The Economic Development staff are located across three main towns Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt.

1.2 Responsibilities

The Section is specifically responsible for the development, implementation and management of Council's Economic Development, Rural Development, Town Centre and Village Regeneration Strategies for the District Council area and regularly inputting towards a range of other key strategic local and regional economic development initiatives.

The section is specifically responsible for the following five key functions:

Economic Development

- Develop and deliver a range of programmes, projects and initiatives to support the economic development of the District on across a range of levels, including business support interventions.
- Identify and bid for sources of funding to resource economic development and wider Council initiatives.
- Lobby for and identify opportunities for significant infrastructure investments.
- Maximise opportunities for development and inward investment to the District from a range of sources, collaborating with appropriate local, regional, national and European partners and identifying suitable partners as appropriate.
- Administration and coordination of Covid-19 Business Support Grants to assist our Businesses.

Town Centre Regeneration

- Manage, develop, deliver and evaluate a comprehensive range of initiatives relating to Town Centre Regeneration, e.g. Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme
- Maximise the profile of the five town centres and reinforce the existing town centre brands of the three main towns.
- Support the growth and development of a competitive retail sector across Mid Ulster.

- Develop, promote and deliver a number of key signature events that add vitality and vibrancy to the five Town Centres (subject to Government Covid-19 guidance).
- Improve the townscape quality of the five Town Centres

Village Regeneration

- Identify regeneration priorities from Village Plans as agreed by Council and the Local Action Group
- To progress revitalise / regeneration schemes across Mid Ulster's villages.

Rural Development Programme

- Provide support to Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership for the implementation of a £10m local action strategy for Mid Ulster.

The support service provided to the Local Action Group includes:

- Promote the opportunities available through the Rural Development Programme in rural Mid Ulster
- Manage calls for applications to the Rural Development Programme
- Prepare project assessment reports and monitor the implementation of approved projects

Other Strategic Initiatives

- Development of Strategic Sites (Ann Street and Redevelopment of Maghera High School site).
- Mid Ulster Skills Forum / Labour Market Partnerships
- Community Planning – Economic Growth Initiatives
- Actions arising from Brexit and Broadband Sub Committees
- Mid South West Growth Deal

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
Internal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other Council Departments, Elected Members, Senior Management Team and Staff
External: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government Departments and Agencies (DfE, Invest NI, DAERA, DfC) ▪ MSW Growth Deal Councils and associated Project Partners ▪ Local businesses, social enterprises and farmers ▪ Further and Higher Education Providers ▪ Local Enterprise Agencies ▪ MPs and MLAs ▪ Regional sectoral representative bodies ▪ Mid Ulster Skills Forum, Chambers of Commerce, Town Centre Forums, Regeneration Partnerships ▪ Inward Investors ▪ Community / voluntary sectors

1.4 Performance Overview in 2020/21

The Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the most significant challenges that Mid Ulster District Council has ever faced. It has required sudden and dramatic changes to the way we work, as Councillors and officers. The previous year has saw Council hold fast with front line service delivery and the section below outlines; our response during 2020 to 2021 i.e. what we achieved, the remaining challenges, and how our service made a difference.

2020/2021 Performance Response/ Overview (What we achieved- Measured Activities)	End of Year Progress Status: Activity was - Completed /Commenced/ Other
Redevelopment of Maghera High School Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permission was granted on 4 February 2020. Planning application is currently being reviewed by the Department for Infrastructure. Work in progress.
Coalisland Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A contractor was appointed in 2019 and capital works commenced on the ground in September 2019. Works nearing completion.
Maghera Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Designs were amended based on previous consultations and discussions with third party landowners. Work is ongoing with third party landowners regarding additional parking requirements.
Covid-19 Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread consultation with businesses across Mid Ulster. A Mid Ulster Covid-19 Recovery Plan was developed Lobbied for Financial Support to assist with recovery Accessed grant aid of £1.452m (from DfC, DAERA & DfI):- to deliver 587 Covid Business Support Grants; six Active Travel projects currently being advanced. Developed & delivered Social Media Videos: - Reopening Video (July 2020) and five Business Reconnect Videos. Reconnect with Confidence stickers distributed to businesses across the Council area.
Helping our towns recover from the Covid-19 pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan following consultation with town centre stakeholders, including our Town Centre

	Forums and Traders Associations. Short, medium and long-term interventions identified.
Urban Regeneration Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Covid-19 pandemic affected the delivery of planned marketing initiatives such as Independents Day and Small Business Saturday. • Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, no events could be delivered on the ground. The budget was redirected to Covid-19 business support programmes. • Developed & delivered virtual Christmas Lights Switch On which was streamed on Social Media channels • Delivery of town centre Christmas marketing campaign, which was rolled out across the five towns.
Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with appointed Architect to deliver Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme. • Phase 2 delivered:- 71 Letters of Offer issued to the value of £250,000
Village Renewal Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 22 Village Renewal Scheme projects throughout the district to a value of approx. £780,000. • Work on site stopped in March 2020 due to Covid-19, and resumed again in June 2020
Rural Business Investment Scheme – to create an additional 10 FTE jobs (target) within supported businesses from a baseline job creation figure of 130 FTE at March 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed – job creation at March 2021 was 163 FTE
Rural Basic Services Projects – 18 district wide funded Rural Services projects completed and operational through a £2.7 million spend from the Rural Development Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 now fully completed with remaining three to be operational early 21/22.
Village Renewal Scheme – village renewal projects will be completed in 52 rural village settlements of grant approved of £3.15 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% completed. Overall grant of £3.6m approved to village renewal projects

LAG Co-operation Scheme – letters of offer for £250k approved for three co-operation projects - International Appalachian Trail, Lough Neagh and its Waterways and Davagh Archaeological trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed – letters of offer accepted and project works underway.
Full Fibre NI (FFNI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract signed with Fibrus for delivery of full fibre connectivity to 81 Council own sites to the value of with £3.4m funding from DCMS –To be delivered during 2021/22.
Project Stratum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council undertook a significant broadband survey with over 800 responses regarding Project Stratum broadband issues. Meeting planned in April 2021 with DfE and Fibrus to discuss the gaps in provision.
Coalisland Great Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is exploring the rich manufacturing legacy of the people of Coalisland and East Tyrone through a series of initiatives delivered in the local community by Lough Neagh Partnership and Council support of £30,000. £27,000 funding support paid to date. £3,000 of support in 21/22
Business Start (NIBSUP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 126 jobs promoted by March 2021
Delivery of Year 3 (of 4 years) ESF Programmes i) Step Up to Sustainable Employment, ii) Up for Work iii) Job Match iv) Exploring Enterprise	Final figures not available until 21 April i) 303 participants supported to re-engage with the labour market ii) 119 helped to gain employment iii) 347 qualifications achieved iv) 48 progressed to F/H Education
Business Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 business events delivered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 (12 webinars) Building a Digital Business Webinar Connecting with Customers Webinar Influencer Marketing Webinar Communicating through Uncertainty Webinar Building Psychological Resilience Webinar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Also partnered with the NI Chamber of Commerce for a virtual Regional Networking Event (Sept 2020) <p>797 businesses attended.</p>
<p>Four Business Support Programmes launched</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gearing for Growth - Tender Ready Programme - Digital First Programme - Transform Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Business Support Programmes launched (27 August 2020) and operational: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 254 micro/small businesses recruited; - 11 new jobs created; - 3 referrals to Invest NI <p><i>Ongoing to 31 Dec 2022</i></p>
<p>Supporting the local Manufacturing and Engineering sector to respond and recover from the impacts of the pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEGA has led the Covid-19 response for the sector - spearheading a campaign for government apprenticeships support, which enabled MEGA companies to retain 58 apprentices and recruit 33 new apprentices. As part of its campaign the network designed and developed new easy to follow 'MEGA Apprenticeship Model' literature. MEGA made a successful application to the apprenticeship challenge fund for a MEGA Degree Apprenticeship in Manufacturing & Engineering with specialism in Industrial Digitalisation, Robotics and Automation, in partnership with Ulster University. This will be the first ever Manufacturing & Engineering Degree Apprenticeship. MEGA launched a brand new website to help inform students, teachers and parents about the opportunities within the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector in Mid Ulster. MEGA also supported the development of a Mid Ulster Industry Training Centre (ITC) with SWC. The MEGA network has steadily grown to 32 local member companies, with 14 playing active roles within MEGA sub-committees. To date 18 'Ambassadors' have been recruited and trained under its MEGA Ambassador

	<p>Programme. Each ambassador is now linked to an individual post primary school in Mid Ulster and will deliver mentoring, industry talks, careers events etc.</p>
Council Consultation Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Plus Programme Consultation • Programme for Government – Draft Outcomes Framework • UK Shared Prosperity Fund

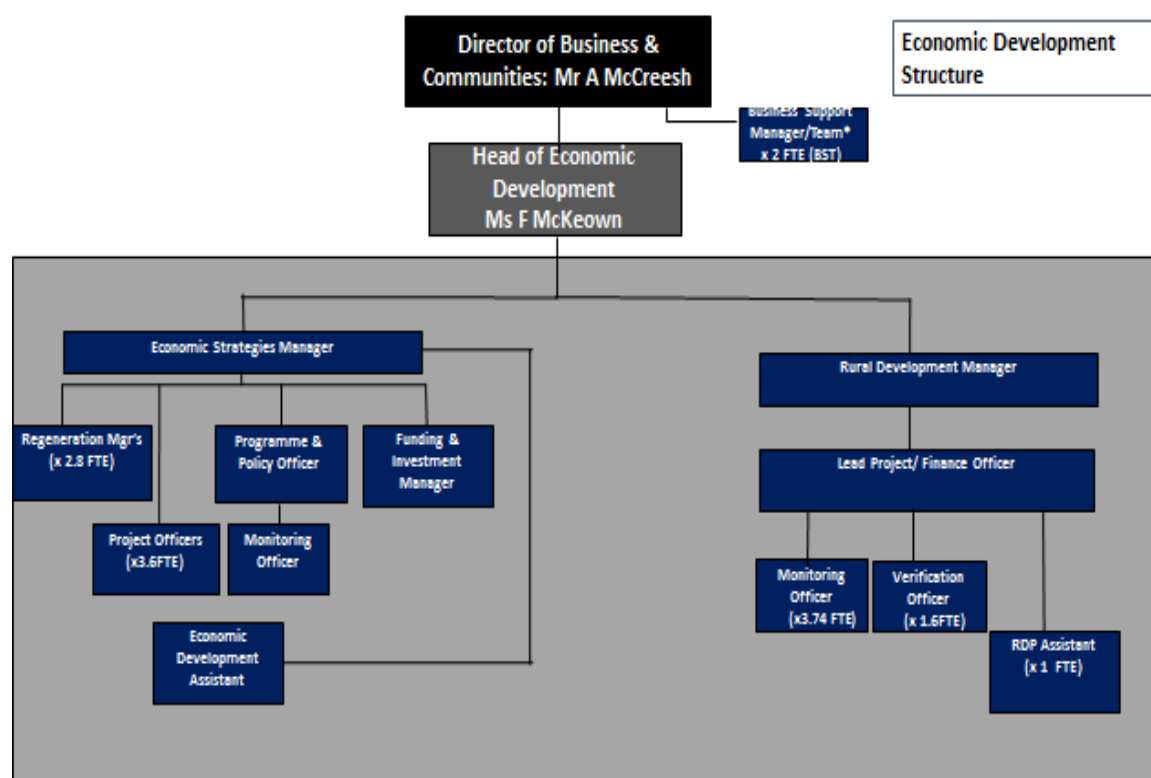
2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22

The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2021-22 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2021/22

Service Budget Headings	£
General Economic Development	838,000
Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme	286,587
Town Strategy	695,177
Villages- Rural Development	20,000
Gross Budget	1,839,764
Income	276,587
Net Budget for 2021-22	1,563,177

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2021/22



Staffing	No of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	5.8
Officers	11.94
Remaining Team	2
Total	20.74

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2021/22

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form your Service Work Plan for 2021-22. This is a high-level capture of the Service activities as well as some improvement undertakings, which the service will focus on throughout 2021-22. The Plan links to the Council's new 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes:

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2021/22

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	Assisting the Local Action Group (LAG) in the delivery of a local rural development strategy for Mid Ulster to include			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy	<i>Service Delivery: 2.1 We will improve services for our citizens through the development and delivery of an innovation agenda</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Closure of LAG Local Rural Development Strategy and evaluation of outcomes and performance indicators	31 st March 2022	E Gallogly	Evidence the outcome and impact made by the LAG's Local Rural Development Strategy funded through the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme	Evaluation report prepared
145 rural micro businesses supported under the DAERA Rural Business Development Grants Scheme to complete drawdown of funding	31 st March 2022	E Gallogly	Positive impact on business recovery through sustaining employment and increasing turnover	Scheme evaluation report

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Lobby DAERA on the new Rural Affairs Policy Framework to maximise opportunities for growing the rural economy of the District.	31 st March 2022	F McKeown	Council will play a lead role in the shaping and delivery of local initiatives, which will contribute to Community Plan themes for growing the rural economy.	Number of initiatives developed or planned through the Rural Affairs Policy Framework
Participate in the shaping of the Rural Business Development Scheme for the micro business sector (subject to confirmation of funding from DAERA)	31 st March 2022	E Gallogly	Positive impact on business recovery through sustaining employment and increasing turnover.	Delivery contract secured

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	Design and deliver Town Centre Marketing Campaigns , and Events to enhance the profile of the Districts' Towns			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.3 Economic Growth - Our Towns & Villages are vibrant & competitive</i>	<i>Leadership: 1.3 We will work collectively to meet the identified needs and priorities of our citizens & connect the people of Mid Ulster</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Marketing Campaigns. Joint marketing campaign across 5 towns (Dungannon., Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland, Maghera) to promote: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Reopening Key Retail Periods (Christmas, Small Business Saturday) (All subject to Covid-19 restrictions) 	31 st March 2022	Regeneration Managers	Raise profile of the 5 town centres	Number of Marketing plans delivered. Town Visitor Surveys. Retailer Surveys.

<p>Town Centre Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Halloween (Dungannon & Coalisland) - Christmas (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt & Maghera) <p>(Due to Covid-19 the delivery of these events is subject to review and Government guidance)</p> <p>Benchmark with Tourism team to develop counting attendance methodologies – baselines figures</p>	31 st March 2022	Regeneration Managers	Increase civic pride and footfall across 5 towns.	<p>Delivery of 7 town centre events in the 5 towns during 2020/21 :</p> <p>Number of attendances at events (baseline)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme. • Deliver 72 schemes throughout the district to a value of £250,000 (Phase 3 – 2021/22). • Appointment of Chartered Architect to manage and deliver Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme (Phase 4-Final Year 2022/23). 	31 st March 2022	M McCullagh / L Shiels	Improved civic pride and enhanced aesthetics in towns and villages.	<p>100% progress against 72 Town and Village Spruce up schemes by Q4 2021/22.</p> <p>Budget of £250,000 paid out to businesses 2021/22.</p> <p>Chartered Architect appointed to manage Phase 4.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver three Village Renewal Scheme projects throughout the district to a value of approx. £50,000. (Galbally, Broughderg and Tamnamore) 	30 th September 2021	Regeneration Managers in partnership with Capital Team	Increase civic pride in 3 villages	<p>100% progress against 3 Village scheme plans by Q2 2020</p> <p>Budget of £50,000 spent</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a Revitalisation Project in Coalisland following completion of the Public Realm 	31 st March 2022	C Fox	Increase the overall viability and vitality of the town centre	100% progress against delivery of the project by end of Q4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressing a Public Realm Scheme for Maghera 	31 st March 2022	D McCartney (assisting Capital Team)	Increase the overall viability and vitality of the town centre	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and Deliver a Small Grants Business Marketing Scheme 	31 March 2022	Regeneration Managers	Small grants “business marketing scheme” awards revenue grants of up to £300 to	Budget of £250,000 paid out.

			a minimum of 833 business, on a first come, first served basis until funding is allocated. The scheme aims to assist businesses with their marketing efforts as they recover from the pandemic, e.g. developing improved online presence, click & collect, promotional activity, merchandising and window displays, use of influencers/vloggers/bloggers, etc.	
• Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme	31 st March 2022	Regeneration Managers	Provides a mechanism whereby spend can be locked-in to the Mid Ulster district to support local businesses.	Scheme implemented. Number of businesses signed up.
• Live Music in Town Centres at Peak Shopping Times	31 st March 2022	Regeneration Managers	To increase the vibrancy of our 3 large towns, live music will be introduced at peak shopping times on Fridays/Saturdays for an initial period (when permitted to do so based on Govt Guidance).	Budget circ. £8,000 spent.

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Town Centre Recovery – develop new online platforms to engage with businesses.	31 st March 2022	Regeneration Managers	Better communication and engagement with businesses across Mid Ulster.	Number of meetings held.

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	Deliver a range of economic initiatives to support business growth and job creation			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy</i>	<i>Economy: 3.2 We will continue to build on our work to generate business diversification, innovation & expansion & increase in employment opportunities</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Deliver the requisite number of approved business plans for start-ups to achieve jobs target (Statutory Target)	31 st March 2022	S McIntyre	Bespoke support to budding entrepreneurs to develop a client-led business plan	210 jobs promoted - 350 approved client business plans completed (pa)
Deliver and manage 5 (3-year) programmes to support growth and job creation in 730 businesses /social enterprises by Sept 2023 in 5 key business areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tender Ready - Digital First - Transform - Gearing for Growth and - Social Enterprise 	31 st March 2022	S McIntyre	Building the recovery, sustainability, growth and job creation prospects of businesses/social enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 270 businesses / social enterprises supported (pa) • 135 jobs created (pa)
Deliver and manage a number of business events/webinars across Mid Ulster, including the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Support Programmes events; (3 No. events on Digital, 1 No. Event on Tendering, 1 No. Event on Social Enterprise). - Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (minimum of 10 events) - Decade of Anniversaries Events (2 business events) - Mid Ulster Business Awards 2021 (to agree in principal – subject to satisfactory clarifications being obtained from 	31 st March 2022	F McKeown C McKenna S McIntyre P McCreedy	Assisting businesses as they recover from the pandemic through the provision of a wide range of specialist business focused events to assist all sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of business events held

JPI Media on a number of outstanding issues Council has sought further information on - will be brought back to committee for final approval once details are received). - NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event.				
What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Participate in regional council collaborative group to explore options for the future provision of business start support and engagement with Dept. for the Economy and Dept. for Communities to consult on future statutory targets	31 March 2022	S McIntyre	Identify good practice from elsewhere and extensive research completed to inform future provision	Programme provision scoped and outline structure drafted

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	To develop Mid Ulster's workforce by supporting the delivery of employability and skills initiatives			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.2 Economic Growth - We have more people working in a diverse economy</i>	<i>Economy: 3.2 We will continue to build on our work to generate business diversification, innovation & expansion & increase in employment opportunities</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
To monitor the performance of 4 Mid Ulster employability and skills programmes over 4 years (2018-22) to manage the release of Council's match funding: - Step Up to Sustainable Employment - Up for Work - Job Match - Exploring Enterprise Programme (2021/22 is Yr. 4 of 4)	31/3/2022	S McIntyre	Bespoke support to enable participants to become economically active, re-engage with the labour market and improve their employability prospects	320 participants to be supported through 4 programmes (pa)

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Move to adopting desk-top vouching process to check documentation for match funding payments, in line with other match funders	31 March 2022	S McIntyre	More efficiency in vouching and processing documentation	Reduction in Officer time spent on claim verification process

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	To deliver assigned actions from Mid Ulster Skills Forum (Skills Action Plan year 2020-21)			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 3.1 Education & Skills - Our People are better qualified & more skilled</i>	<i>Economy: 3.3 We will continue to support the work of our partners including the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, to address employability/skills to ensure existing & future needs of our region's business base are met.</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to funding, establish a new Mid Ulster Local Labour Partnership (LMP) to co-align with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum and develop an Action Plan 2021-22. Subject to funding from DfC, appoint staff resources to co-ordinate and deliver a Work Programme. Provide secretariat support / administration of correspondence to meetings. Min of six meetings (depending on Covid-19 restrictions.) Support the delivery of an Apprenticeship Event as part of NI Apprenticeship Week (NIAW) 2022. Support MEGA to collectively build towards recovery. Provide support to MEGA to assist in the development of a new 3-year Strategic Action Plan and new application to Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme (subject to TU involvement) 	30 June 2021	P McCreedy	Local labour market conditions and employability and skills issues improved by stronger partnership working and co-ordination.	100% progress of no. of assigned SMART actions from Action plan delivered in the year.
	30 Sept 2021			LMP officer appointed.
	31 Mar 2022		Contribute to increased skills levels and access to labour.	Provide secretariat papers for LMP.
	31 Mar 2022		Contribute to the sustainable recovery of the local manufacturing and engineering sector.	Attendance at MEGA Steering Group meetings. New Strategic Action Plan developed. Additional funding support secured to sustain MEGA.

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Subject to funding, establish a new Mid Ulster Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) to complement and realign with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum.	31 st Dec 22	F McKeown P McCreedy	Joining of key public, private and community sector stakeholders to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions.	LMP established and work plan developed.
Support the Generation Z Network in the delivery of a Scoping Study on industry/education engagement products and services.	31 st Mar 22	F McKeown P McCreedy	Improved understanding of how to communicate with and attract 'Generation Z' talent into industries.	Scoping Study developed by 31/3/22.

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	To progress the development of Council key opportunity sites at Ann Street , Dungannon site plan and Maghera High School site plan)			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy</i>	<i>Economy: 3.4 We will continue to identify opportunity sites for development proposals & to deliver against existing plans for other key strategic sites (Ann Street- Dungannon & former Maghera High School site.)</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
To progress development of Council key opportunity sites:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Street Development Site / Phasing Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning application submitted for first phase (AS) Anchor tenant secured (AS) Maghera High School site plan following activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permission secured (MHS) Contractor Team appointed (MHS) Work commenced on site (MHS) Leases for serviced sites agreed (MHS) 	2021/2022	P McCreedy, D McCartney	Improved perception of Council area as an investment location.	% progress against activities.

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2021/22? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
To continue to meet with Government Departments such as Department for Communities to identify potential opportunities to assist our towns (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland).	2021/2022	Regeneration Managers	Assist retailers. Positive promotion of towns	Amount of funding package agreed for the large District towns

2.4 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

The purpose of risk management is to manage the barriers, which prevents the Council from achieving its objectives. This section of the service plan includes space for the Service to input their key risks (in summary form), which have been identified during the business planning process. The Council uses risk management to maximize opportunities and minimize risks. This improves its ability to deliver priorities and improve outcomes. This is why the Council deems it important to link business planning and risk management. Risk Management aims to:

- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level
- Assist with the decision making process
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and internal controls in the most effective way.

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2021-22.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	Loss of External Funding	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continual review by staff of new funding opportunities. - Council has employed a Funding and Investment officer since January 2017 - Maintain regular communication with funding sources/potential partners. - Management control procedures are in place and staff training provided on the implementation of funder operating guidance. - Regular communication with funder(s) to update on progress and agree solutions. - Senior staff are made aware of key funding sources. - The estimated impact of Brexit is the loss of EU Funding £28.5 million between 2021 and 2027 – staff across Council looking at other funding avenues. - Lobby DAERA to progress their Rural Affairs Policy Framework in order to advance the new successor Rural

			Development Programme to assist businesses across Mid Ulster. Gaps between one programme ending and another programme commencing also present issues for Council in terms of retaining staff.
2.	Fraud, theft or bribery occurring within Economic Development	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benchmarking Follow tendering procedures - Data checking takes place through Internal Audit - Encryption, staff awareness, passwords Access controls Restricted Access Security policy - Internal and External Audit checks takes place - Internet use policy Surf control Access controls Management reports on internet usage software audit facility - Random spot checks by trained staff and documentation of same takes place - Tenders are carried out by experienced/trained staff - Trained staff carry out monitoring checks
3.	Failing to deliver a programme & Drawdown maximum Funding possible	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular internal officer meetings held.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of progress against Work Plan. - Identification of potential issues at an early stage. - Regular communication with funder(s) to update on progress and agree solutions. - Management control procedures are in place and staff training provided on the implementation of funder operating guidance.
4	EU Exit	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU Exit is on the agenda on a regular basis at internal meetings. - Implications being considered regionally. - Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group formed in November 2018. - MUDC Officers (from Economic Development) are following Brexit events and circulating relevant information to businesses. - There is a minimum two-year lead in period providing time to adapt to new policies and procedures
5.	Covid-19	9	<p>Impacts on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff working locations - The full delivery of LED business programmes. - The full delivery of Council events

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivering Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme - Delivering Enterprise week events for Businesses - Delivery of RDP Village Renewal Programme
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Rating	Descriptor
16 - 25	Extreme Risk (immediate action required)
10 - 15	High Risk (urgent action required)
7 - 9	Moderate Risk (action required)
1 – 6	Low Risk (keep under review)

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

In carrying out our responsibilities, the Service is cognisant of the statutory duties placed upon the council in the delivery of its services. Whilst the Service operates, under various obligations it is however mindful of the changing context in which it operates and endeavours to mainstream the equality and rural needs duties in the design and delivery of our functions.

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

The council and by consequence our Service is committed to contributing towards its part in working towards fulfilling obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to ensure adequate time, staff and resources to fulfil our duties.

The Service will also work towards adherence to the council's Equality Scheme ensuring equality duties, together with promoting positive attitudes towards persons with a disability and the participation of people with a disability in public life when carrying out our functions.

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

The Service will be mindful of the rural needs of its customers when carrying out its functions and subsequent responsibilities, particularly in developing any new policies, plans or strategies throughout the year. In line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 we will give due regard to rurality in terms of needs in carrying out the activities within our Service.

Report on	Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan 2021-22
Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th June 2021
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
Contact Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts

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 update members with regard to the Culture and Arts Services - Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Service Improvement plan (See appendix 1) ensures that Culture and Arts services are accountable, planned and clear, and that performance and improvement are a key element of service delivery. The Plan also assists in delivering the Council's mission and strategic outcomes set out in Council's Corporate Plan and has been prepared with cognisance of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Culture and Arts Service has facility management, venue operations and associated programming responsibility for the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown, Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon and Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy.
3.2	In addition, Culture and Arts Services also has responsibility for the delivery of Council's district wide Arts and Cultural development programme and the delivery of the Council's Regional and Minority Language Development programme.
3.3	The Service delivers a diverse range of culture and arts activity across a wide range of art & cultural forms. The purpose of the Service is to encourage greater community and audience participation in Culture and Arts activity delivered by Mid Ulster District Council, both for the inhabitants of the District and for visitors to our District.
3.4	Culture & Arts Services is part of the Business and Communities Directorate, and is made up of the following key service areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts & Cultural Venues 2. Arts & Cultural Development 3. Regional & Minority Language Development
3.5	The social and economic disruption of COVID-19 has had and will continue to have a significant impact on the service we provide and the way we provide them and the citizens that we provide our service to. As lockdown restrictions ease, social distancing measures are enacted in the workplace and service provision gradually recovers,

	transitions and adapts to a 'new normal', we must be mindful of the impact of COVID-19 on the plans which are currently being developed at all levels of Service Planning and Performance Management. How we plan now will determine how well we adapt to the challenges and opportunities within a post COVID-19 environment, not just within Culture & Arts Services of MUDC, but also within the wider Culture & Arts sector within Mid Ulster.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: As per budgets approved by Council
	Human: As delivered within Staffing resources approved by Council
	Risk Management: Risks identified are detailed in the attached Service Improvement Plan
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Culture & Arts Service provision is delivered by the officer team to be fully inclusive, and is designed to encourage wide participation from all sections of the community, promoting and supporting good relations between all sections of the community within Mid Ulster
	Rural Needs Implications: Rural Needs have been considered in the formulation, development and implementation of the Service Improvement Plan for Culture & Arts Services 2021/22
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Members approve the Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Culture & Arts Service Improvement Plan 2021/22



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Culture & Arts Business & Communities

SERVICE PLAN - 2021 / 22

CONTENT

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
	Foreword	
1.0	OVERALL PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE SERVICE	4
1.1	Purpose and scope of the service	4
1.2	Responsibilities	4
1.3	Customers & Stakeholders	4-5
1.4	Performance Overview in 2021/22	6-7
2.0	IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22	
2.1	Budget - 2021/22	8
2.2	Staffing Complement – 2021/22	8-9
2.3	Service Work Plan – 2021/ 22	10-11
2.4	Risk Management of Service	12-14
3.0	OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS	
3.1	Equality Duty	15
3.2	Rural Needs Duty	15

Foreword

At the start of 2020, Northern Ireland faced the spread of the global Covid-19 pandemic, which in turn has impacted on the way, Mid Ulster District Council delivers its services to communities. The Council's initial response was to protect frontline services, support the vulnerable in the community and ensure continuity of services.

On the Council's road to recovery and reinstatement of services, we have established 'Recovery Activities' that will enable the Council to learn from the impacts that Covid 19 caused, i.e. the new and emerging challenges that services face and the opportunities that have emerged from new ways of working. These 'Recovery Activities' will support the Council's Corporate Plan and this Service Plan will also support the delivery of these higher level objectives and associated outcomes for the residents of the District.

To make sure that we are transparent in what we are aiming to achieve, there is a series of activities outlined within the Service Plan. It should be noted, that it is proposed, that this will be a dynamic service plan, in light of Council's ongoing response to the Pandemic, reflecting the changing context within which it has been developed. Any changes that need to be made to the service plan (i.e. new actions added, or actions removed) will be reported to the Director of Business and Communities as well as being reported as part of our 'business as usual' performance monitoring activity through Development committee papers during 2021/22.

1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Service

Culture and Arts Services is part of the Business and Communities Directorate, and is made up of the following key service areas:

1. Arts & Cultural Venues
2. Arts & Cultural Development
3. Regional & Minority Language Development

1.2 Responsibilities

The Culture and Arts Service has facility management, venue operations and associated programming responsibility for the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown, the Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon and Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy.

In addition Culture and Arts Services also has responsibility for the delivery of Council's Arts and Cultural development and Regional and Minority Language Development programmes throughout the Mid Ulster region.

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elected Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture & Arts Service Strategic Arts and Cultural Partner organisations (identified through the Strategic Arts & Culture support programme)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Department for Communities (Arts & Culture, Languages, Historic Environment Division)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents of and visitors to Mid Ulster
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tourism Northern Ireland, Tourism Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facility catering Franchisees
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools, colleges, universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts, culture, Heritage groups operating within the Mid Ulster region
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key project stakeholders, including DAERA, RSPB, NIEA, DfI
Customers & Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elected Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture & Arts Service Strategic Arts and Cultural Partner organisations (identified through the Strategic Arts & Culture support programme)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Department for Communities (Arts & Culture, Languages, Historic Environment Division)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of and visitors to Mid Ulster Tourism Northern Ireland, Tourism Ireland Facility catering Franchisees Schools, colleges, universities Arts, culture, Heritage groups operating within the Mid Ulster region Key project stakeholders, including DAERA, RSPB, NIEA, DfI
Customers & Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected Members Culture & Arts Service Strategic Arts and Cultural Partner organisations (identified through the Strategic Arts & Culture support programme) Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Department for Communities (Arts & Culture, Languages, Historic Environment Division) Residents of and visitors to Mid Ulster Tourism Northern Ireland, Tourism Ireland Facility catering Franchisees Schools, colleges, universities Arts, culture, Heritage groups operating within the Mid Ulster region Key project stakeholders, including DAERA, RSPB, NIEA, DfI
Customers & Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected Members Culture & Arts Service Strategic Arts and Cultural Partner organisations (identified through the Strategic Arts & Culture support programme) Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Department for Communities (Arts & Culture, Languages, Historic Environment Division) Residents of and visitors to Mid Ulster Tourism Northern Ireland, Tourism Ireland Facility catering Franchisees Schools, colleges, universities Arts, culture, Heritage groups operating within the Mid Ulster region Key project stakeholders, including DAERA, RSPB, NIEA, DfI

1.4 Performance Overview in 2020/21

The Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the most significant challenges that Mid Ulster District Council has ever faced. It has required sudden and dramatic changes to the way we work, as Councillors and officers. The previous year has saw Council hold fast with front line service delivery and the section below outlines; the activities delivered, despite the impact of Lockdown and the restrictions put in place and the response of Culture and Arts Service team during 2020 to 2021 i.e. what we achieved, and how the Culture and Arts service team played their part in ensuring that key projects and activities continued to be delivered and how the service team made a significant contribution to the ongoing delivery of services delivered by Mid Ulster District Council.

2020/2021 Performance Response/ Overview (What we achieved- Measured Activities)	End of Year Progress Status: Activity was - Completed /Commenced/ Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture & Arts Staff across the Service offering took a lead role in the management and implementation of the Community Hub Food Parcel Scheme including the management of referrals and direct involvement in the coordination of distribution of food parcels 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture & Arts team across the Service offering were directly involved in the assessment, and processing of grants within the Rural Development Tranche 2 Business Support Grant Programme 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture and Arts Service directly involved in the management and assessment of the Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Grants Programme for 2020/21. This resulted in excess of £270,000 of financial support being accessed to deliver 12 Access and Inclusion capital projects across Council Estate (100% Funding received from DfC in 2020/21). 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the period when facilities were closed to the public, several members of staff from within Culture & Arts were redeployed to other key Council Services, including Property Services, Planning Services and Environmental Services 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the COVID 19 pandemic period, The Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon hosted the regular televised public updates delivered by NI Executive and First Minister and Deputy First Minister 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment works carried out in Foyer and reception area in Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown and additional works carried out backstage (funding accessed through DfC Access and Inclusion programme to enhance facilities for performers with disabilities. 	Completed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment works carried out to Library at Seamus Heaney HomePlace (facilitated by external funding accessed through Ireland Funds America). 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Seamus Heaney Open Ground Trails project designed to connect visitors to the poetry of Seamus Heaney and the landscape that inspired the poets work. This has resulted in the enhancement of key sites at The Strand at Lough Beg, Seamus Heaney HomePlace, The Turfman Sculpture, Bellaghy, The Eel Fisheries at Toome, The Moyola River Walkway, Castledawson, and Magherafelt Alleyways project 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the Covid 19 period, the Culture and Arts venues have continued to engage with existing and new audiences through the delivery of their respective online programmes. This has included “how to” demonstrations and workshops, performances from numerous artists, poetry and book reading events, continuation of weekly online Traditional Music in Schools programme for students, special events for St Patrick’s Day, Easter and Christmas. All of these activities have been supported through our operational budget. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor numbers recorded at Tullaghoge Fort and Hill of the O'Neill throughout the COVID 19 period have increased – the site and walking trails continue to be utilised by local residents, many of whom have engaged in the product offering at these locations for the first time during lockdown. Access to these site locations has greatly benefitted the local community and has significantly contributed to the health and well-being of individuals during these difficult and unprecedented times. 	Ongoing

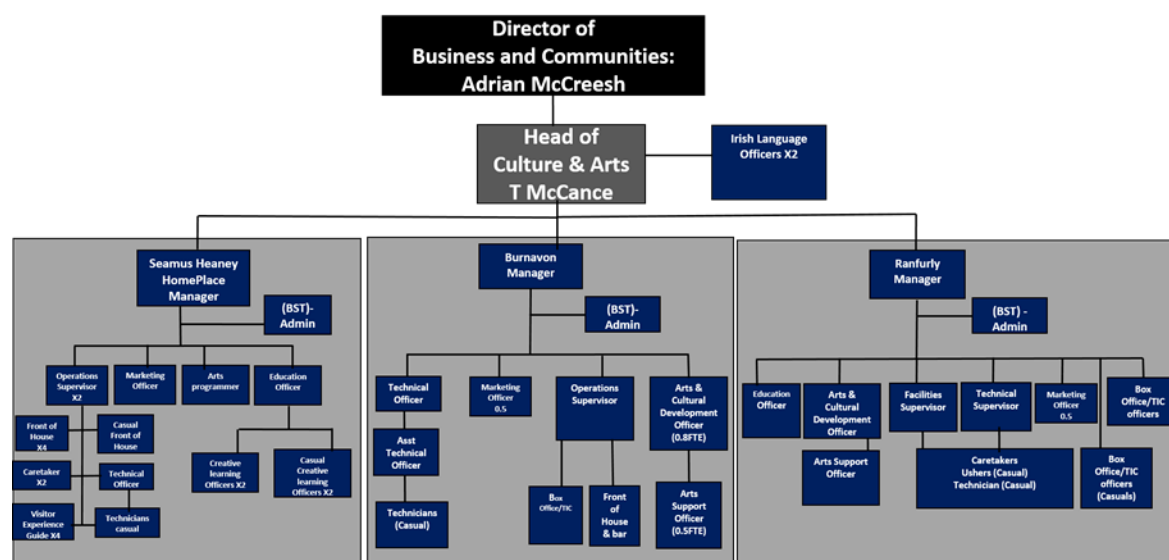
2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2021/22

The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2021-22 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2021/22

Service Budget Headings	£
Arts & Cultural Development	451,086
Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre	539,184
Seamus Heaney HomePlace	816,574
Ranfurly and Hill of the O'Neill	585,410
Regional and Minority Languages	260,222
Tullaghoge Fort	9,750
Gross Budget	2,662,226
Income	348,810
Net Budget for 2021-22	2,313,416

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2021/22



Staffing	No. of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	3
Officers	17
Remaining Team	23
Total	44

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2.3 Service Work Plan - 2021/22

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form the Culture & Arts Service Work Plan for 2021-22. This is a high-level capture of the Service activities as well as some improvement undertakings which the service will focus on throughout 2021-22. The Plan links to the Council's new 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes:

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2021/22

Service Objective :	To deliver an Arts and Cultural Programme of events and venue programme of activity, for the inhabitants of and visitors to the Mid Ulster Region			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 5.2 Vibrant & Safe Communities - We have a greater value and respect for diversity</i>	<i>Communities: 5.5 - We will develop, promote and sustain Arts In Mid Ulster</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
To maintain the delivery and promotion of a diverse programme of performances and events/arts & cultural, educational and heritage activity across the three MUDC Arts & Cultural venues and through our key heritage site locations across Mid Ulster.	31/03/2022	B McCormick C Sheehy J Robinson P Lant C Brown L Porter C McGowan M Quinn M McCann Russell L Rafferty	<p>Inspiring, informing and engaging inhabitants and visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in the rich and diverse arts, culture and heritage offering of Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Active participation in arts and Culture related activity will contribute to the Health and wellbeing of our residents.</p> <p>The arts within Mid Ulster will be further developed, promoted and sustained</p>	<p>Number of Programmes developed</p> <p>Visitor numbers/audience numbers to Arts facilities</p> <p>participatory levels in Arts and Cultural activity</p> <p>External funding identified/secured</p> <p>Facility income levels Workshop and class attendance levels</p> <p>visitor numbers to heritage assets and strategic visitor sites</p>

To maintain support provided to Strategic Partners and their associated project/creative learning programme delivery, particularly in light of Covid 19 pandemic, which will have a lasting impact on strategic partner ability to maintain support that they provide within their respective communities.	31/03/2022	T McCance L Porter J Scullion	The arts within Mid Ulster will be further developed, promoted and sustained Rural communities continue to have access to culture and arts related activities and programmes	Number of KIT meetings undertaken Number of wider strategic group meetings undertaken Strategic partners arts and cultural offering is maintained. Local/rural communities continue to have access to local/rural arts and cultural activity.
To obtain the required grading for venues and visitor attractions as identified through Tourism NI grading programme for Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Ranfurly and Hill of the O'Neill and The Burnavon	31/03/2022	T McCance J Robinson B McCormick C Sheehy	Tourism NI recognition and visitor recognition of the high quality of Arts, Culture and Heritage programmes and activities delivered within Mid Ulster	Tourism NI Grading obtained and maintained for all three MUDC culture and Arts venues
Delivery of Regional and Minority Language Action Plan designed to meet the needs of the relevant stakeholder groups and organisations within the Mid Ulster Region	31/03/2022	T McCance D O Doibhlinn S Mac Nia	Action plan in place is fit for purpose and meets the needs of its relevant stakeholder groups and organisations	Number of programmes developed and supported Number of organisations supported Numbers of recipients benefiting from support provided
To maintain engagement with schools, colleges and universities through the delivery of innovative and targeted programmes to ensure that the educational activity undertaken across Culture & Arts Services continues to be beneficial to pupils, students, teachers and educators	31/03/2022	T McCance J Robinson B McCormick C Sheehy D O Doibhlinn S MacNia	Arts, Culture, Heritage and Language offering within Mid Ulster will be further developed, promoted and sustained Communities continue to have access to culture, arts and heritage related activities and programmes delivered by MUDC	Number of students, Schools, colleges, Universities actively engaged and participating in educational programmes delivered through Culture & Arts Service Team
To deliver on the Council approved Decade of Anniversaries - Commemorations 2021/22 Action Plan	31/03/2022	B McCormick C Sheehy J Robinson P Lant C Brown L Porter C McGowan	Inspiring, informing and engaging inhabitants and visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in the rich and diverse arts, culture and heritage offering of Mid Ulster.	Projects and initiatives detailed within the approved action plan delivered by 31/03/2022 Visitor numbers/audience numbers at projects and initiatives delivered

		M Quinn M McCann Russell L Rafferty		Facility income levels Event and activity attendance levels
To continue to deliver Culture, Arts, Heritage and Community small grants scheme on annual basis	31/03/2022	T McCance C McGowan M Quinn	Inspiring, informing and engaging inhabitants and visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in the rich and diverse arts, culture and heritage offering of Mid Ulster	Number of Groups successfully availing of funding Type and range of projects and initiatives funded. Levels of funding allocated and distributed as part of grants programme

2.4 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

The purpose of risk management is to manage the barriers which prevents the Council from achieving its objectives. This section of the service plan includes space for the Service to input their key risks (in summary form), which have been identified during the business planning process. The Council uses risk management to maximize opportunities and minimize risks. This improves its ability to deliver priorities and improve outcomes. This is why the Council deems it important to link business planning and risk management. Risk Management aims to:

- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level
- Assist with the decision making process
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and internal controls in the most effective way.

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2021-22.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	Threat of robbery at Arts venues or as money is being transferred from venues	6	<p>Robbery Reaction Procedures" forms part of training for front line staff.</p> <p>CCTV system for surveillance in operation at facilities.</p> <p>Access to private offices is only through secure keypad access doorways.</p> <p>Main entrance doorway can be controlled to allow exit only and no admittance when required.</p> <p>Appropriate cash handling process in place across all three site locations.</p>
2.	Theatres/Facilities not being used to full potential	6	<p>Impact of Covid 19, closure of facilities and social distancing requirements as and when theatres and facilities re-open will have a significant impact on the ability of theatres and facilities being used to their full potential. Regular engagement with the sector currently being undertaken. Ongoing engagement with customer base being delivered via online platforms to ensure customer relationships are maintained</p> <p>Regular team meetings discussing programming and approach to customer engagement.</p> <p>Engagement with local Authority Culture & Arts Services to benchmarking and problem solving</p> <p>Venue specific marketing staff in place across all three venues.</p>
3.	Fraud/Theft of Assets - Seamus Heaney Centre	6	<p>Segregation of duties</p> <p>Income is recorded on Financial return sheets daily.</p> <p>Senior Officer verifies the daily income against system/ receipts.</p> <p>CCTV system in operation.</p>

			Random stock checks take place. Collection has been valued and insured appropriately.
4.	Fraud, theft or bribery occurring within Culture & Arts Centres	6	All Staff have attend procurement training All Staff adhere to policy guidance, staff signing invoices up to £1k, Head of Service up to £5k & Director £5k-£10k. Cash handling processes in place across all venues, which includes segregation of duties

Rating	Descriptor
16 - 25	Extreme Risk (immediate action required)
10 - 15	High Risk (urgent action required)
7 - 9	Moderate Risk (action required)
1 – 6	Low Risk (keep under review)

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

In carrying out our responsibilities, the Culture & Arts Service is cognisant of the statutory duties placed upon the council in the delivery of its services. Whilst the Service operates, under various obligations it is however mindful of the changing context in which it operates and endeavours to mainstream the equality and rural needs duties in the design and delivery of our functions.

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

The council and by consequence the Culture & Arts Service is committed to contributing towards its part in working towards fulfilling obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to ensure adequate time, staff and resources to fulfil our duties.

The Service will also work towards adherence to the council's Equality Scheme ensuring equality duties, together with promoting positive attitudes towards persons with a disability and the participation of people with a disability in public life when carrying out our functions.

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

The Culture & Arts Service will be mindful of the rural needs of its customers when carrying out its functions and subsequent responsibilities, particularly in developing any new policies, plans or strategies throughout the year. In line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 we will give due regard to rurality in terms of needs in carrying out the activities delivered by Culture & Arts Services.

Report on	1) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 22.3.21 2) Economic Development Achievements 2020/2021 3) Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group 4) Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey Report (May 2021)
Date of Meeting	17 June 2021
Reporting Officer	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 22.3.21 Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019. It is a partnership of public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations working together to deliver a range of strategic economic actions to develop Coalisland town.</p>
2.2	<p>Economic Development Achievements 2020/2021 It has been a challenging year for us all, not least the business sector. Council, through its economic development service, has spearheaded and funded a significant volume of support to assist businesses and communities. A summary of the headline achievements can be found in Section 3.2 and the full report is contained in Appendix 2.</p>
2.3	<p>Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group The Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group was established in September 2018. Within Mid Ulster, there are a significant number of prevailing broadband deficiencies across our district. Recently Council have had major concerns that whilst the Department for the Economy (DfE) and their delivery partner, Fibrus, are focusing their efforts on rolling out Project Stratum, there remains many parts of our district that will be left behind. As such, these premises will not benefit from any upgrade works, nor be in line to receive a 30mbps broadband service.</p>

2.4	<p>Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey Report (May 2021)</p> <p>The findings of the latest Tughans Manufacturing NI survey was published in May 2021. The aim of this research is to assess the needs, experiences and issues affecting businesses in the manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland. Perceptive Insight, a market research company, collected information from 190 businesses in April 2021 on performance, activity and experiences within the manufacturing industry.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 22.3.21</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 22nd March 2021 are attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	<p>Economic Development Achievements 2020/2021</p> <p>There has been a significant volume of economic development initiatives delivered during the 2020/2021 financial year, much of which has included a range of new interventions, and repurposing existing programmes, to support Mid Ulster businesses during the pandemic. Table 1 below summarises the headline achievements. The full report can be read on Appendix 2.</p> <p><i>Table 1 – Headline Economic Development Achievements (Apr 2020 – Mar 21)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Creation of 126 new jobs through the Business Start Programme ✓ ESF Funded Programmes supported 304 participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helped 134 people gain employment - Assisted participants to achieve 768 new qualifications - Helped 64 participants progress to Further Education/Training ✓ 18 business events delivered to 797 attendees, including 12 webinars run as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week in 2020 ✓ Suite of 4 business development programmes have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supported 287 businesses - created 39 jobs (equating to a value of £767,974) - helped 11 businesses win 16 tenders (total value of £3,343,400) - referred 4 businesses to Invest NI for further support. ✓ £1,339,067.81 of Covid-19 Business Grants delivered to 587 businesses across the district ✓ 22 villages being supported to develop projects with a total cost of £731,089 ✓ £5.9m of Public Realm Schemes being progressed in Maghera and Coalisland ✓ 57 business properties enhanced, with a total investment of £318,513 under Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme (Apr 20-Mar 21).

(Council Grant Aid of £195,159.02 has leveraged a further £123,354.02 of private sector investment).

3.3

Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group

Mid Ulster District Council area has the second worst broadband in NI, therefore, the intervention of Project Stratum from Department of the Economy (DfE) is welcomed as it is expected to deliver superfast broadband to over 12,000 rural premises in Mid Ulster. It will bring full fibre to these premises, who cannot currently receive a 30mbps broadband service and will futureproof their telecoms needs for a generation. However, shortly after the commencement of Project Stratum in January 2021, Council's initial indications showed that there are many properties in Mid Ulster being excluded from these broadband upgrades, being rolled out by Fibrus and funded by DfE.

Mid Ulster District Council undertook a Project Stratum Broadband Survey from 15th February to 8th March 2021 to get a snapshot and understanding of the issues, following which a report was prepared to highlight the gaps in provision and this was shared with our elected members, MLA's, MP's, DfE and Fibrus Networks. Clarity was sought from DfE and Fibrus on solutions to how they will address the issues raised in the report in order to ensure no property was left behind that couldn't receive a 30mbps connection.

On Monday 10 May 2021, Mid Ulster Council's Broadband Working Group Members held a meeting with the district's MLA's and MP's to brief them on the findings of the Mid Ulster Project Stratum Broadband Survey Report. Following this, on Monday 17 May 2021, a comprehensive meeting was held involving Mid Ulster Council's elected members, and the MLA's, MP's for Mid Ulster and Fermanagh South Tyrone together with representatives from DfE and Fibrus. The discussions revolved around five areas of concern where clarity was sought from DfE:-

1. 354 premises have been de-scoped by DfE/Fibrus from within the Mid Ulster area and it is essential these premises are included, and not left behind.
2. 105 Premises in Mid Ulster currently served by wireless broadband. If these premises are getting 30mbps then they will be outside the scope of Project Stratum. Clarity sought from DfE that these premises are actually receiving a satisfactory service within minimum speeds of 30mbps.
3. The information on the LPS Pointer system which DfE used to determine the number of eligible properties to be included in Mid Ulster for the Project Stratum project was not up to date. As a result many premises were excluded and it is imperative DfE find a solution and funding to bring these back on board.
4. In January 2019, DfE undertook an Open Market Review across NI asking Telecoms Companies (Telco's) to clarify if any were upgrading their broadband services to NI postcodes before January 2022. As a result, new

	<p>build premises after January 2019 are now outside the scope of Project Stratum. It is estimated there are approx 900 new builds in Mid Ulster during this period which DfE must address and provide funding to bring them on board.</p> <p>5. Council has evidence that a significant number of premises in Mid Ulster have checked their eligibility to receive a 30mbps service from Project Stratum on Fibrus Networks www.hyperfastni.com website. On entering their postcode these property owners are advised that they either currently receive a 30mbps broadband service, or can avail of one from a Telecoms Company before January 2022. Anyone falling into this category will be unable to get support from Stratum. This situation has arisen due to Telecoms Companies providing an indicative indication to DfE in Jan 2019, that they would upgrade services to specific postcodes between Jan 2019 – Jan 2022. In many instances this has not occurred, and therefore DfE must reaffirm with Telecoms Companies these premises will be afforded the opportunity to receive an upgraded broadband service with minimum speeds of 30mbps by January 2022, or else these premises must be included under Project Stratum and funded accordingly.</p> <p>Further information is enclosed in the appendices section;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 3a contains a Report summarising the key issues / findings arising from Mid Ulster Council's Project Stratum Broadband Survey, dated March 2021. • Appendix 3b – contains DfE Telecoms Branch response (May 2021) to the issues raised in Council's Project Stratum Broadband Survey Report. <p>3.4 Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey Report (May 2021)</p> <p>The findings of the latest Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey has found that the majority of Northern Ireland manufacturers have been negatively impacted by the end of the Brexit transition period but many are continuing to see growth. The survey, conducted by Perceptive Insight in April 2021, shows that some 77% of companies have “experienced a negative impact on their business since the Brexit transition period ended”. However, around 59% of those surveyed said they are in growth-mode.</p> <p><u>Other key findings from the report:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased expenditure on raw materials has been experienced by 93% of manufacturers and 37% said disrupted supply chains are the biggest obstacle to their firms' recovery. • 86% of firms have increased input costs on transportation. • 66% want the government to cut employment related costs to support the sector. • 45% of businesses expect that the sector will see growth in the next 12 months, compared to 15% that expect continued weakness.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44% of firms expect their profit margins to deteriorate in 2021 relative to the previous 12 months, although 35% expect to see improvement. • Although Covid-19 continues to affect manufacturing businesses, the sector is showing signs of recovery compared to July 2020. <p>A full copy of the report is attached (Appendix 4).</p>
	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Officers time
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members;
5.1	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 22.3.21 Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting held on 22 March 2021 on Appendix 1.</p>
5.2	<p>Economic Development Achievements 2020/2021 Note update outlining Economic Development Achievements for the year April 2020-March 2021, including Summary Report on Appendix 2.</p>
5.3	<p>Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group Note update provided, including copies of Mid Ulster District Council's Project Stratum Broadband Survey Report (March 2021) on Appendix 3a, and DfE Telecoms Branch Response (May 2021) to the issues raised in Council's Broadband Survey Report on Appendix 3b.</p>

5.4	Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey Report (May 2021) Note Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey Report, dated May 2021 (Appendix 4).
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 22.3.21</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Summary of Achievements – Economic Development - 2020/2021</p> <p>Appendix 3a – Mid Ulster Council's Project Stratum Broadband Survey Report - March 2021</p> <p>Appendix 3b - DfE Response to Council's Project Stratum Broadband Survey Report - May 2021</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Tughans Manufacturing NI Survey Report (May 2021)</p>

Appendix 1

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting **Monday 22 March 2021 at 12.30pm** **Microsoft Teams**

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr R Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council

Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)
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Francie Molloy	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Dermott McGirr	Translink
Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities

In Attendance

Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin Mc Kenna	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION
1	Apologies Cllr Dan Kerr Mid Ulster District Council Cllr Niall McAleer Mid Ulster District Council Adrian McCreesh Mid Ulster District Council Mark Kelso Mid Ulster District Council Fiona McKeown Mid Ulster District Council Raymond Lowry Mid Ulster District Council Michael McGibbon Mid Ulster District Council Aedamar McCrossan PSNI
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 8 February 2021 Proposed by Cllr Doris Seconded by Ursula Marshall and agreed: - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 February 2021 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
3.	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 8 February 2021

	<p>P Anderson updated that he has asked for a meeting with Council to discuss a Revitalisation programme for Coalisland after the Public Realm Scheme has finished.</p> <p>F Molloy asked if there was any progress with the Sandy Row project and asked if it could be tarmacked as a minimum. Cllr Doris gave her support that something should be done to address the issue saying that it is a perfect time to do something.</p> <p>P Anderson felt that it would be difficult to do under the Revitalisation programme but it possibly could be picked up under a Coalisland phase 2 programme that would look at linkages. The Revitalisation programme would be for immediate small items to promote the town.</p>
4.	<p>Coalisland Projects Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalisland Public Realm Scheme <p>M Leavey updated that the white lining of the areas will take place over the next few weeks – the parking bays and loading bays on Main Street are part of this work. A Road Safety Audit will then take place once all markings are complete.</p> <p>O Donnelly carried out an informal consultation exercise with residents and businesses on Dungannon Rd and Barrack Street regarding proposed parking enforcement in these areas. DfI will be carrying out a formal consultation process in the forthcoming months, which will take approximately 6-12 months.</p> <p>Cllr Doris stated that the Public Realm Scheme is looking well; community feedback has been positive and asked was there a possibility that flowers could be planted around the town.</p> <p>Action: M Leavey to check if flowers could be planted in town.</p> <p>R O'Neill asked if there was a plan for speed bumps to be put on Barrack Street to slow the traffic down. M Leavey suggested that there is another legislative process for this and is to check this and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>R O'Neill mentioned that he was aware that a local school bus with Special needs children on board took 15 minutes to go through the town recently. He would like it recorded that he would like the 2 way system re-instated and the public realm reassessed. This will be brought up at the next Public Realm meeting.</p> <p>F Molloy suggested caution against speed bumps as in many areas they have been taken out as residents have complained about the noise of lorries going over them.</p> <p>Cllr O'Neill raised the issue of oil on the footpath outside the taxi office on Platers Hill. He said that the pavement has become unsightly as a result of cars parking in this area.</p>

	<p>U Marshall stated that parking on the footpath causes a huge obstruction to those less able bodies and it is very thoughtless of those doing it. It is a particular problem where there are dropped kerbs.</p> <p>R O'Neill stated that an option for Barrack Street could be the flashing signs to warn drivers of their speed. He also raised the issue of the 7-spoke roundabout at the end of Main Street saying this it is dangerous. M Leavey stated he will look at possibility of getting additional signage in place and that there are also road markings to be laid in the next few weeks. R O'Neill also raised the issue of additional particulates building up in the town as a result of increased traffic congestion.</p> <p>Cllr Colvin also stated that speed bumps are not a popular remedy for reducing speed and that speed indicators would be useful in this instance.</p> <p>P Anderson asked if the contractor was putting down the yellow lines at this stage and also asked if the footpaths were going to be cleaned by the contractor. M Leavey said that he would speak to the contractor about keeping the footpaths clean.</p> <p>M Leavy stated that car enforcement discussions were ongoing. That a formal process could take 6 -12 months with DfI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment <p>M Leavey stated that there was a discrepancy in the public consultation process for planning which means this has to be repeated. This means that planning will be applied for at the end of summer with a start date of October/November. B O'Neill referenced whether the new school will be completed at the same time to which M Leavey replied that projects would run simultaneously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Recovery Plan <p>C Fox updated that businesses are currently submitting their claims for the Covid-19 Recovery grant.</p> <p>O Donnelly updated with regard to the Halloween event in 2021 that Council are investigating potential alternative locations including Na Fianna GFC grounds. This is all based on restrictions easing.</p>
5.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>B O'Neill raised the issue of access to the play park at Brackaville and was asking if Council could look at providing better access to the park. This would be pertinent given the fact that Gortgonis will be closed for redevelopment.</p> <p>Action: Nigel Hill is to be contacted to look in to providing better access to Play Park.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 2.00pm</p>



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2020/2021

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HEADLINE ACHIEVEMENTS 2020/2021

The activities undertaken by Council's economic development team have resulted in the following achievements over the course of the last 12 months, ending 31 March 2021.

✓ Creation of 126 new jobs through the Business Start Programme
✓ ESF Funded Programmes supported 304 participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helped 134 people gain employment - Assisted participants to achieve 768 new qualifications - Helped 64 participants progress to Further Education/Training
✓ 18 business events delivered to 797 attendees , including 12 webinars run as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week in 2020
✓ Suite of 4 business development programmes have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supported 287 businesses - created 39 jobs (equating to a value of £767,974) - helped 11 businesses win 16 tenders (total value of £3,343,400) - referred 4 businesses to Invest NI for further support.
✓ £1,339,067.81 of Covid-19 Business Grants delivered to 587 businesses across the district
✓ 22 villages being supported to develop projects with a total cost of £731,089
✓ £5.9m of Public Realm Schemes being progressed in Maghera and Coalisland
✓ 57 business properties enhanced , with a total investment of £318,513 under Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme (Apr 20-Mar 21). (Council Grant Aid of £195,159.02 has leveraged a further £123,354.02 of private sector investment).

This Report which follows provides a comprehensive overview of activities against each of the 4 thematic pillars within Council's economic development strategy, 'Our Plan for Growth'.

NI Business Start Programme 'Go For It'



In the challenging twelve month period to March 2021, 205 local entrepreneurs were supported to develop Business Plans, promoting 126 jobs in the Mid Ulster area.

To provide further support to those completing 'GoForIt', in February and March 2021 Mid Ulster District Council delivered a 'Pilot Covid Recovery Business Start Up Payment' Scheme providing £250 to 69 clients.

Suite of four Business Programmes 'Advance your business in Mid Ulster'

Formally launched by Minister Dodds and Council Chair on 27 August 2020, these are designed to build the capacity, resilience and growth prospects of 690 Mid Ulster micro and small businesses (<49 employees) and will run until Dec 2022.

- **Gearing for Growth Programme** ...offers up to 5 days' support in key business areas (business planning, effective pricing, financial management, steps to exporting, marketing, social media, customer care and industry standards)
- **Tender Ready Programme** ... provides up to 5 days' assistance for businesses to win new work, develop compliant tendering documentation to industry standards, respond to live tendering opportunities, and mobilise contracts
- **Digital First Programme** ...provides up to 4 days' support to build businesses' digital capacity, grow their online presence and sales through adopting new digital strategies and technologies
- **Transform Programme** ...delivers support of up to 5 days' to help businesses enhance their attractiveness to the labour market and implement tailored and sustainable measures to recruit and retain staff and also flex in response to the impact of Covid.



By March 2021:

- 287 businesses are participating
- 39 jobs created (equating to a value of £767,974)
- 11 businesses have won 16 tenders (total value of £3,343,400)
- 4 businesses have been referred to Invest NI for further support.

Social Enterprise Programme (2021-2023)

In May 2021, Council appointed Workspace Enterprises to deliver the new Social Enterprise Programme, which will provide support to emerging, new, and existing social enterprises in Mid Ulster by September 2023.

Rural Business Development Scheme 2020 (RBDS)

The Rural Business Development Scheme is funded under the DAERA Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation initiative and aims to support the sustainability, survival and development of rurally based micro businesses across Northern Ireland by offering a small capital grant at 50% up to £4,999.

In 2020:

- 150 applications were approved for funding in the Mid Ulster District Council area.
- Letters of offer to the value of £504,000 in funding were issued, matched by the same level of private sector investment.

Rural Business Investment Scheme (LEADER)

The LEADER funded Rural Business Development Scheme (RBIS) administered by Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership with the support of Council concluded in 2020. The standout achievements from the RBIS, which ran from 2017 – 2020, are:

- 95 rural businesses supported
- £2.8m in letters of offer issued
- Over £7m of invested by supported businesses in business development and expansion activities
- 160 new jobs created to date

Digital First Webinars

March – May 2021, the Digital First Programme delivered three successful Digital Webinars with **160 participants**. The Webinars focussed on the topics of Effective Working from Home, Building a Digital Business, and Connecting with Customers.

Covid Response Business Webinars to support businesses coming out of lockdown; these were held on;

- 13 & 18 May 2020 – Communicating through Uncertainty
- 21 May 2020 – Building Psychological Resilience

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020

During Enterprise Week (16-20 November 2020) twelve free virtual webinars were delivered to a total of 539 business representatives; a further 251 businesses viewed recordings of the webinars after the event on Council's YouTube channel.

Council's Business E-Zine Service

Over the year, Council issued **49 comprehensive e-zine bulletins** were issued to companies registered on our business directory, providing information, as it emerged, on key issues such as latest government advice on Covid regulations and grants, EU Exit changes, as well as any other events, opportunities and sources of support for Mid Ulster businesses.



THEME 2: ENABLING SKILLS & EMPLOYABILITY

Launch of 'See Your New Career' (SYNC) project



Council in partnership with Mid Ulster Skills Forum invested over £21K in the 'See Your New Career' (SYNC) project, which focused on promoting and profiling Mid Ulster's key employment sectors to post-primary students so they are better informed of the career opportunities available to them locally.

The project resources comprise a mix of videos, fan-deck brochures and storyboards showcasing six key sectors (Manufacturing & Engineering; Food and Agri-Food; Construction; Retail; IT; and Hospitality). The resources detail career opportunities and pathways, interesting developments, potential earnings, skills, attributes and qualifications needed to gain entry.

The SYNC career resources were distributed in a safe manner to all post primary schools in the district in November 2020. The resources will provide schools with a great stimulus for classroom discussions on the range of career options available in Mid Ulster. All video resources are available to view on the Council's [YouTube](#) page.



MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Collaborative Network

MEGA has led the Covid-19 response for the sector - spearheading a campaign for government apprenticeships support, which enabled MEGA companies to retain 58 apprentices and recruit 33 new apprentices. As part of its campaign the network designed and developed new easy to follow 'MEGA Apprenticeship Model' literature. MEGA made a successful application to the apprenticeship challenge fund for a MEGA Degree Apprenticeship in Manufacturing & Engineering with specialism in Industrial Digitalisation, Robotics and Automation, in partnership with Ulster University. This will be the first ever Manufacturing & Engineering Degree Apprenticeship.

In addition, MEGA launched a brand new website to help inform students, teachers and parents about the opportunities within the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector in Mid Ulster. MEGA also supported the development of a Mid Ulster Industry Training Centre (ITC) with SWC. Furthermore, 18 'Ambassadors' were recruited and trained under its MEGA Ambassador Programme. Each ambassador is now linked to an individual post primary school in Mid Ulster and will deliver mentoring, industry talks, careers events etc.

ESF Employability & Skills Programmes

Following the success of the three-year ESF1 Programmes (2015/18), Council committed to a providing match funding for a further four years (2018/22) towards these 4 Programmes:

- Step Up to Sustainable Employment (SUSE+)
- Exploring Enterprise 4
- Up for Work
- Job Match

By the end of yr 3 Council funding of £52,740 leveraged £1,672,487 and resulted in a total investment of £1,725,227:

- Supporting 304 participants
- Helping 134 people into employment
- 768 qualifications being achieved
- 64 progressing to Further Education / training

THEME 3: ENABLING URBAN & RURAL REGENERATION

Covid19 Response

Economic Development Support to Businesses during Covid-19 included –

- Development of a Mid Ulster Covid-19 Business Recovery Plan
- Updating Covid-19 Business Section on Council's Website
- Responding to Business Enquiries for Covid-19 Grants
- Carrying Out Validation Checks for Department for the Economy for Covid-19 £25,000 Business Support Grants for Retail, Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure sectors
- Resilience Messages from Mid Ulster's Business Leaders
- Sourcing PPE Supplies for Local Businesses
- Supporting the MEGA Network

Mid Ulster Covid-19 Business Recovery Plan

The Economic Development team directly engaged with over 100 local businesses including micro, small and medium sized enterprises across the district to identify the unprecedented challenges and issues they faced as a result of the economic shock caused by Covid-19. This evidence identified the need for a robust economic response aimed at shoring up our economy in Mid Ulster and protecting our business and employment base. The purpose of the Business Recovery Plan was to inform government and key stakeholders of the precarious situation facing Mid Ulster and the interventions and support needed to help our industry recover from the ongoing pandemic.

Mid Ulster Covid19 Town Centre Recovery Plan

In addition to preparing the Mid Ulster Covid-19 Business Recovery Plan, the Economic Development team liaised with the Town Centre Forums/Traders Associations in each of our five main towns and had in depth discussions with Traders from across our district. A Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan was developed to address a number of short/medium term measures to support town centre businesses and encourage customer confidence to return to their local high street. The action plan is based around four key themes:

- Capital
- Grant Support
- Communication & Marketing
- Digitalisation

The actions identified are deliverable, with the relevant funding, over the short term but strategic intervention will be required over the months ahead to regenerate our town centres when the full effects of the Covid19 Pandemic become apparent.

Covid-19 Business Grant Scheme

Council along with Department for Communities (DfC) and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) provided funding to deliver a Covid-19 Business Grant Scheme to support urban and rural businesses to reopen and make adjustments to their premises and welcome customers back to a safe trading environment. Funding support of £1,339,067.81 was provided to 587 businesses across the district.



'Confidence Mark' Window Stickers – An initiative completed by the economic development team was geared towards boosting customer confidence to return to our towns and villages in the knowledge that businesses are taking positive steps to keep their customers safe. Any business with evidence was awarded a #ReconnectWithConfidence window sticker.

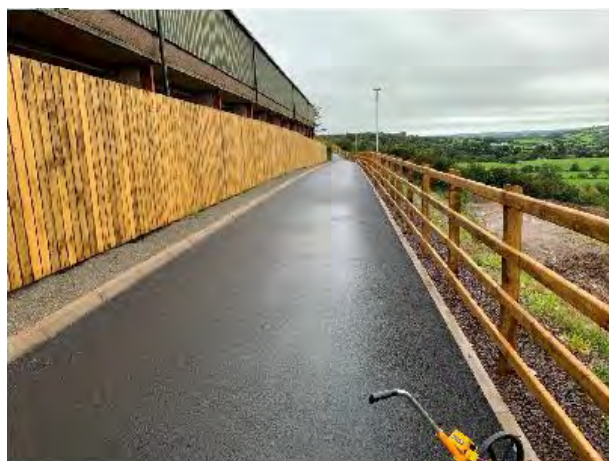




Mid Ulster Online Retail Pack (Guidance and Posters Available) – Development of a useful online retail pack containing Government guidance for the retail sector as they return to work.

Village Renewal Scheme

Council are responsible for delivering the Village Renewal element of the Rural Development Programme through the Local Action Group funded by DAERA. Economic Development Officers are working with 37 villages to develop projects. Over the period Apr 2020 to Mar 2021, 1 large village enhancement scheme was completed in Pomeroy and smaller schemes were completed in 21 villages – Coagh & Drumullan, Rock, Killeeshil, Moortown, Sandholes, Bush, Stewartstown, Eglish, Clonoe, Brocagh, Cappagh, Knockloughrim, Curran, Tamlaght, Culnady, Inishrush, Killeenan, Ballymaguigan, Washingbay and Tullyhogue.



Pomeroy
Walkway at GAA Grounds



Car Park resurfacing at Soccer Pitch



Bush



Moortown

Rural Basic Services Scheme (LEADER)

The Rural Basic Services Scheme administered by Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership with the support of Council has funded 18 community hub projects across rural areas of the district.

£2.68m in funding was approved to these projects through the LEADER element of the NI Rural Development Programme leveraging an overall investment of £6.5m for community infrastructure, which will leave a lasting impact within the communities supported.

**Aughnacloy Presbyterian Church
Hall Community Group**



Kildress GFC



Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open Ground Project

The Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open Ground project aims to enhance the Seamus Heaney HomePlace experience by developing a literary and heritage experience linking with the local landscape and local heritage that inspired so much of Seamus Heaney's group. Economic Development officers have worked alongside Council's Culture and Arts and Capital Teams to bring this project to fruition. Funding has been secured from DAERA through the Rural Tourism Scheme to deliver this scheme. Capital works on the project have been completed and interpretation is ready to be installed prior to the launch of the project.

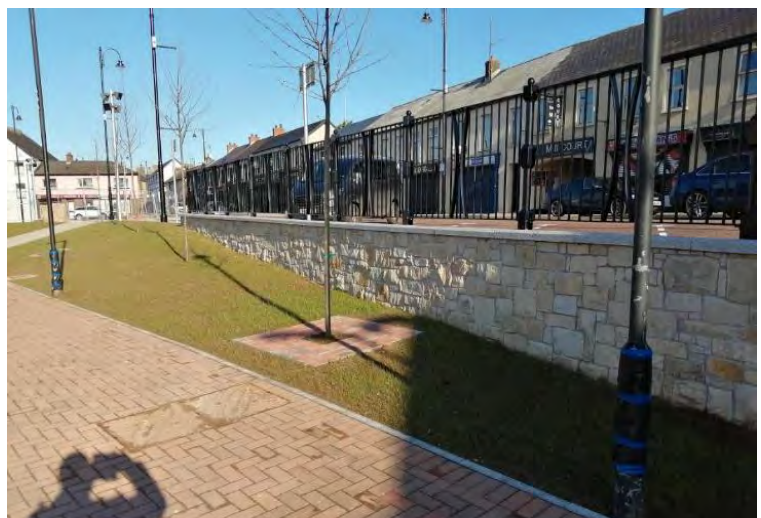


Public Realm Schemes

Council's Public Health and Infrastructure Dept. are working alongside Council's Economic Development team and Department for Communities to progress public realm schemes in Coalisland and Maghera.

The **Coalisland** scheme will be officially launched in early summer 2021.

Maghera Public Realm Scheme is currently at the outline design stage.
Civic Space, Coalisland



Redevelopment - Maghera High School Site

The former High School site is owned by Council has been identified as a strategic site for economic development purposes within the Maghera Development Framework Plan 2017-30. Planning application currently being reviewed by Department for Infrastructure to allow for the construction of a number of industrial units on fully serviced sites. Work in progress.

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme (2019-2022)

57 schemes were completed through Phase 2 with a total investment of £318,513.04. Council Grant Aid of £195,159.02 has leveraged a total of £123,354.02 private sector investment. A further 16 schemes are expected to be completed by June 2021 as part of Phase 2. The Total project cost of the remaining schemes is expected to be £89,391.86 with Council Grant aid of £59,058.23 leveraging private sector investment of £30,333.63.

Through the delivery of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme (2019-2022) 89 properties were enhanced, resulting in a total of £519,347.42 spent on improving properties in towns and villages. This included a total of £307,441.44 of Council grant aid and £211,905.98 of private sector investment

A29 Roundabout - Cookstown

A £55K upgrade scheme was completed at the A29 roundabout in Cookstown and marked an investment of over £55,000 with over £44K funding coming from the Department for Communities and the Council contributing £11K. The upgrade included new Cookstown branding being installed as well as updated signage, enhanced lighting, and the installation of a maintenance footpath and cleaning of the existing public art.



Marketing & Promotion

Marketing Campaigns were delivered for the town centres at key periods as part of the town centre recovery plan using print media, outdoor advertising and social media as the key channels.

Reconnect with Retail

Professional short videos were commissioned to promote the 'Reopening of Mid Ulster Towns and Businesses' and encourage the public to support their local traders and shop local.



Business Storytelling

Building interest stories about local businesses/owners and why their town is important to them and was to encourage public support/engagement with local traders through this professional video storytelling initiative.

Open For Business Video Messages

As traders returned to the high streets, Council invited any business in Mid Ulster who wanted to promote they're 'open for business' again to send us a 30 second video clip, telling us why they're glad to be back and any key message they wanted to communicate to their customers. For the video shy, we also accepted a photo of the business owner within their shop, along with a quote saying why they are glad to be back.

Love Local Campaign – Christmas 2020

To coincide with the easing of restrictions prior to Christmas a 2 week marketing campaign incorporating billboards, videos and a radio campaign ran to encourage people to “Love Local” in Mid Ulster.



Virtual Christmas Switch On Events

Due to government guidelines the traditional Christmas Switch-On events could not be held. A virtual Christmas Lights switch on was posted on Council's Social Media channels featuring Santa and the Chairperson visiting each town centre.



Reduced Christmas Car Parking

As in previous years the very popular reduced Christmas Dungannon & Magherafelt benefitted from reduced Christmas Car Parking charges from 20 November 2020 – 2 January 2021.



12 Gifts of Christmas

As part of the Christmas marketing Campaign the “12 gifts of Christmas” campaign was rolled out on social media from Saturday 5 – Wednesday 16 December 2020. People were able to enter the competition for the chance to win a different prize package every day with gifts from the five town centres.

Town Centre Wi-Fi

Town centre Wi-Fi is installed and maintained in each of the five town centres.

THEME 4: ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY

Gas to the West

Significant works have been completed in the towns of Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. Works to connect homes and businesses to the network in the towns are ongoing.

Project Stratum

Project Stratum is a £165m broadband project that aims to improve rural internet connectivity to 76,000 premises across NI and over 12,000 premises in Mid Ulster. Fibrus were awarded the contract in November 2020 and the first Optical Line Termination was in Coalisland in quarter one 2021 and is now live to 2,000 premises. The rollout of the project across NI is set to continue until 2024.

Following the start of the roll out of Project Stratum, Mid Ulster District Council undertook a Project Stratum Broadband survey across the district to determine any gaps in provision that still exist within Mid Ulster. Early initial indications revealed that many properties were going to be excluded from the broadband upgrades being delivered by Fibrus and funded by Department for the Economy (DfE). Several meetings involving Mid Ulster Councillors and Officers, together with MPs and MLAs for the region, and representatives from Department for the Economy (DfE) and Fibrus were held to discuss gaps in provision and how these could be adequately addressed. Council remains actively engaged with DfE and Fibrus to ensure that solutions and funding are found to address all the important issues/gaps raised by Council, to prevent any property in Mid Ulster which cannot get a 30mpbs broadband signal being left behind, during/after the rollout of Project Stratum.

Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI)

Mid Ulster District Council are part of a consortium of 10 Council and Business Services Organisation (BSO) who have now contracted with Fibrus to implement dark fibre to Council and NHS premises across the district. The FFNI project has been funded through The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). Council has 86 sites within the project. The project has the potential to improve not only Council broadband connectivity but also those properties along the route where the fibre will travel between the exchange and the end destination.



MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROJECT STRATUM BROADBAND SURVEY REPORT
MARCH 2021

1.0 Introduction

Following the start of the roll out of Project Stratum, Mid Ulster District Council undertook a Project Stratum Broadband survey across the district to gauge the level of broadband concerns that still exist within Mid Ulster. The survey covered the period 15th February to 8th March 2021.

It was targeted at the properties within the “White postcode list” as identified by the Department for the Economy (DfE). This was the posted areas understood to be included in the Project Stratum. Initial indications showed that there were many properties going to be excluded from the broadband upgrades being delivered by Fibrus the broadband Provider.

The Project Stratum programme is a welcomed as a major game changer in broadband provision for over 12,000 rural premises in Mid Ulster. It will bring full fibre to these premises and future proof broadband for a generation. This vital technology will enable the region to grow, expand and stop playing catch up.

Today broadband technologies are of critical importance especially in this area to our SMEs to enable them to be global players. Our SME’s are the lifeblood of this region’s economy. Moreover, during the Covid pandemic the importance of broadband has never been more critical to all our citizens who are now working from home and home schooling their children from home.

The importance of Internet in 2020.

- Adults are spending 4 hours a day online on average, as coronavirus changes communications.
- Twice as many using video calls to keep in touch during lockdown.
- One in three now watch online video more than traditional TV, with two in five making videos themselves.
- UK adults are now spending more than a quarter of their waking day online – the highest on record – with services such as TikTok and Zoom seeing unprecedented growth

Source: Ofcom’s latest study into the nation’s online lives.

To recap, in January 2019 The Department for the Economy undertook a consultation with broadband suppliers and members of the public to help ensure they had correctly identified all those postcodes that contain premises currently unable to access 30 megabits per second (Mbps) broadband services.

- 'White' area postcodes are those in which there is no qualifying broadband infrastructure and none is likely to be developed within 3 years. These postcodes will be targeted for public investment through the Project;
- 'Grey' area postcodes are those where only one network is present or is to be deployed within the coming 3 years. These postcodes will not be specifically targeted for public investment from the Project;
- 'Black' area postcodes are those where at least two networks of different operators exist or will be deployed in the coming 3 years. These postcodes do not form part of the Project.

It is unfortunate that Council is discovering as Project Stratum is being rolled out that rural issues are still ongoing. This is causing a source of genuine frustration to those who are experiencing them, whether it is as a domestic or business user. The local issues in broadband are exceeding what was first thought. Therefore, in a response from citizens looking help Council has undertaken this broadband survey.

Properties on Project Stratums "White postcode list" but not on Fibrus' Contract list

Mid Ulster District Council is committed to ensuring that high quality broadband is accessible to all our citizens. For this reason, the Council undertook a Project Stratum broadband survey following phone calls from citizens who started to use Fibrus postcode checker in January 2021 and they found out that although they were on the Project Stratum "White postcode list" they are **NOT** included in Fibrus' rollout plans.

They received the following message:

"Unfortunately your property is not within the project Stratum area. A broadband service with a speed of 30 Mbs is already available at your address, or is expected to become available in the coming months. If you have concerns about how this assessment was reached, please contact the Department for the Economy at stratum@economy-ni.gov.uk.

In greater numbers than before citizens contacted Council to say they are not receiving a service of 30Mbps as per message above. Secondly, when they contacted BT and Fibrus who are the main fibre providers in the rural areas about 30mpbs being available in the coming months they were disappointed when told by the Providers they were not making it available. Many citizens are now concerned

their properties will be left outside of Project Stratum. Now, they have no idea if they will get an upgrade or when they will eventually get an upgrade. They need answers.

For example, 79 Drummurrer Lane, Coalisland, BT71 4QJ is on the "White postcode list" and currently gets between 1 and 3 mbps download speed and received the response above.

Council has therefore become concerned that there might be significant numbers of citizens getting a similar response. Council was aware that there were 354 premises on the "White postcode list" who have been identified as falling outside of Project Stratum.

Simply the expectation was that premises included within the "White postcode list" were guaranteed of being included on Project Stratum. Councils were never provided with the exact addresses within the "White postcode list" and did not know that such specific detail existed. This information was not known until January 2021 when property owners could check the Fibrus HyperfastNI link for themselves.

For this reason, Council undertook the broadband survey to investigate any further issues that might exist and they were not aware of.

There is also concern that at the time of the Open Market Review process in January 2019 those Providers using a selection of Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) technologies responded to DfE.

Question: Can DfE confirm if Providers of Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) technologies responded to DfE OMR in January 2019 as being able to provide broadband in rural areas?

Council has always maintained the position that Project Stratum should be FFTP. It is the Councils experiences that Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) technologies to date have proved less reliable and are often limited in terms of customer support services.

In another example 63 Sherrygrim Road, Stewartstown, BT71 5PP, Fibrus poles are being installed at the end of the drive. The property is on the "White postcode list" but not on Project Stratum. Resident currently does not receive 30mbps as per HyperfastNI checker. The concern is that they may be losing out.

Question: In appendix one there are 329 properties on the white postcode list. Council needs clarification on why these 329 properties are on the Departments white postcode list and not on Fibrus contract list.

Properties on "Grey postcode list" and not on Fibrus Contract list

There were 304 responses to the broadband survey from postcodes that were on the "Grey postcode list". These responses were checked and showed that 251 of these premises were also not receiving 30mbps. It is clear from the comments that citizens are concerned that they are outside of Project Stratum and do not have clarity around what is happening to them.

For example, 32A Annaghnaaboe Rd, Coalisland, BT71 4QH, is on the “Grey postcode list”. Residents are using 4G for their internet access there download speed with broadband was 1.5mbps maximum.

Question: In appendix two, there are 251 properties on the Grey postcode list currently receiving less than 30mbps and not on Project Stratum. They are receiving no information on when they will see improvements. Please provide clarity on when, what and how these properties will receive 30mbps?

LPS Pointer

Pointer is a comprehensive address database, which holds address information for every property in Northern Ireland. Land & Property Services (LPS) who maintain it supplied pointer to DfE. It was used to inform DfE of all properties within the Project Stratum catchment area at January 2019. Premises that were not classified, as ‘Built’ and ‘Approved’ on Pointer as of January 2019 were not included in the target intervention area.

Unfortunately, Pointer does not seem to be up to date and it excluded some properties that should be included within Project Stratum.

For example, number 6 Kilmakardle Road, Pomeroy, BT70 2UF was on Pointer as commence/under construction 2007 and states provisional. The property was completed in circa 2008. The postcode is within the “White postcode list” but within HyperfastNI checker the premises is not included in Project Stratum. Next house is number 8 Kilmakardle Road, which is also within “White postcode list” and on Project Stratum to be completed in autumn 2023.

Another example is 53D Ballymacomb Road, Portglenone, BT44 8NS, which is also on Pointer as commence/under construction November 2007 and states provisional. The house has long been completed and is adjacent to 51 & 53 Ballymacomb Road. The neighbouring properties are included in project Stratum but number 53D is not.

Question: Council requests DfE or Fibrus advise the solution in order to get those properties included on the white post code list and allow Council to respond to the people most affected?

New Properties Post January 2019

Within Mid Ulster, there are approximately 982 premises that were not classified as ‘Built’ or ‘Approved’ at the time of Open Market research at January 2019. Therefore, they would not be included in the target intervention area. As a result, many property owners would have their postcode on the intervention list but their specific house would not be included for upgrade by Fibrus. People are genuinely concerned that existing neighbouring properties will be upgraded and they will miss out. There are examples where new property owners have reached out to DfE and Fibrus as instructed. The responses do not fill them with encouragement.

For example, 15 Kelly's Lane, Dungannon, BT70 3SU a new build. It is on the "White postcode list" surrounded by other existing properties on the same postcode. The existing properties are being upgraded as per Hyperfastni website. Fibrus and DfE have both been contacted about not being included on Project Stratum.

At no stage were individual addresses mentioned regarding who was or was not being connected within a postcode list. If you were on the "White postcode list", you believed you were being upgraded.

Question: How can these new builds be included in Project Stratum?

Question: Can DfE provide a response for Council to relay to the people on when they will get FTTP?

Universal Service Obligation (USO)

BT Openreach are currently contacting around 2,000 premises in Mid Ulster regarding delivery of the Broadband Universal Service. Council asked BT Openreach if they could share the addresses in an effort to know where exactly the premises are located. This would enable Council to see if some of the 354 properties excluded from Project Stratum are going to get any assistance, or if other problem areas were being targeted. There is surely going to be overlap with Project Stratum in Mid Ulster and Council would be keen to find out if this is the case and where? BT Openreach were asked for the addresses but were unwilling to supply.

Question: Will DfE provide Council with information around what properties will benefit from delivery of the Broadband Universal Service Obligation in Mid Ulster?

Project Stratum Broadband Survey Results

Council undertook an end-user broadband survey to get a snapshot of the number of properties that were on the "White postcode list" but not included in Project Stratum.

There were 878 responses in three weeks to the survey, which was quite overwhelming. However, in closer analysis there were 329 survey responses from property owners within the "White postcode list" and not included in Project Stratum.

What Council did not expect was the responses from people on the "Grey postcode list" 354 in total. Although these premises are outside the scope of Project Stratum, there were 293 responses from people not receiving 30mbps and are concerned that they are being left behind.

It is 2 years since the Market research in January 2019 was conducted with Providers who indicated that they would be servicing the "Grey postcode list" by January 2022. People are concerned if this is still a reality.

There were a further 100 responses for property owners who were already on the white list and already included on Project Stratum. Please see overview of responses in Table 1.0

Table 1.0: Survey Overview Responses

Responses from	Number of Responses
Properties on White postcode list and not on HyperfastNI list for upgrade	329
Properties on White postcode list and are already on HyperfastNI list for upgrade	170 (34 of these had wrongly indicated they were not on white list)
Properties on Grey postcode list who are not included in Project Stratum	304 grey postcode list responses
- Receiving less than 30mbps	251
- Receiving more than 30mbps	53
Total Properties on White postcode list and Grey postcode list and not on HyperfastNI list for upgrade receiving less than 30mbps	580
Properties not in MUDC/ Answers incomplete/Duplications/ Not on any list	75
Total	878

- This sample survey highlights 329 properties on the Departments White postcode list and are not on the Fibrus contract list. Appendix 1
- There were 304 responses from properties on the Grey postcode list who responded. Appendix 2
- This was checked and found 251 properties on the Grey postcode list were also receiving less than 30mbps.
- The sample survey highlights that there are 580 properties under 30 mbps in Mid Ulster uncertain of getting broadband improvements in the near future.

All 580 properties received the following message from the HyperfastNI checker:

“Unfortunately your property is not within the project Stratum area. A broadband service with a speed of 30 Mbs is already available at your address, or is expected to become available in the coming months. If you have concerns about how this assessment was reached, please contact the Department for the Economy at stratum@economy-ni.gov.uk.

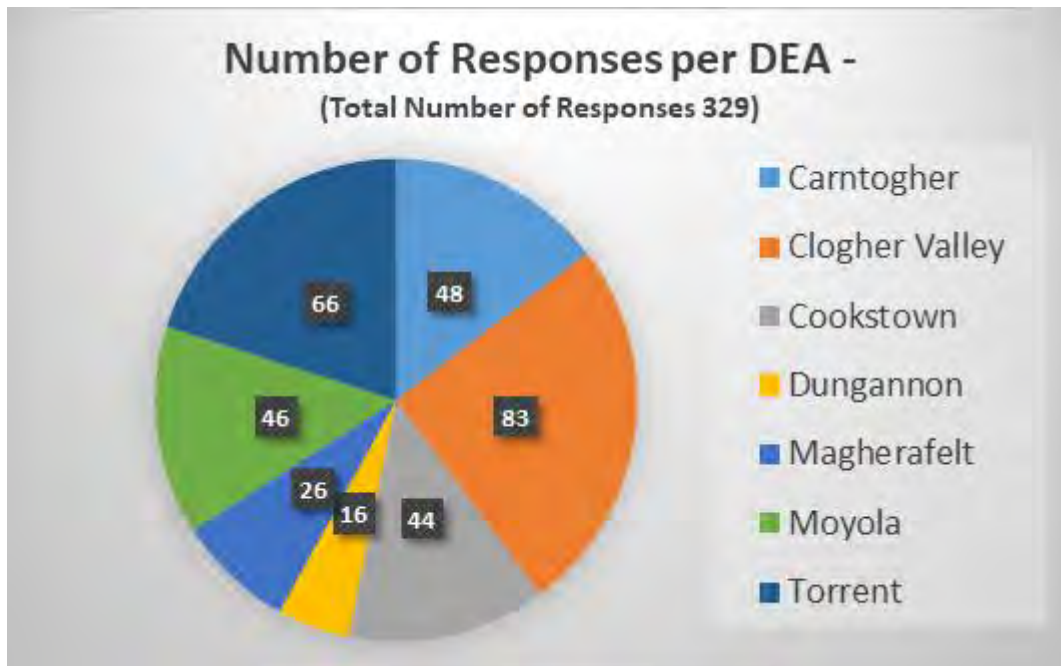
Within the survey, there were 75 responses from people who submitted twice, resided outside the area or were not on any list. Staff attempted to contact all people who submitted incomplete forms.

Table 2.0 below presents the number of survey responses received from users in each DEA Council area on the “White postcode list” and not included in Project Stratum.

Table 2.0: Number of Survey Responses Received in DEA on the “White postcode list” and not included in Project Stratum.

Council Area	Number of Responses
Carntogher	48
Clogher Valley	83
Cookstown	44
Dungannon	16
Magherafelt	26
Moyola	46
Torrent	66
OVERALL TOTAL	329

From the response to the survey, it is clear that the Clogher Valley and Torrent are the areas have the most issues. Clogher Valley area was already identified as having the most properties (in Mid Ulster) outside the scope of Project Stratum with 171 properties out of 354 properties de-scoped.



Council has always argued that the worst affected areas should have been addressed first because these areas remain at the bottom of the list.

Question: Project Stratum has been awarded with lower than anticipated costs. The Department has potentially scope and resources available to address the identified gaps and anomalies in Mid Ulster (who are part of the early deployments in Project Stratum). How does the Department propose to address and resource Mid Ulster's Project Stratum's issues and develop a mechanism to address wider NI deployment issues?

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - 329 properties on white postcode list.

Appendix 2 – 304 properties on grey postcode list

- **DEA maps of white postcode areas not getting Project Stratum**

Appendix 2 - Carntogher DEA on White list but not Project Stratum

Appendix 3 - Clogher Valley DEA on White list but not Project Stratum

Appendix 4 - Cookstown DEA on White list but not Project Stratum

Appendix 5 - Dungannon DEA on White list but not Project Stratum

Appendix 6- Magherafelt DEA on White list but not Project Stratum

Appendix 7 - Moyola DEA on White list but not Project Stratum

Appendix 8 - Torrent DEA on White list but not Project Stratum

Appendix 9 – Overview of Mid Ulster on white list not Project Stratum

Appendix 10 - Map of the new Builds post January 2019

Appendix 11 – Drummurrer Lane, Coalisland

DfE Telecoms Branch – 11.5.21

Mid Ulster District Council Broadband Report / Project Stratum Implementation**1 - INTRODUCTION**

The Department for the Economy (DfE) would like to thank Mid Ulster District Council for preparing its 'Project Stratum Broadband Survey Report' and recognises the effort that has gone into preparing the report, through engagement with citizens across the district.

DfE fully appreciates the impact of poor broadband on local communities, particularly in rural areas of Northern Ireland, and recognises that the Covid-19 crisis has emphasised the greater challenges faced by those with poor broadband coverage. Project Stratum was developed to improve connectivity for premises unable to access broadband services of 30 Mbps or greater, primarily across rural areas of Northern Ireland.

The Department's responses to the questions contained in the Broadband Survey Report are intended to provide further clarity regarding the various categories of premises within postcodes that, under State aid rules outlined in the National Broadband Scheme 2016 (NBS 2016) require postcodes to be defined as 'White', 'Grey' or 'Black.'

As a result of the Open Market Review (OMR) process conducted in summer 2018, and State aid Public Consultation for Project Stratum, which concluded in January 2019, the Department identified 58,502 premises in Mid Ulster, of which 12,643 were deemed to have inadequate broadband, based on the data supplied in the OMR, and further clarifications considered as a result of State aid Public Consultation. Postcodes containing any of those 12,643 premises were listed in Annex 1 of the public consultation, which is the list of postcodes containing at least one white premises. Of the 12,643 eligible premises, 7,231 are in postcodes that contain a mix of eligible and ineligible premises.

Premises identified during OMR/SaPC	58,502
Premises in white postcodes (Annex 1)	22,628
Premises in grey or black postcodes (Annex 2 and 3)	53,090
Premises in postcodes containing only white premises	5,412
White premises in postcodes containing eligible and ineligible premises	7,231
All white premises	12,643

- Annexes refer to the Annexes within the State aid Public Consultation
- A white list comprises postcodes containing one or more white premises, it does not mean all premises in listed postcode are considered white
- Postcodes are ineligible where NGA infrastructure has been deployed to the postcode
- However, by identifying ineligible premises in grey postcodes, an additional 7,231 premises could be classified as eligible

The contract for Project Stratum was awarded to Fibrus Networks in November 2020, and deployment is already under way to deliver full fibre broadband services to over 76,000 premises across the intervention area, of which 12,289 premises are in Mid Ulster. Deployment in the Mid Ulster area has already commenced, with premises in Coalisland the first to benefit from access to improved (fibre to the premises) broadband infrastructure. Deployment across all parts of Mid Ulster will continue throughout the implementation phase for Project Stratum.

Some 3% of premises in the intervention area, 2,517 premises, will require additional funding in order to maximise broadband coverage, of which 354 are in Mid Ulster. The Department is in advanced discussions with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and expects to secure additional funding under the headroom provision of the contract, in order to reach as many eligible premises as possible.

The Department recognises that there will be a number of additional premises that will also require full consideration for eligibility, utilising the headroom funding provision, and we are in the process of identifying these premises. Some premises deemed eligible will emerge as a result of the Department's ongoing engagement with Land and Property Services, and are associated with premises that may not have been classified as 'Built' and 'Approved' on the Pointer Dataset by January 2019, the time of State aid Public Consultation.

Some premises that may be considered to be eligible under Project Stratum may be the result of infrastructure providers changing datasets, or commercial broadband roll out plans, and the Department will continue to engage with the appropriate stakeholders and either de-scope premises, or bring eligible premises into the scope of the contract, where appropriate, and under the State aid requirements set out in NBS 2016.

It remains the overarching aspiration of the Department to ensure that as many eligible premises as possible benefit from Project Stratum, working within defined State aid parameters and subject to the confirmation of available public funding.

The information contained in this document seeks to address the questions raised by Mid Ulster Council as a result of its Broadband Report, and highlight the complexity associated with a number of premises categories that form part of the deployment landscape. The Department continues to address the various issues associated with this large-scale broadband infrastructure project with a solutions-focused approach, for the benefit of homes and businesses in Northern Ireland.

2 - RESPONSES TO MID ULSTER COUNCIL'S QUESTIONS

Question 1: Can DfE confirm if Providers of Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) technologies responded to DfE OMR in January 2019 as being able to provide broadband in rural areas?

Yes – a number of providers of Fixed Wireless Access technologies, also known as Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs), responded to the OMR exercise that commenced in Summer 2018. The Department engaged with all such providers, and the majority elected to participate in the OMR process. Under State aid requirements set out in NBS 2016, premises with access to Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband services delivering speeds of 30 Mbps or above are kept 'Under Review' during the three year monitored period to ensure that any qualifying NGA broadband services claimed by WISPs are available to those premises.

Question 2: In appendix one there are 329 properties on the white postcode list. Council needs clarification on why these 329 properties are on the Departments white postcode list and not on Fibrus contract list.

[Note – Premises have been assigned a Premises Categories (A-E) during the implementation phase for Project Stratum, in order to:

- address the eligibility criteria for these premises;
- to identify potential solutions for premises deemed to be eligible; and
- for those premises that are not eligible for intervention under State aid rules

Further details on this categorisation can be found at Section 3 of this document.]

From the properties contained in Appendix 1, the Department has identified 312 Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs).

- 152 of those premises are identified as ‘grey’, of which:
 - 10 are ‘Under Review’ (see Premises Category B section in the following pages);
 - 114 have a 30 Mbps+ speed estimate from an infrastructure provider (see Premises Category E section in the following pages);
 - 27 were removed from the intervention area as a result of a UK-wide data refresh exercise by an infrastructure provider, indicating that qualifying broadband would be available to these premises (Category E)
 - 1 premises was not eligible, having received a gigabit voucher (Category E)
- 69 premises are identified as ‘white’ and eligible for intervention under Project Stratum, of which:
 - 64 premises are in current build plans
 - 5 premises are currently out of scope (see Premises Category B section in the following pages);
- 91 of the premises were not considered for Project Stratum, of which:
 - 32 of those premises were not valued in January 2019, the cut-off point for consideration under State aid rules, and the closing date of Public Consultation (see Premises Category D section in the following pages),
 - 16 of these were still not valued in December 2020
 - 53 premises were valued but not recorded on the Pointer Dataset as ‘Built’ and ‘Approved’ at the cut-off point for consideration under Project Stratum (see Premises Category C section in the following pages).
 - 6 premises do not appear on Pointer and are unverified.

Question 3: In appendix two, there are 251 properties on the Grey postcode list currently receiving less than 30mbps and not on Project Stratum. They are receiving no information on when they will see improvements. Please provide clarity on when, what and how these properties will receive 30mbps?

From the properties contained in Appendix 2, the Department has identified 171 unique UPRNs that did not appear in Appendix 1:

- 109 of those premises identified as ‘grey’, of which:

- 0 are 'Under Review' (Category B Premises);
 - 98 have a 30 Mbps+ speed estimate provided by an infrastructure provider (Category E);
 - 8 were removed from the intervention area as a result of a UK-wide data refresh exercise by an infrastructure provider, indicating that qualifying broadband would be available to these premises (Category E); and
 - 2 premises benefitted from a Better Broadband Voucher via BDUK, another 1 benefitted from a gigabit voucher, and are therefore not eligible to benefit from Project Stratum under State aid rules (Category E).
- There are 15 white premises, 11 of which are in the current rollout plans (leaving another 4 beyond current funding, Category A)
 - 47 premises were not considered for Project Stratum, of which:
 - 17 were not valued in January 2019 (Category D)
 - 7 were still not valued in December 2020
 - 30 premises were valued but not recorded on the Pointer Dataset as 'Built' and 'Approved' (Category C).

Question 4: Council requests DfE or Fibrus advise the solution in order to get those properties included on the white post code list and allow Council to respond to the people most affected?

Please see Premises Categories (A-E) below for further details regarding the categorisation of premises during the implementation phase for Project Stratum, in order to address the eligibility criteria for these premises, and to identify potential solutions for premises deemed to be eligible, and for those premises that are not eligible for intervention under State aid rules.

Question 5a: How can these new builds be included in Project Stratum?

Question 5b: Can DfE provide a response for Council to relay to the people on when they will get FTTP?

New Builds would be classified as Category D premises for the purposes of Project Stratum implementation, being those that, as of 1 January 2019, were not identified as 'Built' on Pointer and which were also not listed on the valuations list held by Land & Property Services (LPS) on 22 January 2019. The State aid public consultation closed in January 2019. These newly built premises have been deemed beyond the scope of Project Stratum, as a cut-off date for eligible premises within an intervention area is required under State aid rules.

If a premise falls into this category, other options may be open to them for getting a broadband connection. These options include considering if they are eligible to be connected under the Broadband Universal Service Obligation, or via the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. More details on these options are provided in the following pages.

Also, 'Category D' premises not currently included in project build plans can still register interest with Fibrus Networks at www.hyperfastni.com. These premises will then be captured and considered by the contractor during the build of the network. The commercial viability of connection of these premises will be considered, which may require inclusion of additional financial support from the premises owner if such premises are not eligible for public intervention under State aid rules.

Question 6: Will DfE provide Council with information around what properties will benefit from delivery of the Broadband Universal Service Obligation in Mid Ulster?

The Department would like to see as many premises as possible benefiting from Project Stratum in Mid Ulster and other local council areas, and also benefiting from the various schemes offered to citizens as ways to improve broadband connectivity. This includes the Universal Service Obligation (USO), for which Openreach is the infrastructure provider; the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme, managed by Building Digital UK (BDUK), part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Citizens within the intervention area for Project Stratum could be eligible to benefit from the USO, if their premises meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme, which includes not benefitting from subsidised intervention plans within 12 months of the application. If a service is provided to premises delivering broadband speeds of 30 Mbps or above, the premises would be de-scoped from the contract; if a premises benefits from the USO provision but can still not access broadband speeds above 30 Mbps, based on the solution provided, they would still be eligible for intervention under Project Stratum, if currently classified as a 'white' premises. Please see the following pages below (USO and other Broadband Improvement Schemes) for further information.

2 - CATEGORISATION OF WHITE, GREY, BLACK POSTCODES

The European Commission published 'EU Guidelines for the application of State aid rules in relation to the rapid deployment of broadband networks' (2013/C 25/01).

These guidelines summarise the principles of the Commission's policy in applying the State aid rules of the Treaty to measures that support the deployment of broadband networks, and seek to ensure that State aid schemes for broadband are well-designed so that they target market failures and minimise negative effects on competition.

The guidelines require public interventions to be targeted so as to limit the risk of crowding out private investments, of altering commercial investment incentives and ultimately of distorting competition.

The Commission's guidelines distinguished between geographic areas on the basis of their existing or planned broadband infrastructure.

Using this approach:

WHITE POSTCODES

'White' postcodes are those in which there is no qualifying broadband infrastructure and none is likely to be developed within three years. The information held by DfE is based on data provided by infrastructure providers during the Open Market Review process and State aid Public Consultation. White lists comprise postcodes containing one or more white premises, it does not mean all premises in a listed postcode are considered white.

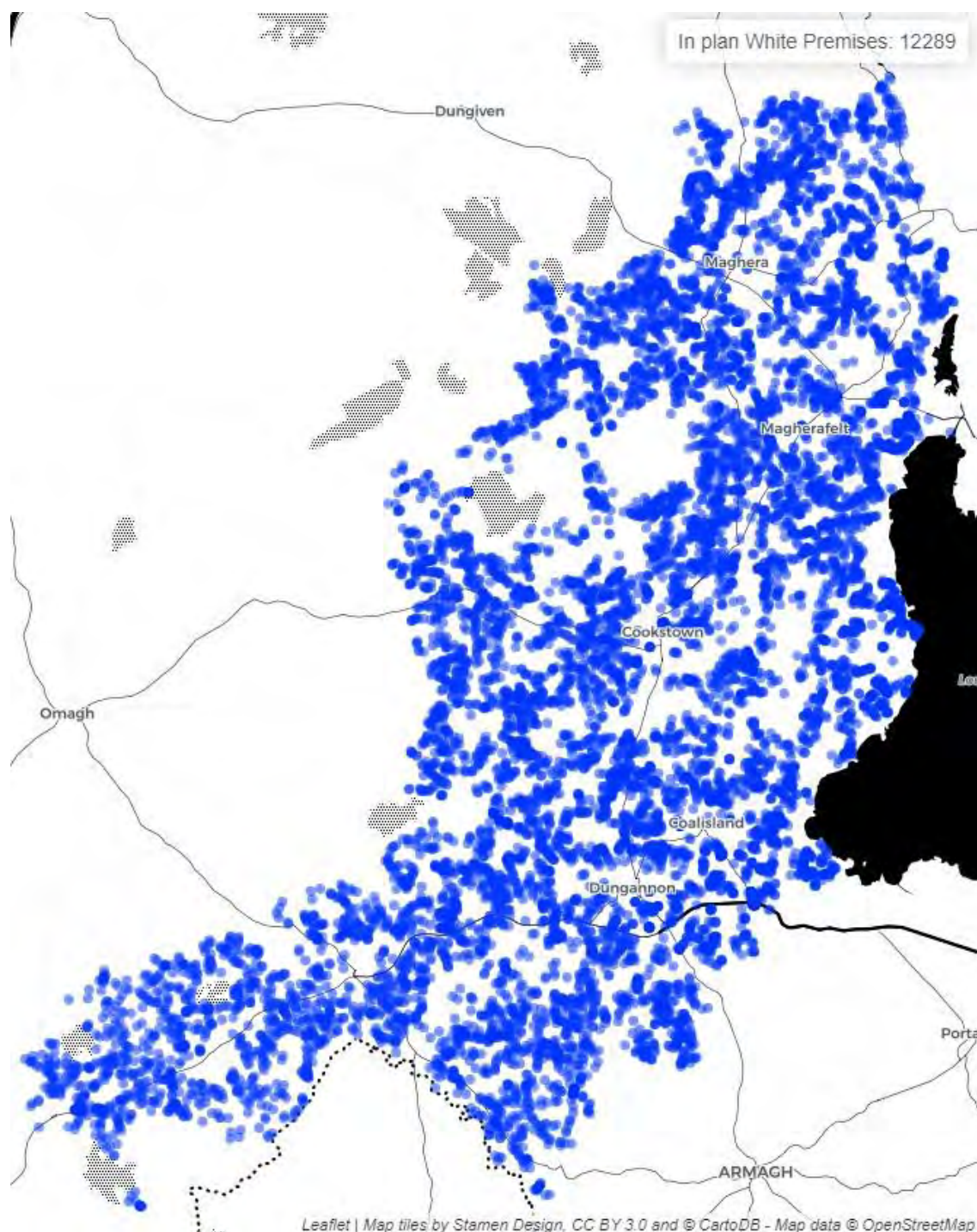
GREY POSTCODES

'Grey' postcodes are those where only one network capable of providing qualifying broadband is present or infrastructure is to be deployed within the coming three years. If the infrastructure provider is a Wireless Internet Service Provider, premises able to access such services will be kept 'Under Review' for the measured period to ensure that WISP coverage claims meet the stated requirements.

BLACK POSTCODES

A postcode has been classified as Black if the data held by DfE, gathered as a result of the Open Market Review process, indicates that all premises in that postcode can access speeds of at least 30Mbps from two or more broadband providers.

Below is a map indicating the broad spread of the 12,289 'white' premises across Mid Ulster District Council currently in scope as part of Fibrus Networks' deployment plans.

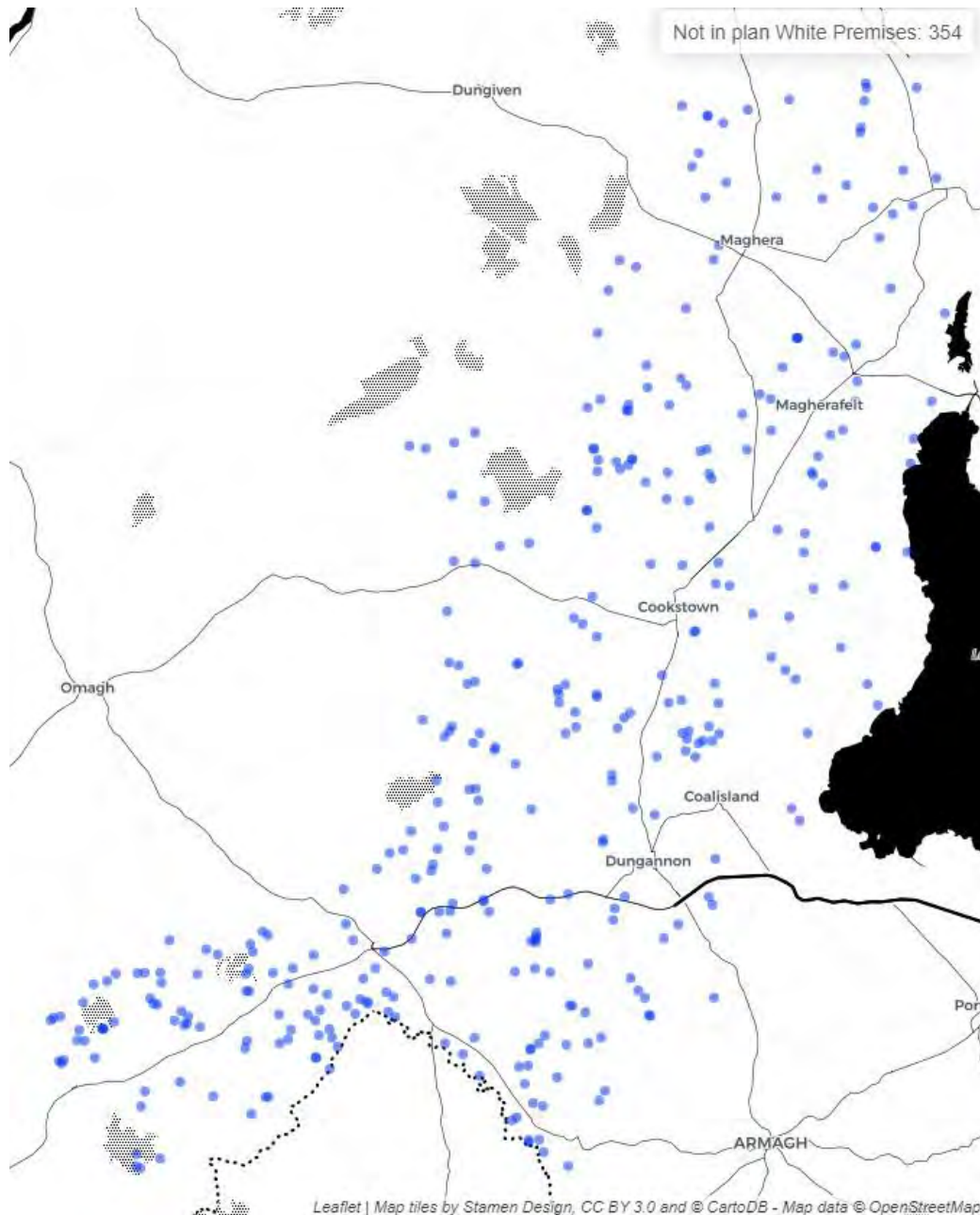


3. CATEGORIES OF PREMISES ASSOCIATED WITH ALL POSTCODES

Category A (3% out of scope)

78,750 eligible premises were identified at the Invitation to Tender stage for Project Stratum. A combination of available public funding of £165m, and Fibrus Networks' investment in network build costs, will see broadband infrastructure rolled out to 76,233

predominantly rural premises across the intervention area. There are an additional 2,517 eligible premises, approximately 3% of the previously identified intervention area, which are currently out of scope. These harder-to-reach premises will require additional funding in order to bring them into the contract using the headroom funding provision. Of these, 354 are in Mid Ulster. The Department has advanced discussions with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to secure additional funding in order to maximise coverage and reach as many eligible premises as possible.



Category B (Under Review)

Under Review premises are premises which are served solely by Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs). These premises will be kept under review over the course of the project to ensure that the quality and availability of services claimed by the WISPs are delivered. If this proves not to be the case, such premises can be re-categorised and

deemed eligible to benefit from Project Stratum or any future public intervention. However, this will be subject to additional funding becoming available and value for money considerations, or the premises becoming commercially attractive.

Premises under review are not prohibited from being connected to the Project Stratum Network, but no subsidy will be paid to connect these premises unless they are first deemed unable to receive an NGA service.



Category C (LPS Pointer Dataset Clarifications)

Land & Property Services (LPS) maintains the authoritative address database (Pointer®) for Northern Ireland with input from Local Councils and Royal Mail. Pointer is used by other government departments and the emergency services. Project Stratum has relied on Pointer as the best available address dataset of premises in Northern Ireland. At the

time the Department undertook the Project Stratum Open Market Review (OMR) in the summer of 2018 and EU State aid public consultation, between December 2018 and January 2019, which allowed citizens and other stakeholders to correct any errors or omissions in the OMR data by referring to an online address checker.

As a result of the Public Consultation, a small number of potentially eligible premises were identified as not being recorded on Pointer with a Building Status of 'Built' and Address Status of 'Approved' in Pointer, and further enquiries were made through LPS on behalf of citizens to ensure that any further identified eligible premises were not excluded from the target intervention area for the project. The Department compiled a list of eligible premises, as required under the State aid rules governing the project, using the Pointer dataset. The contract to make services available to the defined intervention area was awarded to Fibrus Networks in November 2020.

The Department has received a number of enquiries following the launch by Fibrus Networks of the address / postcode eligibility checker for Project Stratum on the HyperfastNI website. This has highlighted some anomalies with the Pointer dataset. We are assessing these enquiries on a case-by-case basis and are working with LPS in order to access the most up to date premises information. Through this engagement, a number of premises have been appropriately categorised with Status of 'Built' and Address Status of 'Approved' in Pointer, where warranted.

Some citizens whose premises were not recorded on Pointer as 'Built' and 'Approved', may have received an automated response from the HyperfastNI website indicating that their property was not eligible for Project Stratum because data held by the Department indicated that they already had access to broadband services delivering speeds of at least 30 Mbps. In the case of 'Category C' premises, this was incorrect, and we have notified citizens who have submitted enquiries. The automated messaging on HyperfastNI has now been updated.

If the information held by the Department concerning any premises is identified as being inaccurate, we will reclassify the premises so that it will be eligible to benefit from Project Stratum intervention. This will be subject to additional funding becoming available, which the Department is in the process of securing under the headroom funding provision within the contract, and value for money considerations.

We expect to be in a position to provide a further update in the coming months.

Premises not currently included in project build plans can still register interest with Fibrus Networks at www.hyperfastni.com. These premises can then be captured and reviewed by the contractor to determine commercial viability. The Department's Telecoms Branch officials are in regular contact with Fibrus Networks to determine whether or not the contractor is able to bring additional premises into rollout plans on such a basis.

Where premises are not considered to be commercially viable for Fibrus Networks, but are found to be within the eligibility criteria for Project Stratum, the Department will seek to ensure that as many of those as possible are included in Project Stratum, subject to value for money considerations and the confirmation of available funding, as indicated above. It remains the overarching aspiration of the Department to ensure that available public funding is maximised under Project Stratum to improve broadband connectivity in predominantly rural parts of Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, we may not know whether premises can be included until the period leading up to deployment in their specific area. Every effort will be made to provide confirmation of deployment plans as early as possible, in consultation with Fibrus Networks, and subject to confirmation of available funding under State aid rules. A map of the current deployment roll out plans, including anticipated timings, can be found at www.hyperfastni.com.

Category D (New Builds / Not Valued in January 2019)

Category D premises are those that, as of 1 January 2019, were not identified as 'Built' on Pointer and which were also not listed on the valuations list held by LPS on 22 January 2019. The state aid public consultation closed in January 2019. These newly built premises have been deemed beyond the scope of Project Stratum, as a cut-off date for eligible premises within an intervention area is required under State aid rules.

If a premise falls into this category, other options may be open to them for getting a broadband connection. These options include considering if they are eligible to be connected under the Broadband Universal Service Obligation, or via the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. More details on these options are provided in the following pages.

Category E (30 Mbps available or to become available)

During its engagement with broadband infrastructure providers under the Open Market Review, information was provided to the Department indicating that certain premises could or would be provided with a broadband service of 30 Mbps or better within the three year period following this process (ending January 2022). Under State aid rules, these premises were therefore not eligible to benefit from Project Stratum.

Premises not currently included can still register interest with Fibrus Networks at www.hyperfastni.com. These premises can then be captured and reviewed by the contractor to determine commercial viability. A map of the current deployment roll out plans, including anticipated timings, can be found at www.hyperfastni.com.

Since the launch of the Project, it has been brought to our attention that some of the information provided to the Department by infrastructure providers may not be accurate, either as a result of data anomalies or changes to the infrastructure providers' commercial build plans. There may, for example, be premises for which it was indicated by infrastructure providers that a service could be provided, or would be provided within the measured period, whereas it may not now be the case.

We are investigating further, through engagement with the respective suppliers, to agree what further steps might need to be undertaken in these circumstances.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION (USO) AND OTHER BROADBAND SCHEMES

What is the broadband USO?

The Universal Service Obligation (USO) for broadband is a UK-wide measure intended as a "safety net" to deliver broadband to those premises that do not have access to a decent and affordable connection. The Government have defined a decent connection as one that can deliver 10 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and 1 Mbps upload speed (along with other defined quality parameters). Ofcom has defined an affordable connection as one that costs less than £45 per month.

The USO provides a legal right to request a decent broadband connection, up to a cost threshold of £3,400.

BT is the Universal Service Provider responsible for fulfilling requests from eligible consumers.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Residents and businesses are eligible for the USO if:

- they do not have access to a decent broadband connection (10 Mbps download speed, 1 Mbps upload speed and other specified quality parameters); or
- if the only service available that can provide the minimum criteria costs more than £45 per month; and
- the property is not due to be connected to a publicly funded roll-out scheme within 12 months; and
- the connection will cost no more than £3,400 to build (or the customer has chosen to pay the excess above that amount).

Access to a decent connection means by any technology capable of delivering the standard, including wireless networks such as mobile broadband.

Ofcom estimated in December 2019 that approximately 155,000 premises (0.5% of UK) would potentially be eligible for the USO taking into account fixed-line and wireless connections.

When and how can a request be made?

Requests must be made through BT. BT's [website on the USO](#) includes further information and an eligibility postcode-checker.

Ofcom's FAQ page on the USO: [Your right to request a decent broadband service: What you need to know](#) provides further information and contact details.

What technology will be used?

Any technology capable of delivering the minimum technical USO standards could be considered to deliver connections, including mobile broadband. In practice, most connections under the USO are likely to use full-fibre or fibre-to-the-cabinet technology.

GIGABIT BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME

Background

The UK Government is providing up to £210m worth of voucher funding as immediate help for people experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas.

Vouchers worth up to £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband to people's doorsteps.

If you and your community are not included in any commercial rollout plans and you do not want to wait for your area to be connected through the Project Gigabit rollout, you can apply for UK Gigabit Vouchers through this scheme.

To apply, you must go through a registered supplier.

You can find out more about the process on [this page](#).

Who is eligible?

Home and businesses in rural locations which meet the following criteria can use vouchers to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections when part of a group project.

- Existing broadband speeds are less than 100Mbps
- A gigabit capable network isn't likely to be built to that area commercially in the near future
- There is no government-funded contract planned or in place to improve the network already

Group projects are when two or more residents and/or eligible businesses get together to combine their vouchers towards the shared cost of installation. Single connections are *not* eligible for the scheme. Projects will also be subject to BDUK commercial and value for money assessments.

Your new connection speed must reach:

- At least double your existing speed if your current speed is less than 50Mbps
- At least 100Mbps if your current speed is more than 50Mbps

'Rural' is defined using agreed standard measures in the relevant part of the UK. For the gigabit voucher premises in the following areas will be defined as rural.

- [Northern Ireland – NISRA definitions E – H](#)

You can check whether your home or business is eligible on the [Get a voucher](#) page. The search will list suppliers that are active in your area. Your chosen supplier will be able to advise and support your eligibility and guide you through the process.

Business Eligibility

In order to qualify for a business voucher you will be asked to self-certify that you are a Small or Medium size Enterprise (SME), as defined by sections 465 to 467 of the Companies Act 2006 which can be summarised as:

- Up to 249 employees and annual turnover no greater than £36 million; and/or
- An annual balance sheet total not exceeding £18 million.

You will be asked to provide evidence of your status as a SME or sole trader.

You will also have to self-certify that the organisation will have received less than 325,000 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in public grants over any period of three fiscal years including the current year, including the voucher contribution.

The Special Drawing Rights amount has replaced the €200,000 de minimis grant limit following the UK's exit from the European Union on the 31st December 2020. The SDR to GBP exchange rate can be found [here](#).

Not-for-profit and charitable undertakings which qualify as SMEs are eligible in the same way that for-profit enterprises are.

How do the vouchers work?

Businesses or residents that are eligible for gigabit vouchers can access the scheme through a supplier.

Voucher funding can only be used through a broadband supplier registered to this scheme as part of a broadband upgrade project shared with your neighbours. A supplier

may already be developing a project in your area or they may be able to develop a new project if there is enough demand in your community.

They will need to develop a project proposal to connect you and your neighbours, and then request vouchers on your behalf. Funding is only committed when a voucher requested on your behalf has been approved by us, and we have your agreement to our terms and conditions.



MANUFACTURINGNI

Tughans

Findings from a survey of businesses in the manufacturing industry

May 2021

Executive Summary



GROWTH & STABILITY

Performance & Trade

Although Covid-19 continues to affect manufacturing businesses, the sector is showing signs of recovery compared to July '20

- 17% of those surveyed described their business as reducing or contracting compared to 42% previously.
- 48% are experiencing growth, compared to 23% previously.

Outlook for the future

- 45% of businesses expect that the sector will see growth in the next 12 months, compared to 15% that expect continued weakness
- 48% believe their productivity will improve in 2021
- However, 44% expect their profit margins to deteriorate in 2021 relative to the previous 12 months, although 35% expect to see improvement



ISSUES & CONCERNS

Top 4 most prevalent concerns

1. Availability of raw materials – 66% businesses rated this 4 or 5.
 - 93% of manufacturers have increased expenditure on raw materials.
 - 50% think their GB suppliers are unprepared for the new requirements.
 - 37% said disrupted supply chains are the biggest obstacle to their firms recovery, with 42% requiring supply-chain support to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 as the economy re-opens.
2. Impact or uncertainty of Brexit – 63% businesses rated this 4 or 5.
 - 77% said the first three months following the transition period have had a negative impact on their business.
 - Although 36% are currently struggling with the new processes and believe this will persist, there is a growing number saying they are now on top of these issues.
 - GB suppliers preparedness and willingness is the largest issue but EU supplies and sales continue to be an issue
 - Almost half (46%) want the NI Executive to identify and secure new opportunities for their business.
3. Cost of doing business– 61% businesses rated this 4 or 5.
 - 86% have increased input costs on transportation.
 - 66% of businesses want the government to cut employment related costs to support the sector.
4. Impact or uncertainty of Covid-19– 59% businesses rated this 4 or 5.
 - 43% of businesses availed of government loan schemes in the last year.
 - 37% have made redundancies due to Covid-19.

Background



Approach

AIM

The aim of this research is to assess the needs, experiences and issues affecting businesses in the manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland.

Perceptive Insight, an independent market research company, collected information on **businesses'** performance, activity and experiences within the manufacturing industry.

SAMPLE

A total of 190 questionnaires were completed by manufacturing businesses in Northern Ireland.

METHOD

- 1 An online survey was emailed to manufacturing businesses in Northern Ireland
- 2 Data was processed and analysed using specialist survey software

The survey ran from 2nd April – 23rd April.



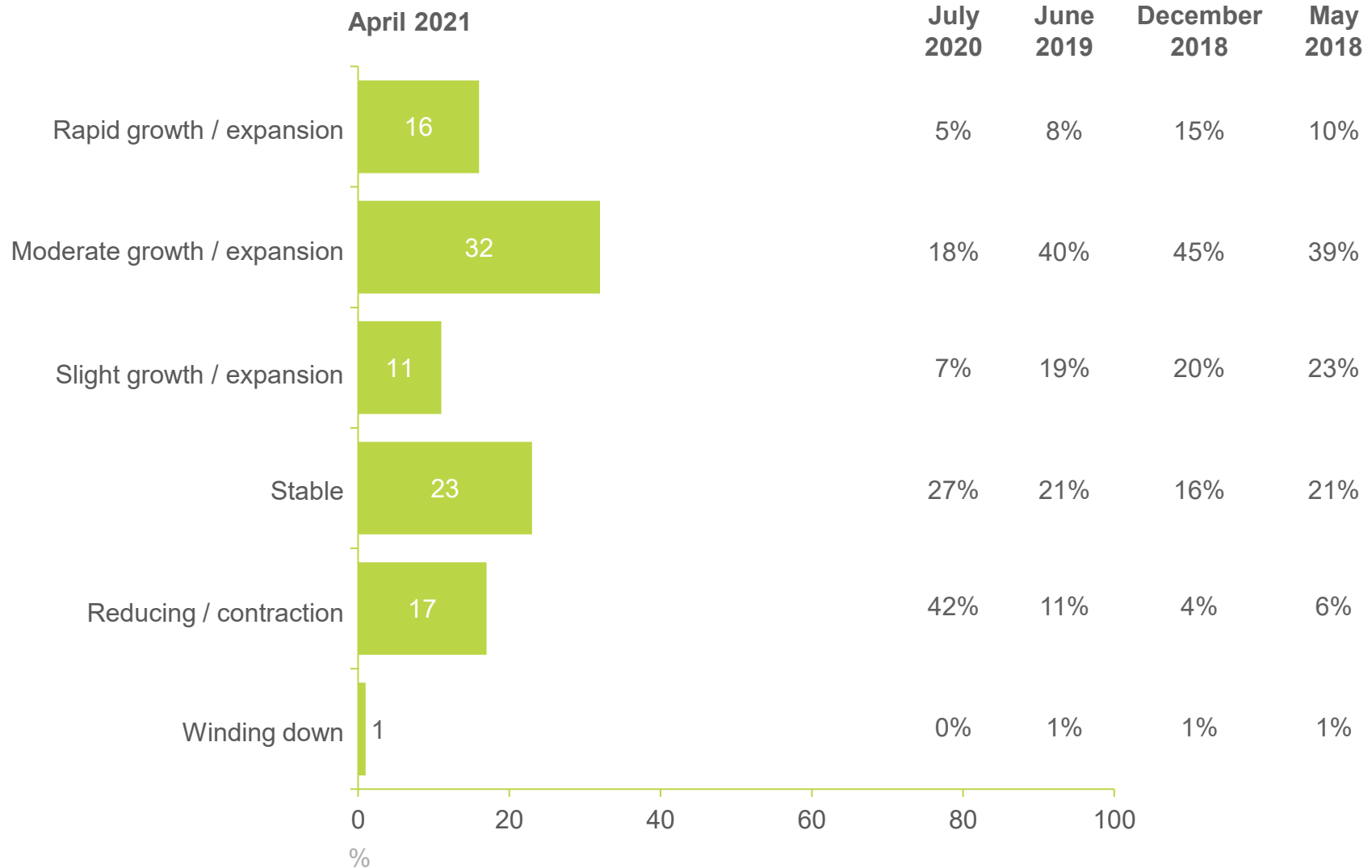
QUESTIONNAIRE TOPICS

- Performance and trade
- Business strategy and productivity
- Support for business
- Impact of leaving the EU
- Skills and people
- Innovation

Performance & trade

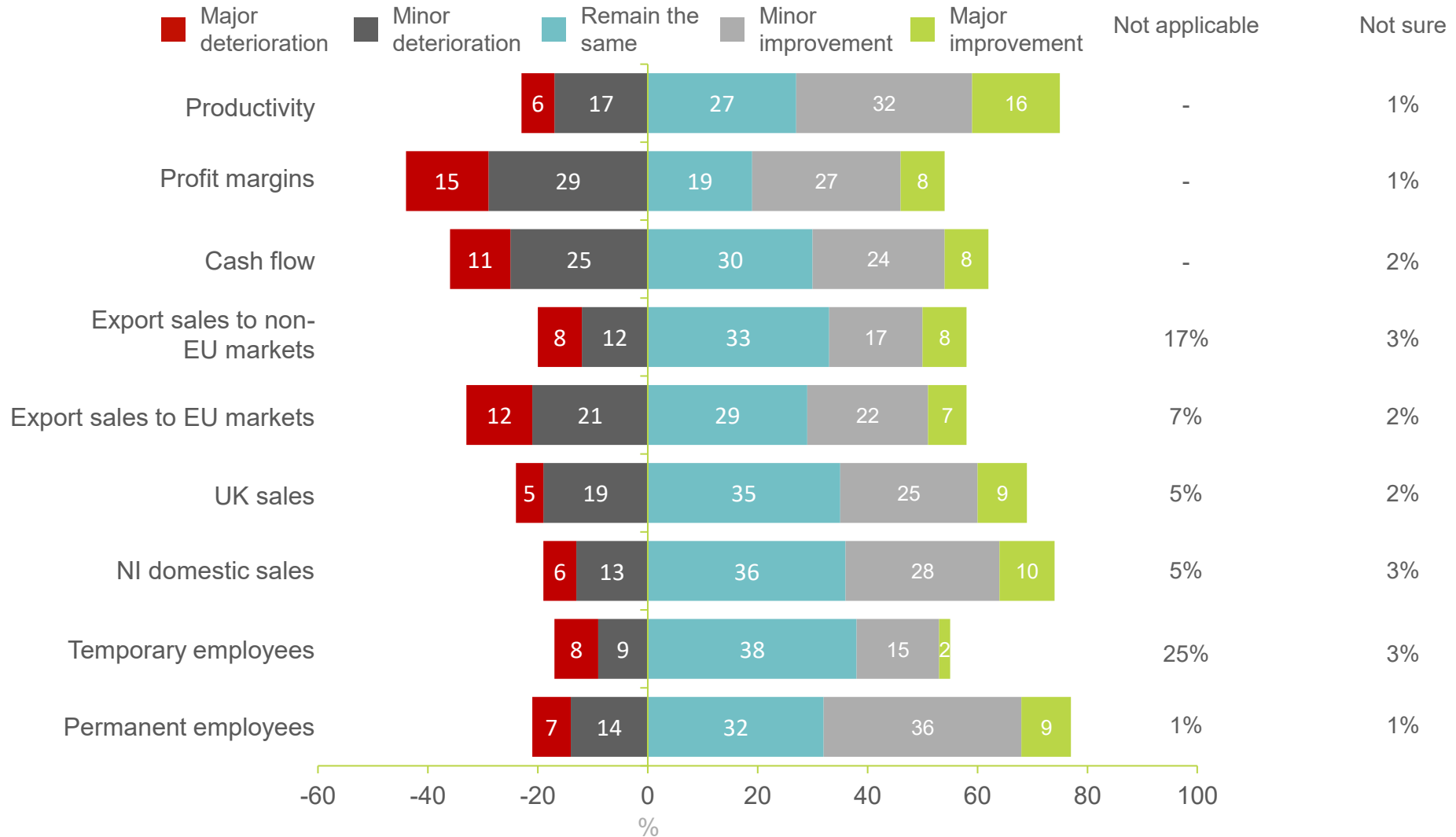
B1 Which of the following best describes the current position of your business?

Base 190: All respondents



B2 What changes, if any, is your company expecting in the following areas in 2021 relative to the previous 12 months?

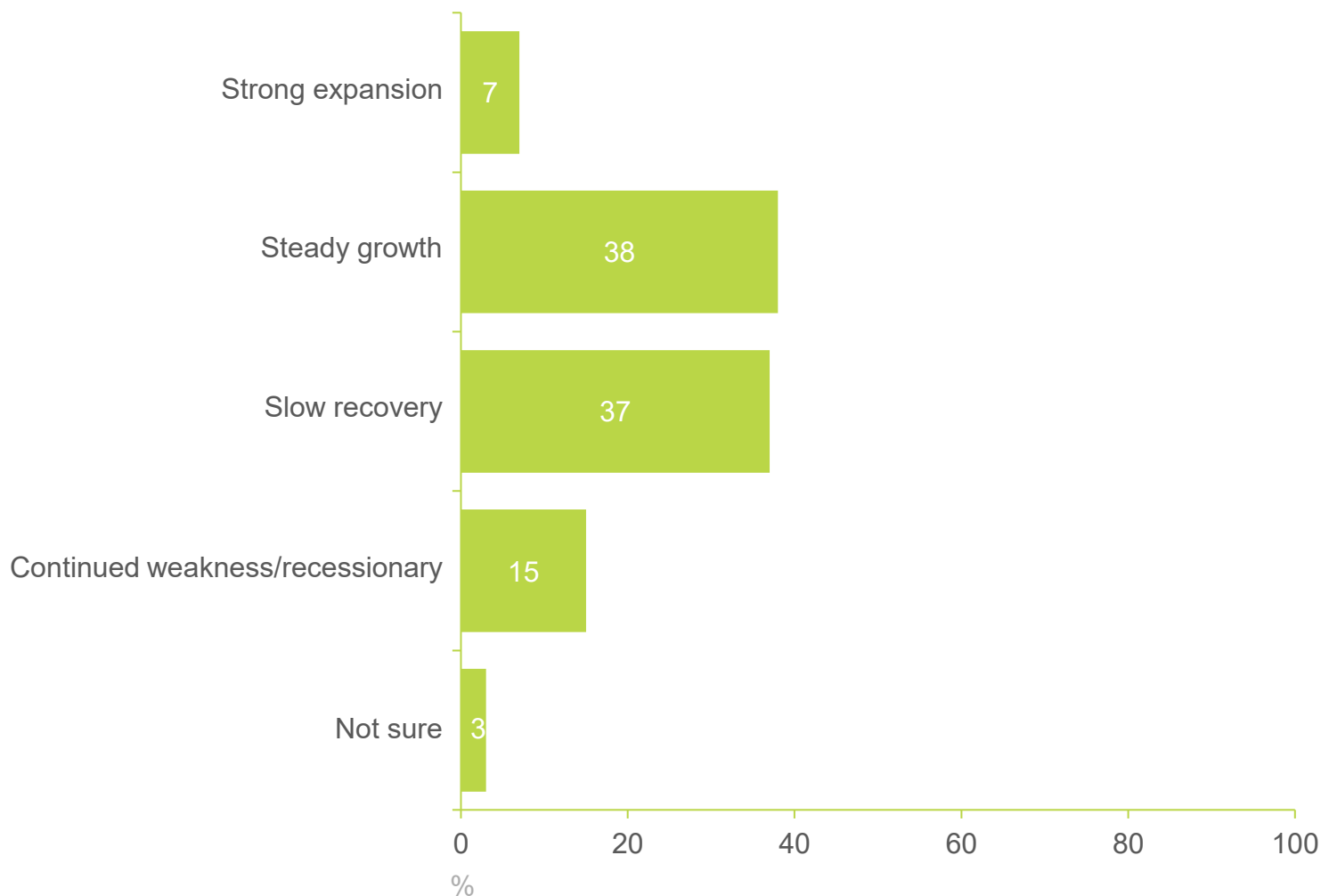
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Due to rounding percentages add to >100%

B3 How would you assess the 12-month outlook for your sector?

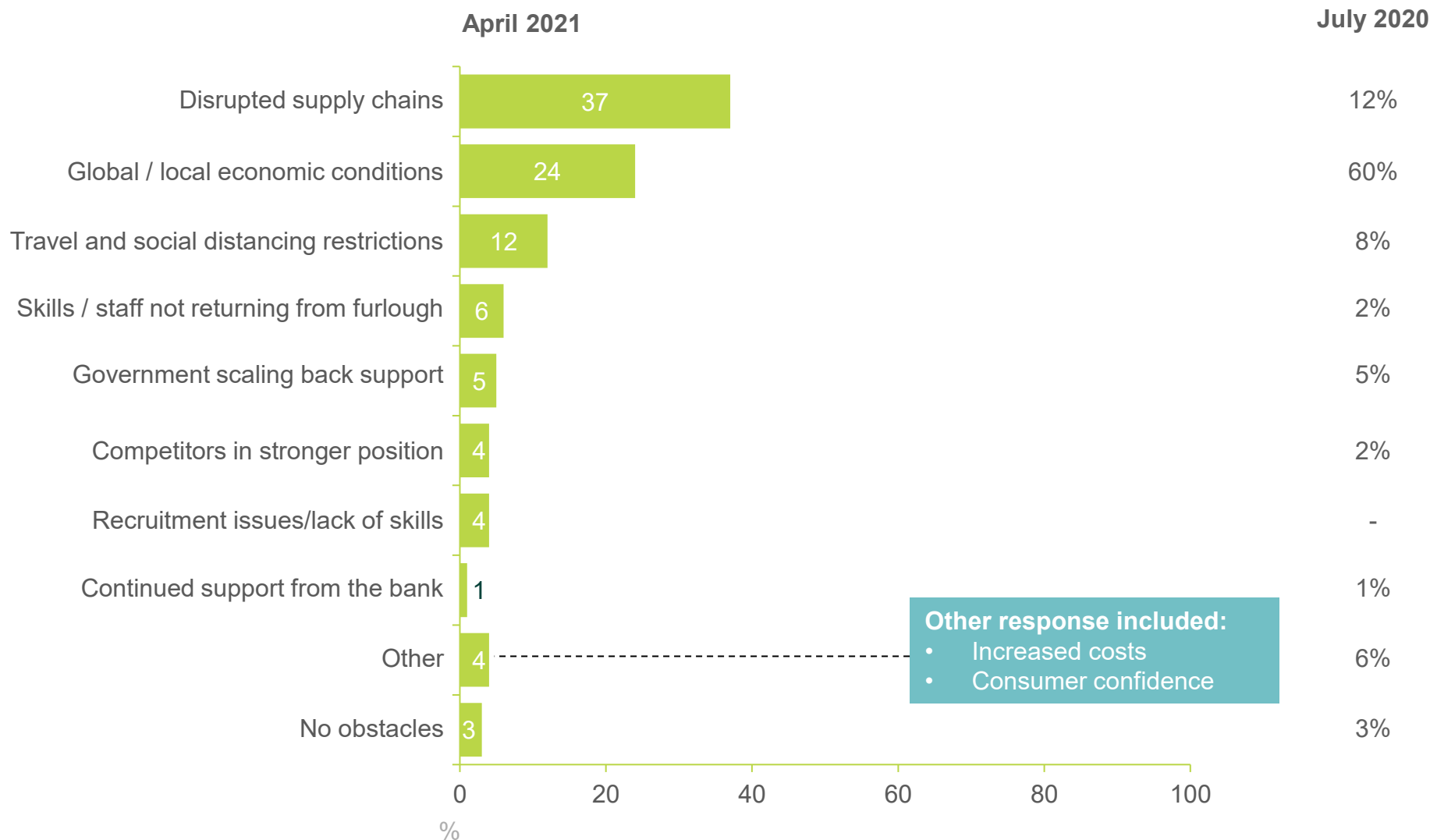
Base 190: All respondents



Business strategy and productivity

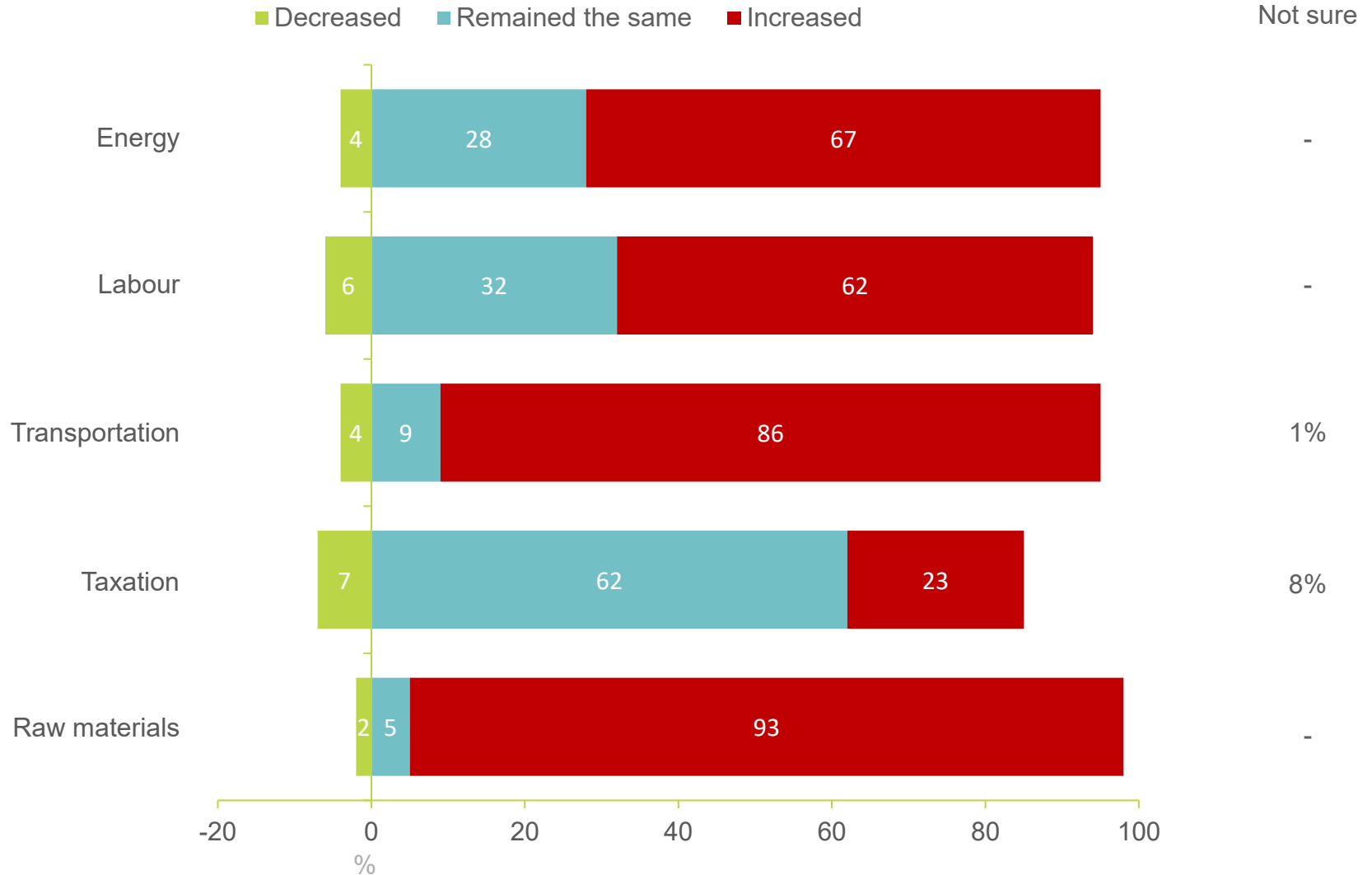
C1 What's the biggest obstacle to the pace of recovery for your firm?

Base 190: All respondents



C2 In the past 12 months, have the following input costs to your business increased, decreased or remained the same?

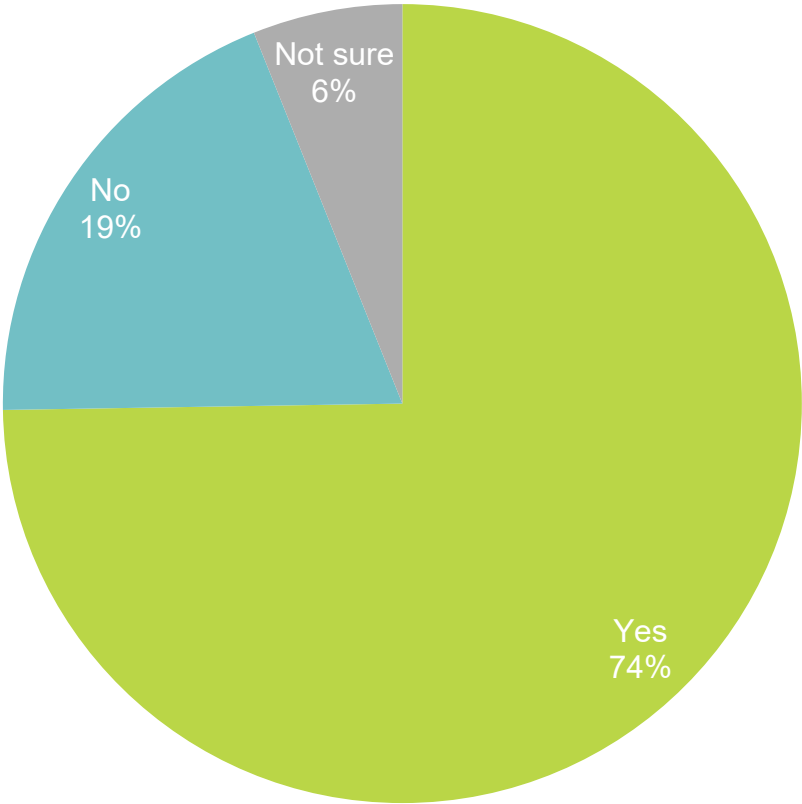
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Due to rounding percentages add to >100%

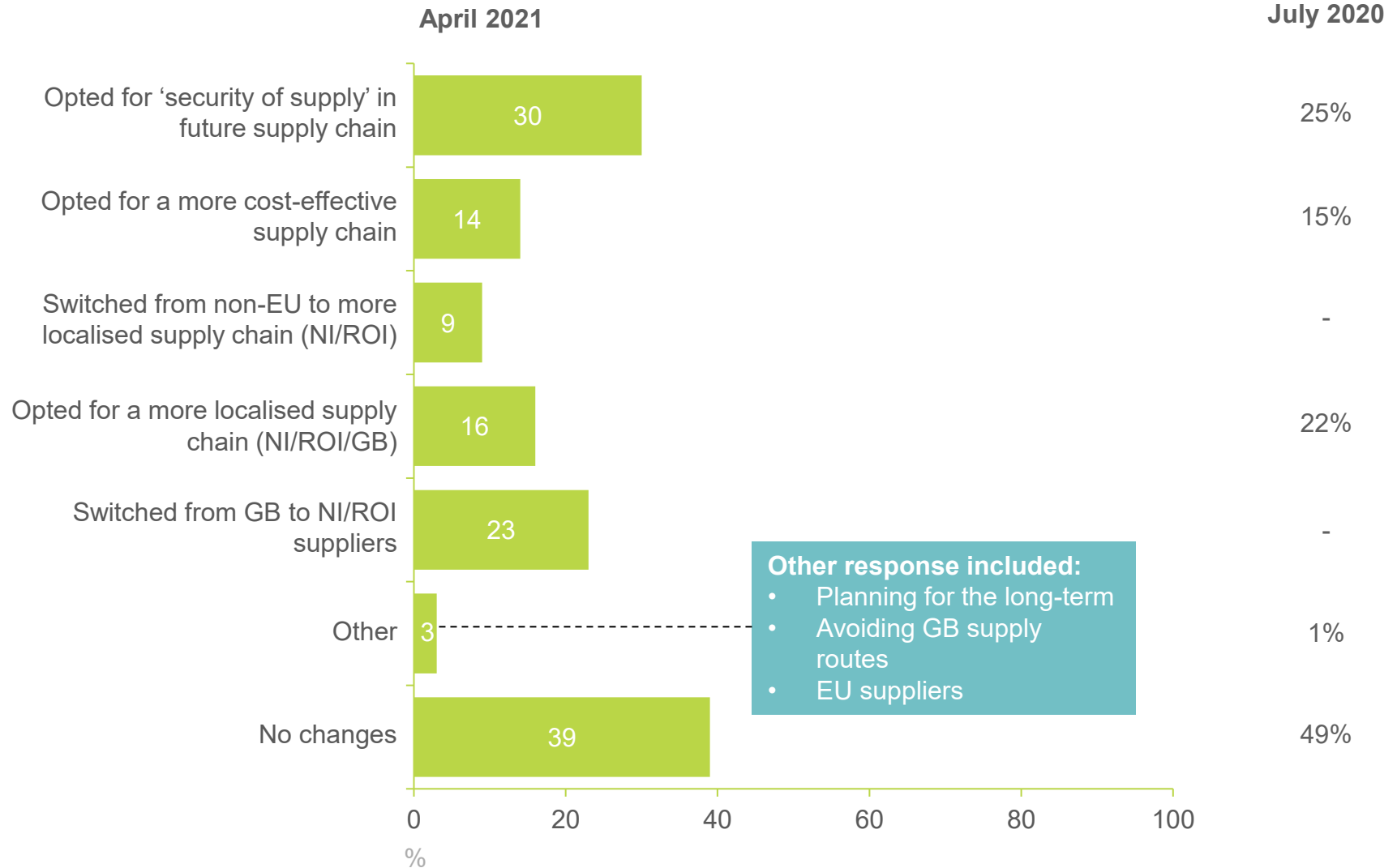
C3 Has the shift in consumption patterns as a consequence of Covid-19 had an impact on your business?

Base 190: All respondents



C4 As a result of Brexit / COVID-19 have you made changes to your future supply chain/ procurement processes?

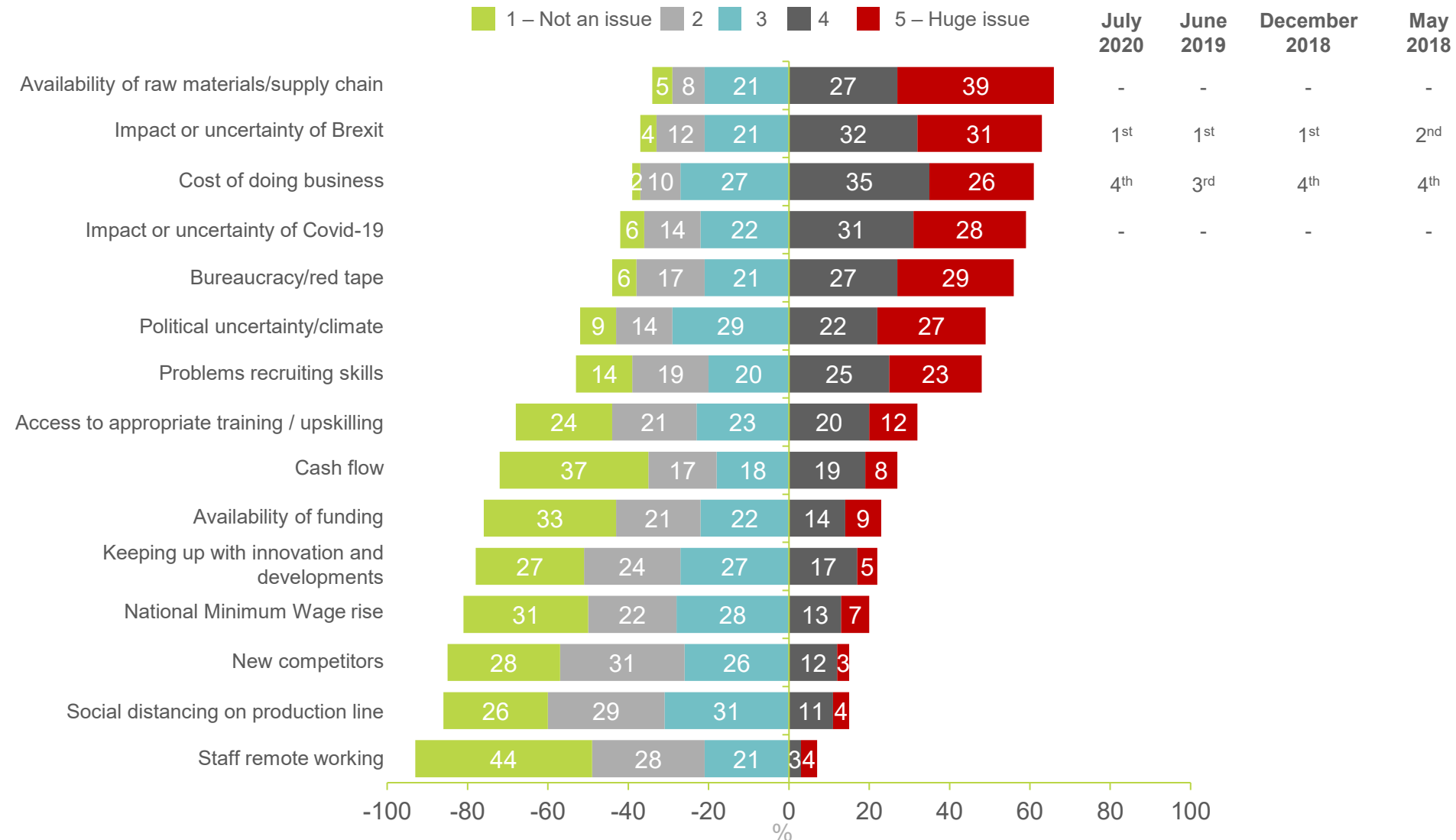
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Multiple choice question

C5 To what extent, if at all, are each of the following an issue for your business currently?

Base 190: All respondents



¹ Due to rounding percentages add to 99%-101%

C5 To what extent, if at all, are each of the following an issue for your business currently?

Base 190: All respondents.

% saying it is an issue

C5 To what extent, if at all, are each of the following an issue for your business currently?	April 2021 Base:190	July 2020 Base:130	June 2019 Base: 139	December 2018 Base: 122	May 2018 Base: 155
Availability of raw materials/supply chain	66%	-	-	-	-
Impact or uncertainty of Brexit	63%	65%	76%	67%	56%
Cost of doing business	61%	38%	61%	65%	60%
Impact or uncertainty of Covid-19 pandemic	59%	-	-	-	-
Bureaucracy / red tape	56%	36%	48%	45%	-
Political uncertainty/climate	49%	57%	69%	59%	51%
Problems recruiting skills to meet orders	48%	20%	56%	57%	47%
Access to appropriate training/upskilling	32%	-	-	-	-
Cash flow	27%	34%	28%	22%	31%
Availability of funding	23%	25%	24%	24%	26%
Keeping up with innovation and developments in your industry	22%	15%	23%	21%	14%
National Minimum Wage rise	20%	-	-	-	-
New competitors in your market	15%	12%	26%	10%	21%
Social distancing on production line	15%	-	-	-	-
Staff remote working	7%	-	-	-	-

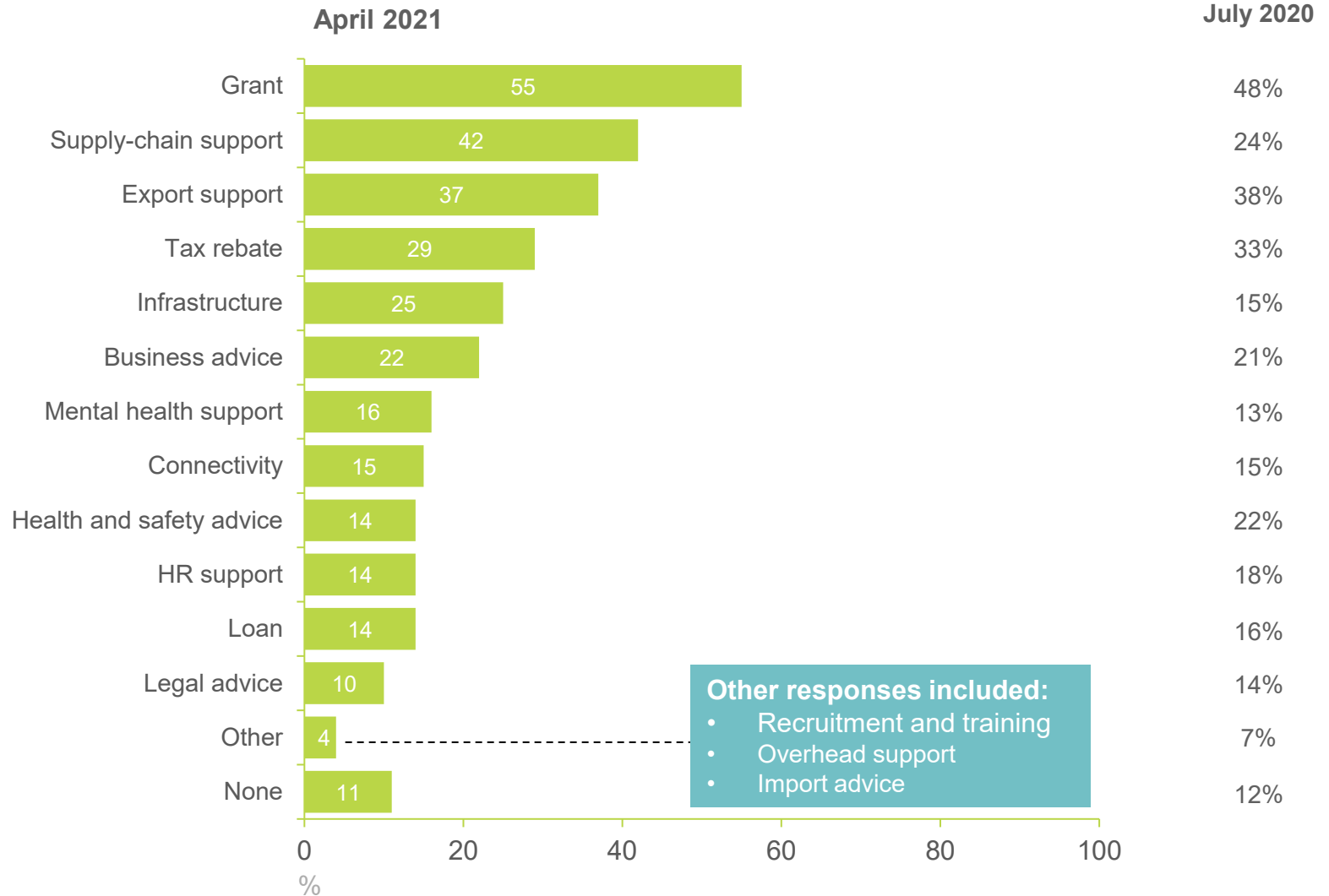
¹ Percentage of those giving a rating of 1 to 5

² Social distancing on the production line, staff remote working, availability of raw materials/supply chain, National Minimum Wage rise and access to appropriate skills/upskilling not asked between May '18 and July '20

Support for business

D1 As the economy re-opens what type of support do you need, if any, to further mitigate the impact of COVID-19?

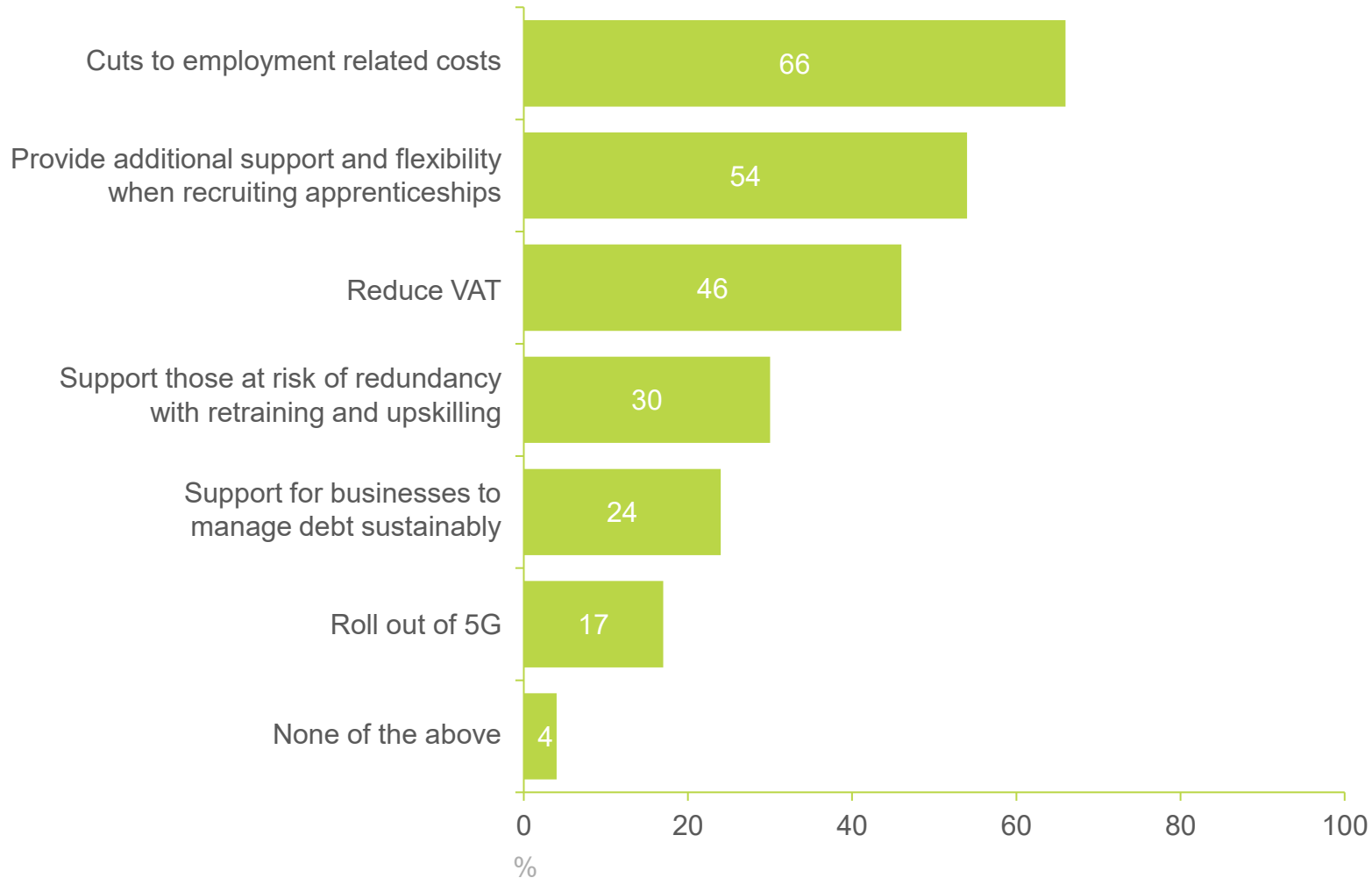
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Multi response question so percentage is greater than 100%

D2 Which of the following measures do you think Government should do to support NI manufacturers at this current time?

Base 190: All respondents

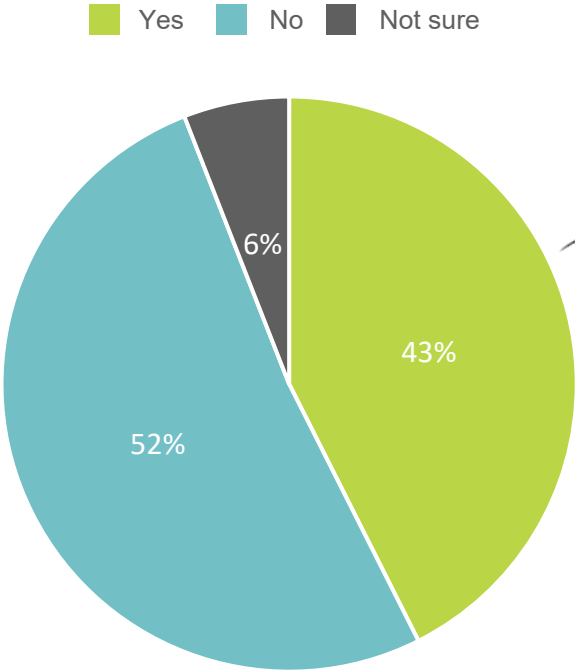


¹ Multiple choice question

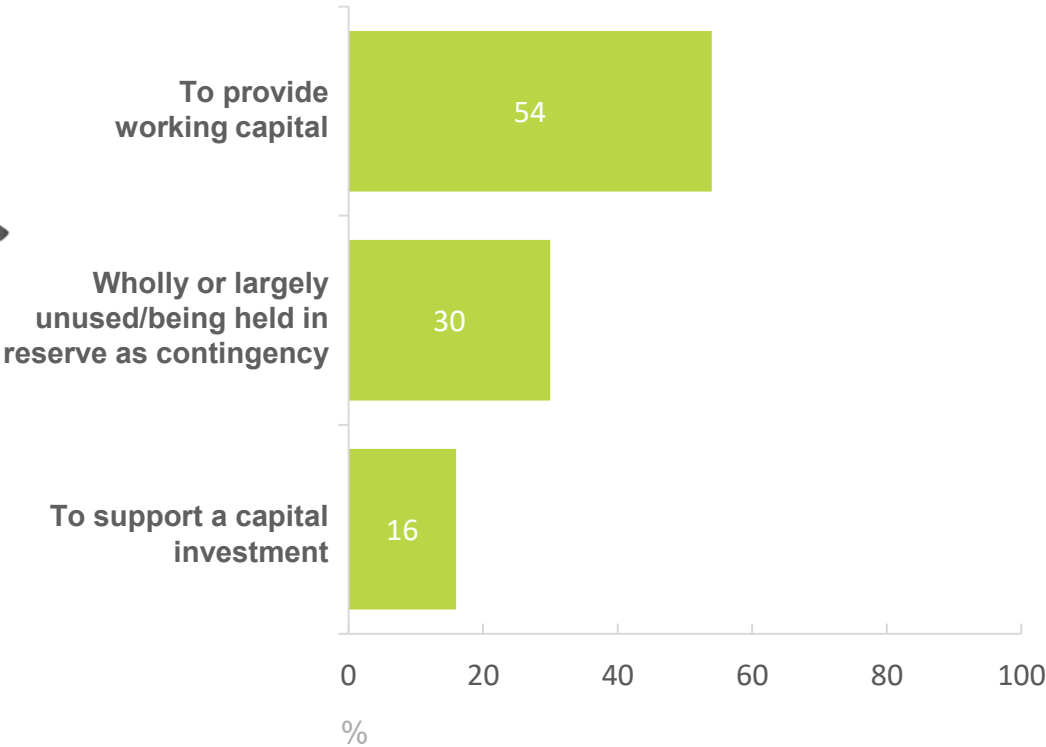
Covid loan schemes

Base: 190. All respondents

D3 Has your business availed of any of the specific Covid loan schemes introduced by the UK government in the last year?
Base 190: All respondents



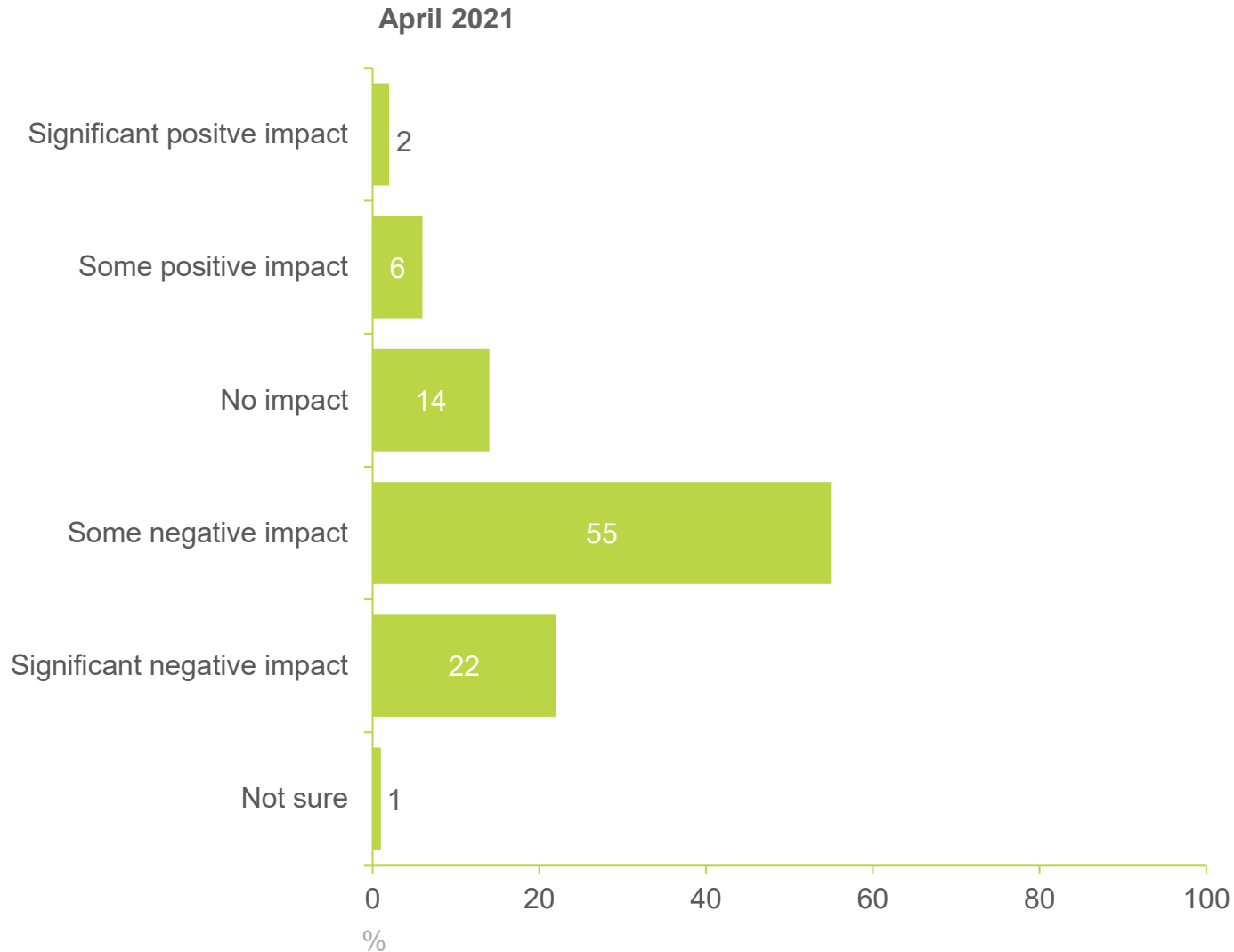
D4 What are the funds being used for?
Base 81: Those that availed of Covid loan schemes



Impact of leaving the EU

E1 What impact, if any, has the first three months, since the end of the transition period, had on your business?

Base 190: All respondents

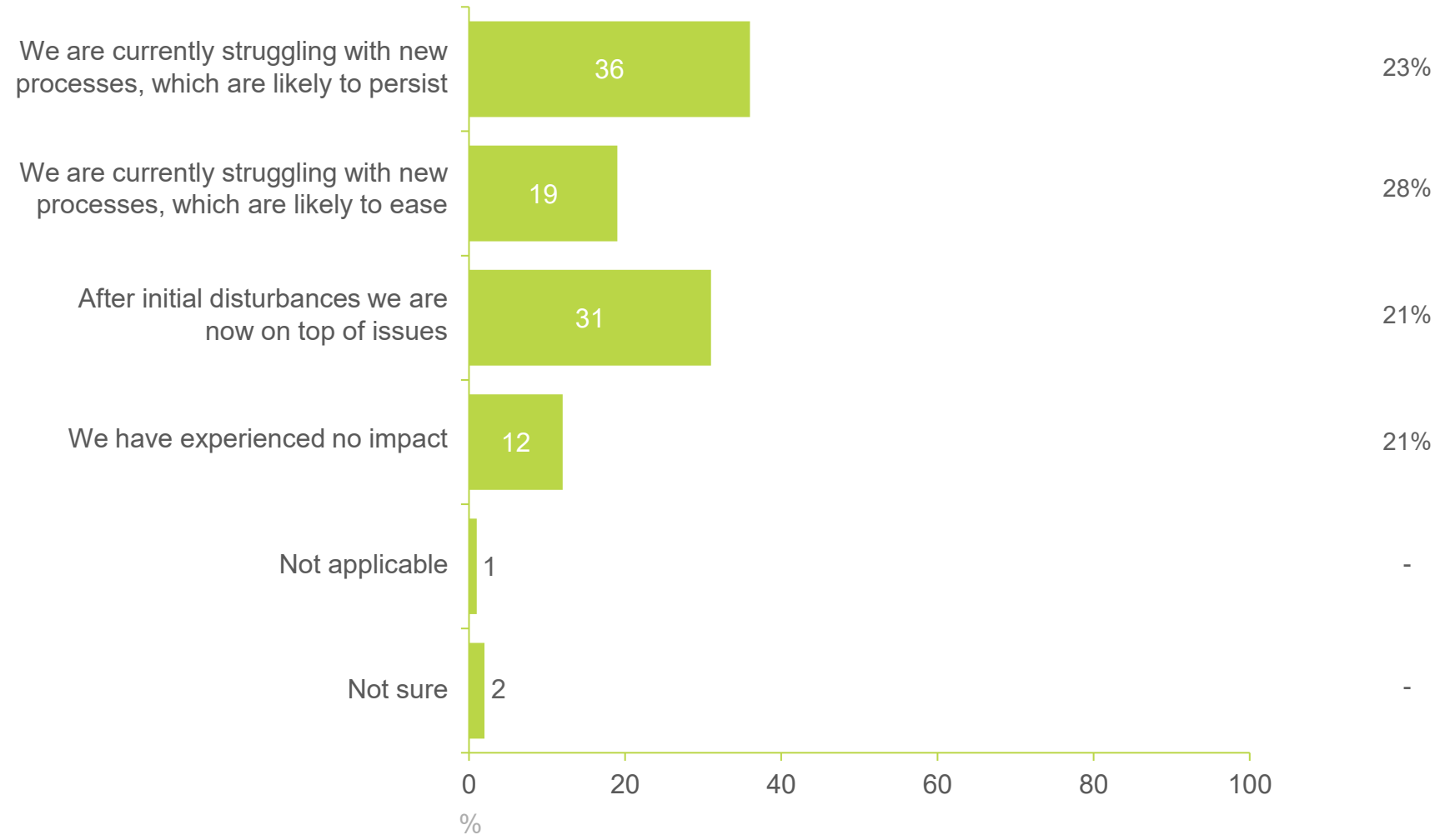


E2 How, if at all, have the new processes as a result of the Irish Sea Border impacted your business in the past 3 months?

Base 190: All respondents

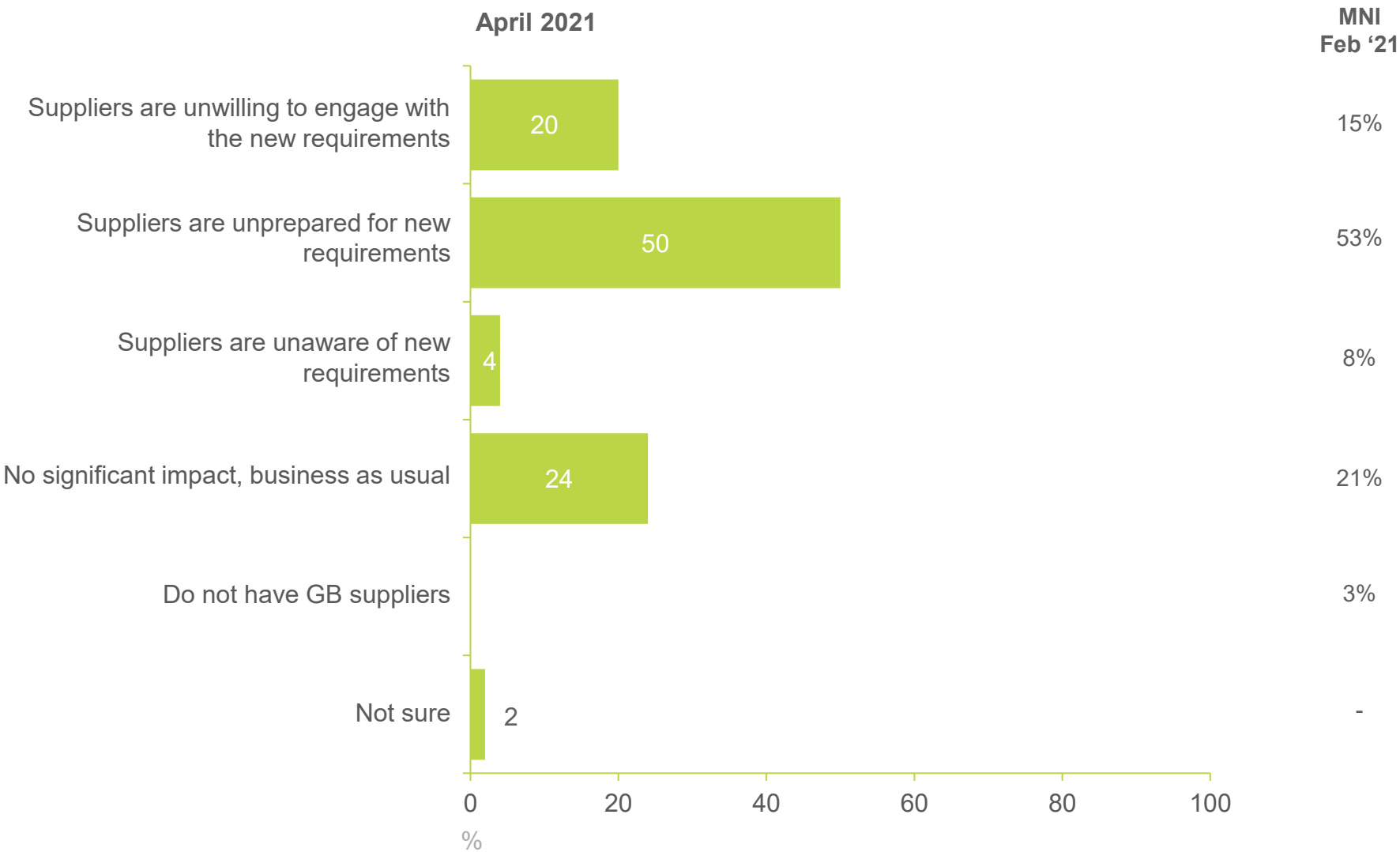
April 2021

MNI
Feb '21



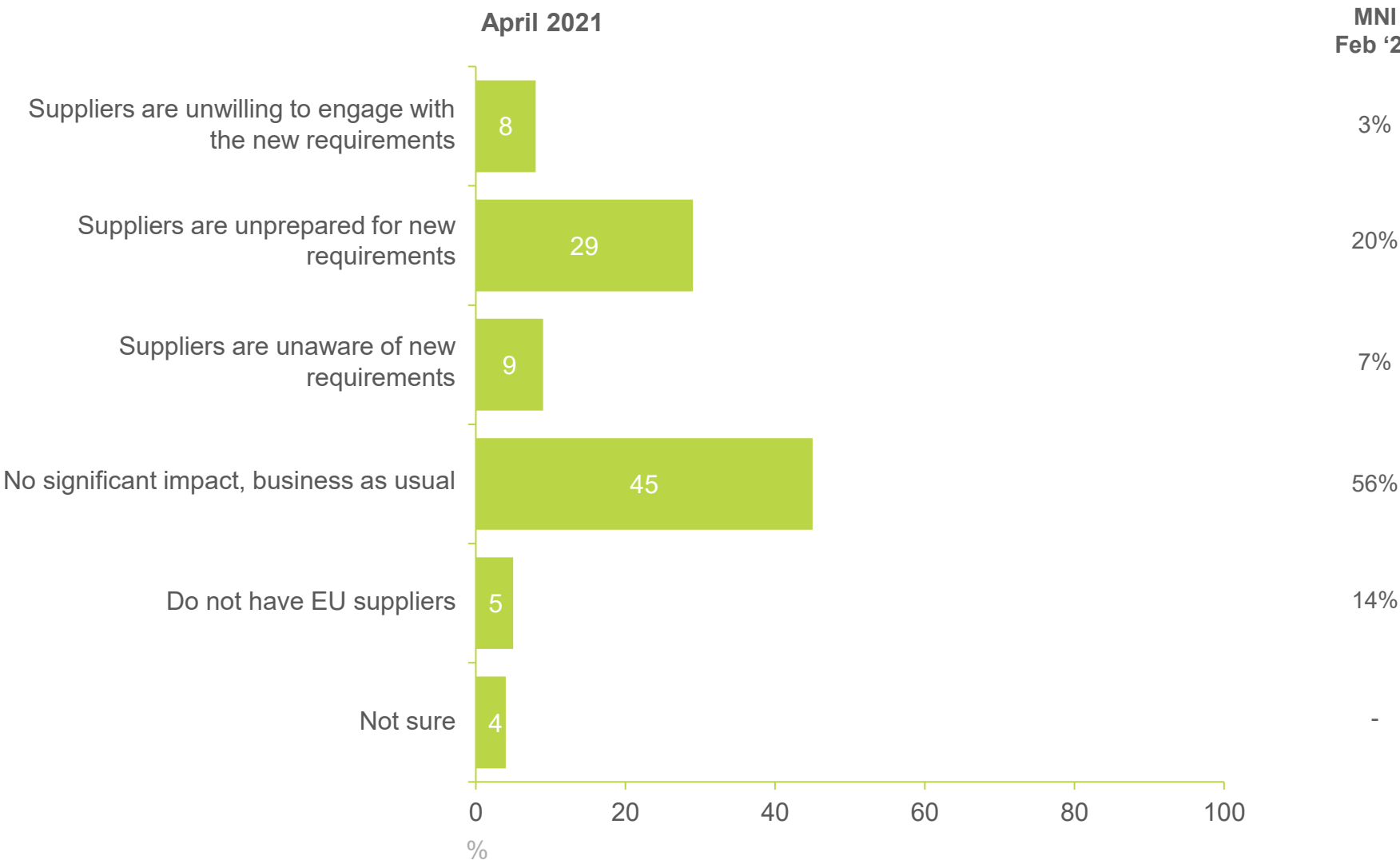
E3 Which of the following best describes how your GB suppliers have reacted to the new requirements of the Irish Sea Border (or NI Protocol)?

Base 190: All respondents



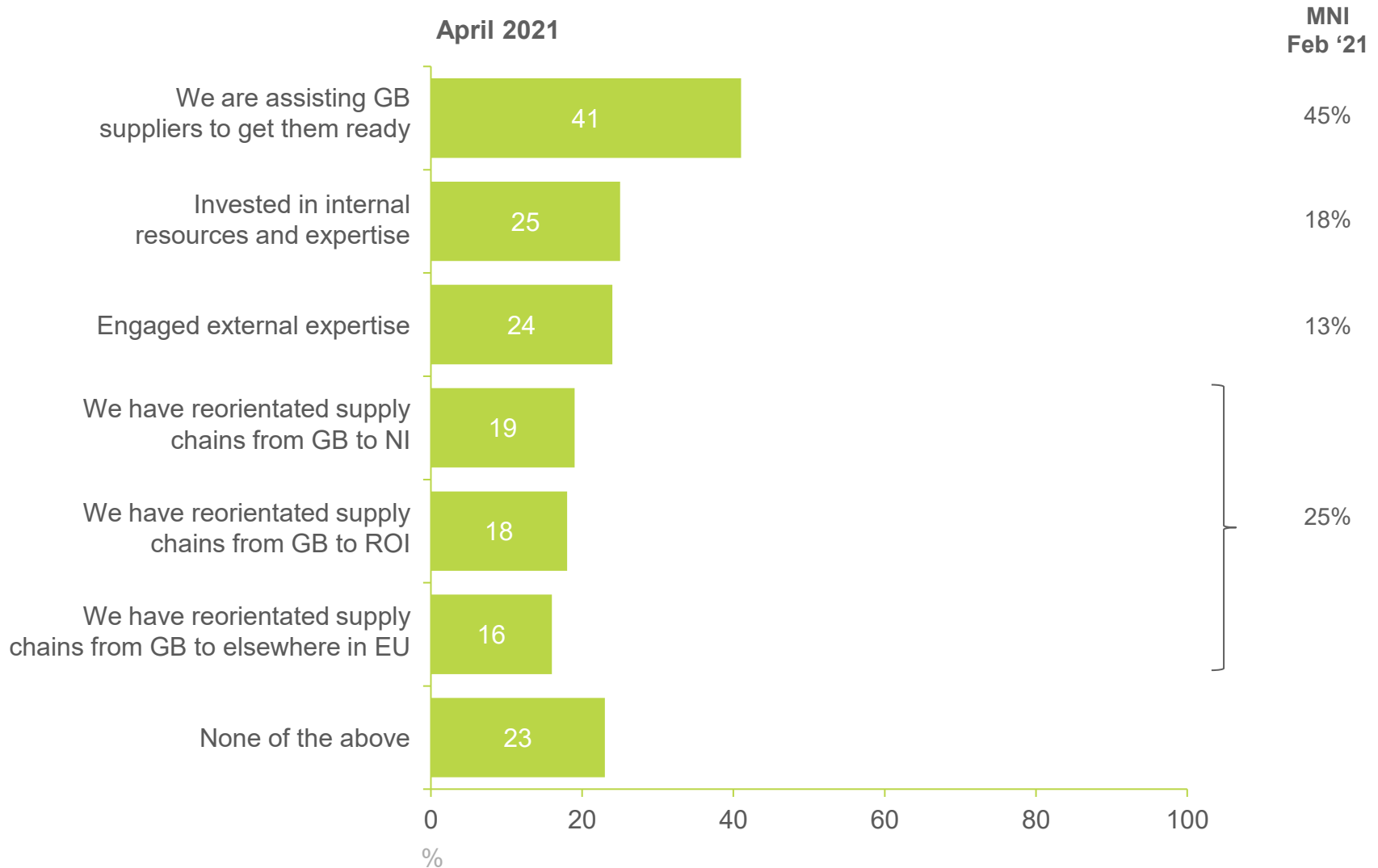
E4 Which of the following best describes how your EU suppliers have reacted to the new requirements of the Irish Sea Border (or NI Protocol)?

Base 190: All respondents



E5 Which, if any, of the following actions have you taken to protect your supply chains?

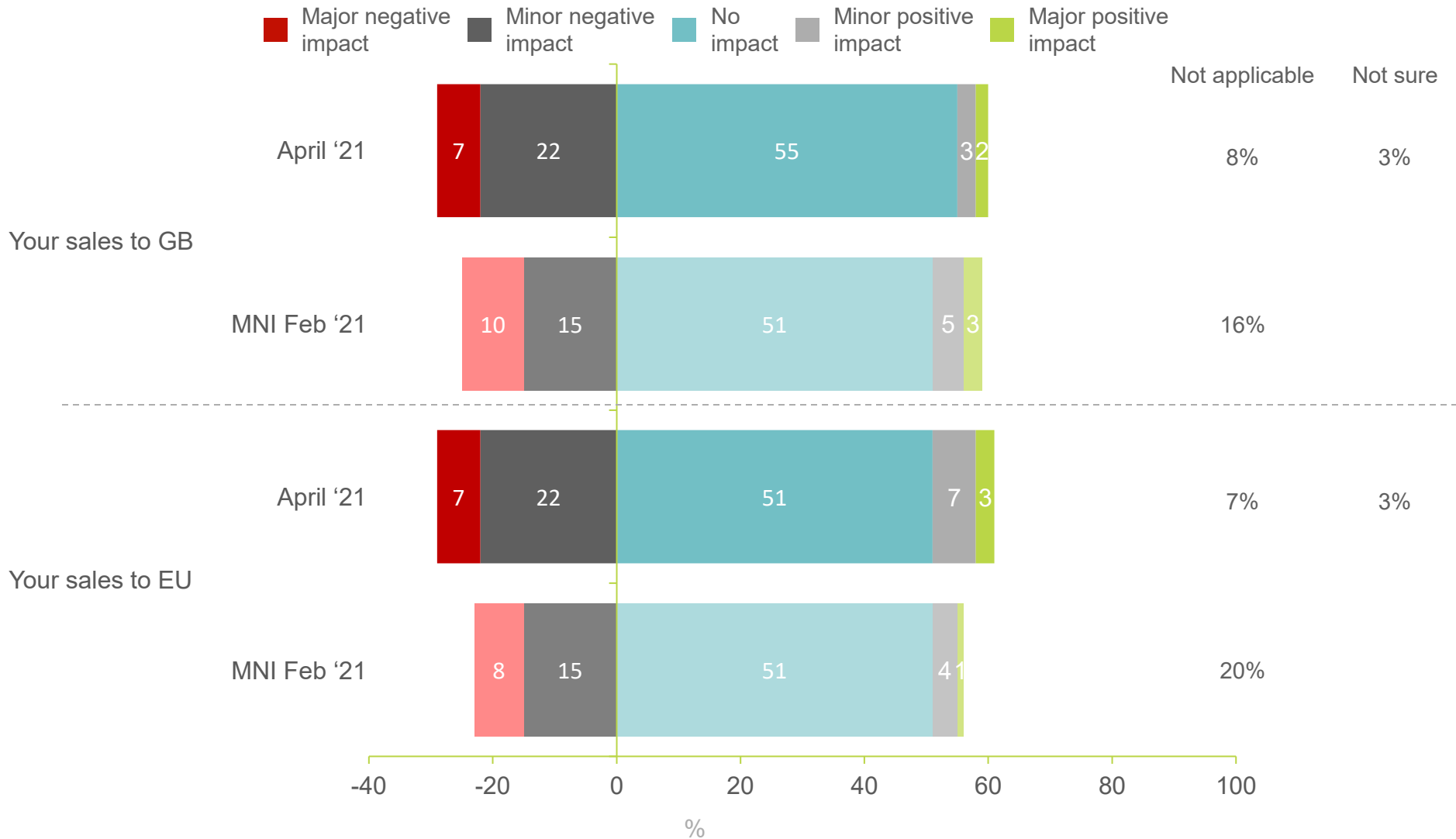
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Multiple choice question

E6 What impact, if any, has the NI Protocol had on the following?

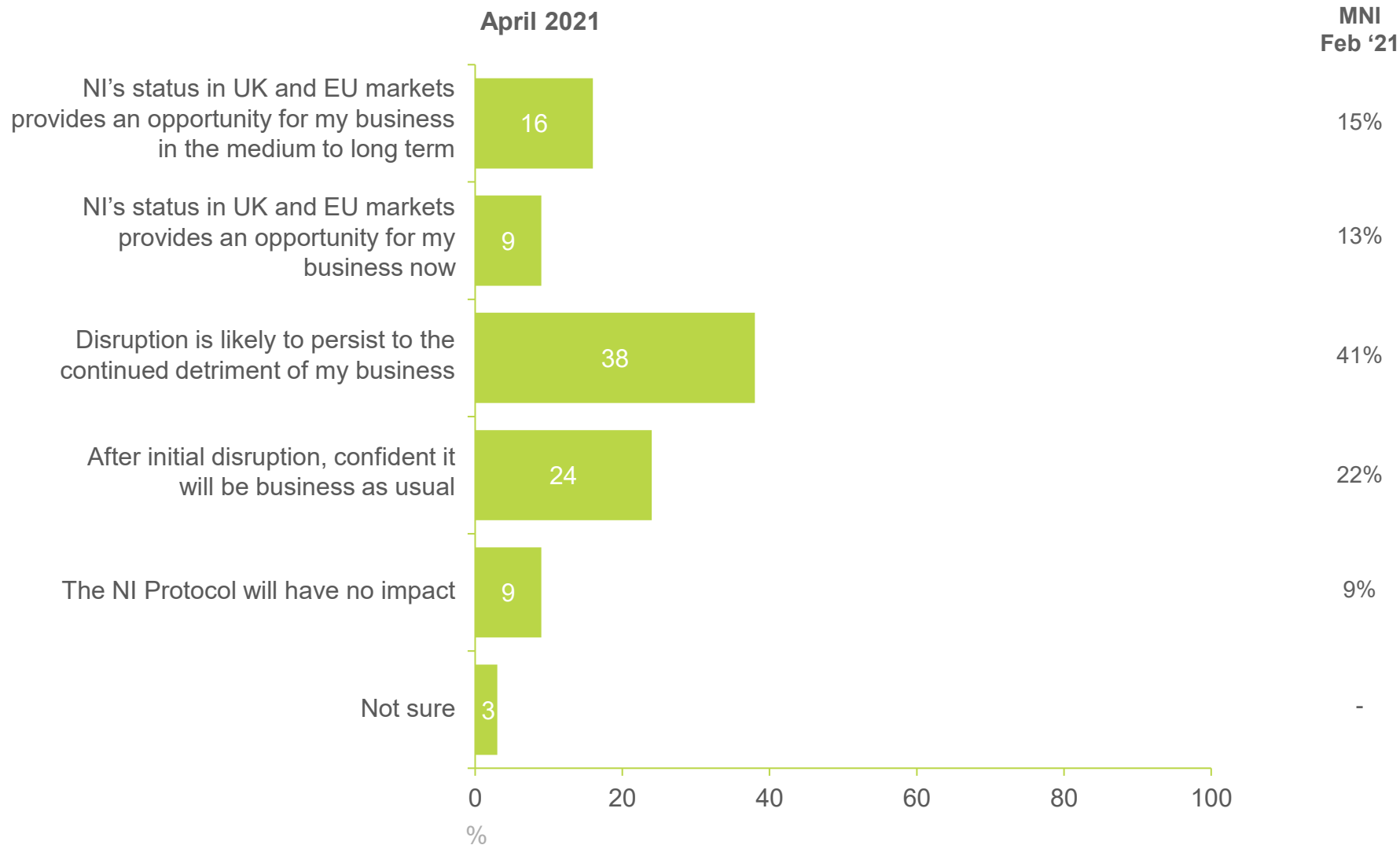
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Due to rounding percentages add to >100%

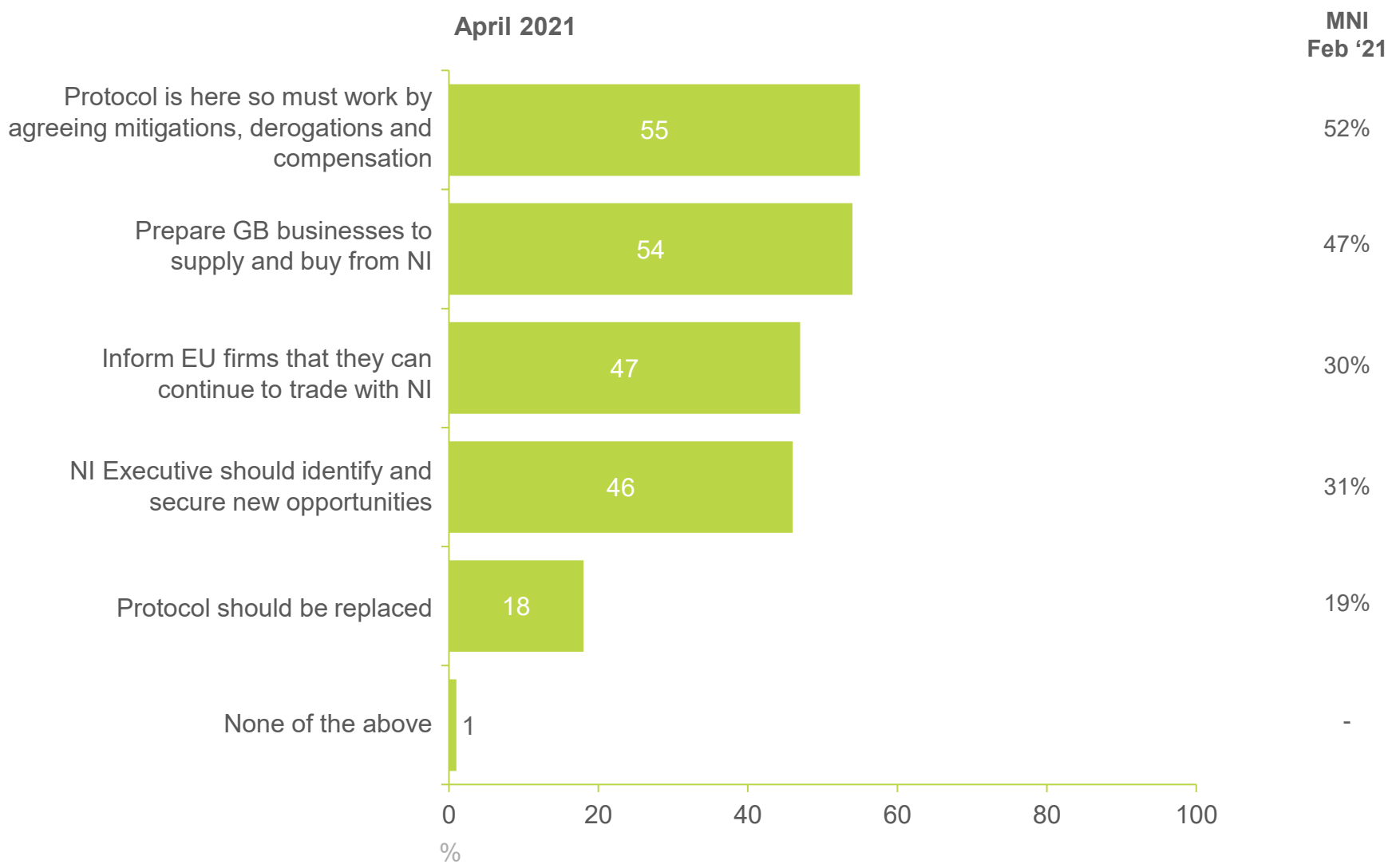
E7 Looking ahead, which of the following best describes your view of how the NI Protocol will impact your business?

Base 190: All respondents



E8 Which, if any, of the following actions do you believe the Government at home, in the UK and EU need to do?

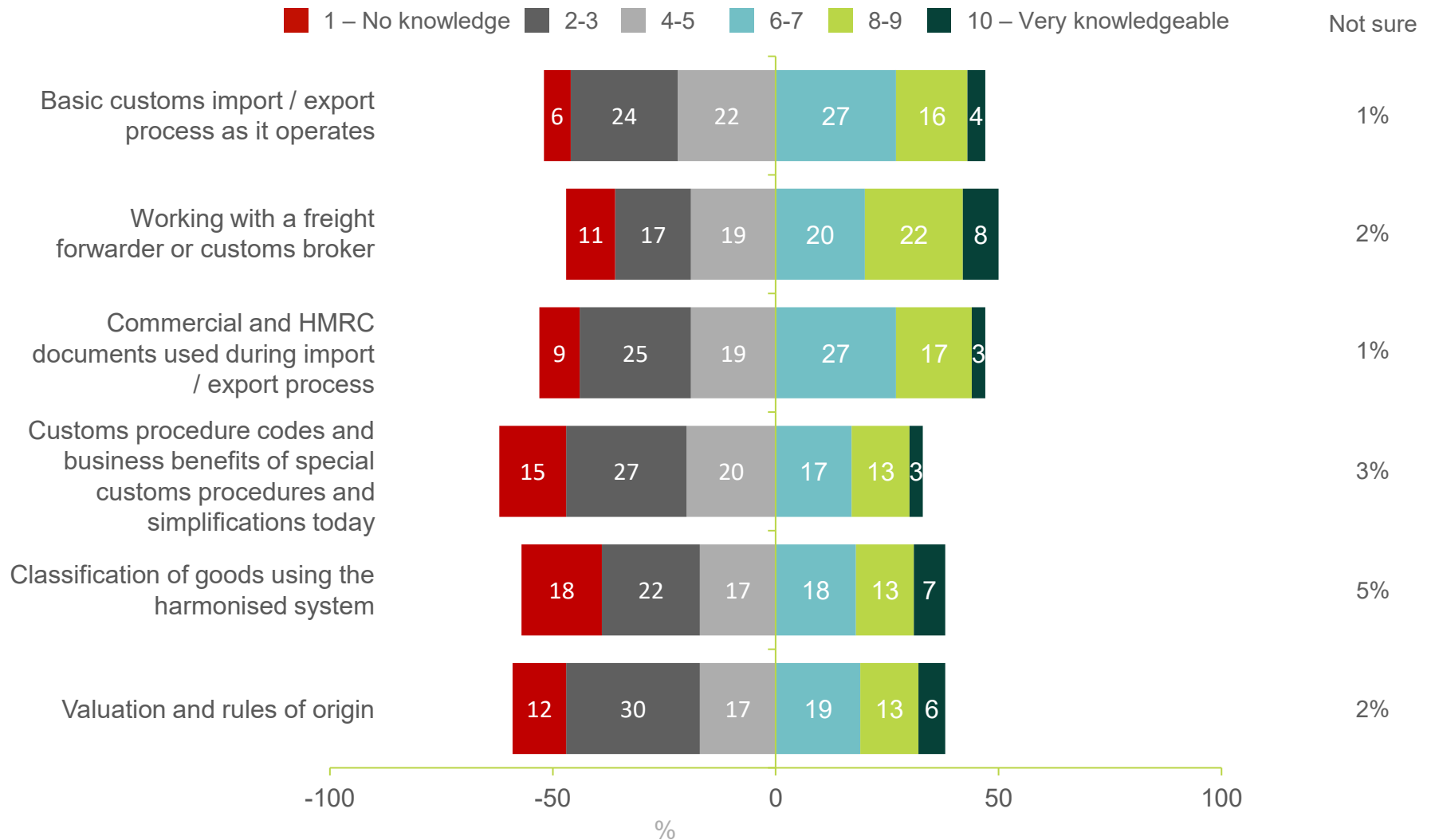
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Multiple choice question

E9 How would you rate your knowledge of...?

Base 190: All respondents

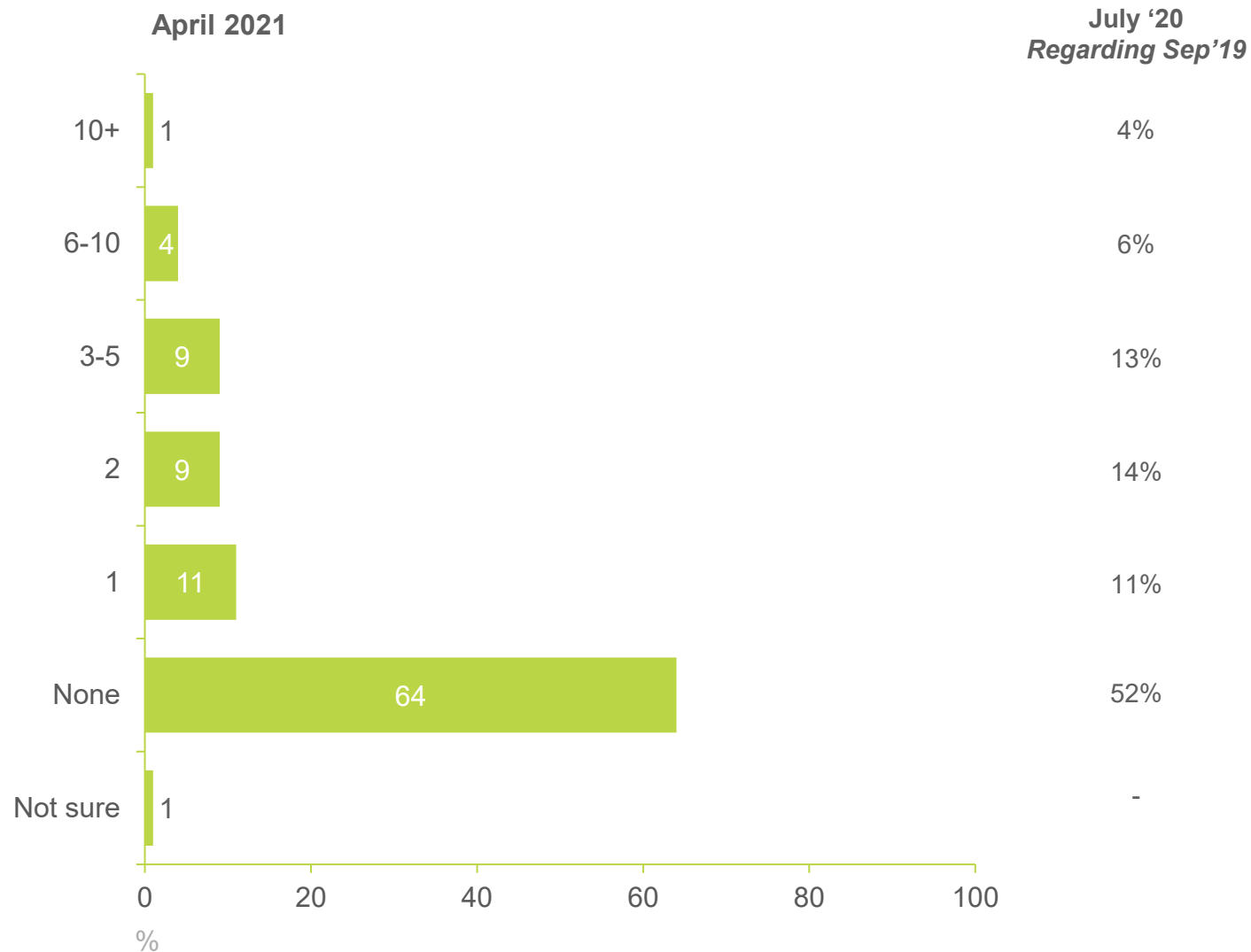


¹ Due to rounding percentages add to >100%

Skills & People

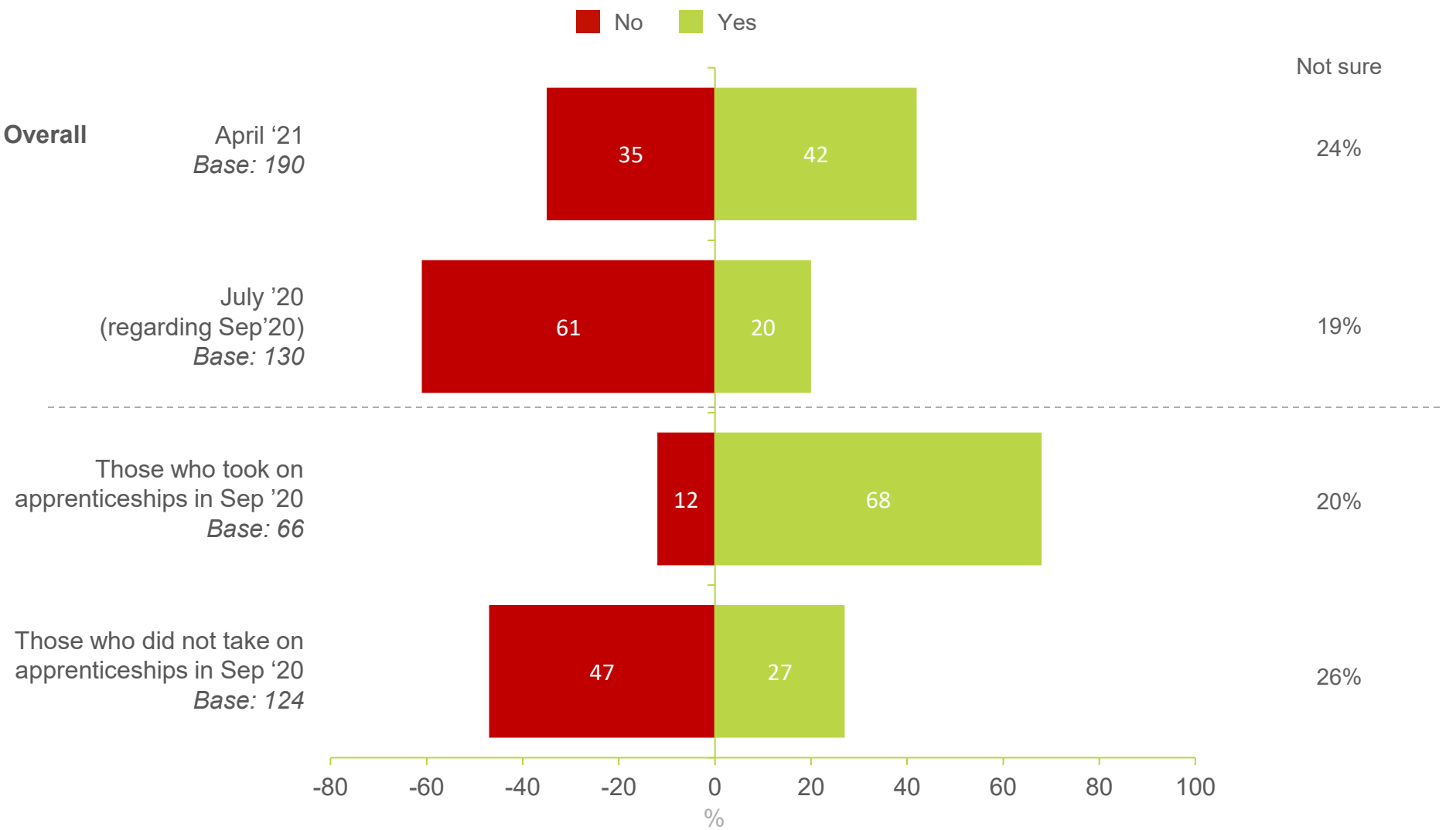
F1 How many apprenticeships did you take on in September 2020?

Base 190: All respondents



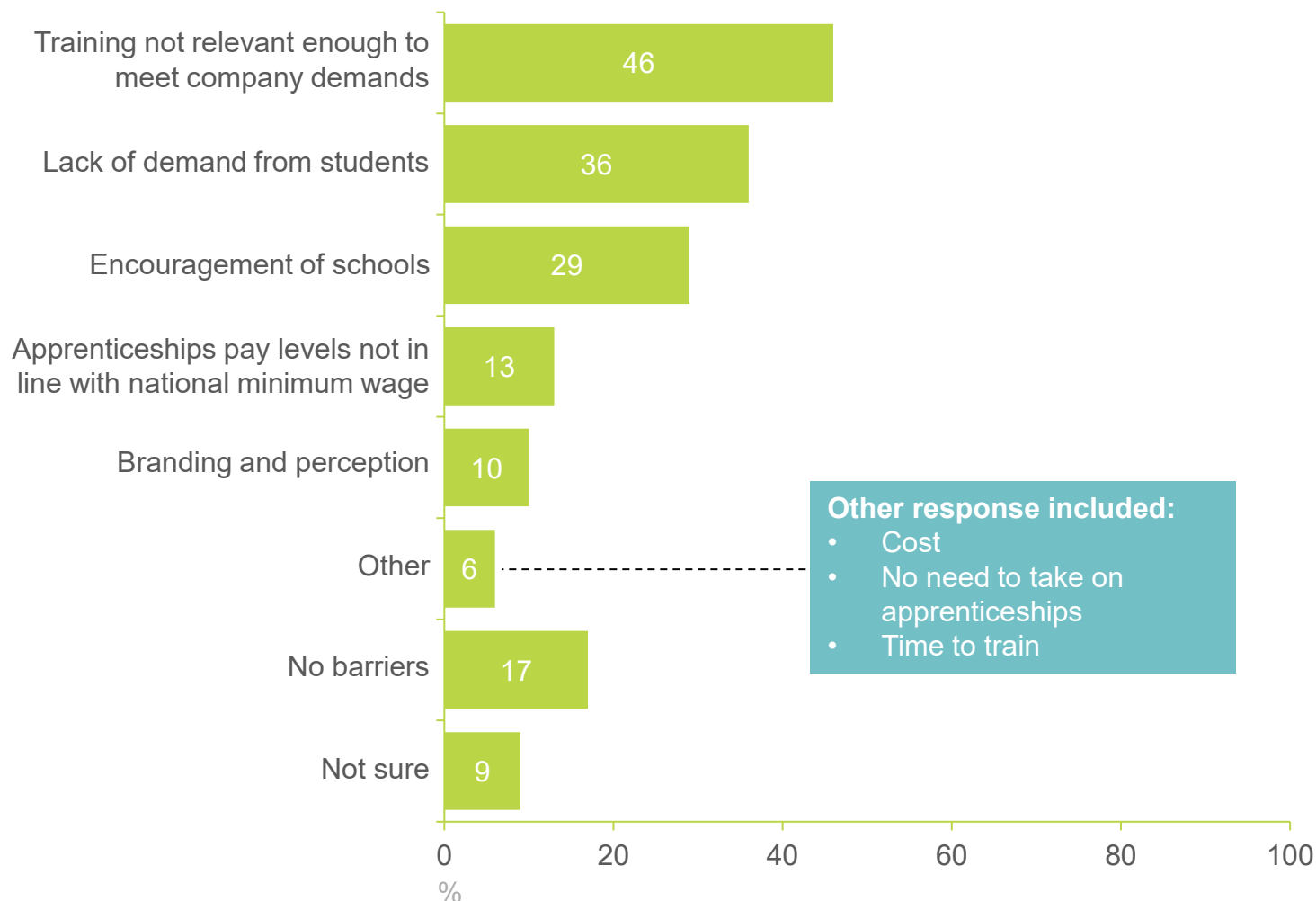
F2 The furlough scheme starts to taper out in July and ends in October. Can you commit to taking on new apprenticeships in September 2021?

Base 190: All respondents



F3 What barriers, if any, do you feel there are to taking on new apprenticeships?

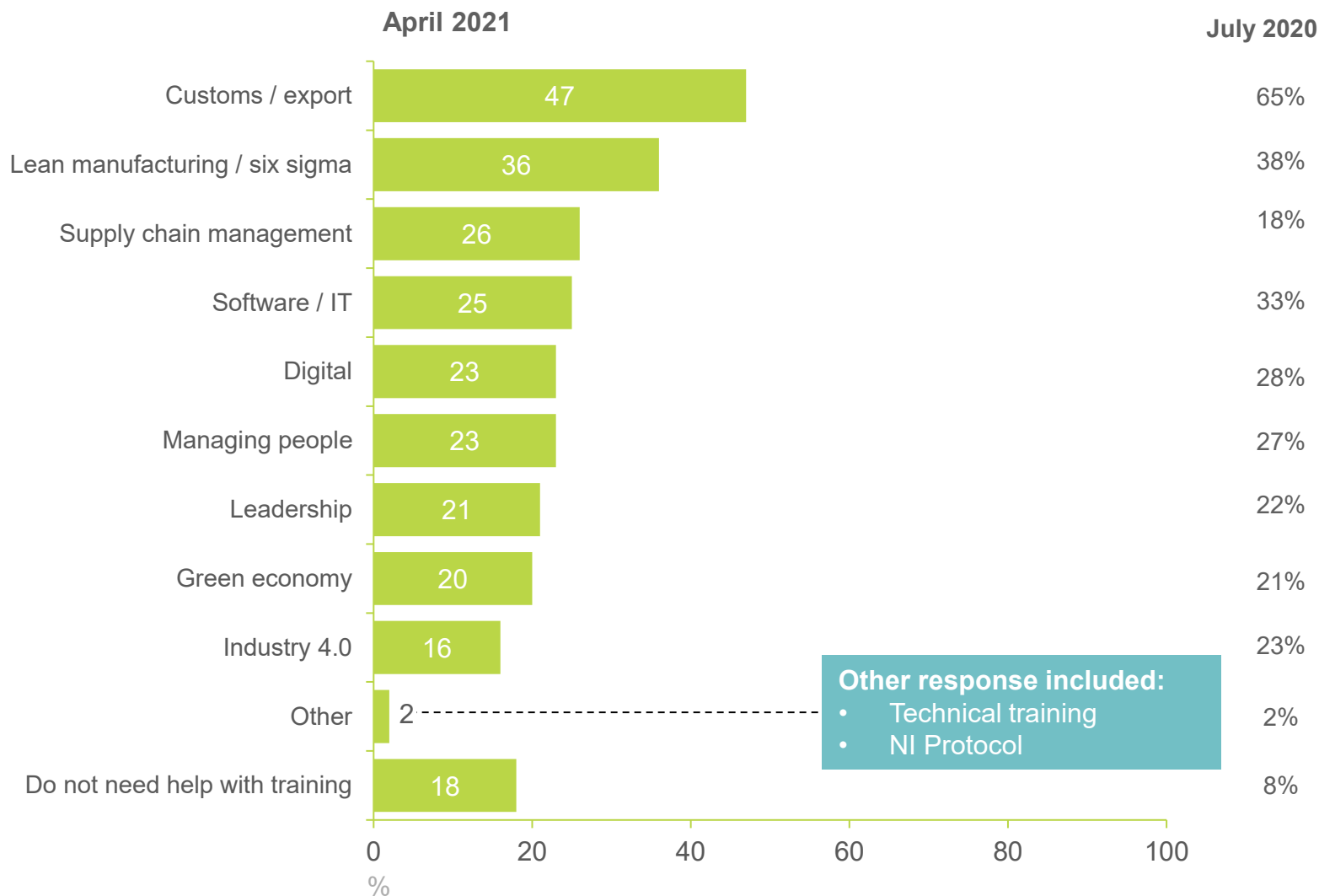
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Multi response question so percentage is greater than 100%

F4 Which of the following areas of training, if any, do you need help with?

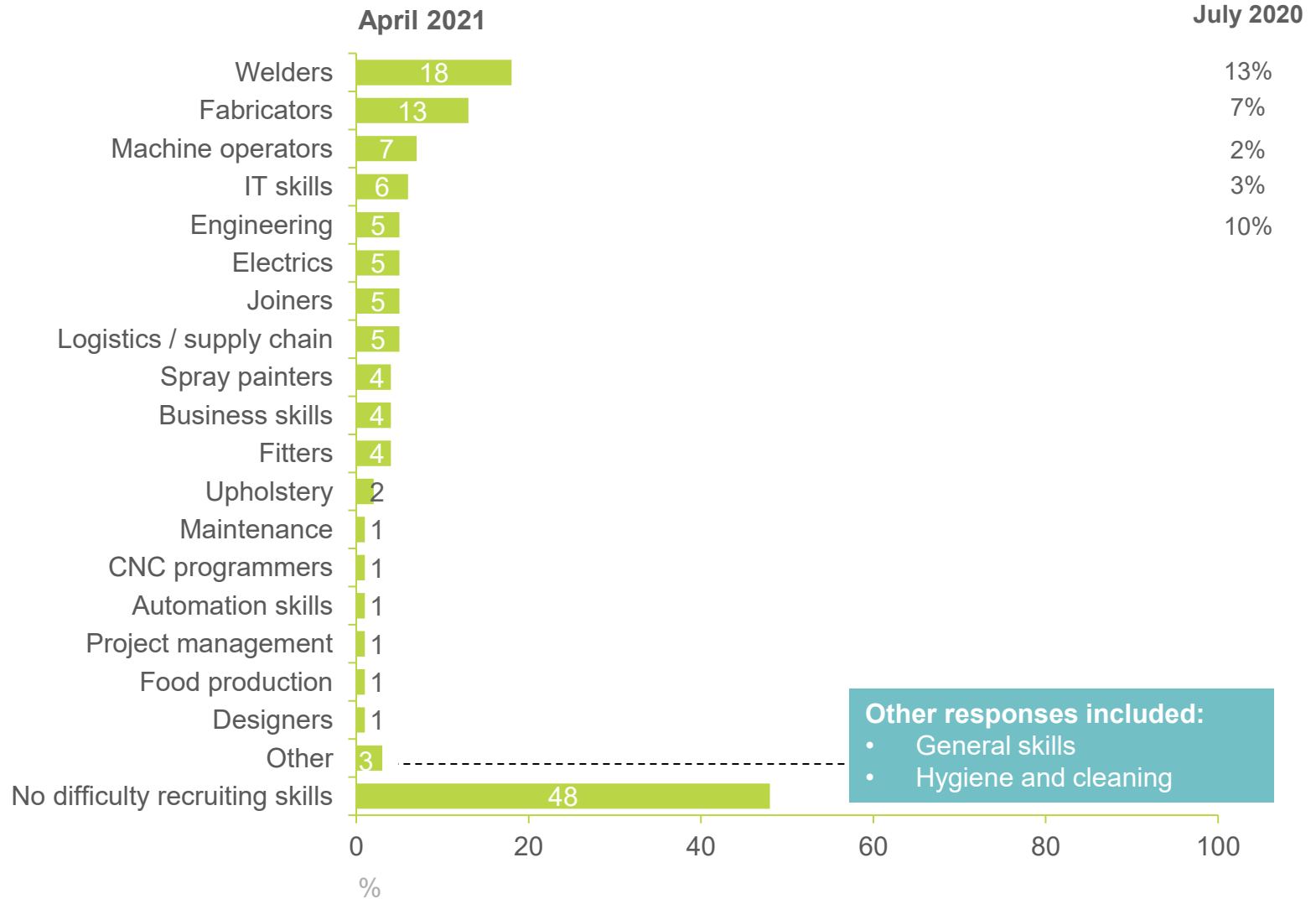
Base 190: All respondents



¹ Multiple choice question

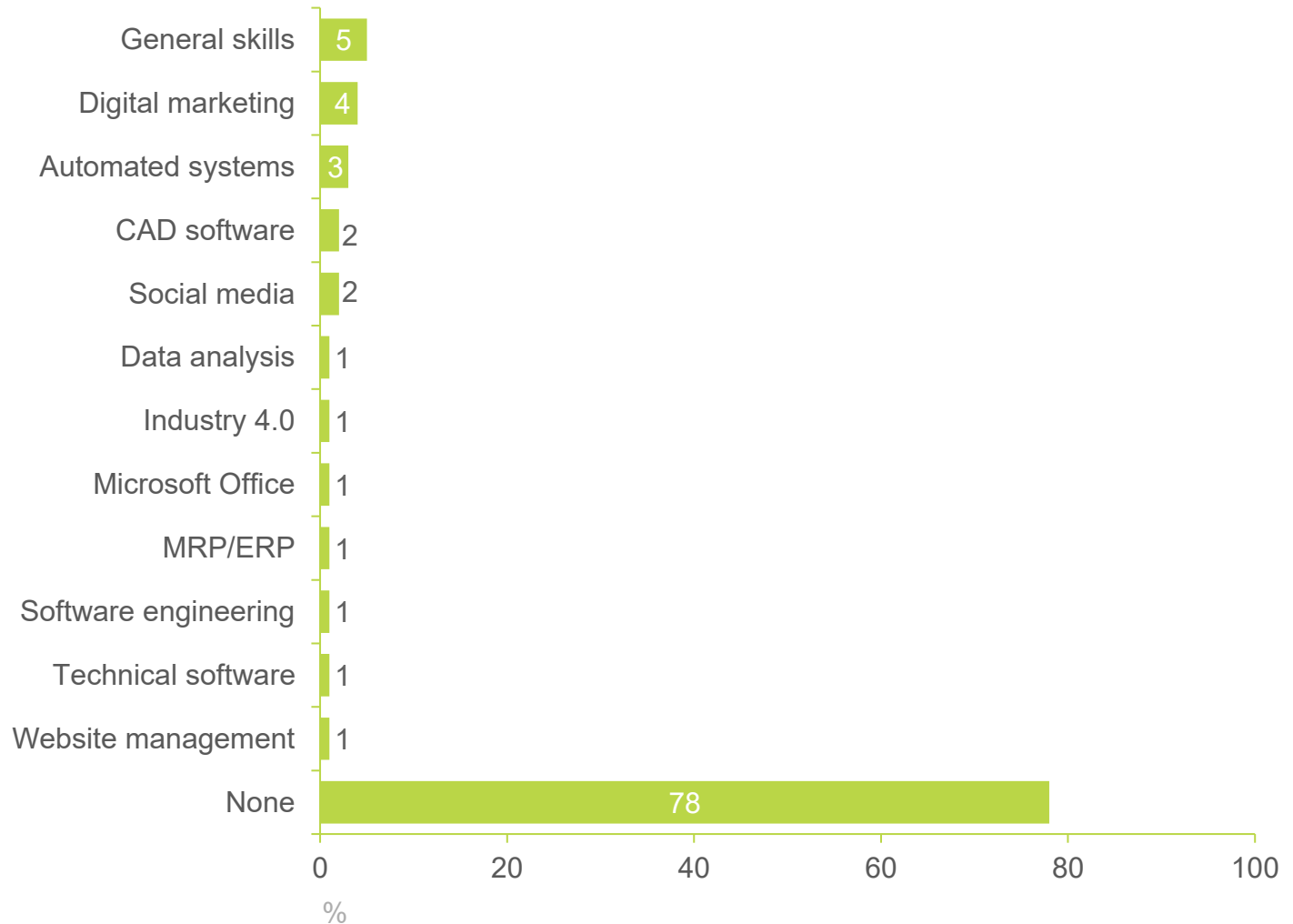
F5 Are there any particular occupations/skills which you find difficult to recruit for from the local labour market?

Base 190: All respondents



F6 What, if any, are your priority training requirements in the area of digital skills?

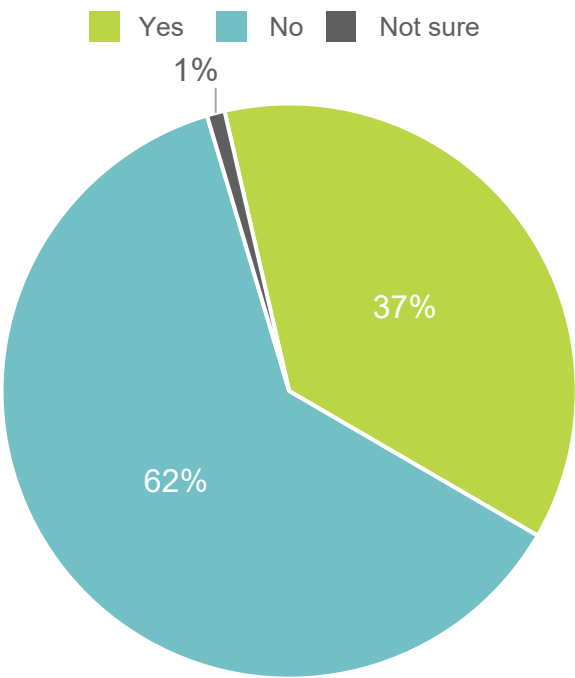
Base 190: All respondents



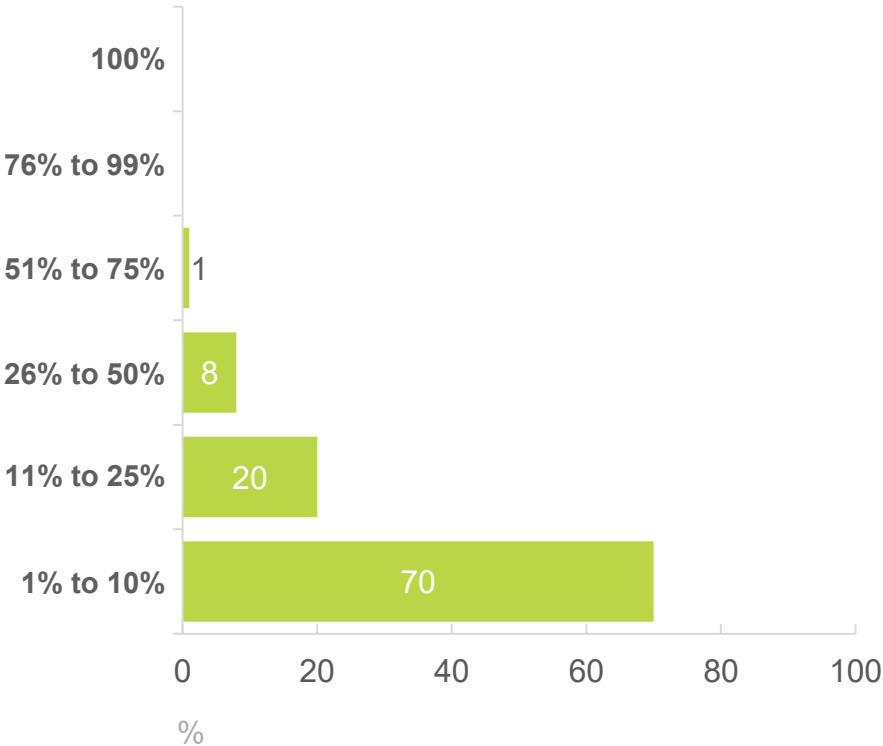
Redundancies due to Covid

Base: 190. All respondents

F7 Has your company already made redundancies due to Covid-19?
Base 190: All respondents



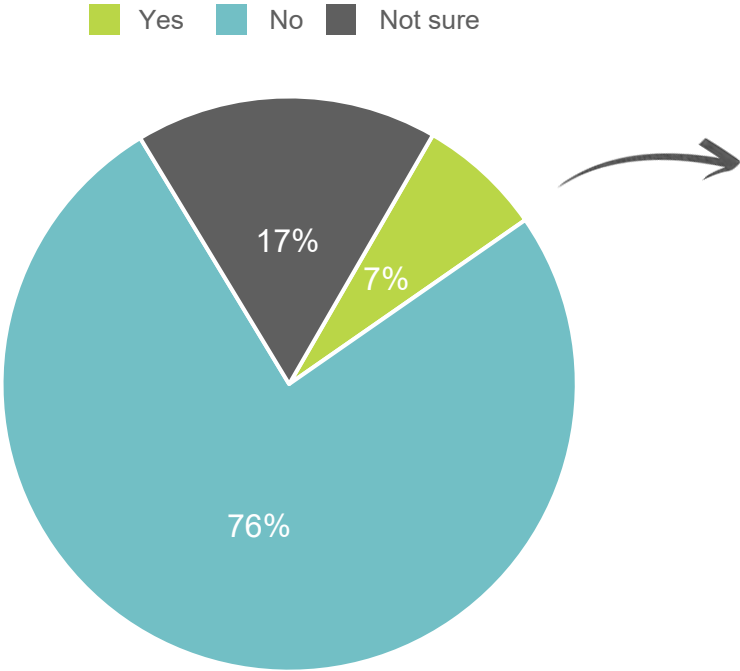
F8 What proportion of your staff has been made redundant due to Covid-19?
Base 71: Those that made redundancies



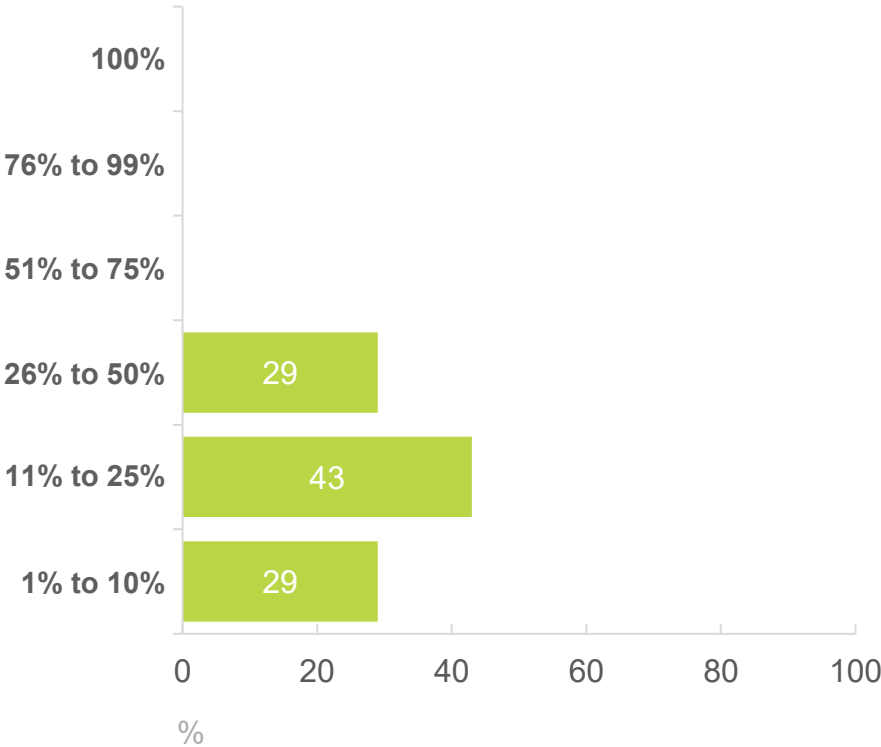
Planned redundancies due to Covid

Base: 190. All respondents

F9 Does your company plan to make redundancies in the next six months?
Base 190: All respondents



F8 What proportion of your staff do you plan to make redundant in the next six months?
Base 14: Those that plan to made redundancies



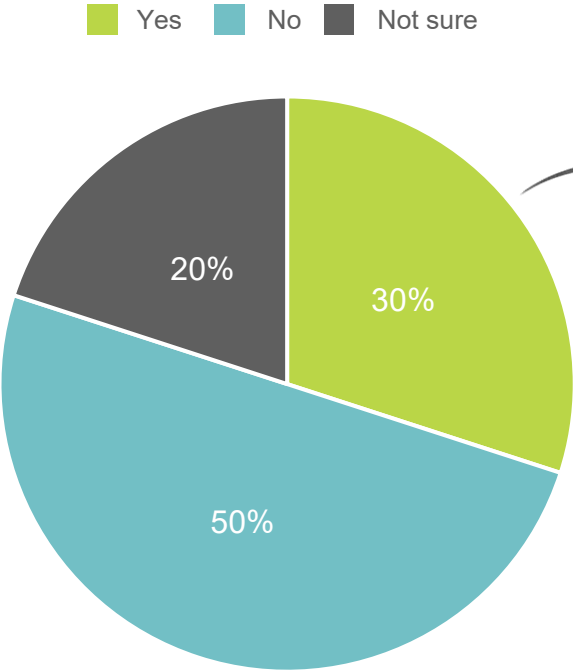
Overall, 41% have or plan to make redundancies

Innovation

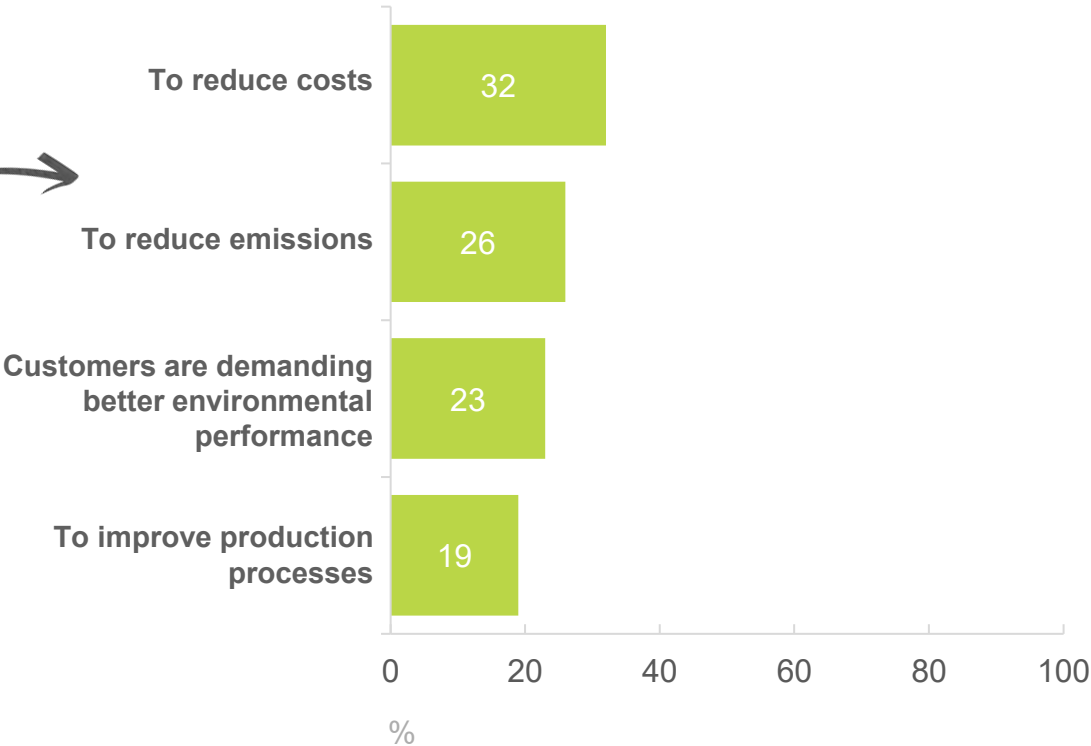
Green technology investment

Base: 190. All respondents

G1 Are you considering any investment in green technology in 2021?
Base 190: All respondents



G2 Which one of the following best describes your rationale for doing so?
Base 57: Those that are considering investment in green technology



Thank you for reading.

If you have any questions please get in touch with the team

Maureen Treacy
Managing Director
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m. 07808166965

Report on	The Queen's Green Canopy – Platinum Jubilee 2022
Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th June 2021
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
Contact Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts

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 information relating to the Queen's Green Canopy Initiative which will be delivered across the UK in the lead up to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Platinum Jubilee official national commemoration weekend will be from 3 rd -6 th June 2022.
2.2	The Queen's Green Canopy Initiative was officially launched at the virtual Chelsea Flower Show in May 2021 and is designed to encourage the planting of trees by communities, charities, schools, youth groups and landowners, across the UK to create a lasting legacy to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
2.3	The Queen's Green Canopy project is a unique tree planting campaign across the United Kingdom created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
2.4	All across the UK, people are being encouraged to "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" and invited to plant a network of individual trees, tree avenues, copses, and woodlands in honour of Her Majesty's 70 years of service.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	To build interest and maintain momentum in the lead up to the Platinum jubilee in June 2022, the Queens Canopy Project team has initiated a process of community engagement following the official launch of the initiative in May 2021, which will run through to October 2021.
3.2	Schools and community groups will be able to apply online for 3 million free saplings between May 2021 and the end of 2022. The saplings will be posted to those who apply on a first come first served basis.

3.3	In addition, support for providing an established tree will be given by the Queen's Green Canopy Project to a limited number of UK Schools.
3.4	Fundraising will enable UK wide planting of single trees or Platinum Jubilee Avenues of trees to mark the occasion.
3.5	Private landowners will be encouraged to plant copses and new woods, or extend existing woodland in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These will not be subject to any access requirements.
3.6	There will be a limited number of key Platinum Jubilee Corporate partners who will assist with support throughout the Queen's Green Canopy programme, particularly with those urban areas who experience the most disadvantage.
3.7	Each project will be asked to complete a simple form outlining the scheme so that they may be tracked beyond 2022.
3.8	All information and details of how communities can get involved is available on the Queen's Green Canopy website. https://queensgreencanopy.org/
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/a
	Human: N/a
	Risk Management: N/a
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the details of the Queen's Green Canopy Project for information

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/a

