



10 October 2019

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Magherafelt at Mid Ulster District Council, Ballyronan Road, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6EN on Thursday, 10 October 2019 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive

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## 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
4. Deputation - Parenting NI

### Matters for Decision

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 5.  | Community Development Report                                      | 3 - 12    |
| 6.  | Economic Development Report                                       | 13 - 48   |
| 7.  | Town Centre Information Digital Points                            | 49 - 52   |
| 8.  | Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan                           | 53 - 286  |
| 9.  | Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan                       | 287 - 438 |
| 10. | Solar Walk, Davagh, Landowner Lease Agreements                    | 439 - 442 |
| 11. | Sandford Awards Ceremony 2019                                     | 443 - 446 |
| 12. | Enhanced Accessibility and Proposed Tree Works at Tullaghoge Fort | 447 - 450 |

### Matters for Information

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| 13 | Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 September 2019 | 451 - 470 |
| 14 | Dungannon Halloween Event 2019                             | 471 - 472 |
| 15 | Heritage Outputs 2019                                      | 473 - 482 |

16	Dungannon Park Parkrun	483 - 484
17	Leisure Services Update	485 - 502

**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. Pilot Arts, Health and Wellbeing Project
19. Tender report for the appointment of Café concessions for Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavillion
20. Wi-Fi Tender Report
21. Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

Matters for Information

22. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 September 2019



<b>Report on</b>	Community Development Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Philip Clarke Community Support, Oliver Morgan Good Relations & Peace, Michael McCrory PCSP

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 agree the rolling grant awards - Good Relations and Local Community Festivals
1.2	To agree the Peace IV Recommendations.
1.3	Community Planning - To agree to provide Mid Ulster MLA's with information to assist in addressing the issues relating to social and affordable housing in Mid Ulster. To update on Community Planning poverty strategic actions.
1.4	To note the update on Community Development.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants – Council annually delivers two rolling community grants programmes; Good Relations and Local Community Festivals.
2.2	Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017 – 2020 and Partnership oversees the delivery of the Plan and recommendations to Council.
2.3	Community Planning - As part of the community planning process a Housing Working Group was established to seek to address the provision of social and affordable housing in Mid Ulster. As part of this working group a number of issues have been identified with regard to future provision. As part of the Mid Ulster Community Plan eight strategic actions have been identified to address poverty and deprivation. This was also an issue raised previously by Committee to consider a focused strategy for Mid Ulster.
2.4	Community Development Update - An update is provided on the following areas: Community Support – Grants, Support, Village Planning, Community Centres, DFC Neighbourhood Renewal Peace IV and Good Relations PCSP

3.0	Main Report																		
3.1	<p>Rolling Community Grants Good Relations 2 applications recommended for awards totalling £1,605 - one application did not meet the minimum score threshold; and Community Local Festivals 5 applications recommended for awards totalling £3,390 – two applications did not meet the minimum score threshold. <b>Please refer to Appendix 1.</b> The budget for the Community Local Festivals has been expended and it is proposed to close the grant.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>CLF</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>April</td><td>£31,410</td></tr> <tr> <td>June</td><td>£21,500</td></tr> <tr> <td>July</td><td>£11,935</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sept</td><td>£6,830</td></tr> <tr> <td>Oct</td><td>£3,390</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rolling Total</td><td>£75,065</td></tr> <tr> <td>Budget</td><td>£73,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Budget Balance – savings in claims</td><td>_(£2065)</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		CLF	April	£31,410	June	£21,500	July	£11,935	Sept	£6,830	Oct	£3,390	Rolling Total	£75,065	Budget	£73,000	Budget Balance – savings in claims	_(£2065)
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3.2	<p>Peace IV -There are six local shared space projects being developed as part of the Peace IV Local Action Plan Delivery. Concept ideas were developed as part of the village plan consultation process. Architects Rolston Design have taken these concepts and developed them to design stage. The designs have been presented to local groups within the identified areas to verify the final concepts. A total of 6 proposed designs were presented to the Peace Partnership which have been agreed; it is proposed that the designs would be considered and agreed to move to the next stage of delivery. <b>Please refer to Appendix 2.</b></p> <p>It was agreed at the Peace IV partnership that a proposal be submitted to SEUPB to seek to transfer the surplus funding within the theme shared space grants (£215,000) to shared space capital shared space.</p>																		
3.3	<p>Community Planning A number of consultation responses and issues have been agreed through Council to seek to address social and affordable housing including: response to Chronic Homelessness and definition of Social and Affordable Housing, and the need for investment in the sewerage infrastructure. To support with the delivery of this it is proposed to provide Mid Ulster MLA's with information to assist in addressing the issues relating to social and affordable housing in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Previously Committee requested a plan/strategy to seek to address poverty and deprivation in Mid Ulster, through a community planning integrated approach. Poverty and deprivation are a number of strategic actions within the Mid Ulster Community Plan. A day has taken place with agencies to commence discussion on this. A workshop is proposed with members to discuss poverty and deprivation need, current practice, good practice, gaps in provision and proposed integrated solutions.</p>																		

3.4	<p>Community Development Update</p> <p><u>Community Support</u> Community support to groups across the District is ongoing. Meetings are being held with members in DEAs to provide an update on village plans.</p> <p>A grant review is being completed at present to be presented to members.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal: DFC projects for 2018 – 2019 are continuing to deliver. The DUY capital build will complete by the end of October 2019.</p> <p>The Gortgonis project remains at planning stage.</p> <p><u>Peace and Good Relations</u> Good Relations Action Plan 2018 – 2019 - Project development and delivery ongoing.</p> <p>Peace IV delivery is ongoing – All projects are delivering to target and timescale.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> PCSP plan 2019 – 2020 is ongoing.</p> <p>CCTV for the town centres and for the park and ride provision is progressing.</p>
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Community Grants awards - £1,605 (Good Relations) and £3,390 (Community Local Festival).</p> <p>Peace IV – Shared Space design concepts £600,000; with £80,000 - £100,000 OB as required and agreed with SEUPB</p> <p><b><u>Professional Support</u></b> None.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b> None</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b> None</p>
5.0	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To agree the rolling grant awards - Good Relations and Local Community Festivals, and Decade of Anniversaries grant awards.
5.2	To agree the shared space concept designs for the 6 villages.

	To agree the request to SEUPB to transfer surplus Shared Space Grant funding to Shared Space Capital Projects.
5.3	To agree to provide Mid Ulster MLA's with information to assist in addressing the issues relating to social and affordable housing in Mid Ulster. To note the update on Community Planning poverty strategic actions.
5.4	To note the update on Community Development.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 Good Relations, Local Community Festivals and Decade of Anniversaries grants.  Appendix 2 Peace IV Shared Space Design.

## Appendix 1

## Good Relations – October 2019

No.	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Award
1	Benburb Priory	Community	Community Engagement	2	£1150	£1035
2	Mid Ulster Women's Aid	Community	Christmas Event	5	£950	£570
					<b>Total</b>	<b>£1605</b>

### Ineligible or Unsuccessful

The MarketPlace	Together Pastoral Life Care	Did not meet minimum threshold
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## Community Local Festivals – October 2019

No.	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Award
1	Bellaghy Village Regeneration	Community	Bann Bonanza 2019	7	£4,350	£480
2	Brackaville Owen Roes GFC	Community	Sister Act arts Festival 2019	4	£1,200	£840
3	Brocagh After School Club Ltd.	Community	Halloween Spooktacular	5	£1,050	£630
4	Brocagh Emmetts GFC	Community	Brocagh Bay Run	5	£1,200	£720
5	Clonoe Rural Development Agency	Community	Halloween	5	£1,200	£720
					<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,390</b>

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%

### Ineligible or Unsuccessful

Burnvale Community Association	Halloween Festival	Did not meet minimum score threshold
Cookstown Youth Football Club	Recognising our Volunteers	Did not meet minimum score threshold





## **PEACE IV Partnership Meeting**

### **Shared Space Design**

#### **Design Element– Rolston Architects**

Rolston Architects developed concept designs for each of the 6 shared space areas. The PEACE IV team met with the architect and MUDC Technical Services team to discuss concepts based on previous consultation. The designs were then taken to community consultation in each of the six areas. Following the consultations a concept design for each area was agreed on for the shared space project.

#### **6.1 Aughnacloy**

This option comprises the installation of new bitmac paths and kerbs around pitch (retain playing fields for informal use), the installation of Paladin fencing, sand safety surfacing, an outdoor gazebo, a forest play tower, play equipment, sand pit, signage and pathway

The cost of this option is £99,337.00 plus VAT

#### **6.2 Castledawson**

This option comprises the installation of bitmac paths and kerbs, the installation of a MUGA pitch, complete with fencing. Consideration of ducting for lighting of MUGA at a future stage.

The cost of this option is £100,146.00 plus VAT

Additional element to be costed (if applicable by SEUPB or Design team)– Lighting of MUGA, external works to Pavilion.

#### **6.3 Donaghmore**

This option comprises lighting of the riverside path and the development of a sensory garden, general works to path link to village.

The cost of this option is £91,800 plus VAT (general works to village path link £8000 (to be confirmed with Design team and NIHE).



#### **6.4 Draperstown**

The preferred option agreed lighting around the Plantin pathway, and upgrade - cutting back of trees and hedges where necessary, the cleaning of existing paths, timber ranch style fencing, repairing existing fencing, planting, signage, litter bins, picnic benches. Upgrade to the Fairhill – the installation of new bitmac paths, grassing entire area, picnic area with a feature light, 2-3 trees (retain beech hedge)

The cost of this option is £100,310.00 plus VAT

Additional element to be costed (if applicable by SEUPB or Design team)– Lighting of the path to the bridge

#### **6.5 Moneymore**

This option comprises the cutting back of trees and hedges where necessary, the cleaning of existing paths, the installation of new bitmac paths and kerbs, signage, litter bins and lighting.

The cost of this option is £99,752.00 plus VAT

Additional element to be costed (if applicable by SEUPB or Design team) – Lighting along all of pathway including area beside the building

#### **6.6 Moy**

This option comprises the cutting back and removing of trees where necessary, the removal of the existing post and wire fencing, the installation of a Hexapath grass riverside path, the installation of a Paladin metal fence and lighting to the full length of pathway

The cost of this option is £99,100.00 plus VAT





## **PEACE IV Consultation Summary**

### **1. Moy**

Discussion; the lighting is important and it having a lesser quality path surface then this is option for moving forward. Going to engage the owner of the land to take an alternative route in the other direction along the other side of the Blackwater River as a long term potential development linking to Charlemont.

### **2. Castledawson**

Discussion; the MUGA is important to get young people to the site. The lighting of the MUGA would provide for additional evening usage in winter months even if the ducting could be provided for longer term planning. The upgrade to the facility would be welcomed in relation to car park area and overall access and the small pavilion but only if additional as the MUGA is the priority for area. Polymeric surfacing for the MUGA is important to allow for maximization of games and usage of the area.

### **3. Moneymore**

Discussion; the lighting of the pathway is important, and to see if it could be expanded around the entire pathway as the lighting from the building is limited. The lighting is more important than the fencing, if the lighting could be around the building also this would be welcomed. The walkway will provide a good safe walk/run but could look at further development and linking the path to the riverside in the longer term (lighting) would also be valued. Council to look at the riverside area longer term.

### **4. Donaghmore**

Discussion; the path is a priority development for the village and maximizing its development for evening time usage is important, as projected demand for usage is high. The development of a sensory area was identified through community engagement by the Torrent Centre and this will seek to bring people to the area and provide for all users including people with disabilities. The Torrent Centre has a dedicated programme for people with disabilities (learning) from across the Torrent, Dungannon and Clogher Valley areas.



## **5. Draperstown**

Discussion; there is a real need for lighting of the Plantin path to encourage usage in the evening and have additional presence and facility for wider community, however the Fairhill and its presence in the town is really important. To proceed with the option that provides for lighting of the Plantin (consideration to be given to take this to the bridge to allow for a natural turn in the pathway) and Fairhill area upgrade with a second path and feature light at picnic area and a few trees.

## **6. Aughnacloy**

Discussion; would like a mixture of both options to have the activity area for engaging children in a park environment and then having some pathway around the playing field area; to retain the playing field area as an informal kick about (transfer of the formal booked Council football pitch to the Aughnacloy College – but to keep playing field for informal games and use and community events). Residents living close to the site did not want lighting of the area and additional benches that would encourage any ASB.

Notes:

Schemes to be taken forward through the Design out Crime process.

Any schemes which include the removal of trees to allow access, the same number of replacement trees will be planted at the site.

<b>Report on</b>	1) Caledon Regeneration Partnership Proposal 2) Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update 3) Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal 4) Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags 5) Interreg VA Faster Project 6) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19 7) Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes – 8.3.19 8) Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</b></p> <p>In January 2019, the Council agreed to provide financial support to the value of £5,000 to Caledon Regeneration Partnership towards exploring the viability of a day-care facility in the former Wool Store building at Mill Street, Caledon. CRP secured match funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) which enabled the group to appoint professional support to complete a feasibility study and condition report and business plan. The project has been identified by AHF as a priority project under DAERA's Village Catalyst Programme.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update</b></p> <p>On the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Officers met with the Traders in Donaghmore to discuss various issues. Council had agreed to follow up on two actions raised below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting to be set up with a representative from Department for Infrastructure to discuss car parking regulations with regards to the main street in Donaghmore and car parking.</li> <li>2. Grants information and advice on becoming a constituted body.</li> </ol>

2.3	<p><b>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</b></p> <p>Members will recall that Dungannon Regeneration Partnership previously sought funding from Council to appoint a Town Centre Manager to reduce the vacancy levels in Dungannon town.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags</b></p> <p>To maintain the longevity of the town centre brand there is a need to sustain its profile within the town through the medium of town centre merchandise and jute shopping bags.</p>
2.5	<p><b>Interreg VA Faster Project</b></p> <p>The East Border Region (EBR) submitted an application to the Interreg VA Programme for the FASTER Project, which seeks to install a network of Rapid EV chargers throughout the Interreg VA eligible area and have invited local authorities to be an Associate Partner.</p>
2.6	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19</b></p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019 and acts as a strategic body that provides advice and guidance to town centre stakeholders regarding the development of Coalisland town centre.</p>
2.7	<p><b>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes - 8.3.19</b></p> <p>The Mid Ulster Skills Forum was established in April 2017 to address the skills gaps in local industry and foster stronger linkages between the business and education sectors. A new Action Plan was launched in October 2018 and a range of initiatives are now being taken forward.</p>
2.8	<p><b>Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19</b></p> <p>Council has established a new Brexit Working Group to help the organisation get prepared to exit the EU.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
3.1	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b></p> <p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership (CRP) have been progressing plans to bring the historic former Wool Store building (dated 1823) back into productive use a rural childcare facility. The re-purposing of the Wool Store into this much needed facility will conserve an important heritage building while delivering positive economic and social benefits for the local community. Considerable work has been made by CRP in respect of the project as outlined below: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Feasibility study and Condition report has been completed with funding from Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) and Mid Ulster District Council</li> </ul>

- A Project viability report has been completed
- A Business plan has been completed
- A planning application has been submitted to the Planning Section
- Potential funding sources have been identified.

Caledon Regeneration Partnership submitted a proposal on Appendix 1, which states the overall project costs are £515,000. CRP have made a request to Mid Ulster Council to provide funding of £50,000 to close the funding gap and allow the project to proceed.

### 3.2 **Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update**

Officers from Council's Economic Development and Community Development sections met with the Traders Group in Donaghmore on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to advise on all funding opportunities within Council and provide guidance on how to become a constituted body.

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has advised that they are aware of issues with all day parking in Donaghmore and have already initiated a consultation process for 1 hour parking (and no return within 1 hour) restrictions in the village. This request came through the Traders Group in Donaghmore. A meeting was held in August 2019 with DfI, who requested Council Officers forward DfI's contact details to the Traders, which was actioned accordingly.

In relation to car parking provision in the village, the Group was liaising with the local Church to determine if lands were available. Council officers also furnished the Group with details on how to become a constituted body.

The Traders agreed to approach Council again if they required any further assistance following these meetings.

### 3.3 **Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal**

The most recent proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) presented to the Development Committee in July 2019 was deferred to afford officers time to meet with DRP representatives to further discuss their proposal and associated funding.

The Head of Economic Development and Dungannon Regeneration Manager along with a representative from Department for Communities met with DRP representatives on 9 September 2019. This productive meeting centred upon finding a mutually agreed mechanism to reduce vacancy levels in Dungannon town centre, with involvement from both Mid Ulster Council and Department for Communities.

Following the above meeting, DRP Board met on 1 October 2019, and have subsequently submitted their Revised Proposal to Council (Appendix 2). The funding sought from each funder is summarised in the table below, of which Council is requested to provide funding of £125,000, broken down as follows;

- 2019/20      £5,000
- 2020/21      £40,000

- 2021/22 £40,000
- 2022/23 £40,000

Funder	Funding Activity	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	Total Costs Per Funder
Mid Ulster District Council	Professional support Advertising support	£980 £4,020				£5,000
	Management contractor costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dept for Communities	Management contractor Costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dungannon Enterprise Centre	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
Dungannon Traders	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
<b>Total Costs</b>		<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£275,000</b>

The Proposal outlines that at the end of the funding period (March 2023), DRP will have reduced vacancy levels in Dungannon town by at least 5%, and have leveraged in £1.5 million town centre investment from developers.

3.4

#### **Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags**

At the September 2019 meeting of the Development Committee it was agreed to defer the decision with regard to purchasing the Dungannon branded merchandise and jute shopping bags until Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) resubmitted their funding proposal to Reduce Vacancy Levels in Dungannon town centre. As DRP's proposal will be considered at the October 2019 Committee Meeting, it is also now opportune to determine if Members wish to progress to tender and purchase the items below with the budget as specified, during the 2019/20 financial year;

- Dungannon branded merchandise £20,000
- Dungannon Jute Shopping Bags £20,000

Further to discussion at the last Committee meeting, Council cannot purchase branded jute shopping bags on behalf of other organisations, however, we can provide the name of the supplier to any group who is interested in purchasing their own bags. Additionally, Villages/Community groups may be able to avail of funding from the Department of the Environment's "Love Here Live Here" scheme (administered by Council) that can potentially provide small grants for environmentally friendly/reusable bags. The scheme is currently closed to applications however, interested Villages/Community groups should ensure their details are on the Community Development database so they can be notified once it opens.

<p>3.5</p>	<p><b>Interreg VA Faster Project</b></p> <p>The East Border Region (EBR) application was submitted in November 2018 and SEUPB have been working through the approval process which has been quite slow. SEUPB recently appointed an Independent Consultant to review the project and liaise with the Government Departments in the three jurisdictions to address a number of issues. The Consortium are working through these issues and are hopeful the project will be recommended for approval and presented to the Interreg Steering Committee before the end of December 2019. One of the requests from the Departments was for EBR to secure a letter of support from each of the Local Authorities for the project.</p> <p>The request from East Border Region and a copy of the draft letter of support they have sought from Mid Ulster Council is attached in Appendix 3.</p> <p>Members should note that this project does not seek any financial input from Council but instead asks for input in the following areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To participate in the Project Advisory committee to provide strategic support across the eligible region.</li> <li>2) To assist with the scoping exercise to identify existing EV Charge points, and to work with the project steering committee to identify key strategic locations for new rapid charging points.</li> <li>3) To assist with statutory approvals for the installation of the charge points e.g planning &amp; connection to the grid</li> <li>4) To provide support to the Steering Committee in relation to the Public Awareness campaign, utilising existing Council media and PR mechanisms where appropriate</li> <li>5) To assist with the dissemination of the project outputs within our region and beyond.</li> </ol> <p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 are attached at Appendix 4.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes – 8.3.19</b></p> <p>Minutes of Mid Ulster Skills Forum Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 are attached at Appendix 5.</p> <p><b>Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19</b></p> <p>Minutes of Council's Brexit Working Group Meeting held on 27 February 2019 are attached at Appendix 6.</p>
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<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal – Awaiting funding request</p> <p>Dungannon Branded Merchandise £20,000</p> <p>Dungannon Branded Jute Shopping Bags £20,000</p>
	Human: Officer time
	Risk Management:
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that Members:
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b></p> <p>Invite Caledon Regeneration Partnership to make a presentation at the next available Committee Meeting where representatives from the group can provide more details on their funding proposal to develop the Wool Store (Appendix 1).</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update</b></p> <p>Note progress.</p>
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</b></p> <p>Approve the Revised Proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (Appendix 2) to reduce vacancy levels in Dungannon town centre, making provision of Council funding of £125,000 broken down as follows, subject to Department for Communities match funding of providing £120,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019/20      £5,000</li> <li>• 2020/21      £40,000</li> <li>• 2021/22      £40,000</li> <li>• 2022/23      £40,000</li> </ul>
<b>5.4</b>	<p><b>Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve up to £20,000 (excluding Vat) from the economic development budget for officers to tender and purchase new town centre merchandise for Dungannon.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve up to £20,000 (excluding Vat) from the economic development budget for officers to tender and purchase new jute shopping bags for Dungannon.</li> </ul>
5.5	<p><b>Interreg VA Faster Project</b>  Approve Mid Ulster Council act as an Associate Partner within the East Border Region's Interreg VA Faster Project and supply a letter of support as requested (Appendix 3).</p>
5.6	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19</b>  Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum on 1 July 2019 (Appendix 4).</p>
5.7	<p><b>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes - 8.3.19</b>  Note minutes of Mid Ulster Skills Forum meeting dated 8 March 2019 (Appendix 5).</p>
5.8	<p><b>Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19</b>  Note minutes of Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group meeting on 27 February 2019 (Appendix 6).</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Caledon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Interreg VA Faster Project</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes – 8.3.19</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19</p>



## Appendix 1

### CALEDON REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

**From:** Sandra Mortimer [<mailto:sandramortimer.crp@hotmail.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 03 September 2019 11:50

**To:** Paul McCreedy <[Paul.McCreedy@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Paul.McCreedy@midulstercouncil.org)>

**Cc:** Adrian McCreesh <[Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org)>

**Subject:** CALEDON WOOL STORE

Dear Paul

RE CALEDON WOOL STORE

Following on from our previous contact in respect of the conversion of Caledon Wool Store into a children's daycare facility, considerable progress has been made in respect of this project.

- Feasibility study and condition report has been completed with funding from AHF and Mid Ulster District Council
- Project viability report has been submitted
- Plans have been submitted to Mid Ulster District Council
- Business plan has been completed

The project has been costed at £510,000. Funding of £50,000 has been secured from Caledon Estates Company, who have drawn up a lease in respect of the transfer of the Wool Store to Caledon Regeneration Partnership for a period of 25 years.

- Application for funding for £250,000 has been submitted to National Lottery Heritage Grant.

The following funding applications are currently underway:-

- HED DAERA Village Catalyst Pilot - £150,000
- Esme Mitchell Trust - £10,000

There remains an amount of £50,000 gap funding required.

The re-purposing of the Wool Store into this much needed facility will conserve an important heritage building while delivering very positive economic and social benefits for the local community. Publicity surrounding the project has already acted as a catalyst for restoration. The adjoining properties Nos 1 and 2 Mill Street, on the HARNI register are in the process of being sold. The buyer has already been in discussion with CRP. Restoration of the Wool Store and two derelict adjoining properties will be transformative for Mill Street and the entire village.

We very much appreciate the support of Mid Ulster District Council to date and would wish to make application to the council for assistance with gap funding to enable delivery of this project. Can you please advise us how we should proceed.

Kind regards

William Beattie  
Caledon Regeneration Partnership



### Proposal from the Board of Dungannon Regeneration Partnership to Mid Ulster Council to fund an initiative to promote Dungannon town and reduce vacancy

Prepared October 2019

#### Executive Summary

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) Ltd. was set up by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2000 to promote and encourage the revitalisation, regeneration and development of Dungannon town. The DRP membership is drawn from the public, private and community sectors including Mid Ulster Council, Department for Communities (DfC), Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Dungannon Traders Association and representatives from the education, banking and voluntary sectors

It is proposed to create an initiative to:

1. Actively manage and fill vacant outlets throughout Dungannon town centre reducing vacancy to below 5%.
2. Undertake work that will inspire the development of vacant and derelict parts of the town and increase shopper and visitor footfall in Dungannon town centre.

It is proposed that an external town centre development management contactor would be employed by Dungannon Regeneration Partnership for a 3-year period. and would report to the DRP Management Committee and the DRP Board of Directors. Dungannon town precinct would be regarded as an 'asset' and marketed just like a commercial shopping centre, to increase its vibrancy and to give local people and visitors a complete shopping experience.

The initiative should be considered as a three-year pilot with the positive experience replicated in other large retail centres in Mid Ulster.

The proposal could be considered as a precursor to a potential BIDS application in 4 years' time.

Funding of £5,000pa for 3 years has been secured from Dungannon Enterprise Centre and a further £5,000pa will be secured from the town centre traders and property developers.

DRP are requesting that Mid Ulster Council and DSD each fund the shortfall funding of £40,000 per year for a 3-year period.

# 1. BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Formation

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) Ltd. was set up by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2000 to promote and encourage the revitalisation, regeneration and development of Dungannon town. DRP has been highlighted as an example of best practice in 'partnership working' by DfC and has won two awards from ATCM for best practice projects. The economic vibrancy of town centres is dependent on successful town centre management.

## 1.2 DRP Membership

The DRP membership is drawn from the public, private and community sectors including Mid Ulster Council, Department for Communities (DfC), Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Dungannon Traders Association and representatives from the education, banking and voluntary sectors. DRP acts as a single voice of town centre regeneration and support and has the following characteristics:

- Already in existence for many years and constituted as company limited by guarantee
- A recognised partner of the Council.
- Recognised by DfC.
- Award winning organisation.
- Excellent past record of delivery.
- Accounts presented annually.
- Members comprising Town Councillors, Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Town Traders Assoc, South West College and local businessmen, banking sector, with council staff and DfC staff represented at meetings.
- Newly agreed strategic aims expressly aimed at town centre regeneration with emphases on partnership, people, places and promotion.
- Existing successful working relationship with Council's Regeneration Manager.
- Strong focus on vision and delivery.
- Regular monthly meetings.
- Excellent inter working relationship between members.

## 1.3 Aspirations

It is an aspiration of DRP to develop its role within the area as follows:

- Dedicated town centre management support
- Enhanced financial and manpower resources
- Full working relationship with Council officers.
- Support of all partners.

- Greater business and public awareness of the functions of DRP
- Ability to provide coordination and or leadership with all town centre events and marketing of same.
- Working relationship with community safety partnership and local Policing Board

In 2018, the Board adopted a strategy with the following aims:

**Objective 1: Dereliction - meaningful progress made on 2 identified sites.**

**Objective 2: Reduced Vacancy Rate of property in the town.**

**Objective 3: Promote the town centre of Dungannon as a place to visit and shop.**

#### **1.4 Council report on town vacancy**

In the 2017 Mid Ulster Council report “Innovative Approaches to Reducing Vacancy and Dereliction in Dungannon Town Centre” made a clear statement of intent to, not only proactively reduce vacancy and dereliction, but plan and shape it in such a way that re-positions the town as a competitive destination.

“Council will work with key public and private stakeholders to lobby for pilot status for Dungannon town centre to adopt a more holistic regeneration approach to addressing town centre vacancy and dereliction and access to more innovative funding mechanisms”.

“A strong public/private delivery model will be a critical success factor in driving this project forward. **It is recommended that Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) a public/private regeneration agency/vehicle and a company limited by guarantee become the main delivery vehicle.** Stakeholder involvement in DRP is strong and the organisation does act as a project driver and catalyst for change”.

It was recommended that as part of this development process that Council explore the potential with DRP to initiate a BID Feasibility Study to ascertain the potential role a Business Improvement District could play. This study has been completed and it was found that Dungannon was the most suitable of towns in Mid Ulster for a BID initiative.

## 2. PROPOSAL

The initiative should be considered as a three-year pilot with the positive experience replicated in other large retail centres in Mid Ulster.

The proposal could be considered as a precursor to a potential BIDS application in 4 years time.

It is proposed to create an initiative to:

1. Actively manage and fill vacant outlets throughout Dungannon town centre reducing vacancy to below 5%.
2. Undertake work that will inspire the development of vacant and derelict parts of the town and increase shopper and visitor footfall in Dungannon town centre.

A Dungannon Town Centre Management team would be contracted by Dungannon Regeneration Partnership for a fixed term and would report to the DRP Management Committee and the DRP Board of Directors. This independence from a local and central Government will enable a commercially driven post holder to work with urgency and be an unbiased driver of change who will coordinate with all relevant stakeholders to achieve success for the town.

The management contractor would be responsible for employing staff and external support, to deliver upon the plan of work.

## 3. RATIONALE TO THE PROPOSAL

### 3.1 Active marketing of vacant units

When retail units become vacant it weakens the performance of nearby stores, reduces footfall in the area and increases the likelihood of further store closures – this cycle will continue unless proactive, innovative action is taken to ensure use of available units. No one is responsible for the proactive selling and promotion of vacant units to prospective tenants. Vacant units are usually let via letting agents on a commission basis and, in most cases, a passive marketing strategy is adopted. A clear understanding of consumer and business perceptions is important to work with landlords and letting agents to identify top end retailers/businesses, make them aware of the potential retail location and, when



required, work with landlords to bring their vacant properties up to a quality standard to attract such tenants.

The plethora of vacant retail units could be the impetus to strategically re-balance the town centre visitor offering, and a chance for culture and leisure-related outlets and community services to gain more of a foothold in the town centre. Staff will work with key stakeholders to ensure vacant units are repurposed and promoted to ensure the desired innovative approach to reducing vacancy and dereliction.

### **3.2 Increased rates revenue**

Increased occupancy of retail units means increased revenue generated from rates for the Council. It is anticipated that, not only will the increase in revenue generated from more rates cover the cost of the Council investment, but there will also be a surplus.

At present there is vacant retail space is at 14% (Place Management Solutions BIDs Feasibility Study 2019).

There are currently 32 vacant or derelict properties in Dungannon town centre out of a total of 284 properties. It is estimated that there is 40,000 sq. ft. of lettable vacant retail space in the town at present (excluding derelict sites) – a potential rates revenue of £350k per year, if occupied.

### **3.3 Creating opportunities from nothing**

Dungannon town centre is littered with derelict sites which have the potential for development. The initiative would inspire and support the property owner to consider ways to repurpose sites. Bringing together the many stakeholders is needed to breathe new economic and community life into the many derelict areas of Dungannon town centre.

The aim would be to 'sell' the town as an investment opportunity for, not only for retailing, but the many other sectors that make up the vibrant and diverse community that is Dungannon. This could enable our town centre to become a prosperous and exciting space once again. By exploring the potential for a diverse range of services and businesses there is a greater chance of developing an 'evening' economy for the town, providing increased opportunity for employment and social opportunities rooted in the interests and needs of local people.

### **3.4 Attracting Investment**

It is planned that the Management Contractor would work develop a portfolio of development opportunities to attract public private investment to the town. This work would be done in conjunction with the owners of derelict and vacant properties

### **3.5 Enhanced marketing of retailing in the town**

Mid Ulster Council are currently implementing the “Discover Dungannon” brand with the objective to attract provincial and local awareness of the town. The brand is controlled by the Council and governed under its marketing protocols.

The promotion activities planned under this initiative will complement the “Discover Dungannon” brand and will carry out targeted commercial marketing which, under Council policy cannot be undertaken.

### **3.6 Enhanced social well being**

The impact of the retail sector goes well beyond economic output. Research has shown that a diverse retail offering can also contribute to the social well-being of local communities and serve as a key driver for tourism by increasing the attractiveness of town centres. In fact, retail has made a significant contribution to urban regeneration and the vitality and viability of town centres in the UK for decades by contributing to their socio-economic health.

### **3.7 Future proofing**

Dungannon is the largest town in Mid Ulster Council and soon to become the second largest town in Tyrone after Omagh. Demographic forecasts indicate that over the next 10 years the area is facing the largest a population boom in the province. The recent Feasibility Study into BIDs found that Dungannon was the best suited town in Mid Ulster for the initiative. However, it is the view of the DRP Board that the BIDs model for Dungannon might not gain the support of the traders in the town because of the current high rates demands on shop owners. While the BIDs model has proven itself to be beneficial in many towns, the timing could be premature for Dungannon. A failed BIDs process could land negatively on the image of Dungannon. Commitment from all traders will take time before any additional levy is considered. We believe this proposal is an alternative to BIDs and will secure traders’ commitment for the future.

#### 4. Key responsibilities of the Management Contractor

- Undertake an annual audit of the vacant properties in the town centre and their potential of development.
- Support property owners in the town centre to maximise their rental returns and minimising tenancy 'void' periods.
- Work with property owners to develop initiatives and incentives to attract prospective retail tenants to the area.
- Work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to support the development of derelict properties
- Bring empty stores/units into use through collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- Inspire and collaborate with private developers and public sector agencies to explore initiatives that could contribute towards the strategic development of Dungannon town centre
- Develop retail property initiatives that have the potential of attracting public/private investment
- Actively promote the towns property portfolio to attract, where possible, “high street name” retailers to Dungannon.
- Work in partnership with the Traders Association and the Council to promote Dungannon as an outstanding place to visit and shop and to provide visitors with a quality of experience that encourages them to keep coming back.
- Work with Dungannon Enterprise Centre to promote retail start-ups, retail incubation and pop-up shop initiatives.
- Where appropriate, implement recommendations from reports, such as the Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study, Dungannon Town Centre Masterplan as well as innovative reports to rejuvenate town centres.

#### 5. Rationale and Justification for Management Contractor

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. It employs no staff and is grateful for the secretarial support it receives from Mid Ulster Council staff and Dungannon Enterprise Centre staff.

DRP does not have the in-house professional competence or extensive network to develop the town centre. Employing the services of a professional property development agency with UK wide contacts will give DRP a resource to develop the Dungannon town centre at a level of competence not previously possible.

## 6. Budget and Proposed Funding

Funder	Funding Activity	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	Total Costs Per Funder
Mid Ulster District Council	Professional support Advertising support	£980 £4,020				£5,000
	Management contractor costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dept for Communities	Management contractor Costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dungannon Enterprise Centre	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
Dungannon Traders	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
<b>Total Costs</b>		<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£275,000</b>

## 7. Performance targets

Targets	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	By the end of Year 3
<b>Management Contractor</b>	Contractor is appointed	-	-	-	
<b>Reduction in Town Centre Vacancy Levels</b>	Base vacancy rate is identified	2%	2%	2%	Overall Reduction in Town Centre Vacant Premises is over 5%
<b>Town centre investment by developers</b>	-	£500,000	£500,000	£500,000	£1.5m investment in town centre

## 8. Conclusion

It is the responsibility of Dungannon Regeneration Partnership to expand upon the potential of the Dungannon town centre. A decision by Mid Ulster Council to fund a Management Contractor to develop the Dungannon town centre makes commercial sense with regards increased revenue from rates, and a practical approach to reducing dereliction and vacancy in the town. Dungannon is the largest town in Mid Ulster. It is essential to regard the properties in the town precinct as an 'asset', and market the town just like a commercial shopping centre to increase its vibrancy and to give local people and visitors a complete shopping experience.

## APPENDIX 3 – INTERREG VA FASTER PROJECT

**From:** Dette Hughes <[Dette@eastborderregion.com](mailto:Dette@eastborderregion.com)>

**Sent:** 23 September 2019 12:21

**To:** [ahall@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:ahall@monaghancoco.ie); [mmcgarvey@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:mmcgarvey@donegalcoco.ie); Addy, Stephen <[stephen.addy@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.addy@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)>; [padraig.o'hora@louthcoco.ie](mailto:padraig.o'hora@louthcoco.ie); [leo.strawbridge@derrystrabane.com](mailto:leo.strawbridge@derrystrabane.com); Alison McCullagh <[alison.mccullagh@fermanaghmagh.com](mailto:alison.mccullagh@fermanaghmagh.com)>; Lewis Porter <[Lewis.Porter@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:Lewis.Porter@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)>; [tkilfeather@sligo.ie](mailto:tkilfeather@sligo.ie); McEldowney, Sheena <[Sheena.McEldowney@nmandd.org](mailto:Sheena.McEldowney@nmandd.org)>; Thomas Ryan <[tryan@cavancoco.ie](mailto:tryan@cavancoco.ie)>; Clare J McKeown (Sustainable Development) <[McKeownCJ@BelfastCity.gov.uk](mailto:McKeownCJ@BelfastCity.gov.uk)>; Bernard Greene <[bgreene@leitrimcoco.ie](mailto:bgreene@leitrimcoco.ie)>; Adrian McCreesh <[Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org)>

**Cc:** Pamela Arthurs <[Pamela@eastborderregion.com](mailto:Pamela@eastborderregion.com)>

**Subject:** INTERREG VA FASTER Project

Hello all

As you are aware East Border Region submitted an application to the INTERREG VA Programme for the FASTER Project, which seeks to install a network of Rapid EV chargers throughout the INTERREG VA eligible area. Local Authorities are Associate Partners in this proposal.

EBR submitted the application in November 2018 and SEUPB have been working through the approval process which has proven to be very slow. SEUPB recently appointed an Independent Consultant to review the project and to liaise with the Government Departments in the three jurisdictions to address a number of concerns they had in relation to the project. The Consortium are working through these issues and we are hopeful that the project will be recommended for approval and presented to the INTERREG Steering Committee before the end of this year.

One of the requests from the Departments was for EBR to secure a letter of support from each of the Local Authorities for the project. I have attached a template letter, if each Local Authority could please complete this letter and return to EBR as soon as possible that would be much appreciated. The Consultants report is due to be completed by the end of September.

Thanking you in anticipation of your ongoing support, and if you require any further information please feel free to contact me.

Best regards

*Dette Hughes*  
Programme Manager  
East Border Region  
2 Monaghan Court  
Newry  
BT35 6BH

Tel: 028 / 048 30252684

[www.eastborderregion.com](http://www.eastborderregion.com)

[www.enjoyebr.com](http://www.enjoyebr.com)

## **DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Pamela

### **Re: FASTER Project**

I am writing to confirm that.....Council are committed to the FASTER Project as an Associate Partner.

..... Council is committed to increasing the use of Sustainable Transport and reducing carbon emissions within our region and the FASTER project complements our Regional and National strategies in relation to this goal. The shared learning and sharing best practice gained by working on a cross border basis and across three Jurisdictions, combined with the deployment of innovative smart new technologies will bring significant added value to the region.

As an Associate Partner ..... Council will be involved on the following aspects of the project:

- 1) To participate in the Project Advisory committee to provide strategic support across the eligible region.
- 2) To assist with the scoping exercise to identify existing EV Charge points, and to work with the project steering committee to identify key strategic locations for new rapid charging points.
- 3) To assist with statutory approvals for the installation of the charge points e.g planning & connection to the grid
- 4) To provide support to the Steering Committee in relation to the Public Awareness campaign, utilising existing Council media and PR mechanisms where appropriate
- 5) To assist with the dissemination of the project outputs within our region and beyond.

I look forward to working with the project Consortium in the implementation of this project.

Yours sincerely

**Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum**  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 at 5.30pm**  
**The Cornmill, Coalisland**

**Present**

Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr R McGinley	Mid Ulster District Council
Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities

**In Attendance**

Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>																												
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Cllr N Doris</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Robert Colvin</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Dan Kerr</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Joe O'Neill</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Francie Molloy MP</td><td>Coalisland Residents &amp; Community Forum</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dermott McGirr</td><td>Translink</td></tr> <tr> <td>Declan Dorrity</td><td>The Venue/The Beer Shed</td></tr> <tr> <td>JP McCartan</td><td>PSNI</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mark Kelso</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Oliver Donnelly</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michael McGibbon</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Celene O'Neill</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> </table> <p>In the absence of Cllr N Doris, the Vice Chair, R O'Neill, took the position of Chair.</p>	Cllr N Doris	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Dan Kerr	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council	Francie Molloy MP	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum	Dermott McGirr	Translink	Declan Dorrity	The Venue/The Beer Shed	JP McCartan	PSNI	Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council	Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council	Celene O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
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Celene O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council																												
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b></p> <p>Amendment to minutes held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to show Cllr M Quinn in attendance.</p> <p>Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Proposed by P Anderson  Seconded by U Marshall</p>																												
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>Introductions were carried out between those present</p>																												



4	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>M Leavey gave an update on the status regarding Brangan's building, whereby Council were still awaiting confirmation from the owner to allow works to progress on site.</p> <p>M Campbell updated that there were no units available at the Enterprise Centre that would accommodate Glass Blowing.</p> <p><b>Action: R O'Neill to ask Gary Currie to ring Melanie Campbell to discuss other potential units. RO'N</b></p>
5	<p><b>Coalisland Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme</b></li> </ul> <p>M Leavey advised the Forum that Council had held meetings with landowners regarding the layby on Lineside. Another meeting was scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> July for the remaining landowner. The BT work has been completed and all lines have been taken down.</p> <p>R O'Neill asked for an update on the proposed one-way system on Main Street. M Leavey updated that the approval for the amendment is still with DFI Roads Division Headquarters and Mid Ulster Council are still awaiting a response.</p> <p>Approval is required on samples of materials before the Programme can be approved. Mid Ulster Disability Forum and the local traders will all then be shown the approved materials before the project can commence.</p> <p>R O'Neill referred to, and handed out, copies of his previously circulated 10-point objection letter and discussed Councils 'Town Centre First' approach, which was mentioned at a planning meeting by Cllr M Glasgow.</p> <p>R O'Neill reiterated the impact that the one-way system down Main Street, would have on the Town by funneling all through traffic down Lineside. Drivers coming from Stewartstown who were going to a business on Main St would have to drive all the way round the Town, passing by other similar businesses, which he felt they would be inclined to stop at rather than coming on to Main Street.</p> <p>P Anderson responded to R O'Neill's concerns, stating that the footpaths do not meet current standards; parents cannot get up or down the street with prams. To bring the footpath to an acceptable width of 2m on both sides, there is only room for one lane, therefore the one-way system would be only option allowing both sides to park on with an improved flow of traffic.</p> <p>P Anderson advised that the Department for Communities (DfC) are interested in accessibility for all and it would be safer for all pedestrians. If the system proved not to be working, there would be an obligation to get it fixed.</p> <p>U Marshall raised the walkabout she had taken part in where crossing and footpath issues were problematic. She felt that a wheelchair user couldn't get access to</p>

	<p>the Town Centre without having to use the roads. Currently with an ageing population, more people with mobility issues.</p> <p>R O'Neill replied that he was well aware of the dynamics of the Town and that the traffic in town is diabolical, as it is not managed. He suggested that 1.6 m is ample width for the footpath.</p> <p>P Anderson responded that 2m is the minimum, which has to be achieved with bins, lampposts etc. which takes away from the 2m. P Anderson suggested that this is an opportunity for the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to fix roads, pavements and many other issues within the Town. DfC would like Coalisland Town Centre to be thriving with people walking about and that there were road safety issues with no crossings and footpaths that were too narrow.</p> <p>R O'Neill replied that the street is 350 years old and has worked to date and referred to point's number 8 and 10 on his handout.</p> <p>M Campbell asked whether the entrance to the enterprise centre could get a crossing included at Supervalu. P Anderson replied that it was the responsibility of DfI to decide what can be allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment</b></li> </ul> <p>M Leavey updated that the Economic Appraisal and the preferred options had been presented to Council in June. A meeting has been arranged with the Irish Football Association (IFA) to discuss proposals and determine the standard of the pitch. The venue also hopes to receive Disability Sport NI accreditation. It is anticipated that by the Autumn, enabling works will have commenced on site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coalisland Great Places</b></li> </ul> <p>C McKenna referred to the previously circulated written report from Keith Beattie, Heritage Officer with Lough Neagh Partnership, which gave an update on progress on the project. C McKenna advised that in the future a report would come to the Forum quarterly to advise of progress however if any member wished to get involved that they could contact Keith Beattie directly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Summer, Halloween &amp; Christmas Events</b></li> </ul> <p>Cllr M Quinn commended all organisers of the Summer Bash for the successful delivery of the event. Over 2,000 people attended the evening, which had a great atmosphere and had brought the whole community together for an enjoyable evening. R O'Neill also thanked everyone involved.</p> <p>The usage of plastic water bottles was raised and to ensure that these were to be recycled at future events.</p> <p><b>Action: Council to discuss with organising Committee and explore options in regard to use of plastic bottles at next year's event</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CF</b></span></p>
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	<p>C Fox updated that with the enabling works now happening later in the year on Gortgonis Recreation Centre, the Council may still be able to use the venue for the annual Halloween display. Confirmation was required from the project Board and if this were the case, the event would take place as normal. An alternative venue of Coalisland Na Fianna GFC grounds had been an option and was currently with GAA headquarters for approval.</p> <p><b>Action: Seek confirmation from project board of Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment in relation to Halloween event location</b> <b>CF</b></p> <p>The location of the Christmas Tree for this year's switch on was discussed. C Fox advised that this year the tree would be in same location, however next year, with a new civic space, the tree would be relocated. Members of the Forum would be consulted regarding the type of tree for example either a real tree or artificial.</p> <p><b>Action: Council to consult with the Forum following completion of the Civic space and when deciding on type of new tree</b> <b>CF</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Town Centre Graffiti</b></p> <p>Cllr M Quinn advised that the graffiti on the wall at Greenagh Road had been covered within the last week.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>CCTV Cameras</b></p> <p>M Campbell updated that she has been liaising with J McNeill in Council in relation to the specification for the CCTV Cameras.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>C Fox raised the marketing of Coalisland Town Centre and if the Traders had any ideas that they would like Council to consider promoting shopping/businesses in the Town. A marketing discount booklet and a Facebook page were discussed alongside training for traders in the use of social media. C Fox stated that currently, Council operate 3 Facebook pages for the main towns in the district - Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.</p> <p>P Anderson advised that following the completion of the public realm scheme, a £200 -250,000-revitalisation scheme would follow which could include money to be spent on a marketing initiative. It was agreed that a meeting be set up to discuss marketing options.</p> <p><b>Action: Meeting to be organised with Traders to discuss marketing initiatives and training for Coalisland Town Centre</b> <b>CF</b></p> <p>Cllr M Quinn referred to an incident that morning and raised the issue regarding PSNI response times as it took half an hour to get to house. Another incident involving an assault in Dernagh, PSNI did not respond. Cllr M Quinn advised that he was having a meeting with PSNI to discuss further.</p>

	<p>R O'Neill asked would it be possible to get directional signs for GAA grounds in the Town.</p> <p><b>Action: R O'Neill to be given contact within the Department of Infrastructure who have responsibility for road signage</b> <b>CF</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting will be 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 @ 5.30pm.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Meeting Duration</b></p> <p>Meeting ended at 6.50pm</p>

**Mid Ulster Skills Forum**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 8 March 2019 at 10.00am**  
**Venue: Square Box, Ranfurly Visitor & Arts Centre Dungannon**

**Present:**

<b>Food &amp; Drink</b>	Alan McKeown, Consultant (Chair)
<b>Manufacturing</b>	Jane Millar, SDC Trailers Ltd Liz Kearns, Emerson Cookstown
<b>Engineering</b>	Clodagh McGovern, Mallaghan Engineering Ltd Sinead Gaynor, Mallaghan Engineering Ltd Sharon Cain, McAvoy Group Brian McElroy, TES Ltd
<b>Public Sector</b>	Niall Casey, Invest NI Ethna McNamee, Invest NI Ciara Kilpatrick, Invest NI Linda Jamison, Invest NI Michael Gould, Dept for the Economy Keith Fox, Dept for Communities
<b>Education Providers</b>	Ciaran McManus, South West College Laura Firth, Northern Regional College Catherine Devlin, CAFRE
<b>Sectoral Bodies</b>	Roisin McAliskey, FSB NI Mary Meehan, Manufacturing NI Margaret McCloskey, Business in the Community

**In Attendance:**

<b>Council Officers</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities Marissa Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development Colin McKenna, Economic Strategies Manager Paul McCreedy, Funding and Investment Manager Oliver Donnelly, Project Officer
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<b>Apologies:</b>	Stephen Kelly, Manufacturing NI Harry Hamilton, NI Food & Drink Association Gillian McKee, Business in the Community Jennifer Cruickshank, Henry Brothers Ltd Stephen Mohan, CUBA Dean Mohan, CUBA Sharon McAleer, Elected Member Frances Burton, Elected Member
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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

A McCreesh welcomed everyone to the meeting

## **2. Position of Chairman of Skills Forum**

A McCreesh provided an update on the current Chairman's employment status and following discussion it was agreed that A McKeown should remain as Chair of the Skills Forum.

A McKeown entered the meeting at 10.05am.

A McCreesh suggested that a Code of Conduct is drafted for the next meeting and circulated to all members for them to sign up to.

## **3. Apologies**

Apologies were noted on behalf of those who could not attend.

It was noted that H Hamilton had suffered illness and it was agreed to send a card to him on behalf of the Forum.

## **4. Minutes of the last meeting (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018)**

A McKeown referred to minutes of meeting held on Friday 22 June 2018. All present agreed that these were an accurate account of the meeting.

## **5. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **6. Paper on Skills Forum**

P McCreedy presented a paper on Membership and Structure of Mid Ulster Skills Forum. Key points out of this report include;

- Attendance at the Forum meetings is generally strong with a few members having less than 15% attendance
- There is currently no representation from 'Digital Sector' or the Engineering Training Council NI
- Requests have been made from Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group and 2 Area Learning Partnerships (Dungannon & Cookstown) to sit on the Skills Forum.

The following recommendations contained in the paper were agreed: -

### **Membership -**

- 1.) That officers contact the four member organisations with low attendance to ascertain their interest in remaining as members of the Forum and if they no longer wish to serve on the Forum, officers seek an appropriate representative from the relevant sector.
- 2.) That the Skills Forum approves the requests from the Area Learning Partnerships and Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group (equates to an additional 3 representatives).

- 3.) That an invitation is extended to Jill Robb (Cicli Sport, Moneymore) to give a presentation at the next meeting as a local Digital sector representative.
- 4.) That the appointed MEGA Project Facilitator will provide updates on project progress at meetings of the Skills Forum and necessary sub-groups, however the facilitator will not be a member of the Forum.
- 5.) That future membership requests to the Skills Forum are deferred for consideration until March 2020; unless the Forum agrees there is value in inviting the organisation to sit on one of its sub-groups.
- 6.) That the Forum develops and agrees criteria and process to deal with future membership requests.
- 7.) That officers will automatically contact a member who misses three consecutive Skills Forum meetings.
- 8.) That a member may at any time resign by giving not less than one month's notice in writing to the Forum.
- 9.) That a report on members' attendance at Skills Forum Meetings is presented in March 2020 for monitoring purposes.

### **Sub-Group Structures**

- 1.) That the MEGA Collaborative Network is established as a sub-group of the Skills Forum.
- 2.) That the 'Apprenticeships' and 'Education engagement and linkages' sub-groups are merged into one sub group, which has responsibility for taking forward relevant actions contained in the Skills Action Plan (2018-21).
- 3.) That the existing 'Brexit' sub group is retained.
- 4.) That the existing Skills Report & Action Plan (2018-21) sub-group is retained.

## **7. Update on Mid Ulster Manufacturing & Engineering Growth and Advancement (MEGA) Collaborative Network**

P McCreedy updated members on the MEGA programme stating £169k had been secured from Invest NI with further match funding from EDGE Innovate, Mallaghan Engineering, Specialist Joinery, Four Dee, Steelweld, Northern Hydraulics and Specdrum. The programme is designed to work with the Department and schools in attracting the next generation to the engineering workforce. A McKeown informed members that interviews for the post of Project Facilitator had been completed.

A McCreesh stated that whilst the MEGA Programme is good for the Engineering sector that the Skills Action Plan is a wider framework document and that all other actions detailed in the document are as important for future delivery. He suggested that there should be a focus on other actions and similar arrangements for delivery are put in place.

## **8. Update on Brexit Summit**

P McCreedy updated members that the proposed Summit was currently postponed due to the uncertainties around Brexit.

E McNamee informed members that Invest NI are to hold an event in the Glenavon Hotel Cookstown on Tuesday 12 March as part of their "Get Ready for

Brexit” series of Workshops. So far there has been high demand from businesses with topics covered include Migration, Taxes and finances. A Brexit diagnostic is also available on the day which companies can complete but there has been a slow uptake from businesses on this. Invest NI are continuing to assist businesses to prepare for Brexit including a ‘Get Ready for Brexit’ section on their website and a further series of events have been organised and planned in the next few weeks. L Kearns informed members that whilst there are uncertainties on the outcome of Brexit negotiations that Emerson are preparing as best they can.

L Jamison advised that Intertrade Ireland have financial support for local businesses to get them ready for Brexit. This financial support was originally £2000 but businesses can now receive up to £5,000 worth of support.

#### **9. OECD Report – ‘Engaging Employers and Developing Skills at the Local Level in Northern Ireland’**

C McKenna gave a summary of the circulated paper from the OECD “Engaging Employers and Developing Skills at the Local Level in Northern Ireland”, referring to the levels of apprenticeships in Northern Ireland in comparison to other areas of Europe. M Gould stated that there is a cultural difference in attitude to apprenticeships in other European Countries. In Germany for example, 67% of school leavers go into apprenticeships as opposed to going to University. He stated that there is a low level of apprenticeships in some sectors of the economy where employers don’t encourage completion of the apprenticeship.

C McManus informed members that South West College currently has 1600 young people in work-based learning through apprenticeships and currently has a 90% retention of apprenticeships which is a huge positive. The College are also organising a “Get Engineering” Careers Fair on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

S Cain briefed members on an Open Evening McAvoy Group have organised for 28<sup>th</sup> March which currently has a good uptake from local schools in the area.

M Gould referred to the fact that there are 15% fewer 16 year olds as an overall percentage of Northern Ireland population which is a factor in the number of young people taking up apprenticeships.

M Gould agreed to forward a link for current Department for the Economy statistics on apprenticeships noting there has been around 55,000 young people through apprenticeship programmes in the past 10 years which is encouraging.

#### **10. Update on Community Plan – Education & Skills Thematic Group**

M Canavan provided an update on the Education & Skills Thematic Group within the Community Planning process. The group are working towards achieving short term actions. The sub-group are supporting the idea of Peer Mentoring within schools and liaising with Area Learning Partnerships to highlight the importance of Numeracy and Literacy programmes in schools.

#### **11. Update on NI Strategic Migration Partnership (Skills Sub-Group)**



P McCreedy referred to the circulated briefing paper for councils on issues relating to migration. Reference was made to the Government White Paper on Post Brexit Immigration. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published its final reports on EEA migration in the UK.

## **12. Any other business**

### ***12.1 Request from local groups***

P McCreedy reported that Superstars and First Steps Women's Centre have requested to give a presentation to the Skills Forum. It was agreed that both presentations be scheduled in at a future meeting.

### ***12.2 Council Business Programmes***

F McKeown gave a synopsis of four upcoming business programmes that will be delivered over the next four years including Gearing for Growth, Tender Ready, Digital First and Transform. She advised that the programmes were funded by Mid Ulster District Council, the ERDF Investment for Growth & Jobs Programme and Invest NI and were targeted at micro and small businesses (<49 employees).

## **13. Date of next Skills Forum Meeting**

It was agreed that forum meetings should be held on a quarterly basis going forward. Dates of 2019 meetings to be issued by Council officers.



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

## Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 6.30pm

Committee Room, Mid Ulster District Council,  
Circular Road, Dungannon

	Action
<p><b>Members Present:</b> Councillor D Molloy (Chair) Councillor W Cuddy Councillor M Gillespie Councillor M Kearney Councillor S McGuigan Councillor S McPeake Councillor W Robinson Councillor T Wilson</p> <p><b>Officers in Attendance:</b> Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive MUDC Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business &amp; Communities Marissa Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development Colin McKenna, Economic Strategies Manager</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Councillor Elatter Councillor McLean</p>	
<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair, Councillor Molloy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported apologies on behalf of Councillors Elatter and McLean.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of previous meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b></p> <p>Members agreed that meetings of the Brexit Working Group would be held in the Committee Room of the Dungannon Office.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 26 November 2018, were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings;</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wilson and Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan</p>	

### **3. Brexit Discussion – Potential impact on:**

#### **(i) People:**

Councillor Molloy acknowledged that this group may not have all the answers as there are many complex issues to be addressed, but acknowledged as a proactive Council we must explore and mitigate against the potential impact they may have.

Discussion commenced on the impact of Brexit on current MUDC staff and if the Council had any migrant employees. If so, could the employees remain post Brexit and could the Council guarantee their employment.

The Director of Organisational Development said the Council employed up to 12 migrant staff. There was no current threat to their employment with the proviso that Brexit is an unknown quantity. Also in the Rural Development Programme, contracts were coming to an end and a number of these employees did have contract rights. Therefore, Council may have to map out options for these staff, looking at redeployment as a consideration in due course.

The Director of Business & Communities added that the Mid Ulster Skills Forum was working on future skills and recruitment matters. He advised that a new Collaborative Growth Programme, funded by Council and Invest NI, called 'MEGA', is being driven by the private sector to assist the manufacturing and advanced engineering businesses. Local engineering company, Edge Innovate, is leading this initiative over the next 2 years with approx 80% funding from Invest NI and 20% funding from MUDC.

The Chief Executive said there was a potential impact on Environmental Health staff being required to certify products in terms of food safety for export. If there is a no deal Brexit it could impact the Council with more Environmental Health staff needing training.

If this happened, it will require additional staff and additional hours, without an additional funding resource being available. Presently MUDC is not fully equipped to meet this need and added there may be difficulties in recruiting sufficient numbers of Environmental Health officers to fulfil such roles. If this is the case, the Council will need additional funding to play a more prominent role in food safety.

Within the MUDC area there are many companies who export goods and would feel the impact of Council not having sufficient staff to certify food safety such as Lough Neagh Eels and the agri-food industry.

It was noted that within the Civil Service a team to deal with the impact of Brexit has been set up. They have invited Councils to

<p>be part of this. However, this is not workable at the moment as there are no resources supporting the request.</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Skills Forum has agreed to organise a Brexit Summit once the impact of Brexit becomes clearer. This will also assist migrants to better understand what is happening. In the meantime, Council staff are signposting businesses to other measures to assist them prepare for Brexit.</p> <p><b>(ii) Supply chain:</b></p> <p>Looking at the short/medium term impacts of Brexit it is unclear of the full impact on fuel, gas, electricity and raw materials at this time.</p> <p>Council's senior management have been consulted on this issue and keeping the matter under review. In the short term, waste management issues are under control. There was a view that within the supply chain, goods may become more expensive.</p> <p><b>(iii) Funding:</b></p> <p>On a positive note Peace IV &amp; Interreg funding has been secured in the short term. However, the viability of new Community projects beyond this current funding call is uncertain. Budgets for the next 2 years are secure with a directive from Central Government confirming this. Existing Letter of Offers regarding EU funding will be honoured for Programmes up to 2021.</p> <p>Head of Economic Development stated that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is set to replace European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) when the UK leaves the European Union. At this juncture, she advised that it was unclear where any new Rural Development Programme would be positioned, but early indications would suggest it is closely aligned with the Industrial Strategy, which is productivity driven, and not a natural fit with 'rural'. She advised that NILGA is actively lobbying for Councils to maintain the same level of funding under the new UKSPF as it did previously under ESIF which she added will be a challenge.</p> <p>Members were informed that access to borrowing from the European Investment Bank may be more difficult in future but this was not cited as a major concern as Council did not rely on this as a source of funding.</p>	
<p><b>4. Brexit Support Fund</b></p> <p>Local Councils in England will receive £56.5m to help them address Brexit and to date no such fund was available in Northern Ireland. The Chief Executive said that he felt that any support the Councils needed may come retrospectively.</p>	

<p>The Director of Business &amp; Communities said that our local businesses already portray a great spirit and that they will find a way to survive but the loss of EU funding support for our community groups will have a significant impact.</p>	
<p><b>5. Future Actions</b></p> <p>It was acknowledged there are a lot of ‘unknowns’ at the moment and it was felt that things would be a lot clearer after the Brexit negotiations were finalised.</p> <p>The Chief Executive said the UU Study (May 2017) – “Brexit and the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Corridor: Potential Impacts and Things to Consider” was being updated with regards to crystallising the needs of the border region on such matters as investment, skills, energy, connectivity and barriers to growth.</p> <p>Councillor McPeake complimented the work ongoing by ICBAN on this issue of which Council are a member.</p> <p>Councillor Cuddy said that on a positive note there will be business opportunities following Brexit which we must be ready to grasp. At the moment exports were currently cheaper and local firms were already exploiting this.</p>	
<p><b>6. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>The Director of Organisational Development asked if the minutes of the Brexit Working Group could be made available on the Councils website.</p> <p>C McKenna to liaise with Council’s Communications Team on the matter.</p>	<p>CMcK</p>
<p><b>7. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Future meeting dates to be agreed as the Brexit negotiations progress.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 7.10pm.</p>	



<b>Report on</b>	Town Centre Information Digital Points
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Michael Browne

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval for the locations for the Town Centre Information Digital points.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	At the September Development Committee meeting the members approved the purchase and installation for Town Centre Information Digital points in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt, subject to the officers identifying suitable locations for the digital visitor information points, and these locations being agreed at the October Development Committee meeting.
2.2	As outlined at the September Development Committee meeting, in recent months Officers have explored the possibility of developing a joint project between the economic development and tourism sections. This project relates to the introduction of outdoor digital visitor information points, initially in the three main town centres of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt. These information points or kiosks will be extremely useful to inform and publicise forthcoming Council events, facilities, etc. Whilst officers recognise there are Visitor Information Centres in each of these towns, the VIC's presently don't provide a 24 hour visitor information service to locals/tourists/out of district visitors etc.
2.3	Obviously, the units required will need to be robust and fit for purpose and reach the appropriate ratings for a town centre environment, but at the same time be attractive and blend in with the recent public realm schemes.

	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Officers have considered the best location for town centre information digital points, taking into consideration footfall and availability of services, including electric and internet, both of which is required for this solution.
3.2	<p>The officers have identified and recommend the following three locations for the following town Centres: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cookstown - Outside Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown</li> <li>• Dungannon – The Square, Dungannon.</li> <li>• Magherafelt – Outside Specsavers, Meeting Street, Magherafelt</li> </ul> <p>Please note that the above locations maybe subject to planning &amp; DFI approval.</p>
3.3	The interactive content will act as an extension to the Mid Ulster District Councils website, which will keep the screens updated. The content on the screen queries the council's website for the current information on events, attractions and accommodation.
3.4	The key objective of this project is to build an interactive information kiosk that will provide visitor information for the town centre of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. The digital information screens will provide information about WHAT'S ON, SEE+DO and STAY.
3.5	In addition to providing 24 hour visitor Information in the town centres, it is worth noting that this technology will also provide the Council with a solution that can be extended into hotels, attractions and other strategic entry points, throughout the district.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>A budget of up to £29,000 (excl Vat) will be required to purchase the hardware and software for the digital information points in the 3 towns of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, split as follows from each existing budget during 2019/20;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic Development budget £25,000</li> <li>- Tourism budget £4,000</li> </ul>
	Human: Tourism staff support required.
	Risk Management:



<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Approval for 3 number visitor information kiosks to be located in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt town centres as detailed in this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>



<b>Report on</b>	Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Nigel Hill

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Member approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned in to prepare a Public Park and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council area (MUDC) that will provide direction for the management and development of facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the period 2017-2022 within the Mid Ulster District Council area. MUDC park estate boasts over 100 public park/play facilities across the Council area ranging from small equipped areas for play, Multi Use Game Areas (MUGAs) to parkland of 70 acres in size. In assessing the park locations, the spatial distribution is an important factor. While a higher concentration of park/play facilities are located in the larger towns and settlements, some areas within Council are over provided for while others experience provision to a lesser extent. The draft Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented to committee in June 2018. Members requested that further consultation be undertaken. Two workshop information sessions were held on 31st July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August for members participation from which contributions were collected and factored in to the current plan, mainly in relation to Cookstown town centre and Magherafelt play proposals. The Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented to Committee again in September 2018. Members deferred approval requesting further consultation. Additional one to one consultations were made available to members in October and November 2018. Amendments, as agreed were factored into the final draft.</p> <p>Council are committed to develop public park space, increasing the open and green areas for all members of the community where possible. This Strategy provides an opportunity to review the Council's overall offering with regards the type of provision and also consider the needs of each DEA with regards the distribution of public parks and play for the coming five year period.</p>

3.0	<p><b>Main Report</b></p> <p>3.1 The overall aim is to prepare a strategy that will provide direction for managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over a projected 5 year period. The Strategic Plan process has assessed the status of parks and play within the Council area and planned a future that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>In order to achieve the aims of the Strategy, the following objectives were addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detail and GIS map the nature and extent of public parks and current play provision in Mid Ulster</li> <li>• Outline relevant context of play against what is happening at a regional and national level</li> <li>• Conduct consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community groups and user groups to identify current usage and aspirations for future development of public parks and play in the MUDC area</li> <li>• Undertake research into the benefits, trends and best practice in play</li> <li>• Identify future opportunities and sites for development using supplementary information from the 2011 Census and L&amp;PS</li> <li>• Produce a 5 year costed Action Plan (2020-2025) outlining proposed plans for development between 2020-2025</li> <li>• Cost the Action Plan providing cost summary for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan.</li> </ul> <p>A programme of works setting out the recommendations for each of the 102 public park/play park locations has been identified. The first five years of the strategy has a projected average spend of £250,000 per annum, a total cost of £1,250,000. The Rural Development Programme (RDP) will contribute an additional £1,004,339 of funding over the period of the strategy across 19 sites. A further contribution of £300,000 from Peace IV will provide a combined strategy expenditure of £2,554,339 for identified for Parks and Play projects across Mid Ulster District Council to the end of 2025. The strategy will be reviewed in year three to review progress and profile the remaining two years.</p> <p>This Public Parks and Play Strategy for the Mid Ulster Council area sets out a strategic framework for the next 5 years in order to help reposition the parks and play provision within the Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources.</p> <p>In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken by the legacy Councils.</p>
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<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p><b>Financial:</b> Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan will require council resourcing for the period of the programme that equates to £1,250,000 (excluding external funding streams) over a five year period as scheduled in the action plan. The Parks and Play Strategy may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of external funding that may enhance or change the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</p>
	<p><b>Human:</b> Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Parks and Play Strategic Plan in conjunction with the appointment of appropriately qualified and experienced consultancy (ICT) and supply team (IST).</p>
	<p><b>Risk Management:</b> The strategic plan will be managed and monitored by the Parks Services in line with Council's risk management governance procedures</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p><b>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</b> An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, children's day-care providers, youth centres, community associations and groups, sporting clubs and the general public.</p>
	<p><b>Rural Needs Implications:</b> In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one the 15 outcomes is to 'give our children and young people the best chance in life'<sup>1</sup>. Within this Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure citizens of all abilities are adequately provided for across rural and urban areas</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to approve the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan as presented.
5.2	Members endorsement is sought to present the capital funding request of £1.2 million over five years to P&R Committee for approval.
5.3	Approval is sought to seek the appointment of suitably qualified Integrated consultancy and supply teams (ICT and IST) in order to deliver the programme of investment.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan



**PUBLIC PARKS AND PLAY FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

**2020 - 2025**

[October 2019](#)

**Produced by Outdoor Recreation NI  
on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council**

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## ACRONYMS

CP	Changing Places
DEA	District Electoral Area
DEARA	Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DRD	Department of Regional Development
FSNI	Forest Service NI
GIS	Geographic Information System
LPS	Land & Property Services
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Locally Equipped Area for Play
MUGA	Multi-Use Games Area
MUSA	Mid Ulster Sports Arena
ORAP	Outdoor Recreation Action Plan
ORNI	Outdoor Recreation NI
RDP	Rural Development Programme

## FOREWORD

This report aims to provide a full list of all public park and play within Mid Ulster and every endeavour has been taken to ensure accuracy in mapping.

The results recorded are based on the information received through Council and consultation with various organisations and local groups - sincere thanks and appreciation to all who contributed.

This report and associated recommendations provides a comprehensive picture of the status of current public parks and play opportunities for future development in the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) area.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned in November 2016 to prepare a Public Park and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council area (MUDC) that will provide direction for the management and development of facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the period 2020-2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

Mid Ulster District Council covers an area of some 1714 km<sup>2</sup>, straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east. The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent.

MUDC park estate boasts over 100 public park/play facilities across the Council area ranging from small equipped areas for play, Multi Use Game Areas (MUGAs) to parkland of 70 acres in size. In assessing the park locations, the spatial distribution is an important factor. While a higher concentration of park/play facilities are located in the larger towns, some areas within Council are over provided for while others suffer an obvious lack in provision.

Council are committed to develop public park space, increasing the open and green areas for all members of the community where possible. This Strategy provided an opportunity to review the Council's overall offering with regards the type of provision and also consider the needs of each DEA with regards the distribution of public parks and play.

A number of resources were used to assess the public park and play provision in Mid Ulster:

- Fields In Trust Benchmark Guidelines
- Population data from the 2011 census
- Household pointer data from LPS
- Play Park Quality Inspection Audit
- Community consultation and public survey

Recommendations have been provided for each of the 102 sites in Mid Ulster as well as the open/green space sites that are under Council ownership. In addition, a number of over-arching strategic recommendations have been made for consideration:

- Consultation – It is recommended that Council place consultation with the community at the centre of any proposed future development regards the recommendations for Activity Centres and District Play development as well as those sites considered on the basis of their recommended life span, change of use, enhancement, upgrade, relocation, new park development and woodland play provision. It is felt the proposals for the Activity Centres and District Play should undergo a thorough public consultation process with input from children and young people as well as representation from those with a disability. The establishment of a Steering Group made up of members of the community, Special Education representation as well as relevant agencies would be beneficial and is recommended (including but not limited to Disability Action, MENCAP, RNIB, Guide Dogs NI). In addition, it is felt that a Statistical Disabilities Analysis of children within Northern Ireland and more specifically Mid Ulster would further determine all-ability, facility need.
- Inclusive Play – As highlighted in the Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016), planning must: “ensure that new

open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities". Should Council embark on the process of developing two Activity Centres, it is recommended that these facilities are designed for the groups in need, with consideration being given to the young and those with disabilities. These all ability facilities will not only provide for the community of Mid Ulster but will also enhance the offering for the visitor. Development of the activity centres would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).

- **Public Park Development** – With a lack of open/green space in some DEA's (e.g. Cookstown and Moyola), it is suggested that Mid Ulster Council consider developing 14 of its current park sites and its open/green space sites into public parks as well as including a play element in its Forests. Potential new public park sites include: Ballymacombs - Carntogher, Castlehill - Dungannon, Clady - Carntogher, Fairhill - Cookstown, Henderson Park - Torrent, Hunters Park - Moyola, Manor Park - Magherafelt, Mill Park - Moyola, Moykeeran - Moyola, Railway Park - Dungannon, Parkview/Riverside - Moyola, Roundlake - Clogher Valley, Swatragh - Carntogher and Windmill Wood - Dungannon. Council have a £1m development proposal for Railway Park, deliverable within the strategy period subject to funding. Development of Public Parks would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).
- **Woodland Play** – With a high concentration of woodland and forests across Mid Ulster, it is proposed that a Woodland Play element be developed in some of the key forest sites. This will add value to these locations for the local community and will help support visitor numbers. 8 Small Woodland Play sites and 5 Significant Woodland Play sites have been identified. The 8 Small Woodland Play site identified are: Knockmany Forest, Windmill Wood, Brantry Lough and Forest, Cabin Wood, Inniscarn Forest, Traad Point and Drumcairne Forest. The Significant Woodland Play sites identified include: Derrynoyd Forest, Parkanaur Forest, Pomeroy Forest, Drum Manor Forest and Drumlamph Forest. Development of Woodland Play would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).
- **Public Parks and Play Strategy complemented by other Council Strategies** – As highlighted above, this Strategy should be considered alongside other relevant Council Strategies including the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy to ensure the recommendations in each achieve their full potential.
- **Harness Community Relationships** – The consultation process highlighted that Mid Ulster has strong community involvement with a number of groups developing recreational facilities for their own communities and successfully funding these programmes through relevant grants. One of the 5 themes in the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan is: *'Vibrant and Safe Communities - promote and develop shared space across the area and make more use of existing facilities'*. Therefore, it is recommended that where gaps in provision exist, Council work alongside the community including established community groups and associations as well as local sports clubs and other bodies such as schools and Forest Service.

- Assessments and Audits – While Quality Inspections take place on an annual basis, it is suggested that a Play Value Assessment takes place alongside the forthcoming Quality Audit. Play Value assessments consider the range of play types and the experiences that children derive from the equipment as well as locational and environmental factors and access issues. A Play Value Assessment will be instrumental when determining the enhancements, upgrades and relocations of play sites.
- Risk-Benefit Approach to Play – When considering future play development in Mid Ulster it is suggested that a Risk-Benefit Approach is adapted. The benefits of challenging play are highlighted in the following sections but this is a relatively new way of thinking when developing fixed play. Health and safety considerations in the past have meant that play provision is somewhat lacking in challenging play which offers essential developmental skills. However, Council needs to consider that providing a high standard of play means that children and young people are challenged, whilst minimising unnecessary danger through a common-sense approach.
- Land availability – Land availability is at a premium across Mid Ulster, especially in the DEA of Magherafelt. However, this Strategy acknowledges the lack of provision of open/green space in Magherafelt and it is suggested that Council focus its efforts on investigating possible areas for development and works with other statutory bodies to identify potential sites e.g. Education Authority and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.
- Planning – In line with Council's Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy, Council seek to protect existing areas of open space and encourage the provision of new open space. This will be achieved by identifying important parcels of open space to be protected, zoning of new open space and by formulating policy to require open space to be provided by the developer in new housing developments. In addition, Council recognise the benefits of dual use of open spaces and are working with the Education Authority to share sports pitches. Council are also working with NIHE to facilitate children's play provision on land under their control. It is suggested that Council adopt a strengthened policy approach to ensure that the loss of open space is prevented unless it can be demonstrated that redevelopment would bring substantial community benefit that outweighs the loss of the open space. This strengthened approach should take account of the Regional Development Strategy, SPSS 7 and 8 and the Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy.
- Manned/Staff provision – Park sites that have a staffing element are proven to suffer reduced levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. While not immediate, suggested staff requirements have been correlated as an indicator and should be factored into development projects on a rolling basis. While the development of Activity Centres, District Play and new Public Park proposals are heavily dependent on sourcing external funding streams and are also scheduled beyond the initial five year delivery programme, when the number of these larger facilities increase, staffing levels at designated locations will need to be reviewed.

A programme of works setting out the recommendations for each of the 102 public park/play park locations has been identified. The first five years of the strategy has a projected spend total spend of £1,250,000. The Rural Development Programme (RDP) will contribute an additional £1,004,339 of play improvements during the period of the strategy with Peace money funding an Eco-Park in



Aughnacloy and improvements for Moykeeran/Planter Park and Castledawson totalling £300,000. A projected expenditure of £2,554,339 has been identified for projects to the end of 2025. This programme aims to enhance the public park and play provision across Mid Ulster. However due to the volume of locations, it is suggested that the Strategy is revisited within the third year to assess progress and review the outstanding works to be completed in the remaining 2 years.

The Action Plan below should be read in conjunction with Section 9 which provides additional detail on the action for each of the park, play park, forest or open/green space sites.

Development Year 1	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
<b>RDP Funded</b>				
	Clogher Valley	Augher	RDP	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Ballygawley	RDP	£51,000
	Clogher Valley	Caledon	RDP	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Eglis	RDP	£17,000
	Clogher Valley	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	RDP	£160,000
	Clogher Valley	Granville	RDP	£38,103
	Dungannon	Killyman	RDP	£38,103
	Moyola	Mill Park Tobermore	RDP	£38,103
	Carntogher	Upperlands	RDP	Play Park £145,000 MUGA £101,000
<b>Upgrades</b>				
	Cookstown	Monrush	Upgrade (Phase 1)	£50,000
	Cookstown	Monrush	Upgrade (Phase 2)	£30,000
	Dungannon	Moygashel Jacksonville	Upgrade	£50,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Upgrade to provide inclusive play options	£35,000
	Magherafelt	Glenburn	Upgrade	£45,000
<b>Maintenance &amp; Enhancements</b>				
	Moyola	Boyne Row	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Moyola	Knockloughrim	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Northland Moneymore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£20,000
	Dungannon	Redford	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
<b>Removal</b>				
	Cookstown	Sperrinview	Removal	Maintenance Budget
	Clogher Valley	Killymaddy	Removal	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Moneyneena	Removal	Maintenance Budget

<b>Total</b> (RDP Funding)				<b>£969,515</b> (£664,515)
Capital				£305,000
Programme Variations				£25,000
<b>Overall Total excl RDP</b>				<b>£330,000</b>

Development Year 2	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
<b>RDP Funded</b>	Torrent	Annaghmore/ Clonoe	RDP	£38,103
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	RDP	£38,103
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	RDP	£18,000
	Cookstown	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	RDP	£38,103
	Torrent	Castlebay, Brocagh	RDP	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Castlecaulfield	RDP	£17,000
	Cookstown	Churchview, Drumullan	RDP	£38,103
	Torrent	Henderson Park	RDP	£38,103
	Magherafelt	Loup	RDP	£38,103
	Carntogher	Swatragh	RDP	£38,103
<b>Change of Use/Upgrade</b>				
	Torrent	Innishmore	Change of use MUGA to LEAP Subject to funding from Gortgonis Community Hub Development Project	£45,000
<b>Upgrades</b>				
	Dungannon	Railway	Upgrade and relocation. Subject to major match funded project	£150,000
<b>Maintenance &amp; Enhancements</b>				
	Torrent	Lisnahall, Ardtrea	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Torrent	Donaghmore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000

	Torrent	Brackaville	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
<b>Total</b> (RDP & Gortgonis Community Funding) Capital Programme Variations <b>Overall Total excl RDP &amp; Gortgonis Funding</b>				<b>£609,824</b> (£339,824)  £270,000 £25,000 <b>£295,000</b>

Development Year 3	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
<b>Upgrades</b>				
	Clogher Valley	Clogher	Upgrade	£50,000
	Cookstown	Beechway	Upgrade	£50,000
	Cookstown	Coolnafranky	Upgrade	£50,000
<b>Maintenance &amp; Enhancements</b>				
	Torrent	Battery Harbour	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Orritor St.	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Torrent	Washingbay	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
<b>Total</b> Programme Variations <b>Overall Total</b>				<b>£225,000</b> £25,000 <b>£250,000</b>

Development Year 4	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
<b>Upgrades</b>				
	Dungannon	Moy Curran's Brae	Upgrade	£50,000
<b>Maintenance &amp; Enhancements</b>				
	Dungannon	Milltown	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Conway Close	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Gortalowry	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Killymoon	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Rockdale, Rock	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000

	Clogher Valley	U.S. Grants	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>£200,000</b>
Programme Variations				£25,000
<b>Overall Total</b>				<b>£225,000</b>

Development Year 5	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
<b>Upgrades</b>				
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy	Upgrade	£50,000
<b>Maintenance &amp; Enhancements</b>				
	Torrent	Beechline, Galbally	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Torrent	Mourneview, Carnan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>£125,000</b>
Programme Variations				£25,000
<b>Overall Total</b>				<b>£150,000</b>

Development 5 Years +	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
<b>Activity Centre Development</b>				
	Magherafelt	Ballyronan Marina	Activity Centre Subject to funding	£250,000
	Dungannon	Dungannon Park	Activity Centre Subject to funding	£250,000
<b>District Play Development</b>				
	Carntogher	Coleraine Road	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Cookstown	Fairhill	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Torrent	Gortgonis	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Magherafelt	Meadowbank (leisure centre)	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
<b>Upgrades</b>				
	Dungannon	Drumcoo Green	Upgrade	£50,000
<b>Maintenance &amp; Enhancements</b>				

	Clogher Valley	Ackinduff	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Clogher Valley	Ackinduff	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Benburb	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Blackhill	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Castledawson	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Clady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Coagh Park, Coagh	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Culnady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Davagh Forest	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Dunavon	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Gleone	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Gulladuff	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Innishrush	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Killeen	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Kilross	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Lisnamuck	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Longfield	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lough Fea	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Meadowbank	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Moneymore RC	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Mountcairn Coalisland	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Newmills	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget

	Cookstown	Orritor	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Parkview, Pomeroy	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Rathbeg	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Tamlaght	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Tullywiggan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
<b>Recommended Lifespan</b>				
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballysaggart	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Clare	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Coagh Street	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Crawfordsburn	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Gortnasoar	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Drumcoo	Killymerron	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lindsayville, Ballyronan	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Moy Oakfield	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Mullaghmore	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Stewart Avenue	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
<b>Relocation</b>				
	Torrent	Ardboe	Relocation	£50,000
<b>Change of Use</b>				
	Dungannon	Northland Village	Change of use	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Ratheen	Change of use	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Ardstewart	Change of use	Maintenance Budget
<b>Small Woodland Parks</b>	Clogher Valley	Knockmany Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	Brantry Lough and Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000

	Moyola	Traad Point	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Cookstown	Cabin Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Inniscarn Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Torrent	Drumcairne Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
<b>Significant Woodland Parks</b>				
	Moyola	Drumlamph Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Carntogher	Derrynoyd Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Clogher Valley	Parkanaur Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Cookstown	Pomeroy Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
<b>New Park Sites (15* O'Neill Play only)</b>				
	Moyola	O'Neill Park*	Park Development Subject to funding (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Magherafelt	Manor Park	Park Development Subject to funding (subject to funding)	£150,000
	Moyola	Mill Park	Park Development Subject to funding	£100,000
	Carntogher	Swatragh	Park Development Subject to funding	£140,000
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	Park Development Subject to funding	£100,000
	Moyola	Parkview/ Riverside	Park Development Subject to funding	£150,000
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Cookstown	Fairhill	Park Development (subject to funding)	£250,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Park Development (subject to funding)	£150,000
	Dungannon	Castlehill	Park Development	£150,000



			(subject to funding)	
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	£125,000
	Moyola	Moykeeran	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Dungannon	Railway Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Torrent	Henderson Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Moyola	Newferry Slipway	Park Development (subject to funding)	£75,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>£3,339,000*</b>

Development programmes and time scales may vary subject available funding streams\*

## 1. BACKGROUND

### 1.1. Introduction

“Children are disappearing from the outdoors at a rate that would make the top of any conservationist’s list of endangered species if they were any other member of the animal kingdom” (Gill, 2005)<sup>1</sup>

In recent years, there has been a cultural shift in our society that has reduced the access and use of outdoors for many children. No longer do children enjoy the same everyday freedom of movement as previous generations.

Adults of the future are becoming increasingly disconnected from green space and the outdoors and are showing symptoms of what has been described as ‘nature deficit disorder’. They are losing their physical contact with the outdoors and intimacy with the outdoors is fading.

According to Tim Gill having regular contact with nature and green spaces is part of a balanced diet of childhood experience and if children do not have those experiences then they are not going to thrive to the same degree as if they did.

Contributory factors to children now experiencing less time in the outdoors include increased fear amongst adults in relation to children’s safety (‘stranger danger’), a loss of greenspace for public access, historical under investment in facilities, reduced parental time for supervision because of work and technological advances leading to an overwhelming prominence of more sedentary indoor activities, such as TV, video and computer games.

According to Play England, it is not uncommon that parents think that taking their kids to the Park is something you do as a treat instead of something you do every day.

This sits against the fact that play has many benefits and includes according to OFMDFM (Play and Implementation Plan)

- positive physical and mental health development
- supporting the development of brain capacity in early years
- supporting a connection with nature and the environment
- supporting broad holistic development incorporating areas such as physical literacy, cognitive skills and creativity
- providing opportunities for children and young people to assess and manage risk for themselves<sup>2</sup>

This Public Parks and Play Strategy for the Mid Ulster Council area sets out a strategic framework for the next 5 years in order to help reposition the parks and play provision within the Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils’ capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources.

In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken individually by the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone, Magherafelt and Cookstown Councils.

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<sup>1</sup> Children in the Outdoors - A literature review, Dr. Sarah-Anne Muñoz (2009)

<sup>2</sup> Play and Leisure Implementation Plan Narrative, Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

## 1.2. Aim

The overall aim of the Strategy is:

- To prepare a Strategy that will provide direction for managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the next 5 year period.
- The Strategic Plan process will assess the status of parks and play within the Council area and plan a future that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.

## 1.3. Objectives

In order to achieve the aims of the Strategy, the following objectives were addressed:

- Detail and GIS map the nature and extent of public parks and current play provision in Mid Ulster
- Outline relevant context of play against what is happening at a regional and national level
- Conduct consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community groups and user groups to identify current usage and aspirations for future development of public parks and play in the MUDC area
- Undertake research into the benefits, trends and best practice in play
- Identify future opportunities and sites for development using supplementary information from the 2011 Census and L&PS
- Produce a 5 year costed Action Plan (2020-2025) outlining proposed plans for development between 2020-2025
- Cost the Action Plan providing cost summary for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan.

## 2. SCOPE

### 2.1. Project Area

Mid Ulster District Council covers an area of some 1714 km<sup>2</sup>, straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east.

According to the 2011 Census, the Council serves a population of over 138,590, one third of which live in urban areas. The area's principal towns are Cookstown, Coalisland, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Maghera. Two thirds of its population live in rural areas.

The Mid Ulster Council area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola, and Torrent.

DEA Name	Estimated Population <sup>3</sup>
<b>Carntogher</b>	16,972
<b>Clogher Valley</b>	19,402
<b>Cookstown</b>	23,049
<b>Dungannon</b>	21,485
<b>Magherafelt</b>	18,000
<b>Torrent</b>	22,240
<b>Moyola</b>	17,442
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138,590</b>

The estimated overall population of Mid Ulster Local Government District at 30 June 2015 was 147,152 with further growth anticipated by 2025 rising to 164,671<sup>4</sup>.

According to the 2011 census, Mid Ulster has a population of 31,952, 0-15 year olds or 23% versus an average of 21% for Northern Ireland for this age band. The estimated overall population of 0-15 from the 2014-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland was estimated to be 31,225 with the projected youthful population rising slightly to 33,282 by 2025<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> All usual residents, Northern Ireland Census 2011

<sup>4</sup> Mid Ulster Position Paper One, Population and Growth, September 2014

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2014-based-population-projections-areas-within-northern-ireland>



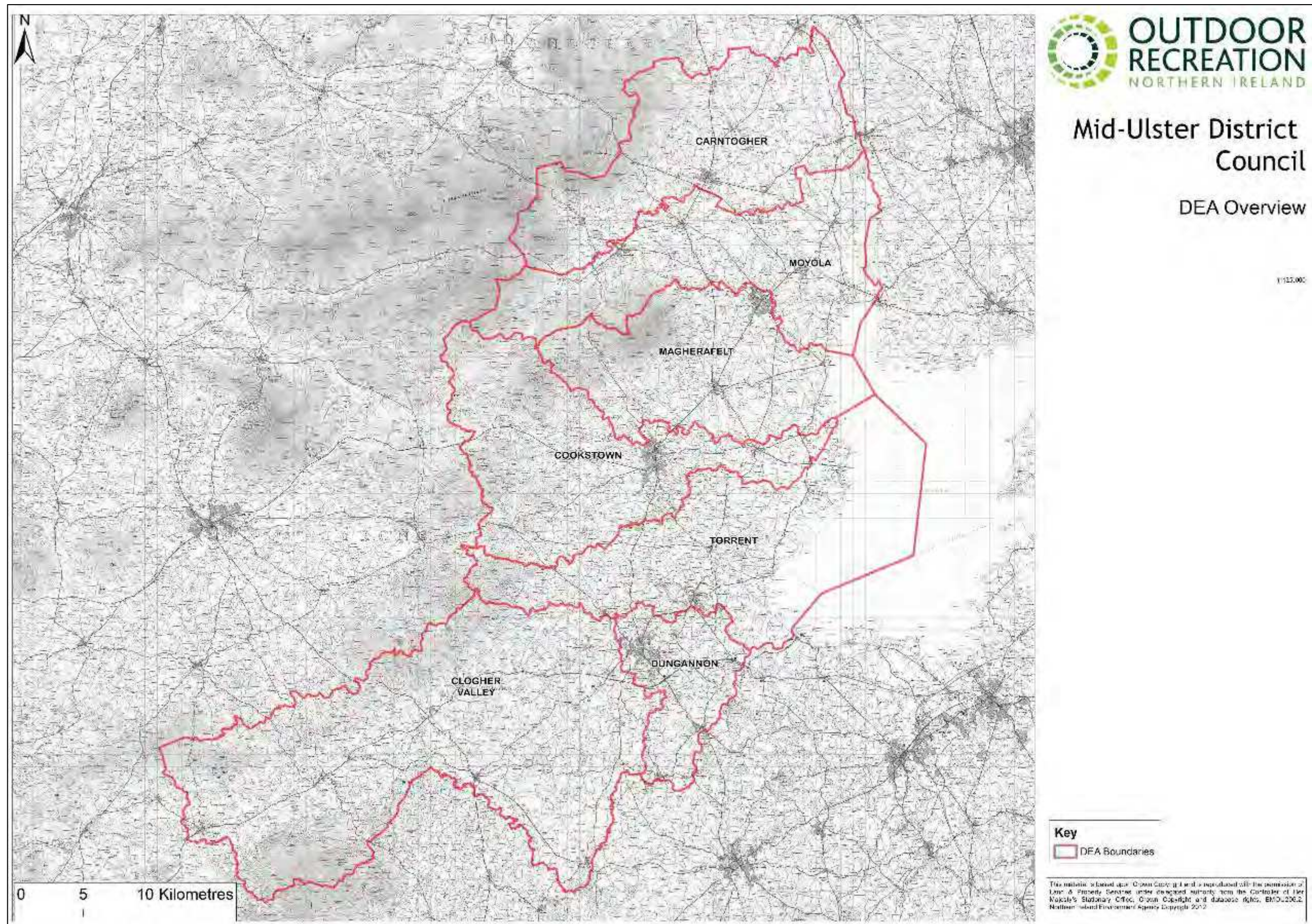


FIGURE 1 MID ULSTER DEA BOUNDARIES



### 3. CONTEXT

This Public Parks and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster is set in the context of numerous strategic, regional and local plans, strategies and policy statements as well as documents that focus on the benefits, trends and best practice of play and inclusive play:

- Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
- Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister Our Children and Young People (2006).
- Play and Leisure Policy Statement (OFMDFM, 2008)
- Play and Leisure Implementation Plan (OFMDFM, 2011)
- A Fitter Future for All - Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland (Department of Health, 2012-2022)
- Our Great Outdoors – The Outdoor Recreation Plan for Northern Ireland
- Sports Matters: Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 -2019
- Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Census 2011
- Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019
- Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016 -2021 for Mid Ulster District Council
- Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
- Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
- Mid Ulster Area Preparatory Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Study 2015
- Mid Ulster Forest Recreation Audit 2015
- Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) Play and Leisure Policy Briefing Paper (2010)
- Relevant Research and Publications by Playboard Northern Ireland
- Planning Policy Statement PPS 7 Quality Residential Environments
- Planning Policy Statement PPS8 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Policy
- Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard, FIT (October 2015)
- Children’s Play and Leisure – Promoting a balanced approach – Health and Safety Executive 2012
- Best Play – National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)
- Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper, Mid Ulster District Council (November 2016)
- Health and Well-being -Trees, Woodlands and Natural Spaces, Forestry Commission (2003)

Although all the above are important, the following documents are considered of most relevance and are detailed below:

1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
3. Play and Leisure Policy Statement (OFMDFM, 2008)
4. Play and Leisure Implementation Plan (OFMDFM, 2011)
5. Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland
6. Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019
7. Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

8. Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
9. Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
10. Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council
11. Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge 2016
12. Planning Policy Statement PPS 7 Quality Residential Environments
13. Planning Policy Statement PPS8 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Policy
14. Best Play – National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)
15. Health and Well-being -Trees, Woodlands and Natural Spaces, Forestry Commission (2003)
16. Play for All – Providing play facilities for disabled children
17. Children’s Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, September 2012
18. Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, Play Safety Forum, David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegel (2013)
19. Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces, Play England (2008)
20. Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool, Play England (October 2009)
21. Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016)
22. A Countryside for health and well-being- the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise (CRN, 2005)
23. Play - A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood (Appg, October 2015)
24. Changing Places: the practical guide, Changing Places Consortium
25. The Value of Public Space – Commission for Architecture

### **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

The basic principle underlying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, often referred to as the UNCRC is that children (defined as being 18 years or under) are born with the same fundamental set of rights as all humans, with a number of additional rights due to their vulnerability.

Article 31 of the UNCRC formally recognises the child’s right to play and the right to engage in other recreational activities, including participation in cultural activities and the arts. Article 31 states:

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

### **Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021**

The Draft Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 is currently out for public consultation. In due course, the Programme for Government Framework will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and an Anti-Poverty/Social Strategy. The Programme will also inform the development of the Executive’s budget

over the course of this mandate and provide a mechanism for ensuring limited funds are best directed to where they can contribute most.

The Draft Framework contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing. They touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and building confident and peaceful communities. In addition to merely fulfilling statutory obligations, the new Executive hopes to be able to target those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen.

The strategic outcomes are supported by 42 indicators, which are clear statements for change. The following indicators are of particular relevance to the proposed project:

- Reduce health inequality
- Increase life expectancy
- Improve mental health
- Improve our attractiveness as a destination and improve our international reputation.

Key to the success of the new Programme for Government is the ability of Departments to work collaboratively with not only themselves but also with other public bodies and the voluntary and private sector.

### **Play and Leisure Policy Statement for NI**

OFMDFM's ten year Play and Leisure Policy Statement published in 2009 sets out the NI Executive's commitment towards ensuring 'a happier and healthier future for all children and young people'. The Strategy has its foundations in the UNs Convention on the Rights of the Child which was ratified by the UK Government in December 1991 and which recognised the importance of play and leisure activities for the child

It recognises that play is a 'powerful medium for teaching values to children of all ages' and recognises that good play and leisure opportunities can help improve quality of life and safety in neighbourhoods, tackle obesity, promote children's health and well-being, support children's development and build community cohesion.

It sets out a vision for play as:

To recognise, respect and resource play is to recognise, respect and value childhood'

The Statement also recognises that some vulnerable groups including those in poverty and those with disabilities may need additional support to gain maximum benefit from play.

### **Play and Leisure Implementation Plan**

Consistent with 'Our Children and Young People – Our pledge', OFMDFM's 2011 Play and Leisure Implementation Plan includes the following key principles:

**Accessibility** – there should be sufficient provision of, and transport to and from places and spaces for play and leisure.

**Affordability** – costs associated with play and leisure should be affordable.



**Flexibility** – service providers should be flexible in delivering play and leisure opportunities based on the views of children and young people.

**Diversity** – through play and leisure there should be access to a range of people, places, spaces, opportunities and experience.

**Integration** – play and leisure opportunities should support building community cohesion.

**Inclusion** – irrespective of race, ethnic origin, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability religion or age, all children and young people should have an equal opportunity to be involved in play and leisure.

**Quality** – all play and leisure activities and places should be fit for purpose and meet quality standards.

**Participation** – all children and young people have the opportunity to participate actively in decision that may affect their play and leisure.

### **Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland**

This Action Plan published in 2014 was commissioned by Sport NI and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) with support from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) Inland Waterways Branch.

The Action Plan highlights the importance of making the outdoors accessible to everyone and the opportunities that there are to participate, not only in rural areas but also in the urban fringes.

The Plan's vision is: "a culture of dynamic, sustainable outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland"

To achieve this vision, the aim is for Northern Ireland to be a place where:

- there are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure for sustained and increased participation for everyone in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities
- there are accompanying benefits to local communities, especially those who are socially excluded in terms of health, social inclusion, cohesion, equality, and economic development; and
- people enjoy the outdoors and show a high degree of responsibility for themselves, towards others and towards the environment they are using, and play their part in maintaining, supporting and enhancing our environment and heritage.

### **Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019**

Whilst Northern Ireland's environment provides conditions of international quality for a range of activities, Sport Matters recognises that not everyone will wish to achieve in performance sport and the Strategy encourages the development and use of open spaces for a variety of informal recreational and outdoor pursuits. Being out in the fresh air enjoying the scenery, whilst taking exercise, is recognised as important elements of Sport Matters. The Strategy acknowledges that the natural environment provides many opportunities for a range of sporting and physical recreation activities but that access issues exist.

In aspiring to the target that "by 2019 Northern Ireland will have developed a range of new, improved and shared sports facilities to a standard comparable with other similar regions of the UK", the Strategy indicates that this will require:

- public access to and sustainable use of, publicly-owned lands across Northern Ireland for sport, physical recreation and activity tourism (2015 target included in the Strategy);
- a planning system which facilitates and protects the provision of spaces for sport and physical recreation by following Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2019 target included in the Strategy).

Sport Northern Ireland has also approved a position statement regarding access to the natural environment in support of targets set out in the Sport Matters Strategy. The objective is to communicate Sport Northern Ireland's position on the importance it attaches to outdoor recreation through:

- promoting the best possible access to the natural environment for sport and physical recreation within the confines of existing legislation and organisation of the land ownership prevalent in Northern Ireland.
- encouraging and supporting full access for responsible and sustainable recreation on public land through the development of policy frameworks by other public bodies – especially those that are custodians of public land.

### **Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019**

The overarching vision of the Council's Corporate Plan is 'Mid Ulster Council aspires to be at the heart of our community'.

The Council has identified a number of key issues of importance to the people across Mid Ulster including; education, the economy, the environment, safety, a sense of belonging, partnership working, improved infrastructure, accessible amenities and attractive vibrant, tourism villages and open spaces. These issues are reflected in four themes namely:

1. Delivering for our People
2. Creating Growth
3. Sustaining our Environment
4. Building Unity

Theme 1 – 'Delivering for our People' includes as its priorities for action: 'High quality, responsive, indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction'

Theme 2 – 'Creating Growth' recognises the importance of a capital investment and improvement programme for the area including improving the physical infrastructure and connectivity of Mid Ulster and the importance of optimising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster'

Theme 3: Sustaining our Environment Theme recognises the important of the environment which the Plan notes as deserving to be protected, preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of everyone. Specific priorities include:

- maximising potential of the area's natural and built attractions and facilities, building collaborative partnerships and strategic alliances;
- realising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster, being clear upon the opportunities and targeting resources
- developing and enhancing parks, play areas and open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.

The importance of community planning is recognised in Theme 4: Building Unity, whereby a key priority of the Council is to use Community Planning to connect communities and form collaborative partnerships.

### **Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan**

Community Planning is a significant new statutory power which has been presented to Councils within Northern Ireland as a result of local government reform. Mid Ulster's first Community Plan published in 2016 sets out the vision of:

'Mid Ulster – a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel'

The Plan sets out 15 outcomes to be achieved through a number of actions that have been structured into 5 themes namely:

- Economic growth
- Infrastructure
- Education and Skills
- Health and Well Being and
- Vibrant and Safe Communities

Running across the five themes are three cross cutting themes which impact on all aspects of life in Mid Ulster. One of these is 'sustainable environment' which recognises that Mid Ulster is home to many precious environments which its people have fostered and cherished for generations.

Four of the five themes include actions relating directly to the wider agenda of outdoor recreation as follows:

#### **Economic growth**

- maximise tourism investment and employment concentrating on the three strategic tourism themes of Seamus Heaney, Activity and Heritage

#### **Infrastructure**

- secure the transfer of Lough Neagh into public ownership
- progress the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links
- increase the protection of, and access to and development of heritage assets – both natural and man-made including; Seamus Heaney countryside, O'Neill heritage, Lough Neagh, Sperrins, Beaghmore and the area's forests.

#### **Health and Well Being**

- deliver a Recreation and Active Lifestyle Plan which will provide formal and informal recreation and play opportunities

#### **Vibrant and Safe Communities**

- promote and develop shared space across the area and make more use of existing facilities.

### **Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans**

46 village plans cover MUDC. Many of these have been updated within the past 12 months. Within many of the individual Village Plans there are specific recommendations relating to the provision of public park and play opportunities. These have been extracted and are highlighted in Appendix 5.

### **Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council**

Prepared by BTS, the Action Plan sets out the vision for tourism in Mid Ulster as

‘to enhance Mid Ulster’s image and reputation for visitors and grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021 as measured by overnight visitor expenditure’.

In order to achieve this vision the Plan highlights five strategic themes and interrelated actions for delivery one of which is the:

- development of three strategic tourism strands (Seamus Heaney, Archaeological Sites history and heritage and Outdoor Activities).

The development of outdoor activities in the area is therefore recognised as serving as one of the three strategic core propositions for Mid Ulster to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer in the area and ensure that tourism contributes to the local economy.

The Action Plan states that ‘the objective of focussing on the outdoor activity market lies in its scale and size and the opportunity of strengthening the competitiveness of the Mid Ulster destination, by building on this underdeveloped sector’.

Key actions identified in the Plan to improve the economic contribution of outdoor and activity tourism include:

- creating a coherent and compelling range of outdoor activity sites and facilities by pulling all existing and potential new sites under one umbrella
- positioning Mid Ulster as a centre of excellence for the visitor, thus encouraging them to visit the area, stay longer and spend more
- the development of the outdoor and activity tourism product comprising both physical development and management and organisational dimensions – marketing, interagency collaboration and cluster development
- the development of key Forest Parks – Parkanaur, Knockmany and Drum Manor.
- The delivery of a year-round programme of events.

### **Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge 2016**

OFMDFM’s 10-year strategy for children and young people published in 2006 sets out 6 high level outcomes namely:

- Healthy
- Enjoying, learning and achieving
- Living in safety and with stability
- Experiencing economics and environmental well being
- Contributing positively to community and society
- Living in a society which respect their rights

Play links directly to these outcomes in the following way:

**Healthy:** Play, especially outdoors, offers many opportunities for physical activity. Physical inactivity and rising levels of childhood obesity in NI is of major concern. To get the maximum developmental and experiential benefit from their play children need to have access to a range of play experience and opportunities and be involved in different and distinctive types of play. It is recognised that play also enhances the mental health of children and highlights the importance of children being able to play, take risks and to use their own initiative.

**Enjoying, learning and achieving:** in early childhood, most of children's learning is acquired through play. It allows children and young people to explore boundaries, test abilities, use initiative, take risk and make mistakes without fear of failure. The Statement states that since the essence of play is about fun, enjoyment and achievement it is important to work to create spaces both in rural areas and in a range of setting where children are enjoying themselves and having fun.

**Contributing positively to community and society:** facilities used for play are frequently seen as focal points for communities and offer opportunities for real social interaction for children and for the wider community and supports the development of a greater sense of community spirit.

**Living in safety and with stability:** communities where play is configured to maximise informal contact among neighbours, the streets are safer, children are taken better care of, people are generally happier with their surroundings and there is increased social participation in local activities and reduced risk of crime, graffiti and violence.

**Experiencing economic and environmental well-being:** people who acquire more skills become more able. Play is recognised as being central to acquiring skills and developing one's ability.

#### **Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) – Quality Residential Environments (2001)**

PPS 7 sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans. It applies to all residential development proposals with the exception of proposals for single dwelling in the countryside.

It recognises that new residential development can threaten local character and identity and that developments have tended to be designed around the requirements of the private car and often lack adequate provision of open space or landscaping. Consequently, all residential developments are expected to conform to certain criteria including:

- adequate provision is made for public and private open space and landscaped areas as an integral part of the development.

More specifically it states that integrating pleasant, attractive and landscaped areas of public open space, including children's play spaces, is as an intrinsic element of any new residential development as open space not only has recreational and social benefits but is also considered vital to the overall design quality of the development. It can help promote biodiversity and contributes to the creation of an attractive, sustainable and varied residential environment, helping to 'green' an area, soften any environmental impact and foster a sense of community.

#### **Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)**

PPS 8 sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and

outdoor recreation and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.

Open Space is defined in PPS8, Open Space, Sport and outdoor Recreation as:

‘all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canal, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity’.

Open space, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life providing many health, cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban regeneration. The use being made of the countryside for a range of sporting and outdoor recreational activities, particularly where these are associated with farm diversification, can contribute to the process of rural regeneration and help promote natural resource tourism.

Consequently, retaining open space, creating new open space and promoting more opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation in the future is of significant importance.

#### **Best Play – National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)**

Developed in conjunction with PLAYLINK and the Children's Play Council, Best Play is about how children benefit from play opportunities. It is also about how play services and spaces can provide these benefits, and how they can show that they are providing them. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK Government in December 1991, recognises the importance of play for the child. Article 31 of the Convention states that:

"States parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. A set of values and principles about children and play, based on the UN Convention and on understandings about play have been created within the document: Children's views, Access to Rich Stimulating Environments, Freedom to Play,

Equal entitlement, Respect for children, Children's abilities, Play for its own sake, The importance of risk, The adult role in play and Adult responsiveness.

#### **Health and Well-being -Trees, Woodlands and Natural Spaces, Forestry Commission (2003)**

The relationships between the environment, health, culture and society are the foundation of the study within this document. Outdoor activity in a Forest environment will have an obvious and direct positive effect on health but it is also highlighted that people feel more relaxed when viewing trees and other plants as well as water and therefore has a positive impact on physical well-being. In addition, Woodlands also offer a focal meeting place which forms an important part of local identity. Finally, it is also stated that 'Natural Environments' can introduce an element of physical and mental challenge. A USDA Forest Service Study (2001) also suggested that in areas with trees, children played for longer and were involved in more collaborative play.

## **Play for all - Providing play facilities for disabled children (<http://www.dessa.ie/publications>)**

Play for All aims to help Family Resource Centres (FRCs), Community Development Projects (CDPs) and other small community-based organisations to ensure that outdoor play facilities associated with their premises and centre-based activities, or any others that they use, are accessible and welcoming to all disabled children living in their local areas. It highlights the importance of play and that all children are entitled to access to play. Consultation is highlighted and that disabled children and their families should be included in the process. Safety and risk need to be managed to ensure the balance of attractive challenging play is coupled with adequate safety measures. Finally, planning and design recommendations are highlighted providing some initial thoughts when planning an inclusive play area.

## **Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, Health and Safety Executive (2012)**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) fully supports the provision of play for all children in a variety of environments. In this statement, HSE makes clear that, as a regulator, it recognises the benefits of allowing children and young people of all ages and abilities to have challenging play opportunities.

Key message: 'Play is great for children's well-being and development. When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits. No child will learn about risk if they are wrapped in cotton wool'. The HSE state that it is important to strike the right balance between protecting children from the most serious risks and allowing them to reap the benefits of play. They state that it is not about eliminating risk but more about sensible adult judgements are all that is generally required to derive the best benefits to children whilst ensuring that they are not exposed to unnecessary risk. This statement also states that industry standards such as EN 1176 offer benchmarks that can help. This statement defines what parents and society should expect from play providers: Key message: 'Those providing play opportunities should focus on controlling the real risks, while securing or increasing the benefits – not on the paperwork'. The HSE supports the Implementation Guide developed by the Play Safety Forum, as a sensible approach to risk management. Indeed, the Statement acknowledges that accidents can happen but this possibility does not mean that play providers should eliminate even the most trivial of risks and provided sensible and proportionate steps have been taken, it is highly unlikely there would be any breach of health and safety law involved, or that it would be in the public interest to bring a prosecution.

## **Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, Play Safety Forum (2013)**

As an independent body, hosted by play England, The Play Safety Forum, formed in 1993, exists to consider and promote the wellbeing of children and young people through ensuring a balance between safety, risk and challenge in respect of play and leisure provision. Children want exciting places to play which in turn are inherently risky, however there is a need to foster positive risk taking which is fundamental to children's health and development. This document acts as a guide for those tasked with the design, maintenance and delivery of play services. The document states that many providers do not use all four levels of the risk benefit management process. Risk management as it is currently practised is likely to include the following activities:

- procurement processes that require designs to be compliant with standards to a lesser or greater extent
- post-installation inspections by competent inspectors (in-house or external)
- annual inspections by competent inspectors (in-house or external)

- more frequent routine inspections by staff or volunteers.

The guide further advises how providers can incorporate their Risk Management procedures into a Risk Benefit Assessment. The risk benefit assessment model is recognised as a practical and common-sense approach in the provision of children's play balancing risk and challenge. 'Risk-benefit assessment focuses on making judgements and identifying measures that manage risks while securing benefits'.

In conclusion, despite increasing concern over health and safety in today's society, it is still acknowledged there is a need for good or managed risk in play which engage and challenge children to supports their growth, learning and development.

### **Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces, Play England (2008)**

This document is primarily aimed at commissioners and designers of children's play areas. The guidance is intended to support good practice in the development and improvement of public play space. Given the reduced opportunity for children to play, this guide is also intended to inform the creation of outdoor play space for years to come. This document states that these areas should be places where children and young people can enjoy spending time, be physically active, interact with their natural surroundings, experience change and continuity, take risks in an environment where they feel safe and, of course, play – alone or with others – in a wide variety of ways.

The key piece of guidance within this document is how to create inspiring places for play, giving children and young people the freedom to play creatively, yet still allow them to experience risk, challenge and excitement. 10 principles for designing successful play spaces are encapsulated in one golden rule 'A successful play space is a place in its own right, specially designed for its location, in such a way as to provide as much play value as possible'.

It aims to show that, with imagination, planning and an understanding of children's needs, it is possible to create and maintain exciting play areas for children and young people of different ages, sometimes by making only small changes to existing provision. It also aims to provide the ideas and the practical resources for building new play areas in a fresher and more inspiring way than is current common practice.

### **Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool, Play England (2008)**

The benefits of play have been well documented by Play England and how play contributes to children's overall development including teaching vital skills such as planning, negotiating, being creative, not being afraid to take risks and to experiment, having fun and enjoying themselves. The Quality Assessment Tool aims to help providers create the best possible conditions to allow children develop in through play. The aim of the quality assessment is to assess the quality of children's play spaces. It is designed as a tool to help play providers look at the spaces available for children's play, and assess what improvements could be made to enhance the use and quality of those spaces.

The assessment tool focuses on three major aspects to children's outdoor play provision: the location of play areas, the play value and the care and maintenance. The guide offers guidelines for the assessment of the three different types of play space and facility to which all children and young people should have free access in their local neighbourhood – Type A: Doorstep space and facility, Type B: Local space and facility and Type C: Neighbourhood space and facility



This document highlights that location may be the single most important factor in how well children use not only play spaces but also open/green spaces. Young children need a location where they can be seen, older children need a location where they can roam and 'hang out' and children with disabilities or siblings in push chairs need a facility they access with ease.

The importance of play value is described as the different experiences that children derive from play areas such as swinging, sliding and rocking. It is noted that quiet, contemplative play is just as important as physical, boisterous play and that the natural environment provides a wealth of opportunity in this environment.

The importance of care and maintenance is addressed to allow children to play free from unexpected hazards and to ensure other types of risk-benefit analysis are being undertaken.

Finally, the Quality Assessment tool gives consideration to who carries out the assessment, guidelines and definitions for assessing the three different types of play and the score sheet. The score sheet assesses the site including first impressions as well as considering planning decisions. The 'Judgements for planning' section is to be completed at the end of the assessments once scores have been analysed. This section will provide a record of the rationale for the development decisions for each site. The scores (from 1 to 5) are converted into percentage scores to allow for weighting and comparisons between sites and between the location, play value and care and maintenance sections. The aim of the scoring system is to identify which play area and which particular aspects of the play area require improvement.

#### **Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016)**

The Preferred Options Paper (POP) from Mid Ulster Council is the first formal stage in the development of the Council's Local Development Plan. The POP is a consultation document prepared to promote debate and discussion on strategic issues which are likely to influence and shape future development in Mid Ulster.

The Paper has been prepared to inform interested parties and individuals on the matters that may have a direct effect on the area and to set out possible options for development as well as the council's preferred option to address those matters. The paper provides the public and stakeholders with an opportunity to put forward their views and influence the plan from the outset.

The POP proposes strategic guidelines for accommodating growth across Mid Ulster, together with housing allocations and policies. It also explores how the creation of new jobs and prosperity can be facilitated and how our environment can be enhanced and infrastructure improved. It provides a series of maps showing where possible constraints on development could be introduced and indicates directions of growth for the towns.

The Mid Ulster Local Development Plan will share the vision of the Regional Development Strategy;

"An outward-looking, dynamic and liveable Region with a strong sense of its place in the wider world; a Region of opportunity where people enjoy living and working in a healthy environment which enhances the quality of their lives and where diversity is a source of strength rather than division."

The Plan will be tailored in line with Mid Ulster's emerging Community Plan which presents a vision of:

“Mid Ulster...a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel”.

To address the vision of the RDS, the emerging Community Plan and the current key issues within Mid Ulster the Local Development Plan will contain a set of objectives to aid the sustainable development of the District:

- Accommodating People and Creating Places
- Creating jobs and promoting prosperity
- Enhancing the environment and improving infrastructure

It is the final objective that aims to address the matter of open space and leisure, ensuring that Mid Ulster is well served in relation to the provision of formal and informal open space and leisure facilities, thus improving the quality of life for its people.

### **A Countryside for Health and Well-being – The Physical and Mental Health Benefits of Green Exercise (CRN, 2005)**

This study focuses on the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise. In an age where green space is at a premium and under pressure from economic development this document indicates that less green nature means reduced mental wellbeing, or at least less opportunity to recover from mental stress.

Substantial evidence links the natural environment with good physical health and psychological wellbeing. The 'Biophilia Hypothesis' states that the desire for contact with nature is partly innate. As physical activity and nature can positively affect wellbeing, the research explores the synergy in adopting physical activities whilst being directly exposed to nature and have named it 'green exercise'.

The study sets out three levels of engagement with nature

- viewing nature - as through a window, or in a painting
- being in the presence of nearby nature - which may be incidental to some other activity, such as walking or cycling to work, reading on a garden seat or talking to friends in a park; and
- active participation and involvement with nature - such as gardening, farming, trekking, camping, cross-country running or horse-riding

As a result of green exercise, there was a significant improvement in self-esteem in nine out of the ten case studies. The largest change was detected amongst those who took part in Woodland Activities.

### **Play - A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood (Appg, October 2015)**

The purpose of the All Party Parliamentary Group is to promote evidence based discussion and produce reports on all aspects of childhood health and wellbeing including obesity; to inform policy decisions and public debate relating to childhood; and to enable communications between interested parties and relevant parliamentarians. The Working Group that produced this report is a sub-group of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood.

There are a number of recommendations made within this report which are felt to be a reflection of the work required to recognise the importance of play to child development and to create the environment that will reverse the recent trend of reducing play opportunities. Recommendations made are in line with the following:

- the role and responsibilities of government enabling play both in England and the devolved UK and the practice and model of other countries
- play in early years' settings, primary and secondary schools
- outdoor and indoor play; barriers and opportunities
- educational learning through play both pre-school and in-school to include an exploration of the role and place of modern technology in child play in home and school settings
- assistance/guidance for families in facilitating a rich and stimulating play environment for children both within and outside the home
- play and the planning system
- play and the evaluation of risk and safety
- the role of media, advertising and the play industry in the promotion of beneficial children's play
- the training needs of the children's workforce
- health benefits of play; physical health and nutrition, mental and emotional health – and play as therapy for children, how play contributes to the public health agenda
- play, diversity and inclusion

The report concludes with the government strategy for play.

### **Changing Places: the practical guide, Changing Places Consortium**

Drafted by the Changing Places Consortium, this document provides practical guidance on the design and management of a Changing Places (CP) toilet facility. The CP Consortium supports the installation of CP facilities in public buildings and raises awareness of CP facilities across the UK through an interactive map displaying location address, contact details and opening times of accredited CP facilities. Members of the CP Consortium include: PAIMS, Royal Mencap Society, Centre of Accessible Environments, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Nottingham City Council and Scottish Government. CP is supported in Northern Ireland by Mencap.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland act is most relevant to the provision of CP in Northern Ireland while Public bodies in Northern Ireland must also meet duties under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995) to promote positive attitudes towards those with disabilities and encourage participation of disabled people in public life. Building regulations and design guidance under Technical Booklet R2012 – Access to and use of buildings, recommends that those with profound and multiple learning difficulties and who need help of up to two assistants, need a facility if that is a combined toilet, shower and changing room.

The guide details planning and design specifications as well as equipment, finance/funding, management and maintenance information, providing a comprehensive guide to ensure those people with disabilities and their families have access to hygienic and dignified toilet and changing provision.

### **The Value of Public Space: Architecture Commission**

CABE Space is part of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and was set up in May 2003. It champions excellence in the design and management of parks, streets and squares in towns and cities. CABE Space receives funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and support from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. This report identifies how high-quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

Both primary and secondary research techniques were employed during the preparation of the Strategy. Data from previous projects within the area supplemented with further on-line research was used to complement an extensive consultation exercise.

Consultation involved a variety of techniques including email, telephone, face-to-face, online questionnaires and a series of public consultation events. In total, seven public consultation events took place, one in each of the Council's seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs). See Appendix 2 for details of the public consultation events.

Each consultation event was promoted widely through the following channels:

- direct emails to all community groups within the area through Council Community Development Service
- editorial in local newspapers including Derry Post, Mid Ulster Mail, Mid Ulster Observer, Tyrone Courier, Tyrone Herald and Tyrone Times
- websites including Outdoor Recreation NI.com, OutdoorNI.com, WalkNI.com, Rural Community Network.com, CommunityNI.com and Mid Ulster Council consultation page
- direct emails through in-house mailing lists, Rural Community Network and various governing bodies
- Facebook pages including WalkNI and social media channels across Council
- wide circulation of consultation poster which advertised dates, venues and purpose of the events to community groups and youth organisations
- consultation posters printed on coriboard located at public parks and play parks across Mid Ulster

At each of the consultation events a short presentation, given by ORNI, was followed by a breakout session where attendees had the opportunity to report the sites and areas they currently use for play and outdoor recreation and what they would like to see developed in the future.

In total 55 people attended the public consultation events.

Table 1 summarises the different consultation methods used throughout the preparation of the Strategy.

<b>Consultee Category</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>
<b>Council Officers</b>	Face-to-face meeting Invited to DEA public consultations Senior Management Team (SMT)
<b>Council Elected Member</b>	Invited to DEA public consultations
<b>Governing Bodies of Sport</b>	Face-to-face meeting or telephone interviews (depending on convenience)
<b>Public/Statutory Agencies and Charitable organisations e.g. Sure Start, MENCAP, Disability Action, Guide Dogs NI</b>	Face-to-face meeting (where relevant) Follow-up phone call to discuss (where relevant)
<b>Community Groups</b>	Invited to DEA public consultations Face-to-face meetings (where appropriate)
<b>Youth organisations, afterschool clubs and special schools</b>	Face-to-face meeting (where relevant) Follow-up phone call to discuss (where relevant) Invited to DEA public consultations
<b>General Public</b>	Invited to DEA public consultations

**TABLE 1 CONSULTATION METHODS USED DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGY.**

All data collected was analysed and presented using the spatial mapping tool ArcGIS. The following information was mapped:

- current provision of public parks, play facilities, MUGAs and open/green space parks
- population breakdown of Mid Ulster across the 7 DEAs
- household pointer data of Mid Ulster across the 7 DEAs
- future development opportunities

## 5. CONSULTATION RESULTS

### 5.1. Public Meetings

An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, children's day-care providers, youth centres, community associations and groups, sporting clubs and the general public.

Public Consultation took place within each of the 7 DEAs. A number of recurrent themes became apparent with regards public parks and play provision (please note this is not an exhaustive list but responses gathered have been grouped together into themes which have been reviewed against the wider Mid Ulster Community Plan as well as individual village plans where relevant):

#### **Popular and Well Used Playparks/MUGAs**

A number of sites across Mid Ulster were highlighted as having good facilities Fairhill in Cookstown, Monrush MUGA in Cookstown, Gortgonis in Torrent and Hunters Park in Moyola. These are valued sites that are important to the community.

#### **Poor Playpark Provision/Upgrade Required**

Some of the smaller playparks were highlighted as inefficient, with poor quality play equipment offering little value to the community. Examples include Coagh Street in Cookstown. In addition, a number of locations were felt that they no longer adequately serviced the community surrounding them including Ballygawley in Clogher Valley.

#### **New Park/Playpark Provision Highlighted**

Sandholes in Cookstown, Walled Garden in Maghera and Maghera were highlighted as areas in need of provision. In comparison to other DEAs within the District, Magherafelt and the town of Magherafelt is lacking in play provision.

#### **Inclusive Facilities**

The demand and real need for increased inclusive facilities within Mid Ulster was highlighted at a number of the consultations most notably within the Torrent and Magherafelt events. The need for inclusivity includes not only play provision but most importantly adequate changing facilities.

#### **Partnerships**

A number of potential partnerships were highlighted across Mid Ulster where the Council and Community Groups/Associations could work alongside one another to create open/green space for community use and/or play e.g. Workspace, GAA and other sporting clubs.

#### **Neutral Venues**

It was felt that where any new play or open/green space provision is to be developed that consideration should be given to neutral sites to cater for both sides of the community to improve community cohesion.

#### **Maintenance/Ancillary Items/Vandalism**

Overall it was felt that public parks and parks within Mid Ulster require continued maintenance as well as improved signage with regards opening hours and dog policy for example.

### **Opportunities for Play at Forest Locations**

A number of forest sites were raised at consultation because they are popular for outdoor recreation and it was felt they could be further enhanced by introducing an element of play provision. It was felt that this enhanced offering would better serve the local community and visitors alike providing an improved visitor experience. Locations highlighted included Knockmany Forest, Brantry Forest Parkanaur Forest and Drumlamph Forest (in conjunction with the Development Association).

### **Increased Promotion**

Despite there being over one hundred public parks/play parks and open/green spaces in Mid Ulster, it was felt there was a lack of awareness and the locations and associated facilities could be better promoted.

### **Consultation**

Parks are important to communities especially in Mid Ulster, therefore it was highlighted that the community would require further consultation with regards proposed recommendations including new developments, change of use or sites based on their recommended life span.

### **5.2. Public Survey**

Working closely with Mid Ulster Council, a public survey was developed in order to assess current provision of public parks and play in Mid Ulster and what future provision should address in order to meet the needs of the various communities across the Council area.

Drafted using Survey Monkey the survey was live from January to February 2016, with the average survey taking between 10-12 minutes. The survey link was promoted in press, online via Council and Outdoor Recreation NI websites as well as WalkNI and OutdoorNI. The link also featured in online articles on Community NI and the Rural Community Network websites. Social media was also a key tool in promoting the survey with posts on Council and Outdoor Recreation NI Facebook pages. The survey link also featured on temporary Council signage which publicised the Public Consultation events. Finally, a number of community and youth groups as well as day care, after school groups and special schools were also contacted by telephone to drive traffic towards the survey site.

Despite a concentrated effort to increase participation, a total of 141 responses were received. While not statistically robust to provide in depth analysis, the results gathered provide supplementary data which has supported the overall analysis of current and future play provision in Mid Ulster. In addition, the verbatim responses collected are felt to be invaluable with detailed replies to open ended questions in which respondents were honest and open about the issues within their local public parks, play facilities and open/green spaces.

Please note, in line with best practice, responses with a base of less than 30 should not be used for statistical analysis purposes. However, when filtering within questions, several low base responses exist therefore for the purposes on this survey, bases less than 10 will not be reported on. As such, the survey should be treated as supplementary in nature. The full survey and results can be viewed within Appendix 4 of this document.



### Current Usage – Park visited most often (Q1 – Q12 Base: 99 – 141)

The majority of respondents reside in Upperlands (14%) and Magherafelt (12%) - subsequently these are two areas within Mid Ulster that fall behind in terms of current public park and play provision when compared to the other 5 DEAs. It is encouraging to note that overall usage is high, with over 90% of respondents (129) using public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster. Dungannon Park and Meadowbank Magherafelt were cited as the parks used most often (14 respondents or 12% for each). When asked about the play park they use most often, respondents naturally visit these parks with children or other family (84%) with 1 in 4 going a few times per week. With regards location, it is interesting to note that while over 30% live less than 1 mile away from their nearest play park, nearly 70% travel to the play park they use most often by car. Nearly 60% of respondents visit these parks to 'get the children outdoors for half an hour' versus 12% of those who use them for 'a fun day out with the family'. When respondents were asked what they do at the public park/play park they visit most often, almost three quarters of respondents make use of the play park facilities, with walking being the next most popular activity (40%).

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a scale of 1-5 about the play provision, visitor facilities as well as other ancillary items at the park they visited most often as well as how important these factors are to them. Council are failing to meet current expectations with regards performance on the things that matter most to the community with regards parks and open/green spaces namely the provision of play equipment, provision of inclusive play equipment, accessible paths for those with limited mobility and a sense of feeling safe.

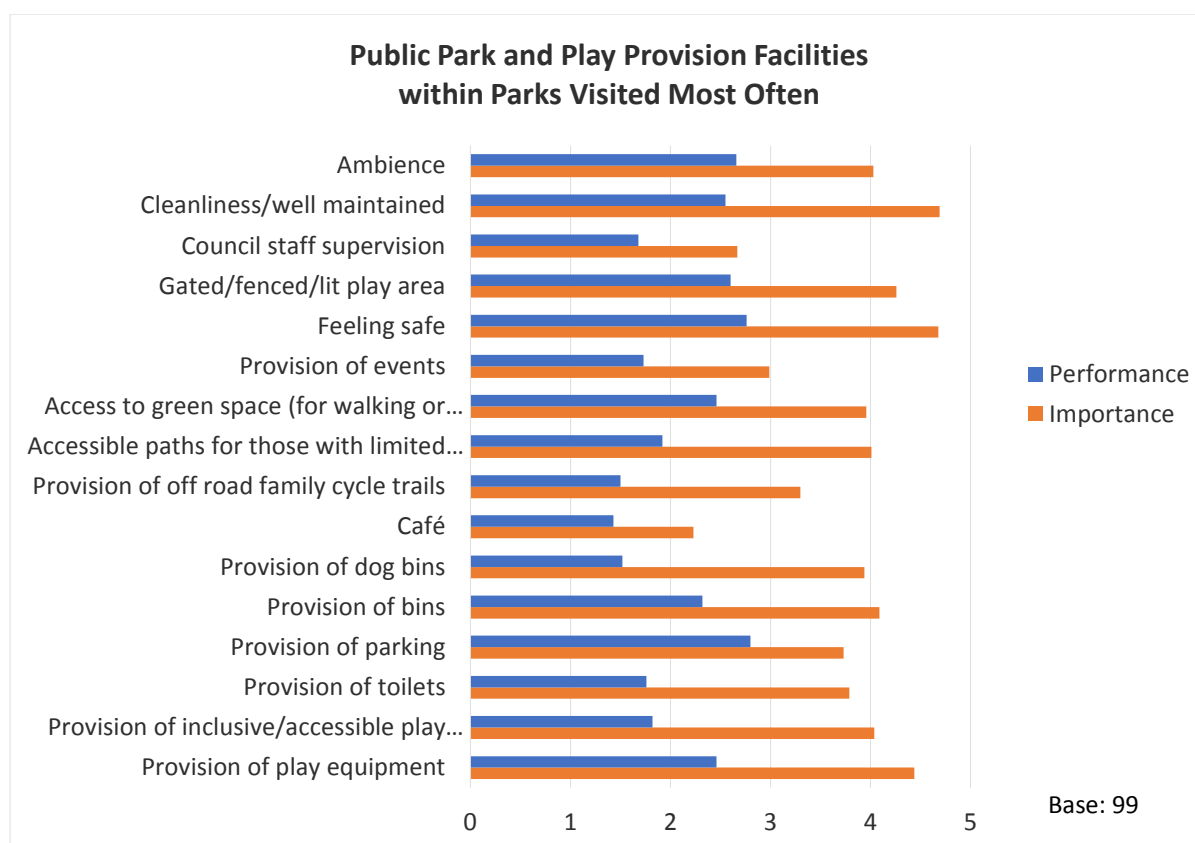
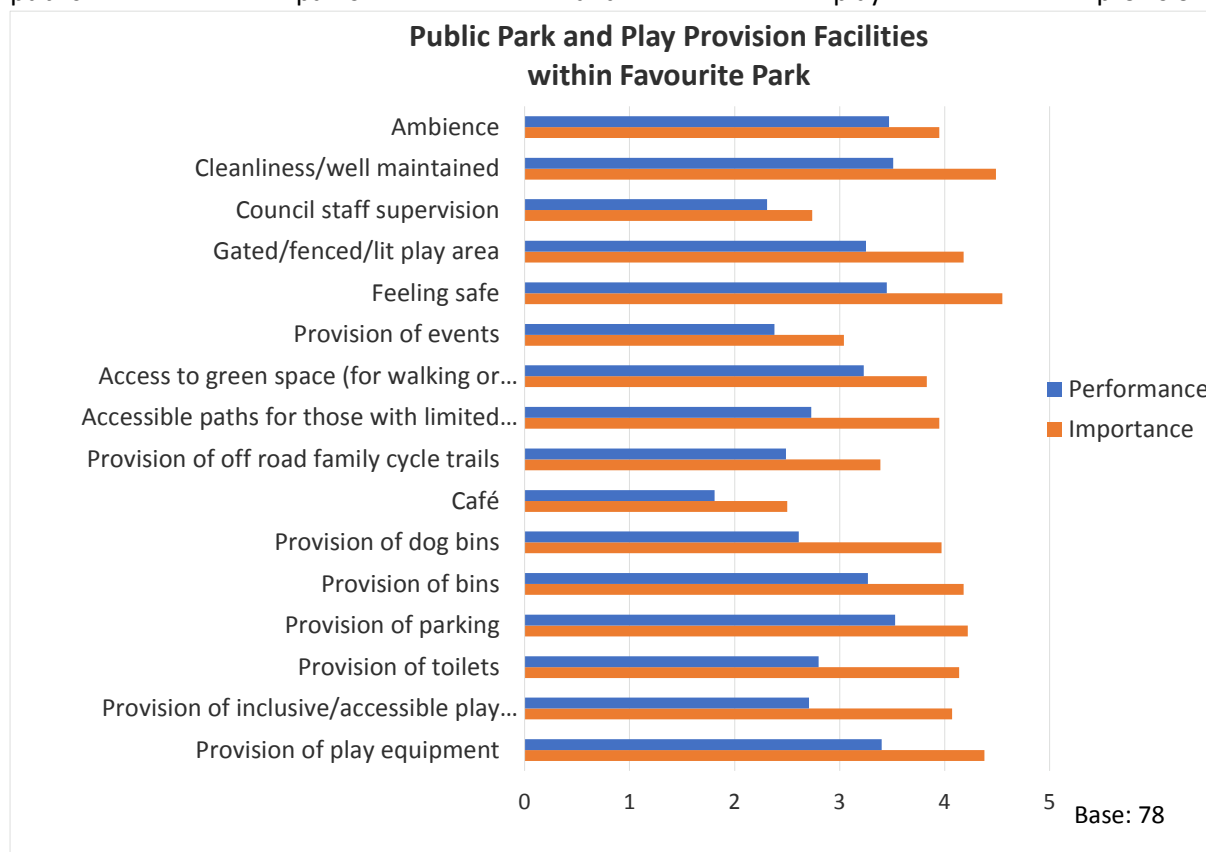


CHART 1 PUBLIC PARK AND PLAY PROVISION FACILITIES WITHIN PARKS VISITED MOST OFTEN

### Current Usage – Favourite Park (Q13 – Q21 Base: 78-90)

Respondents were then asked about their favourite park with over 20% (21 respondents) stating Meadow Bank in Magherafelt, Dungannon Park was the next most popular park, 13% (12 respondents).

Respondents tend to visit their favourite park less often with 28% visiting a few times per month compared to a few times/week (20%). Again, family members and children are the groups most likely to accompany respondents to parks (86%). What is interesting to note is that respondents appear to be prepared to travel further to their favourite park with the majority of over 30% travelling 11 miles+ to spend time at this location, with 90% using a car to get there. 35% (31 people) stated that their main reason for visiting their favourite park was to 'have a fun day out with the family'. This is compared to only 12% (14 respondents) who stated this same reason for the park they visited most often. When comparing the responses on favourite parks with parks visited most often, the numbers remain consistent with regards making use of the play facilities (75%) and walking (41%) as what people do when they go to parks in Mid Ulster. With regards rating the performance of their favourite park, these locations performed slightly better than the parks visited most often with the importance of play provision, visitor facilities and other ancillary items at their favourite park being on a par with the responses provided for the parks visited most often. Therefore, while the gaps in performance and importance are reduced for parks cited at respondent's favourite parks, these are areas which Council need to address to ensure that they continue to provide a high-quality product with regards their public parks and play provision.



**CHART 2 PUBLIC PARK AND PLAY PROVISION FACILITIES WITHIN FAVOURITE PARK**

## Public Park and Play provision in Northern Ireland (Q22 – Q25 Base: 76)

Having assessed the current provision in Mid Ulster, respondents were asked about what other public parks and play provision they used outside the Council area. The majority of respondents (38%) cited Castle Gardens in Antrim as a venue they have visited in the last 12 months. The Peoples Park, Ballymena (30%), Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne (25%) Slieve Gullion, Newry (17%) and Loughgall Country Park (14%) were also parks outside the Council district visited in the last 12 months. Family and children are the group most likely to accompany respondents to these public parks/play parks with it providing 'a day out for all the family' as the most popular reason for visiting these locations (28%). 23% of respondents felt it provided 'somewhere different to go' while 20% felt these locations offered a 'good range of play facilities for all ages'. Remaining largely consistent with the reason for visiting parks in Mid Ulster, the majority of respondents made use of the play facilities (70%) as well as walking (60%) with 37% having a picnic and thus spending more time at these locations.

With Meadow Bank and Dungannon Park later affirmed as respondents' favourite parks (23% and 16% respectively), children aged 0-4 use these facilities most (42%), followed 33% of those aged 5-8 years with 24% of children aged 9-12 years using the facilities at these locations. When asked to rate the performance of the play provision, ancillary items and other outdoor recreation offering, the provision of 'play equipment' and 'feeling safe' and basic facilities such as toilet provision were felt to be most important and are areas where Council fails to perform.

An opened ended question was asked so that respondents could provide full and open answers on how their favourite play park could be improved. These verbatim responses have been grouped into the below themes. They do not exclusively refer to Meadow Bank and Dungannon Park but all mentions of respondents' favourite park at Q26

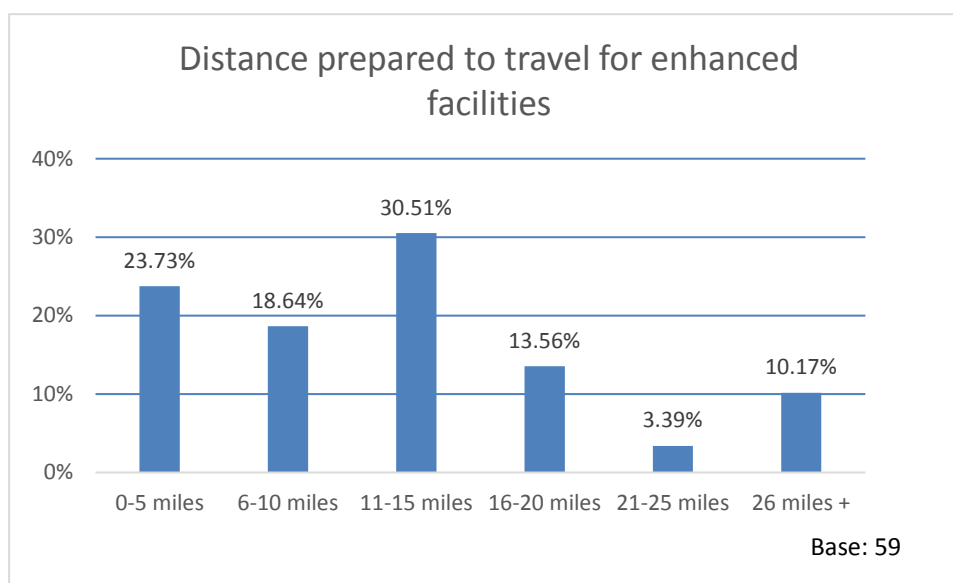
Response Themes	Additional Detail
<b>No improvement to be made (10)</b>	<i>I don't think it needs to be improved however better provision in smaller villages would be better</i>
<b>Add walking routes (7)</b>	<i>I would love a park with mix of play equipment, green space and shared walking/cycling paths nearer my home in Maghera</i>
<b>Improve equipment/ Improve quality and materials (6)</b>	<i>More play facilities. Play area fenced in. Seats for adults when children playing</i>
<b>Add parks across the district (5)</b>	<i>We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need adventure type parks made with wood and rope etc. not all metal. The park is closed on bank holidays and at other times when we would be likely to use it</i>
<b>Extend the park / add another (4)</b>	<i>How about planning on putting a park onsite please? There are 2 useable swings for older children... personally I think it's a disgrace what the children in and around Caledon have! As a mum of quite a large family of a big age range, I know my kids, as are other children from the 3 schools in Caledon are missing out!</i>
<b>Have play options for all ages (4)</b>	<i>Cycling routes, toilets, changing rooms, events better equipment, more for older children</i>

<b>Improved facilities for those with a disability (3)</b>	<i>It's a disgrace that Drum Manor play park is not meeting the needs of disabled children in this community</i>
<b>Improve lighting provision (3)</b>	<i>Park is not lit at night which could limit potential use in evening for at least 4 months of the year</i>
<b>Add seating for parents/guardians (3)</b>	<i>More seats and modern equipment</i>
<b>Add a picnic area (3)</b>	<i>Tables for picnic</i>
<b>Deal with sectarian/hostile atmosphere (2)</b>	<i>It is quite good I think improvements need to be focused and made instead to parks that aren't good in the likes of the smaller villages like Upperlands</i>
<b>Improve drainage (2)</b>	<i>Dungannon Park - the grass gets very muddy between the play spaces. There are a few very steep/sudden steps off the soft areas that could hurt someone (esp. if you're standing watching you could tumble off - at the edge of the large climbing frame especially). There also is a lack of facilities for children between toddlers and those 6/7+ who can use the larger equipment</i>
<b>Additional car parking (2)</b>	<i>Better parking. Kids can run out straight to carpark which is very busy</i>
<b>Add cycling trails (2)</b>	<i>More challenging equipment for age 10 plus. E.g. Sandwell play park in West Bromwich, Lake Windermere play park. There is no green space, cycle paths areas to walk, picnic tables. No opportunity for a day out in the area - apart from the local cemetery. No thanks</i>
<b>Fence in play area (1)</b>	<i>More play facilities. Play area fenced in. Seats for adults when children playing</i>
<b>Clamp down on anti-social behaviour (1)</b>	<i>Moneymore main park needs to be protected more between anti-social behaviour in cars to children trying to cross what is an extremely dangerous fast road and the park being locked it is not an accessible place to let the children go to</i>

**TABLE 2 RESPONSE THEMES AND VERBATIM RESPONSES**

Respondents were asked what other Outdoor Recreation facilities they would like to see at their local public park/play park in Mid Ulster. This was a multiple-choice question where respondents had the option of choosing more than one answer. Nature play (*the provision of a play opportunity using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree trunk as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access*) as an alternative play facility was chosen by 66% (39) respondents followed by 'Improved play facilities' (57%), walking trails (56%) and the provision of Wild Play opportunities (*opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment e.g. climb a tree*) and a 'Play Hub' (*substantial, equipped play resource catering for all age groups and abilities on a single site within a designated catchment area*) 46% (27). These results prove there is an appetite for alternative and improved play facilities in Mid Ulster. Other recreational provision was also highlighted including Park Run 29% (17), bike trails/pump track 27% (16) and Park Walk 5k, 19%

(11). When asked how far they would travel for the aforementioned facilities, the majority of respondents, 30% (18 responses) stated they would travel 11-15 miles, proving that people would be prepared to travel for enhanced provision.



#### **Further comments or observations regards the future development of outdoor recreation and parks and play provision in Mid Ulster (Q34 - base 59)**

Finally, respondents gave their comments and observations which they felt were important to the future development of outdoor recreation and public parks and play provision in Mid Ulster. A number of detailed responses were given and these have been grouped into the themes below. However, it is worth noting that a number of detailed responses were received from those residing in Upperlands. This community feel that the play provision was most definitely deficient in this area and that the existing play is not open to all.

In addition, detailed responses were also provided with regards reinstating play provision at Ballymacombs Road to the park once located at Glenone Park. It was felt that as the only green space in the village of Glenone that more should be done with the space to serve the growing and young community.

Response Themes	Additional Detail
<b>Upgrade facilities (12)</b>	<i>We NEED a playpark for our children in Caledon! There are 2 useable swings (which can only be used by older children), what is there has been there for over 30 years! We need something for our children!!</i>
<b>Multi-Use Trails (8)</b>	<i>More areas for walking / cycling (kids) in Magherafelt</i>
<b>Upperlands (8)</b>	<i>Our nearest park is Upperlands and it is in one of the housing estates which I don't think is fair to those who don't live in that estate, we need a larger fit for purpose park that all people around</i>

	<i>the village and outside of the village can comfortably use. We have to travel quite a distance to allow our children to use good standard and variety park facilities like Meadowbank and would like to see that our Council can now focus and invest in the more rural parks outside of the council area to improve them and make them fit for purpose for all the local children</i>
<b>Local Provision/Rural Needs (7)</b>	<i>A play park for Sandholes village</i>
<b>Open/Green Space (5)</b>	<i>'Open space' parks are needed for walking/running/picnics etc. in each locality</i>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour/Safety (3)</b>	<i>Play areas should be enclosed for safety</i>
<b>Outdoor Recreation (3)</b>	<i>Look at options around water for water sports etc.</i>
<b>Basic Services (2)</b>	<i>Please improve the basic facilities at Knockmany Forest Park to that we continue to safely use them as a running group and as a family with young children.</i>
<b>Inclusive Play (2)</b>	<i>These areas need to be able to meet the diverse needs of all children and family and include play equipment for children with special needs</i>
<b>Challenging Play (1)</b>	<i>Kids need to be challenged and not wrapped in cotton wool. They need to learn to assess and manage risk at an early age</i>
<b>Events (1)</b>	<i>Events at weekends as we are always trying to go somewhere to entertain our children</i>
<b>Health (1)</b>	<i>Encouraging children to be active in the environment is critical to protecting our environment and our children health</i>
<b>Magherafelt (play provision) (1)</b>	<i>We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need a park that is not located as an afterthought within a car park. We need other facilities around the park. We need equipment created from natural resources such as wood and rope in an adventure playground style, not metal equipment. We need a facility that is open on bank holidays and at other times when we would like to use it, not closed because council staff are off.</i>
<b>Miscellaneous (5)</b>	-

#### **Demographics – (Q35 – Q42 - base 68)**

The majority of respondents fell into the 36-45 age bracket (44%) with more females taking part in the survey (64%). 49% of those who took part work full time i.e. more than 30hrs per week with 22% of respondents holding part-time positions. 26% earn between £21,000 and £30,000 with 29% earning between £31,000 - £50,000. More people have children under 4 years of age than any other age group (64%). This may indicate that any future recommendations made within this Strategy, will therefore benefit the youthful population of Mid Ulster as they grow. 6 respondents declared their children have a disability with special needs ranging from physical, sight, learning and mental health.

## 6. PLAY: DEFINITION, BEST PRACTICE, TRENDS AND BENEFITS

### 6.1. Play Defined

The most commonly accepted definition of play is:

‘Freely chosen, personally directed, and intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. It can be fun or serious – by playing children learn and develop as individuals and as members of the community’ (Hughes, B. and King, F. 1984)<sup>6</sup>

Through play, children explore the world around them and make meaning of it for their own lives. When children are given the freedom to follow their own ideas and interest, in their own way and for their own reasons play can become a hugely powerful tool. (OFMDFM, 2006)

Health and safety laws and regulations are sometimes presented as a reason why certain play and leisure activities undertaken by children and young people should be discouraged. The reasons for this misgiving are many and varied and include fears of litigation or criminal prosecution because even the most trivial risk has not been removed.

The HSE however recognises the benefits of allowing challenging play opportunities and understands and accepts that this means children will often be exposed to play environments which whilst well-managed carry a degree of risk and sometimes potential danger. It states that providers’ goals ‘should not be to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits as no child will learn about risk if they are wrapped in cotton wool’<sup>7</sup>.

The Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group taking on board the principles of the Health and Safety Executive have defined play into Formal, Nature or Adventure

**Formal Play** or fixed play, uses manufactured items bought from a supplier. These have been purpose designed and built as play pieces. The design will have dealt with many of the inherent risks and they are often supplied with a certificate of conformity.

**Nature Play** is the provision of play opportunity within a structured play area using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree trunk as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access. Branches may be trimmed to avoid traps or limit heights. Sometimes formal play and nature play are found together on the same site.

**Wild Play** is opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment. There is no planned intention for play to be part of the management of such a feature. There may, however, be wider encouragement for this type of play through national or local campaigns e.g. The National trust’s 50 Things to do before you’re 11 ¾ campaign that aims to promote nature and outdoor play as a fund part of a healthy happy and enjoyable family life. The first thing to do on the list is to climb a tree.

Although not strictly true, formal play is more often associated with urban based play whilst nature and wild play are more commonly found in more rural settings e.g. forest and country parks.

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<sup>6</sup> What Play Provision Should Do for Children, National Playing Fields Association, March 2000.

<sup>7</sup> Children’s Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, September 2012.



## 6.2. Best Practice - Play

### 6.2.1. Determining Fixed Play Sites

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities designated for the purposes of the Act to comply with two statutory duties. The first duty is the Equality of Opportunity duty, which requires public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.<sup>8</sup>

Under Section 75 Mid Ulster Council have a duty to promote equality of opportunity for all persons in relation to employment or in accessing goods, facilities or services (such as health services, housing, education, justice, policing). With regards open space and equipped play areas, this duty must however be considered alongside assessing the need for fixed play provision and adopting the accessibility benchmarking as detailed by Fields In Trust. Once known as the Six Acre Standard, these are recognised guidelines which help determine the locations of fixed play sites based on walking time (radial distances) from the home. They outline 3 types of play spaces:

Nature of play facility	Walking Time	Pedestrian Route	Straight Line Distance
LAP	1 minute	100 metres	60 metres
LEAP	5 minutes	400 metres	240 metres
NEAP	15 minutes	1000 metres	600 metres

TABLE 3 WALKING TIME AND STRAIGHT LINE DISTANCES FROM THE HOME TO FIXED PLAY PROVISION

The revised 2015 guidance no longer differentiates between rural and urban areas but it is recommended that these guidelines should be used to assist planning while taking account of local circumstances. In addition, the above types of place spaces can also be complemented by other facilities including Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks etc<sup>9</sup>

### 6.2.2. Designing Fixed Play and Play Value

While there are unique considerations when designing a fixed play space such as availability of land or size and nature of play sites there are a number of key elements that should be considered when developing an inspiring play space.

Within the Play England document 'Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play places', it is stated that play space needs to be of high quality and good design to attract children and families and become a valued part of the local environment. Poor quality, unimaginative space will not be attractive to children, will not be valued by the local community and will fall in to disuse and disrepair.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 - A Guide for Public Authorities (April 2010)

<sup>9</sup> Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard

<sup>10</sup> Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces, Play England (2008)



Furthermore, Play England have identified 10 key principles for developing successful play spaces

**Successful play spaces...**

1. Are 'bespoke'
2. Are well located
3. make use of natural elements
4. provide a wide range of play experiences
5. are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
6. meet community needs
7. allow children of different ages to play together
8. build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
9. are sustainable and appropriately maintained
10. allow for change and evolution

In addition, Play England state that the 'golden rule' in designing play is a play space that is specifically designed for its location, in such a way to provide as much play value as possible. Within Play England's document 'Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool'<sup>11</sup> the importance of location is highlighted as well as the play value and care and maintenance. Play value essentially assesses the play experiences derived from a play area, such as rocking, swinging and sliding. Play England note that this is particularly important for children with disabilities. The surrounding environment also contributes to play value with the natural environment offering varied and alternative ways in which children can play. Finally, risk is also acknowledged, allowing children to test their boundaries and challenge themselves.

The document covers how play value assessments should be carried out for three main types of play areas, those that are on the doorstep, local space and facilities and finally neighbourhood space and facilities. Play England state the guidelines and definitions for assessing the 3 types of play space are neither fully comprehensive nor definitive and are provided more so to provoke thought and discussion taking into account local surroundings and the wishes and needs of local children.

Each site is assessed using a score sheet where scores from 1-5 which are converted into a percentage for weighting purposes and to allow comparisons to be made between location, play value and care and maintenance sections. The scoring system aims to identify which play areas and which aspects of play need improving reviewing design and layout of a play area. In addition, the local authority can set their own benchmark of what constitutes 'good quality'. Furthermore, the scores calculated will also provide data for supporting planning decisions.

It should be noted that while the Play England Quality Assessment tool can be implemented in-house, there are a number of local independent providers who can be employed to carry out a play value assessment.

In addition to designing inspiring play spaces, Best Play - What Play Provision should do for Children<sup>12</sup> have set out seven play objectives that should be met when developing good play opportunities. They form the basis against which play provision can be evaluated.

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<sup>11</sup> Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool, Play England (October 2009)

<sup>12</sup> Best Play – What Play Provision should do for Children, National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)

1. The provision extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.
2. The provision recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.
3. The provision manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
4. The provision maximises the range of play opportunities.
5. The provision fosters independence and self-esteem.
6. The provision fosters children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction.
7. The provision fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.

### *6.2.3. Risk and Challenge*

Children's play has long been understood to not only have a key role in their wellbeing but also in the development of their future life skills. When children play, not only are they experiencing a sense of adventure, they are making decisions. They assess and determine the levels of risk they want to take, physically, emotionally and socially thus adding to their experience. They test their abilities and challenge themselves, they grow in confidence, becoming aware of their limits and boundaries and in turn develop a better understanding of the meaning of safety. However, in today's society with modern worries, the freedom to build these skills can be curtailed. Parental or carer anxiety may prevent children from taking part in risky or challenging play and likewise the Health and Safety Executive feel that Health and safety laws and regulations are sometimes presented as a reason why certain play and leisure activities undertaken by children and young people should be discouraged. The reasons for this misunderstanding are many and varied. They include fears of litigation or criminal prosecution because even the most trivial risk has not been removed<sup>13</sup>. However even governing bodies acknowledge the need for a balanced approach of offering challenge and risk through play but minimising unnecessary danger. Indeed, the Play Safety Forum offers providers a guide on how to manage risk in play provision through a 'Risk – Benefit approach' which includes:

- developing a policy framework
- risk-benefit assessment
- technical inspection
- dynamic risk – benefit assessment <sup>14</sup>.

The HSE states that the approach in this guidance is that risks and benefits are considered alongside each other in a risk-benefit assessment. This includes an assessment of the risks which, while taking account the benefits of the activity, ensures that any precautions are practicable and proportionate and reflect the level of risk. The HSE supports this guidance, as a sensible approach to risk management.

It is also worth noting that while there is no specific legislation on play safety in the UK, there are agreed Europe-wide industry standards which should be considered when carrying out a risk assessments. Standards are important tools in managing risks and give guidance on difficult issues but within 'Managing Risk in Play Provision', it is felt the importance of developmental role of play must be upheld.

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<sup>13</sup> Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, September 2012

<sup>14</sup> Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegel (2013)

## 6.3. Trends - Play

### 6.3.1. Older Children/ Teenagers

The benefits of outdoor play have been recognised throughout various research findings including improved physical and emotional development as well as cognitive benefits of reduced levels of anxiety and depression. However, research studies often focus on 'children' as play areas are typically designed for those under 12 years but for older children and teenagers, the outdoors is perceived as the most important environment for physically active play (Open Space 2006). Indeed, older children and teenagers could benefit more so from 'play' areas that foster improved social skills and creativity as well having a positive effect on mental health and well-being. Therefore, it is acknowledged that while this study focuses primarily on young children, consideration should be given, where appropriate, to the provision for those that fall into the older age group. The offering would be less conventional than the standard fixed play equipment as young teenagers don't want to be seen as 'playing' but equally need a facility where they can socialise with their contemporaries. Teen shelters give older children and teenagers a safe and comfortable place to meet their friends with the added benefit of the site being specifically chosen. In turn the older children/teenagers can call their own but is located in a well-lit area so to avoid anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Such shelters are also popular within school settings with a similar shelter/pod located at a local school in Coalisland.

### 6.3.2. Inclusive Play

Under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, employers and service providers have the positive duty to make reasonable adjustments to premises and policies in order to provide disabled people access to goods, facilities, services or premises. In addition, Public bodies in Northern Ireland have additional duties to promote equality of opportunity and good relations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. They must also meet duties under the Disability Discrimination Act to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life.

According to the Northern Ireland Executive's Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 Consultation Document, the enjoyment of play and leisure was highlighted as a population outcome with children and young people with a disability highlighted as one of the groups where the greatest effort is needed:

"Children with a disability, and their families, require additional support for play and leisure activities. Their needs must be taken into account in relation to play provision"<sup>15</sup>

The term all ability play or inclusive play highlights the social model of thinking rather than the medical model which traditionally focused on their complex needs, that disabled children needed to play in special places or particular ways. Instead children with disabilities require the same opportunities for play, variety, socialising and challenge as all other children.<sup>16</sup>

According to MENCAP, disabilities range from physical, mental, developmental or hidden. This may mean some children are confined to a wheelchair where others may have reduced mobility or manual dexterity, poor physical co-ordination, vision or hearing impairments, emotional and behavioural or learning difficulties. While various disabilities should be acknowledged, designing an environment that

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<sup>15</sup> Northern Ireland Executive's Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 Consultation Document

<sup>16</sup> Play for all – Providing play facilities for disabled children (<http://www.dessa.ie/publications>)

integrates play throughout a site and steering away from the idea of a 'special' or separate area for use by disabled children is preferred. Furthermore, consideration should be given not only to the child who plays but also the needs of the accompanying parents or carers, embracing the ideal that families can play together regardless of ability.

'Play for All' drafted by the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency (DESSA) outlines some areas that need to be considered when designing inclusive play for children.

- Children with physical impairments, for example may have difficulty with long distances, steps, steep slopes, be unsteady on their feet and liable to slip or trip and find it hard to hold on to or grip ropes or poles. Therefore, they may benefit from equipment with enhanced back support, broader stairs and double width slides to accommodate a parent or carer. Low-level crawling and climbing nets, tunnels and tubes can be used by children with significant mobility impairments. They find it easier to climb on sloping netting than on vertical netting, which also allows an adult to assist and take part in the activity.
- Children with intellectual impairments may find complex layouts difficult to navigate, may have difficulty taking turns or may display what appears to be a lack of awareness of or a heightened sensitivity to other children. Play items considered could include ground level activities, such as balance beams, spring rockers, adventure trails, play items that need co-operation and eye contact, such as seesaws, group swings, role play activities or pictograms explaining how play items may be used.
- Children with visual impairments may benefit from play that incorporates mirrors, tactile play panels, play items which involve sound and play items with consistent and good colour contrast.
- Children with hearing impairments may not be able to hear voices of other children or adult instruction. They may be particularly unaware of things going on behind them, and may need to see important information that other children can hear. Well-designed play spaces and equipment, and clear, easy-to-understand information boards, may help. Safety-related audible effects, such as gravel surrounds, can be designed into the playground.
- Children with autism spectrum disorder will appreciate quiet places where they can rest or be alone for a while. Tunnels, play houses and shelters offer all children the opportunity of taking time out.

As well as fixed play equipment, sand and water are great play materials for children of all abilities and of course target the senses. Indeed, creating a sensory space will allow children to develop their smell, taste and tactile senses. This can be achieved through landscaping using various plants, flowers and herbs as well as water, sand and manipulation of the wind. While sensory gardens offer so many benefits, it is worth noting that they need continued maintenance and to be well managed.

While Council acknowledge the shift towards inclusive or all ability play, they also recognise the equal importance of adequate changing facilities. It was noted through consultation that these are equally important when considering all ability play provision. MENCAP are members of the Changing Places consortium and support the installation of Changing Places (CP) toilets in public buildings. A CP toilet facility provides sanitary accommodation for people with multiple and complex disabilities who may have one or two assistants with them<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Changing Places: the practical guide, Changing Places Consortium

They enable those with disabilities to make use of safe and dignified toilet facilities – something that we all would expect when visiting a public place. Indeed ‘Changing Places: the practical guide’ states:

“The absence of a toilet and changing facilities means that some disabled people are often limited in terms of activities available to them or even prevented from going out altogether... CP toilets can vastly improve people’s quality of life, allowing disabled people and their assistants to stay out for longer and participate in more activities”

The CP guide outlines planning and design concepts including the specific equipment required in order to be awarded a CP accreditation. Construction costs are also detailed and well as the management and maintenance of the facility

The Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance Manifesto (2012) acknowledges that play, leisure, culture, sports and youth services providers should monitor use and uptake of these services and demonstrate that they are inclusive<sup>18</sup>. In addition, while it has a primary focus on sport, the ethos of the Active Living No Limits Plan (2016-2021) is valuable for Council to observe also. Council is therefore committed to address the barriers that prevent young people participating in active recreation including play and will give consideration to the formulation of an implementation group when embarking on inclusive play initiatives. This in turn will enable improved communication and further enhance relations between community and Council.

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<sup>18</sup> Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance Manifesto (2012)

## 6.4. Best Practice - Parks

### 6.4.1. Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

#### **Purpose and Aims**

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve
- To establish standards of good management, and to promote and share best practice amongst the green space sector
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers

Successful sites show that they manage a quality space with clear aims and objectives and who they aim to serve. Award applicants are judged against 27 different criteria and must submit their active management plan, showing that they understand:

- the users – who they are, who they could be, what they want, how they are informed and involved
- the site – what is special about its history, biodiversity, landscape, social and physical setting, and what it is trying to achieve; and
- the management – that what is there is safe, in line with legislation and policy, well maintained, and that there are plans for the future.

This flexible and useful management framework is the key to the Green Flag Award, making it relevant to any green space. It is deliberately conceived not to be a formulaic list of things to have or to do, but instead as a guide to how professionals and communities can approach the management of their sites. It also helps to quantify what they are doing now and in the future, helping to prove value to customers, colleagues and funders<sup>19</sup>

In Mid Ulster Dungannon Park and The Walled Garden, Maghera have achieved Green Flag Status.

### 6.4.2. Blue Flag Award

The Blue Flag Award is truly a world-renowned accreditation trusted by millions around the globe. A world-renowned eco-label trusted by millions around the globe, the Blue Flag programme is operated under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained. Central to the ideals of the Blue Flag programme is the aim of connecting the public with their surroundings and encouraging them to learn more about their environment. As such, environmental education activities must be offered and promoted in addition to a permanent display of information relevant to the site in terms of biodiversity, ecosystems and environmental phenomena<sup>20</sup>. With its marina, caravan and park facilities, Ballyronan Marina currently has a Blue Flag award.

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<sup>19</sup> Raising the Standard – The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual, Katharine Ellicott (2016)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.blueflag.global/>

## 6.5. Benefits - Parks and Play

Open/green spaces, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life. They provide many cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits and contribute positively to physical and mental health and a better quality of life. Everyone, particularly children, the elderly and those with disabilities should have easy access to open space and the opportunity to participate in sport and outdoor recreational pursuits. Council attach great importance to the retention of existing open spaces, the creation of attractive new spaces and the promotion of more opportunities to participate in sport and outdoor recreation in the future. Mid Ulster District Council have a key role in the provision of recreational facilities, along with bodies such as local sports clubs, schools and colleges, and Sport NI.<sup>21</sup>

### 6.5.1. Community Cohesion and Social inclusion

Open spaces and public parks are often the seen as the hub of a community, bringing people together and promoting social inclusion. They are open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, and as such they represent a democratic forum for citizens and society. These spaces shape the cultural identity of an area, are part of its unique character and provide a sense of place for local communities<sup>22</sup> Furthermore OFMDFM supports the development of play areas for children, and in doing so produced the 'Play and Leisure Policy' (2008). According to the Play and Leisure Policy Statement:

Provisions for play areas are crucial as:

- Children contribute to the community and to society when they are visible and when their environment offers them maximum opportunities to play.

Facilities and areas for play act as focal points for communities offering social interaction for children and the wider community, which all help in the generation of community cohesion.

- Good play provision and appropriately designed spaces for children create a positive environment, and contribute to the sense of wellbeing and security that children have with their surroundings<sup>23</sup>

However as with all public spaces, there are risks of vandalism and antisocial behaviour, however (Gill, 2014) highlights that play and youth facilities in public spaces have led to reductions in levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism thus highlighting the importance of public parks as a focal point for the community, taking ownership and pride in their area. Gill comments further on reports (Hall Aitken 2013) where an evaluation of Community Spaces, a £57.5 million Big Lottery Fund programme run by Groundwork UK in which playgrounds and youth recreation spaces were a major component, concluded that "all 'major issue' indicators have improved since the completion of the projects, with the most significant reduction being antisocial behaviour<sup>24</sup>. It is acknowledged that community associations, groups and clubs play a key role to community life in Mid Ulster. It is felt that the formulation of strategic alliances and partnerships between Council and community organisations will undoubtedly facilitate the development of public park and play provision in the areas that will benefit from it most.

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<sup>21</sup> Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016)

<sup>22</sup> The Value of Public Space - Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

<sup>23</sup> Play Areas in Residential Developments NI (NI Assembly, June 2010)

<sup>24</sup> The Play Return: A review of the wider impact of play initiatives (Tim Gill, July 2014)

### 6.5.2. The Economic Value of Public Space

A high-quality public environment can have a significant impact on the economic life of town centres big or small, and is therefore an essential part of any successful regeneration strategy. As towns increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of good parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool: companies are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these in turn attract customers, employees and services. In town centres, a pleasant and well-maintained environment increases the number of people visiting retail areas, otherwise known as 'footfall'. A good public landscape also offers very clear benefits to the local economy in terms of stimulating increased house prices, since house-buyers are willing to pay to be near green space.

### 6.5.3. Value for Biodiversity and Nature

The significant increase in hard surfacing and the reduction in green spaces lead to higher temperatures in towns and cities than in the surrounding countryside. This is known as the 'heat island effect'. Vegetation – whether in public spaces or private gardens – can help to redress this imbalance. It brings many important environmental benefits to urban areas, including the cooling of air and the absorption of atmospheric pollutants. Vegetation also provides an opportunity for people to be close to 'nature', with the associated positive impact that this can bring in terms of mental health and the simple pleasure of experiencing trees, birds, squirrels, ladybirds and other wildlife in an urban situation <sup>25</sup>

### 6.5.4. Health and Well Being

Indeed, the link between active outdoor recreation and leisure participation and improved physical and mental health is well documented through research<sup>26</sup>. Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve our physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. It has been noted that play is central to the development of good physical and mental health and children's overall development. Reports (Nuffield Foundation 2013, Twenge 2000, Gray 2011) have shown that the decline in opportunities to enjoy freely chosen outdoor play has been a key factor in the decline in children's mental wellbeing<sup>27</sup>.

The Play Safety Forum - Managing Risk in Play Provision outlines several benefits of play provision<sup>28</sup>

Places to play	Children need and have the right to play, and play provision offers them places where they can play freely in the ways they choose, without direction from adults.
Space to meet and hang out	Children and young people actively seek out places to meet and hang out, and facilities for them are high on the list of local priorities in many neighbourhoods. There is wide spread agreement that in many areas, young people in particular have a poor choice of leisure activities.

<sup>25</sup> The Value of Public Space - Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

<sup>26</sup> A Countryside for health and well-being- the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise (CRN, 2005)

<sup>27</sup> Play - A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood (Appg, October 2015)

<sup>28</sup> Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, Play Safety Forum, David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegall (2013)



Space to have fun	Like adults, children need to enjoy their lives, to have times and spaces where they can simply have fun. Good play environments offer a wide range and choice of play experiences.
Support for parents and carers	Good, accessible play provision helps parents and carers extend their children's play experiences. It can help to reduce conflict and relieve stress levels inside the home by providing other places where children spend their time.
A community gathering point	Centrally located play facilities can bring different age groups together and foster interactions and connections between children, and between children and adults. Good multi-functional provision can help to build neighbourliness and a sense of community.
A chance to encounter nature	Children value the chance to interact with nature, and such experiences help them to appreciate the importance of the natural world and the environment. There is growing evidence of the health benefits of access to green, outdoor environments.
A place to make friends	The opportunity to make friends and develop friendships is one of the most important experiences in childhood. In addition to this, such opportunities help children build their confidence and social competences.
Encourages physical activity	Most children are naturally physically active when they play out of doors. Comparative studies have shown that children can be as active in spontaneous outdoors play as in structured sport activities.
Learning how to manage risks	Rich, challenging, engaging play environments allow children to test themselves and explore their abilities. They can learn the penalties of misjudging a risk – or simply having bad luck – in managed environments that reduce the likelihood of serious harm.
Developing a sense of one's abilities	Self-directed play experiences give children the opportunity to try out for themselves ways to solve problems and achieve goals, without the interference of adults. These experiences are likely to foster children's abilities and resilience.
Catering for the adventurous	Some children and young people actively seek out risky situations. Play provision can give them the chance to satisfy their search for excitement in a managed context, potentially reducing the risk that these children will spend time in truly dangerous environments.

**TABLE 4 EXAMPLES OF THE BENEFITS OF PLAY PROVISION**

The benefits of play to children are not only present at the time of playing but also benefit them over time:

Benefits that are experienced at the time that the child is playing

- Provides children with opportunities to enjoy freedom, and exercise choice and control over their actions
- Offers children opportunities for testing boundaries and exploring risk
- Offers a very wide range of physical, social and intellectual experiences for children

#### Benefits that develop over time

- Fosters children's independence and self-esteem
- Develops children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction
- Supports the child's well-being, healthy growth and development
- Increases children's knowledge and understanding
- Promotes children's creativity and capacity to learn <sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Best Play - What Play Provision Should Do For Children (National Playing Fields Association, March 2000)

## 7. Current Provision

### 7.1. Parks and Play Areas

Within the Council area, there are 102 public parks/play parks, most of these are located within the towns but a number of villages also benefit from equipped play areas. Figure 2 shows the distribution of play provision throughout Mid Ulster. The breakdown of equipped play areas in each DEA provided by Mid Ulster Council are identified in the table below.

DEA	Number of Public Parks/Play Parks
Carntogher	11
Moyola	9
Magherafelt	6
Cookstown	28
Torrent	15
Dungannon	19
Clogher Valley	14

TABLE 5 NUMBER OF PUBLIC PARKS/PLAY PARKS BY DEA

As well as play, a number of parks within Mid Ulster offer additional provision including walking and cycling trails, water recreation, caravanning and visitor facilities. These locations range in size from small areas of 0.5 acres to parkland of up to 70 acres. These 3 public park sites are detailed in the table below and are mapped in Figure 7.

Park ID	Park Site	DEA
1	Ballyronan	Magherafelt
2	Dungannon Park	Dungannon
3	Railway Park	Dungannon

TABLE 6 PARK SITES IN MID ULSTER

As detailed in Position Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure, with regards assessing existing play space provision, it needs to be analysed on two tiers: the overall quantum and the spatial distribution. The NPFA standard (operating as Fields in Trust) for children’s play space is 0.80 hectares per 1000 population. Relative to each other, the spatial distribution is seen as more important as it relates to access to provision within the various settlements – in relation to children’s homes<sup>30</sup>.

Fields In Trust classify fixed play under its benchmark guidelines for open space and equipped play areas based on walking time from the home as well as the nature of the play facility (Table 7 below). In line with Position Paper Seven these are as follows:

Local Area for Play (LAP) - These are unsupervised small open spaces specifically designed for young children for play activities close to where they live. Although without play equipment, LAPs have characteristics that make the area conducive to children’s play. Such characteristics include ease of access, a relatively level site, informal surveillance and modest provision of landscaping so that play is not inhibited. The NPFA consider that LAPs should be within 1 minute walking time of home.

A Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) - These are unsupervised play areas that are equipped for children of early school age. While sharing similar characteristics to LAPs, LEAPs feature a range of

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<sup>30</sup> Position Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure<sup>30</sup> (Mid Ulster District Council, June 2015)

different types of play equipment. The NPFA consider these should be located within 5 minutes walking time of home.

A Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) - These are also unsupervised but they are intended to service a substantial residential area. While sharing similar characteristics to LEAPs, NEAPs feature a significant range of different types of play equipment. It is equipped mainly for older children but also having opportunities for play for younger children. The NPFA recommend these should be located within 15 minutes walking time of home.

<b>Nature of play facility</b>	<b>Walking Time</b>	<b>Pedestrian Route</b>	<b>Straight Line Distance</b>
<b>LAP</b>	1 minute	100 metres	60 metres
<b>LEAP</b>	5 minutes	400 metres	240 metres
<b>NEAP</b>	15 minutes	1000 metres	600 metres

**TABLE 7 NATURE OF PLAY FACILITY AND DISTANCE FROM THE HOME**

Figure 3 shows the locations of the playparks relative to their classification. Appendix 1 provides a full list of Mid Ulster District Council play areas in terms of their classification.

While the NPFA standard has been formulated essentially for urban areas, it is useful in assessing spatial distribution in the regional towns of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt and the smaller towns of Coalisland and Maghera.

In addition, in order to help assess the current provision and identify gaps of play provision in more rural areas, Mid Ulster Council has been mapped using population data (Census 2011) to show the distribution of young children aged 0-15 years ( Figure 4 Population of Mid Ulster Under 15 Years). This map highlights a number of areas in Mid Ulster that have youthful population. Furthermore Figure 5 shows the areas that have both a youthful population and where play provision is located. In order to further support the analysis for under provision or indeed over provision of play facilities, household pointer data from Land and Property Services (LPS) has been used to indicate the more densely populated areas across the Council area with clusters of data points showing the areas with a greater number of households (see Figure 6). From Figure 6 it can be seen that there is a high concentration of play provision within the towns of Dungannon and Cookstown but in comparison Magherafelt is somewhat lacking in play provision. Despite this, there is a good spread of play provision across the Council area with more rural areas in Clogher Valley catered for as well as the Western side of the region.

However, based on the NPFA standards as well as the supporting population and household pointer data, Council have set out to address the balance of play provision across the 7 DEAs considering capacity and facilities at each site, the presence of a youthful population as well as indicative household data. This analysis is detailed in Section 9 of the report, with the provision of public parks and play provision in each DEA covered in detail.

In addition to its public parks/play parks, Mid Ulster District Council also has a number of open/green space parks within its ownership (see table below). These areas do not necessarily offer an equipped play area but may once have provided play or indeed may facilitate future play or public park opportunities (Figure 8). These sites have also been mapped alongside current play locations as shown in Figure 9.

ID	DEA	Park Site
1	Carntogher	Ballymacombs Road
2	Moyola	Cahore Road
3	Dungannon	Castlehill
4	Carntogher	Clady
5	Carntogher	Coleraine Road
6	Dungannon	Drumglass Wood
7	Magherafelt	Glenburn
8	Moyola	Glenelly Villas
9	Carntogher	Glenone
10	Magherafelt	Greenvale Spires Park
11	Magherafelt	Manor Park
12	Moyola	Newferry Slipway
13	Moyola	O'Neill Park
14	Moyola	Riverside
15	Magherafelt	Sperrin View
16	Moyola	Tradd Point
17	Moyola	Tradd House
18	Dungannon	Windmill Wood
19	Carntogher	Upperlands
20	Torrent	Henderson Park

**TABLE 8 OPEN/GREEN SPACE SITES**



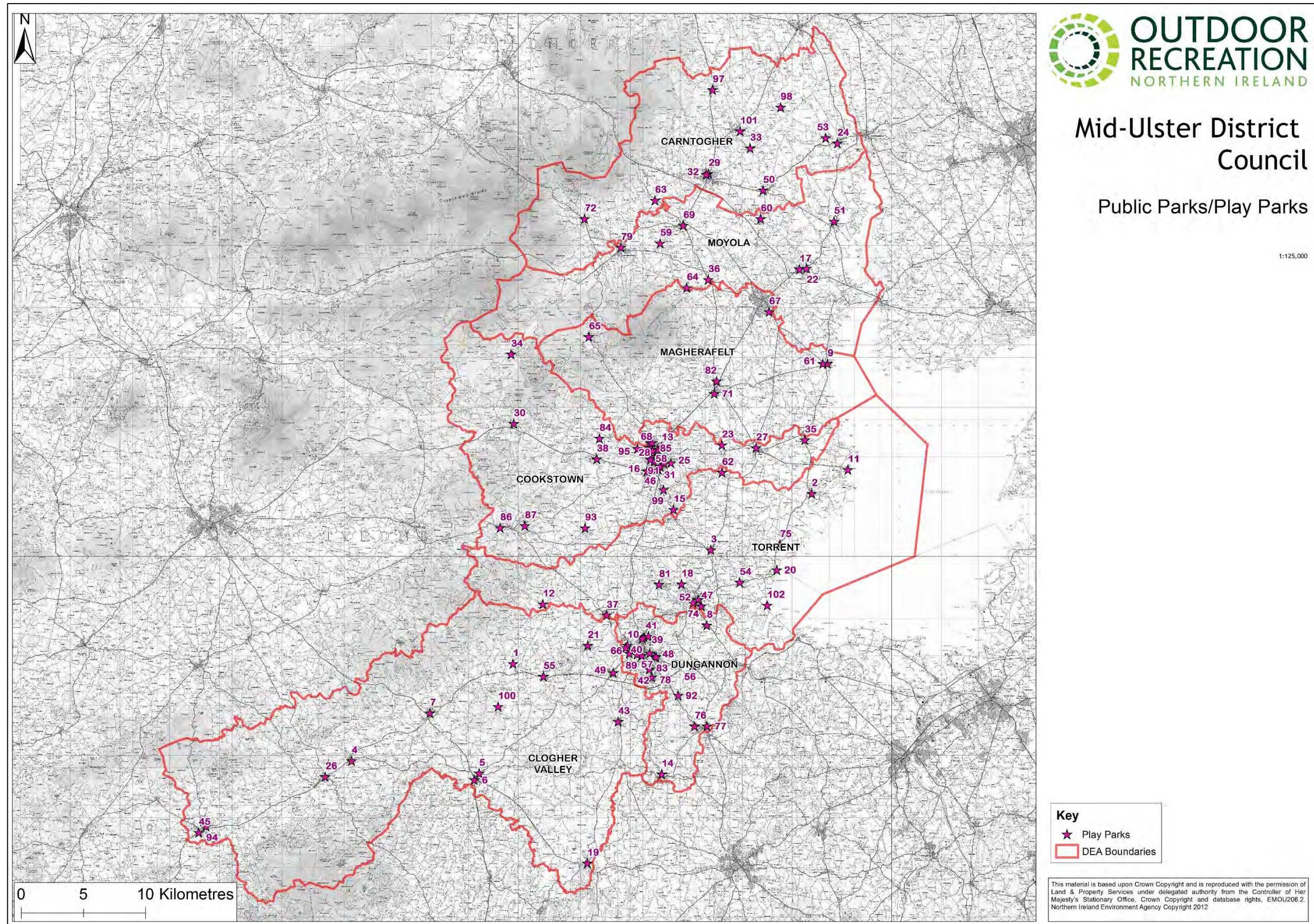


FIGURE 2 CURRENT PLAY PROVISION IN MID ULSTER



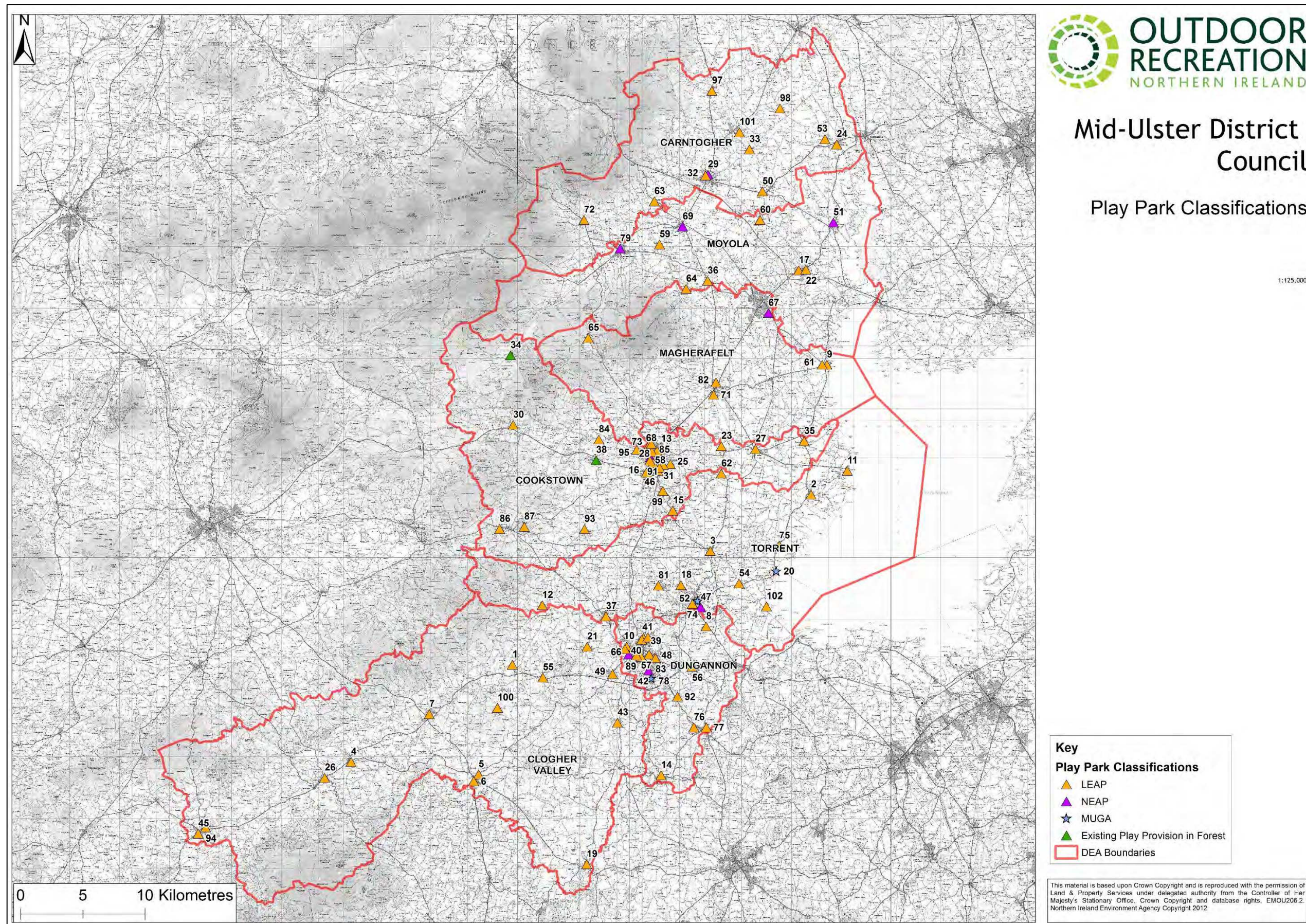


FIGURE 3 PLAY PARK CLASSIFICATIONS



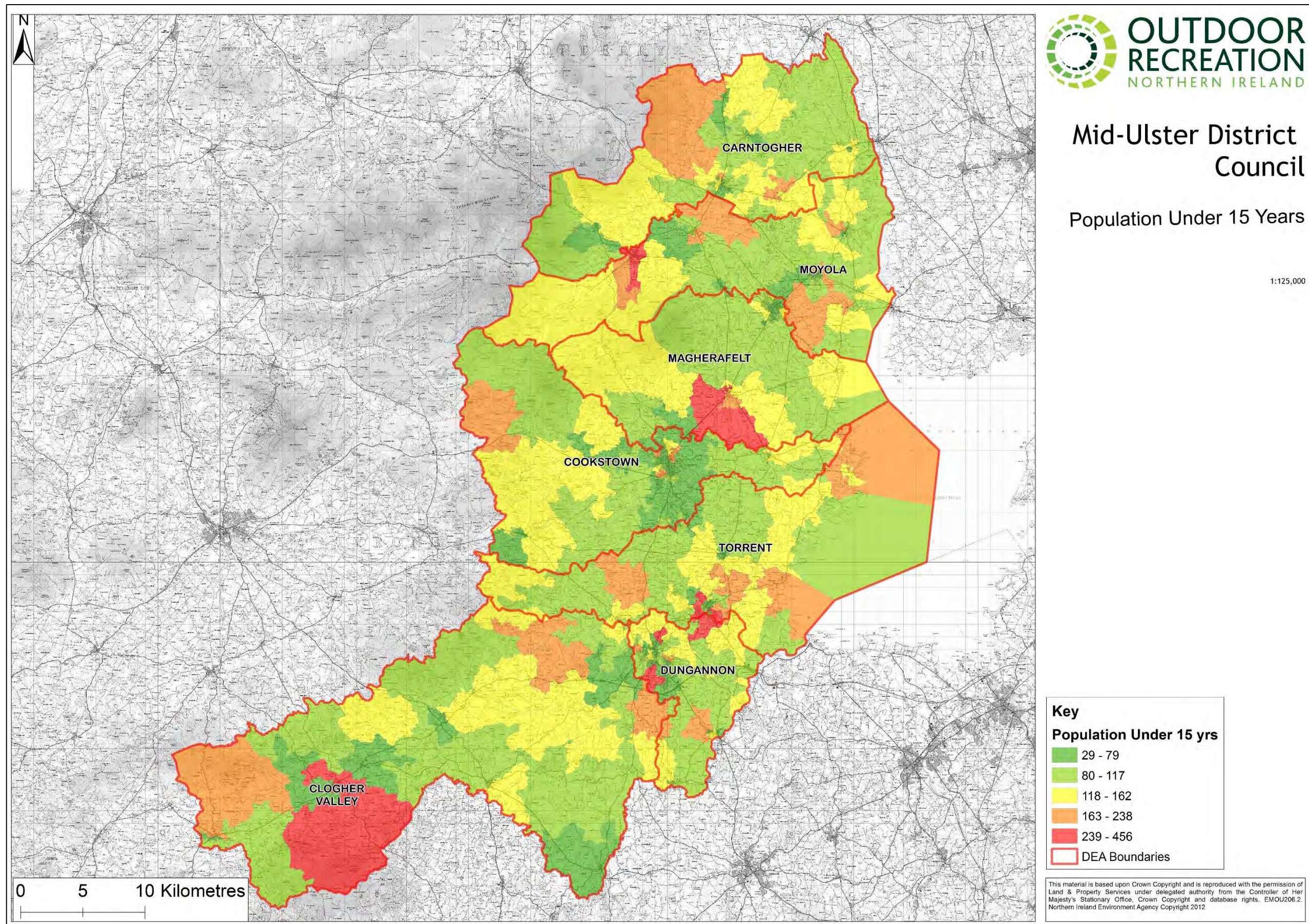


FIGURE 4 POPULATION OF MID ULSTER UNDER 15 YEARS



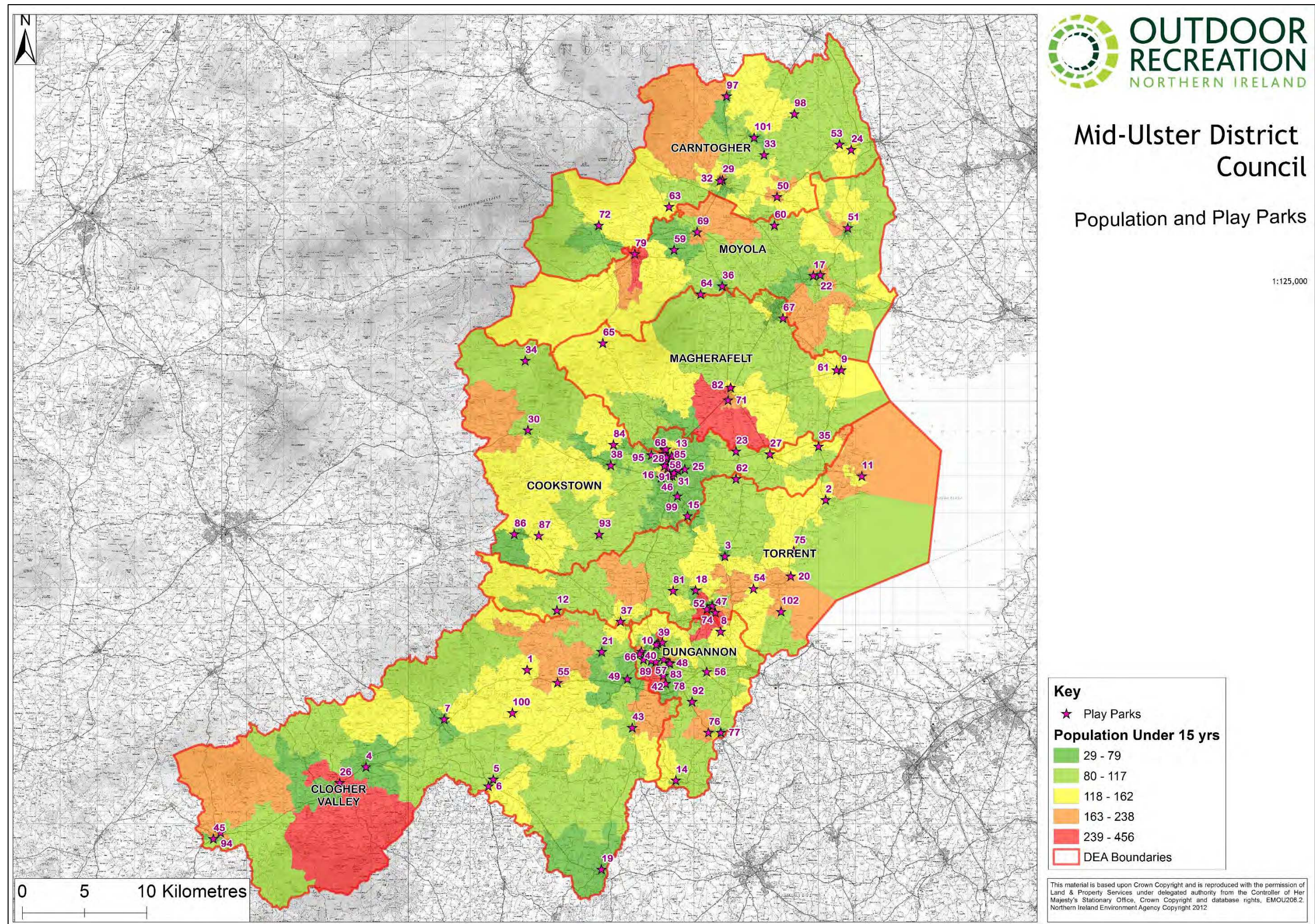


FIGURE 5 POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS AND PLAY PROVISION LOCATIONS



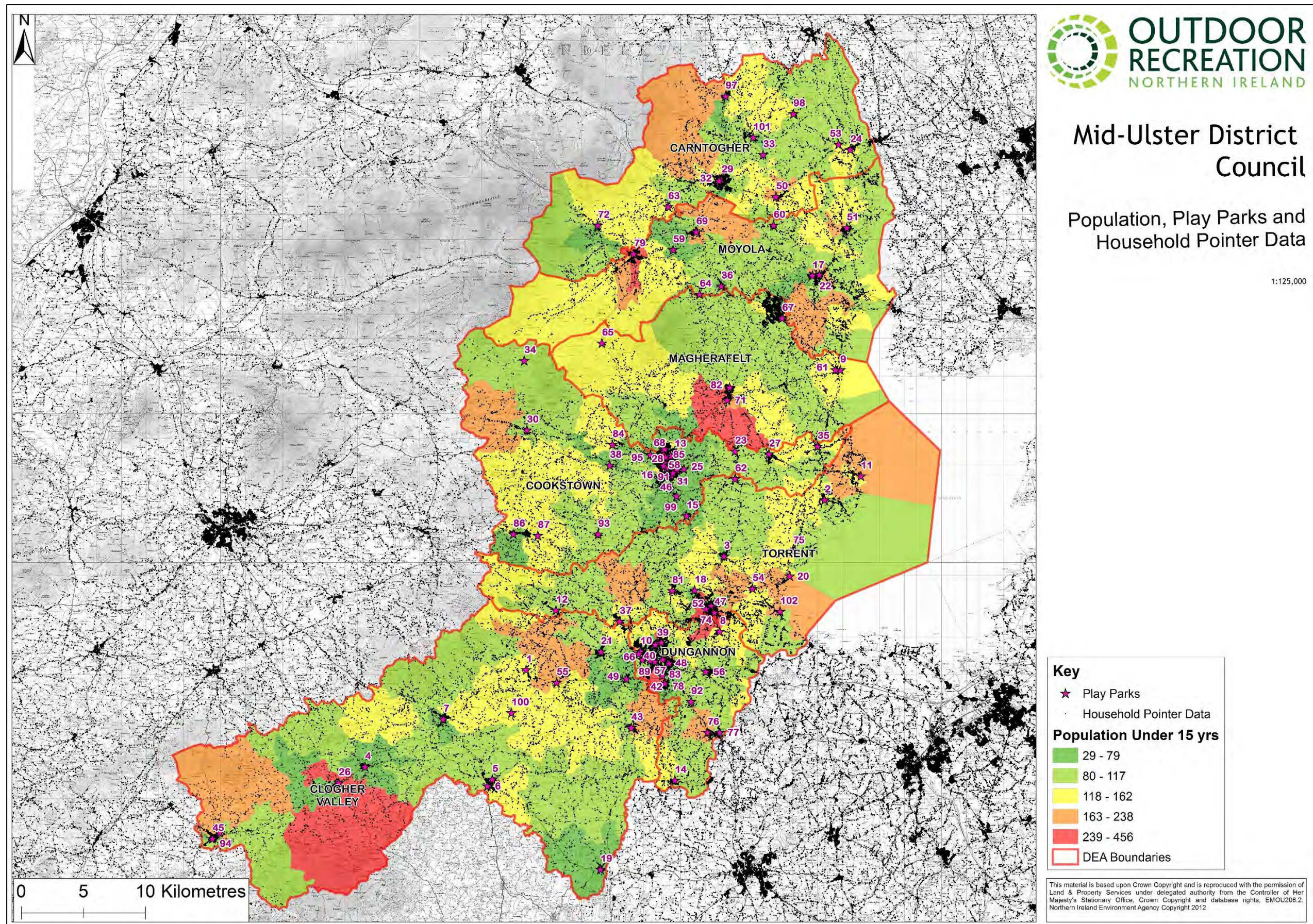


FIGURE 6 POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS, PLAY PROVISION LOCATIONS AND HOUSEHOLD POINTER DATA



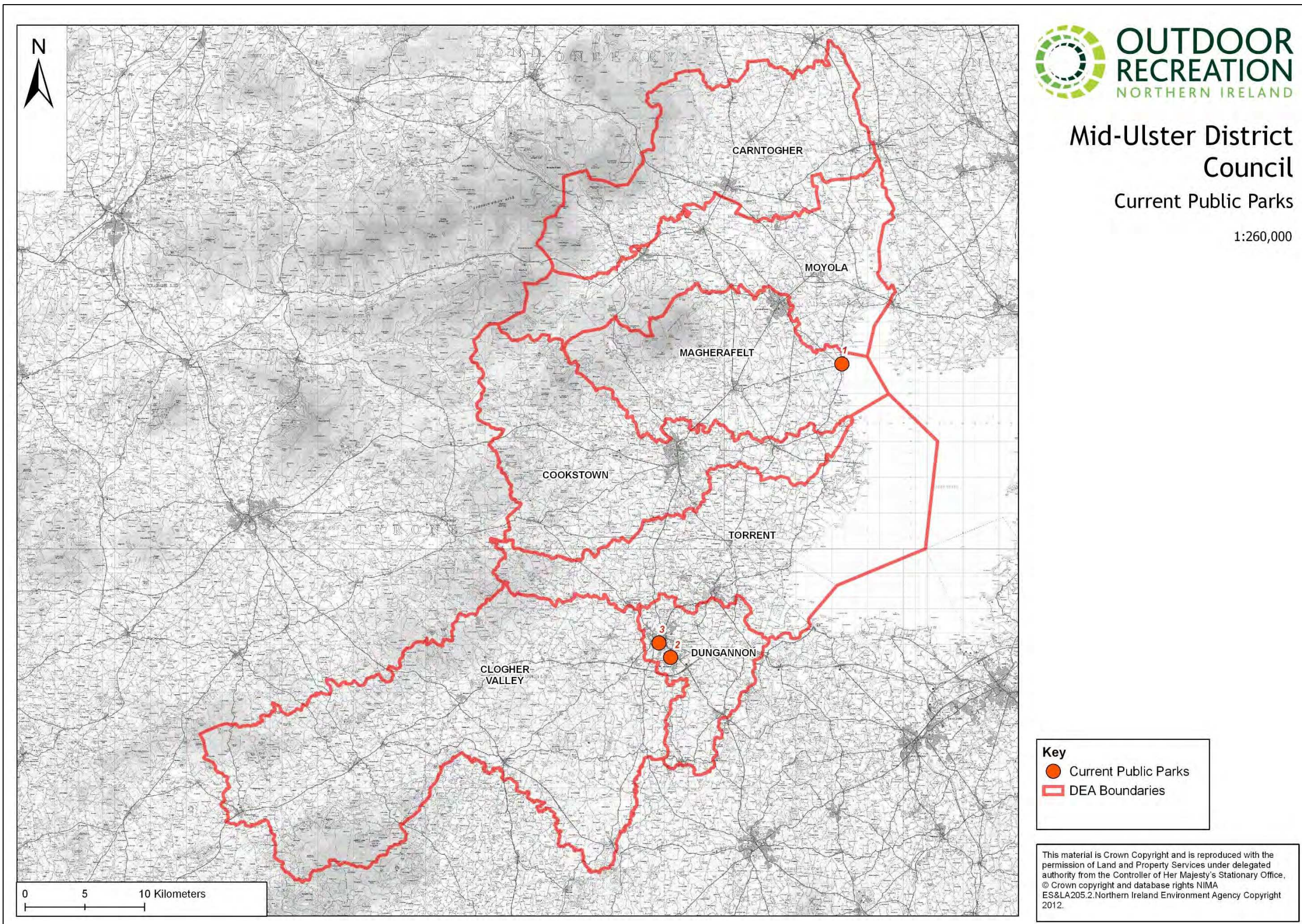


FIGURE 7 CURRENT PUBLIC PARKS



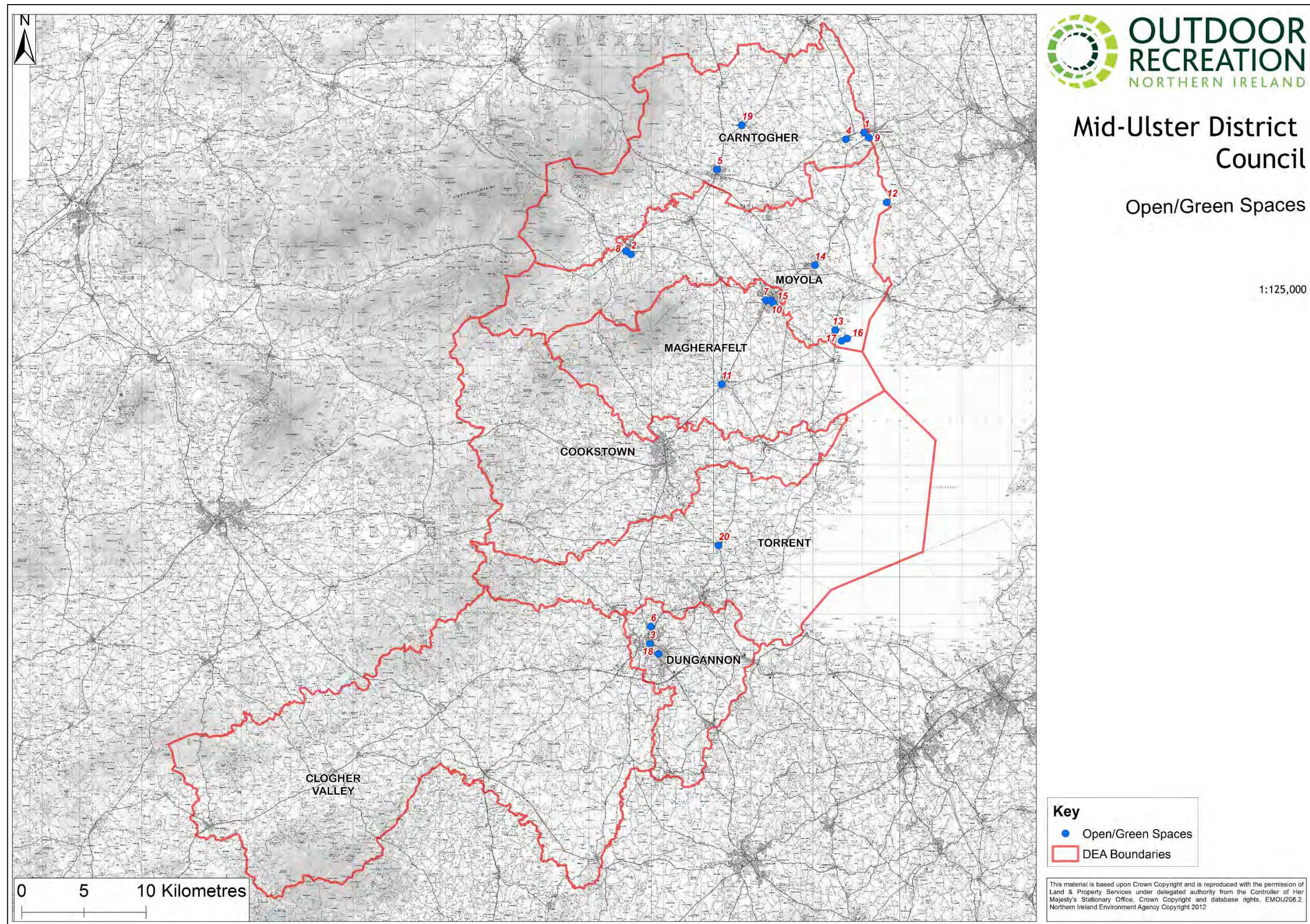


FIGURE 8 OPEN/GREEN SPACE LOCATIONS IN MID ULSTER



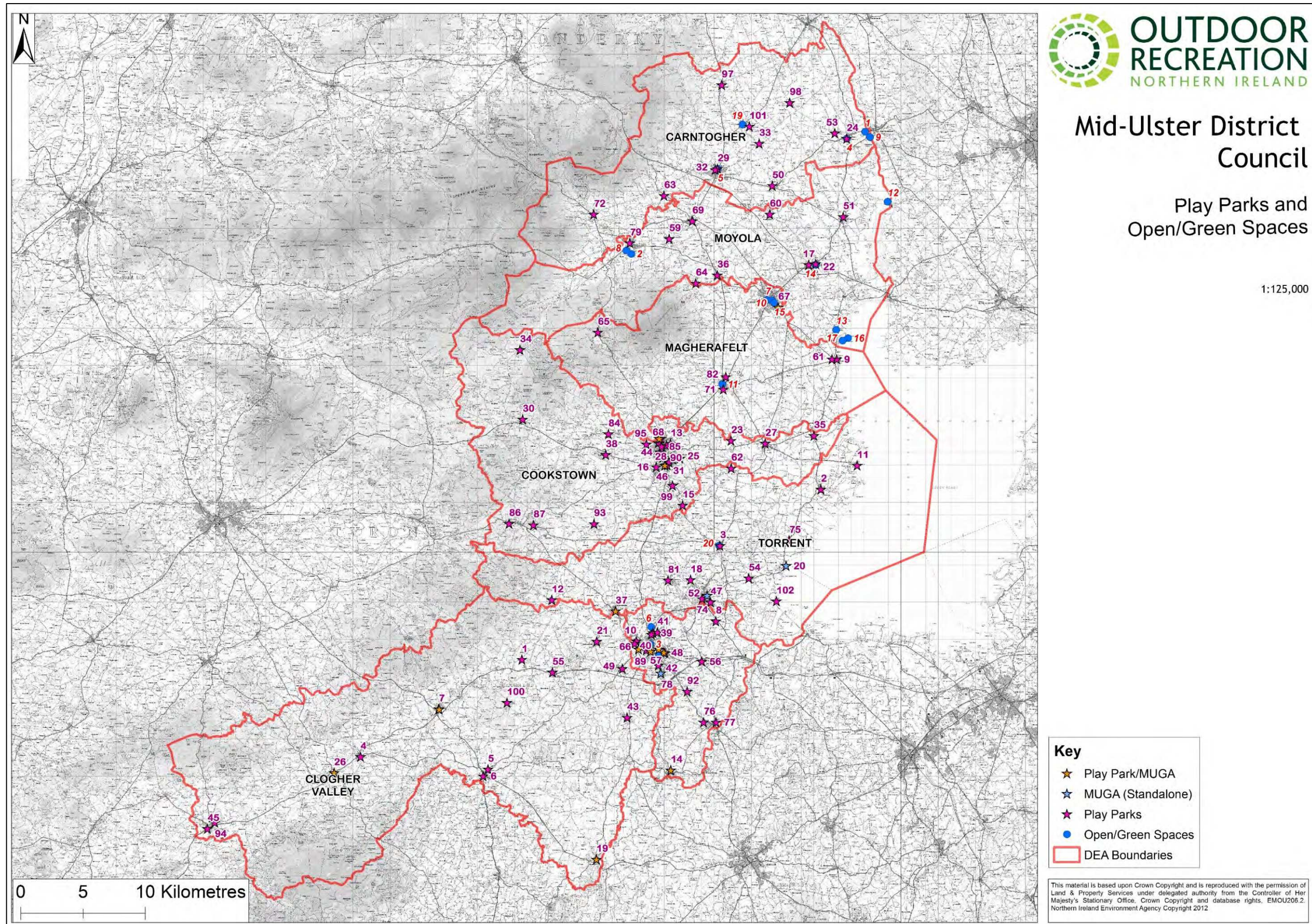


FIGURE 9 PLAY PROVISION AND OPEN/GREEN SPACE LOCATIONS



## 7.2. Quality of Play Provision

In order to meet the needs of the local population, the play opportunities provided by Mid Ulster District Council need not only be accessible but also maintained to a satisfactory level so they deliver a satisfactory play experience as well as ensuring the safety of the child.

Mid Ulster District Council currently has a team of Park Officers who inspect, maintain and repair play equipment and facilities within the Council area. In addition, Mid Ulster Council recently employed the services of an independent auditor to assess the standard of play provision within the District. Each of the 102 play parks were assessed in terms of the standard of each piece of play equipment, number of inclusive pieces, play surfaces and ancillary items. Each piece was given a score and then an overall mean score provided. Table 9 below provides an overview of the audit:

Overall Results	Play Areas
Total no. of parks with a score of 8+	55
Total no. of parks with a score of 5-7	43
Total no. of parks with a score of 1-4	4
Highest quality scoring parks	Ackinduff Augher Ballynakelly Castledawson Crawfordsburn Drumcoo Green Innishrush Killeen Kilross Lindsayville, Ballyronan Mullaghmore Pomeroy Forest Tamlaght Upperlands
Lowest quality scoring parks	Drumcoo, Killymaddy, Moneyneena
Percentage of inclusive play across the district	13%

**TABLE 9 OVERVIEW OF QUALITY AUDIT**

The above information has been mapped on Figure 10 showing the location of play parks categorised by their audit score. A full list of scores is detailed in Appendix 1

The audit scores provide an important overview of those facilities which require immediate attention. Indeed those facilities that fall within the lowest band, scoring 1-4, will need to be considered in terms of the quality of equipment they offer the local communities that they serve and indeed if a change of use is required or if these sites should be considered on the basis of their recommended life span.

Play parks scoring 5-7 fall short of the satisfactory quality level indicating a degree of attention and upgrade to prevent them falling into the lower quality level of play provision in Mid Ulster.

Finally play facilities that fall within the uppermost band are those that meet the quality level of play provision that Council aspire that all its facilities should meet. These areas require continued monitoring and maintenance to ensure their standards are retained.



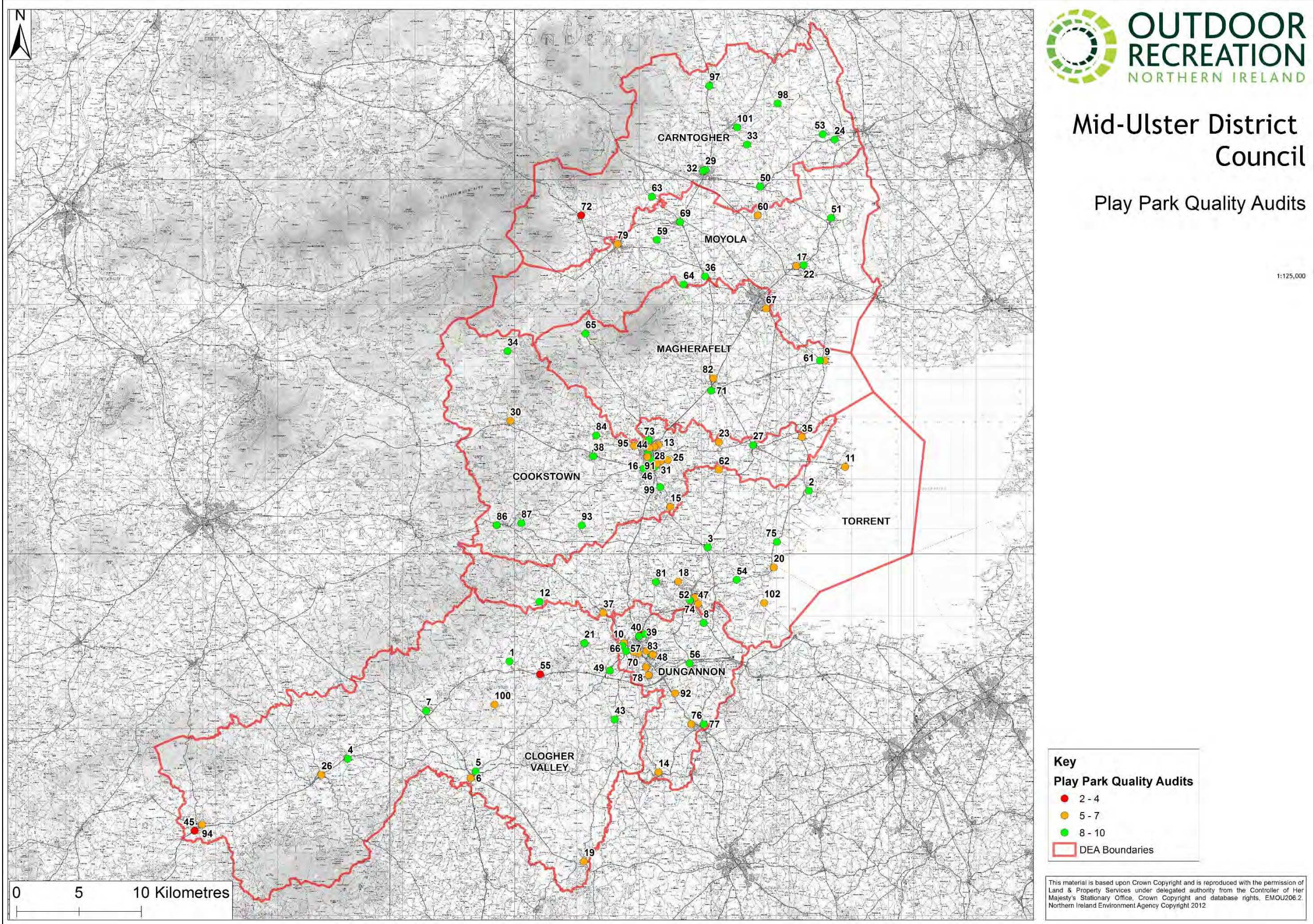


FIGURE 10 PLAY PARK QUALITY AUDIT SCORES



## 8. Planning

When developing play provision Council should acknowledge the Department's planning policies for achieving quality through *Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) – Quality Residential Environments (2001)* and *Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) Open Space, Recreation and Leisure*.

### 8.1. Policy Statement 7 (PPS7)

*Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) – Quality Residential Environments (2001)* sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans. All residential developments are expected to conform to certain criteria including:

- adequate provision is made for public and private open space and landscaped areas as an integral part of the development.

More specifically it states that integrating pleasant, attractive and landscaped areas of public open space, including children's play spaces, is as an intrinsic element of any new residential development as open space has not only recreational and social benefits but is also considered vital to the overall design quality of the development. It can help promote biodiversity and contributes to the creation of an attractive, sustainable and varied residential environment, helping to 'green' an area, soften any environmental impact and foster a sense of community.

### 8.2. Policy Statement 8 (PPS8)

*Within Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)* the Department focuses on planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.

Open Space is defined in PPS8, Open Space, Sport and outdoor Recreation as:

'all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canal, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity'.

Open space, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life providing many health, cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban regeneration. The use being made of the countryside for a range of sporting and outdoor recreational activities, particularly where these are associated with farm diversification, can contribute to the process of rural regeneration and help promote natural resource tourism.

### 8.3. Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy – OS1 Protection of Open Space

Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy - February 2019 seeks to protect existing areas of open space and encourage the provision of new open space. This will be achieved by



identifying important parcels of open space to be protected, zoning of new open space and by formulating policy to require open space to be provided by the developer in new housing developments. In addition, Council recognise the benefits of dual use of open spaces and are working with the Education Authority to share sports pitches. Mid Ulster Council are also working with NIHE to facilitate children's play provision on land under their control.

Within this Local Development Plan, Council also recognise the link between open space, transport and the environment and as a consequence the strategy is to protect not only parks and gardens but also linear open spaces such as pedestrian walkways. For indoor recreation, the key considerations for any new facilities will be accessibility to the communities that they serve.

Therefore it is suggested that Mid Ulster Public Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan adopts *Policy OS 1 - Protection of Open Space* which states development that results in the loss of open space shall not accord with the Plan irrespective of its physical condition and appearance.

An exception can be made where it is demonstrated that it will bring substantial community benefits that outweigh the loss of the open space and it will have no significant detrimental impact on open space provision, amenity, character or biodiversity of an area.

Where appropriate, adequate compensatory measures to include provision for more intensive recreational use (3G sports pitches) on site or in other locations capable of serving the area will be given consideration. Compensatory measures should be comparable to that which is lost.

#### **8.4. Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy – Social Policies**

Furthermore retaining open space, creating new open space and promoting more opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation in the future is of significant importance. Mid Ulster Council's Local Development Plan 2030 has adopted *PPS 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation Policy, OS 2 Public Open Space in New Residential Development* as a best practice approach with regards to provision of adequate public and private open space under Social Policy. As a general rule for all residential developments over 25 units or sites of 1 hectare or more, a minimum of 10% of the site area should be allocated to public open space which is adequately equipped, landscaped and well-design to form an integral part of the proposal.

The suggested actions within the Mid Ulster Public Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan, should therefore be developed in line with the Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy - February 2019 adopting the guidelines and best practice measures.

## 9. Future Park and Play Provision

Mid Ulster Council has utilised four key pieces of research to analyse the current play provision in Mid Ulster:

- Fields In Trust Benchmark Guidelines
- Population data from the 2011 census
- Household pointer data from LPS
- Play Park Quality Inspection Audit

Supporting information was also gathered through consultation and the Mid Ulster Parks and Play and Outdoor Recreation Survey 2017. In addition, consideration was also given to Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) and Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) and Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy - February 2019.

### 9.1. Activity Hubs

Through analysis of current provision, feedback from the 7 DEA consultation events and action points from village plans, it is apparent there are a number of parks that require immediate attention but also a demand for new facilities to be provided. This is not uncommon, public parks and play parks are an emotive issue and provide a focal point in the community. Furthermore with regards inclusive play, the percentage of all ability equipment fell short to what Council aspires to provide. Just 13% of play within Mid Ulster District Council is classed as inclusive. While the 3 main special schools (1. Glenview Primary, 2. Kilroroan and 3. Sperrinview) have facilities on site (see Figure 11 for locations in relation to public park/play park facilities) the provision for families of both abled bodied and disabled children to enjoy a day out together as one unit is deficient.

In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one the 15 outcomes is to 'give our children and young people the best chance in life'<sup>31</sup>. Within this Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure children of all abilities are adequately provided for. Therefore, a matrix (Table 10) has been devised to assess a number of potential sites within Mid Ulster District Council against set criteria regards their suitability for 'District Hubs' and more specifically investigating suitability of sites for an all ability Activity Centre(s).

It is envisaged that 'Activity Centres' will be a visitor-destination style facility with enhanced all ability play, changing provision and facilities. These sites will also offer a range of other outdoor reaction facilities such as walking and cycling trails, water recreation and camping/caravanning.

'District Play Hubs' will offer enhanced NEAP play provision, catering for all age groups within a designated catchment area. District hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access.

**2 Activity Centres** have been identified for potential development:

- Dungannon Park, Dungannon
- Ballyronan, Magherafelt

**5 District Play Hubs** have been identified for potential development:

- Fairhill, Churchview, Cookstown

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<sup>31</sup> Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan – 10 Year Plan for Mid Ulster

- Gortgonis, Torrent
- Maghera Leisure Centre, Carntogher
- Meadow Bank, Magherafelt
- Roundlake, Clogher Valley

These proposed facilities have been mapped in Figure 12. This map shows the geographic distribution of these locations across the Council area with each DEA benefiting from at least one enhanced facility or a facility bordering their DEA.



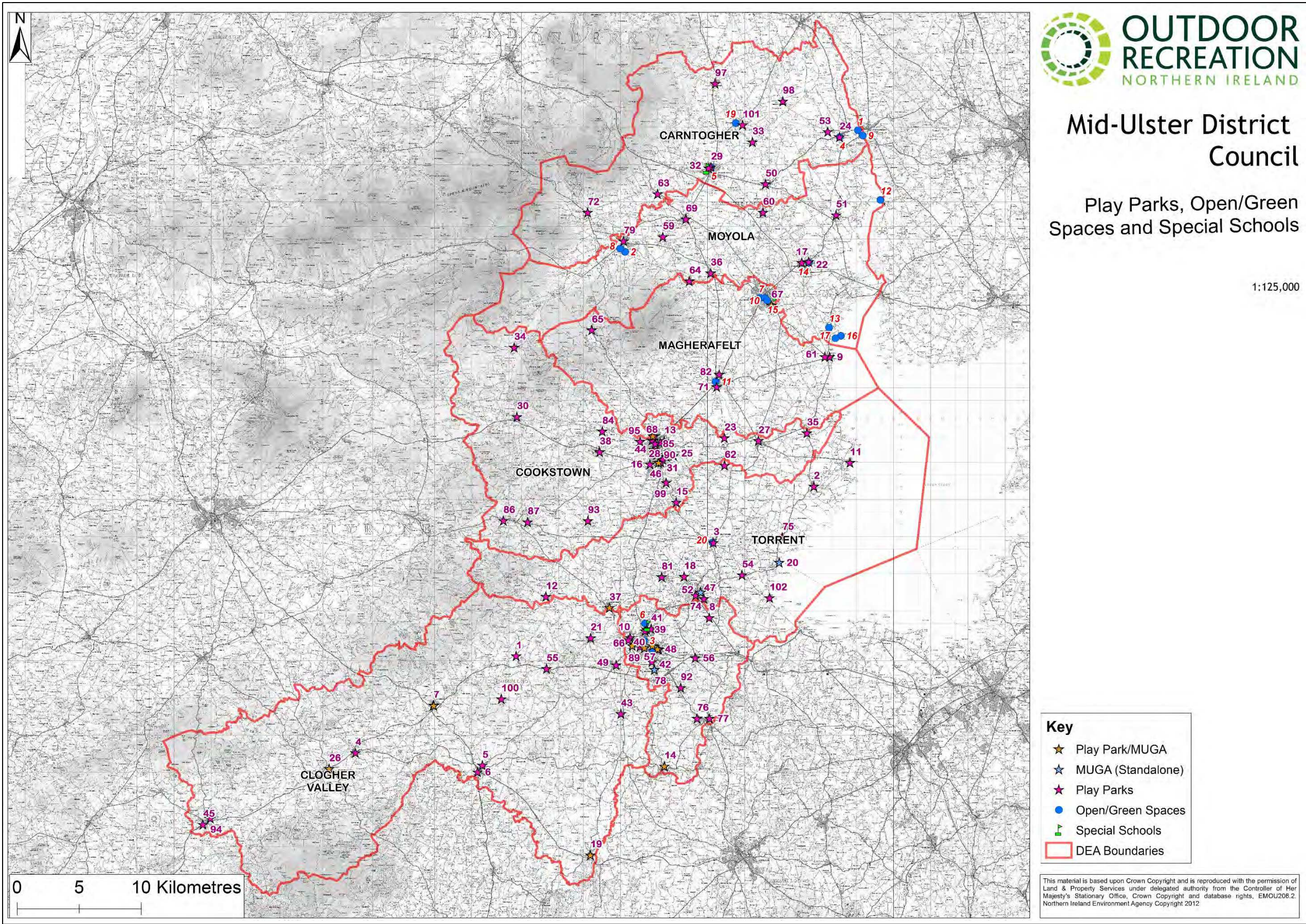


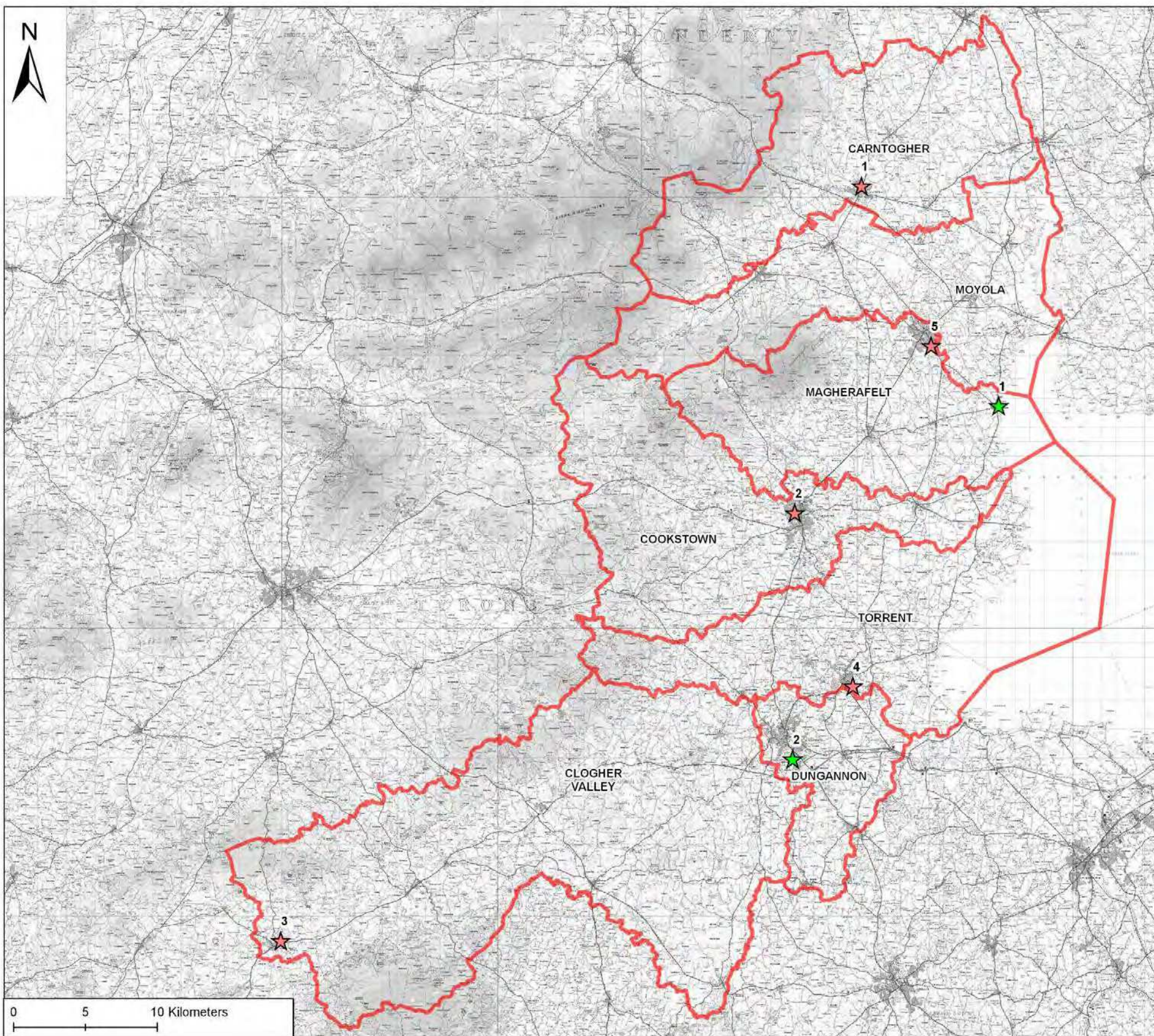
FIGURE 11 LOCATION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS RELATIVE TO PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK FACILITIES



Site Name	Augher	Ballyronan Marina	Ballygawley	Clogher	Dungannon Park	Fairhill, Churchview	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	Gortgonis	Maghera Leisure Centre	Meadow Bank	Roundlake
DEA	Clogher Valley	Moyola	Clogher Valley	Clogher Valley	Dungannon	Cookstown	Clogher Valley	Torrent	Carntogher	Magherafelt	Clogher Valley
<b>Location</b>											
Size of Site (min 0.5 acre)	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✖	✓	✓
MUDC Ownership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Onsite Management/Manned	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential Planning Issues - Absent	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential Specialist Planning - Absent	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Risks</b>											
Protected re Antisocial Behaviour	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Ancillary Structures</b>											
Existing Boundary Fencing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No further fencing required	✓	✖	✖	✓	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖
Gates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signs/Seats/Bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protected/Gated/Fenced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖
Paths & General Surfaces Good	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Parking</b>											
Adequate Parking Proximity/Number	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disabled Parking	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coach/Mini Bus Parking	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✖	✓	✓
Potential for Extended Parking	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓
On main road for easy visibility/access	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Facilities</b>											
Existing Toilets	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disabled Toilet	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Room for Toilet/Disabled Toilet Expansion	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitor Services: Coffee shop etc.	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖
Potential for Visitor Services	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✖	✓	✓
Visitor/Tourist Destination	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✓
Flat Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Existing Footfall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreation facilities on site e.g. walking trails, cycle trails and water recreation	✖	✓	✓	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖	✓

TABLE 10 PLAY HUB MATRIX





## Mid-Ulster District Council

Potential Play Hub Provision

1:250,000

### Key

- ★ Potential Activity Centres
- ★ Potential District Play Hubs
- DEA Boundaries

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FIGURE 12 MID ULSTER POTENTIAL PLAY HUB PROVISION



## 9.2. Parks Development

As highlighted in section 7 Mid Ulster has currently 3 public parks offering a wide range of outdoor recreation and visitor facilities. The most notable being Dungannon Park and Ballyronan Marina which also offer water recreation and caravanning and camping. The third location, Railway Park has potential for significant development with proposals for a £1,000,000 project within the strategy period, subject to available funding. These larger park sites attract high footfall and are also well used by the surrounding community. However, there are a number of areas in Mid Ulster that are lacking in open/green space and it is recognised that there is a need for additional public parks particularly in Cookstown and Magherafelt.

Within Cookstown, it is felt that Fairhill has potential to be the flagship park facility with the forthcoming development in Gortgonis offering improved park facilities such as a woodland walk and links to the canal in the neighbouring DEA of Torrent.

Development opportunities in Magherafelt include Polepatrick as well as a potential significant project at Sounding Hill quarry in association with the Trustees of this site. In addition, Council do have a number of open/green space and play sites across the district which offer public park development potential. Table 11 outlines the 14 sites that have been considered for public park development using the Matrix to assess their suitability against set criteria. The sites identified are geographically mapped in Figure 13. Any such development will require Master Planning and match funding to progress. While the below sites hold potential for public park development, it should be noted that O'Neill Park, in line with Council's current Capital Projects, is a potential development site for play with suggestions for a LEAP facility to be installed at this location.

Park ID	Park Site	DEA
1	Ballymacombs	Carntogher
2	Castlehill	Dungannon
3	Clady	Carntogher
4	Fairhill	Cookstown
5	Henderson Park	Torrent
6	Hunters Park	Moyola
7	Manor Park	Magherafelt
8	Mill Park	Moyola
9	Moykeeran	Moyola
10	Railway Park	Dungannon
11	Parkview/Riverside	Moyola
12	Roundlake	Clogher Valley
13	Swatragh	Carntogher
14	Windmill Wood	Dungannon

## 9.3. Bespoke Woodland Parks

In line with the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017) it is recommended that a number of key forest and woodland locations across Mid Ulster undergo development. The majority are important recreation sites that are well used by the community. Other sites hold potential in terms of creating a much-needed recreation and play facility for the community while increasing Mid Ulster Council's recreation offering for the visitor. Therefore, it is suggested that to further add value and improve the visitor experience, a natural play element should be included alongside the enhanced

recreation provision. Table 12 below shows a list of the relevant sites across the 7 DEAs and suggests a significant or small woodland play element be introduced with these locations mapped in Figure 14.



Site Name	Ballymacombs	Castlehill	Clady	Fairhill	Henderson Park	Hunters Park	Manor Park	Mill Park	Moykeeran	Railway Park	Parkview Riverside	Roundlake	Swatragh	Windmill Wood	*O'Neill Park (Play only)
Site ID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	-
DEA	Carntogher	Dungannon	Carntogher	Cookstown	Torrent	Moyola	Magherafelt	Moyola	Moyola	Dungannon	Moyola	Clogher Valley	Carntogher	Dungannon	Moyola
Location															
Size of Site (min 0.5 acre)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
MUDC Ownership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Onsite Management/Manned	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Potential Planning Issues - Absent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential Specialist Planning - Absent	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Risks															
Protected re Antisocial Behaviour	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Ancillary Structures															
Existing Boundary Fencing	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
No further fencing required	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Gates	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Signs/Seats/Bins	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Paths & General Surfaces Good	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Parking															
Adequate Parking Proximity/Number	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Disabled Parking	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Coach/Mini Bus Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Potential for Extended Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
On main road for easy visibility/access	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Facilities															
Existing Toilets	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Disabled Toilet	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Room for Toilet/Disabled Toilet Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitor Services: Coffee shop etc.	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Potential for Visitor Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Visitor Destination	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Flat Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Existing Footfall	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Recreation facilities on site e.g. walking trails, cycle trails and water recreation	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

TABLE 11 PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK LOCATION

DEA	Small Woodland Play	Ownership	Significant Woodland Play	Ownership
<b>Carntogher</b>			Derrynoyd Forest (1)	<i>Forest Service</i>
<b>Clogher Valley</b>	Knockmany Forest (1)	<i>Forest Service</i>	Parkanaur Forest (2)	<i>Forest Service</i>
	Bantry Lough and Forest (3)	<i>Forest Service</i>		
<b>Cookstown*</b>	Cabin Wood (4)	<i>Council</i>	Drum Manor (4)	<i>Forest Service</i>
			Pomeroy Forest (3)	<i>Forest Service</i>
<b>Dungannon</b>	Windmill Wood (2)	<i>Council</i>		
<b>Magherafelt</b>	Inniscarn Forest (5)	<i>Forest Service</i>		
<b>Moyola</b>	Traad Point (6)	<i>Council</i>	Drumlamph (5)	<i>Development Assoc.</i>

**TABLE 12 BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY LOCATIONS**

*\*Cookstown – Element of play provision already established at Pomeroy and Drum Manor Forest*






## Mid-Ulster District Council

Current Public Parks and  
Potential Parks Development

1:260,000

**Key**

-  Potential Park Sites
-  Current Public Parks
-  DEA Boundaries

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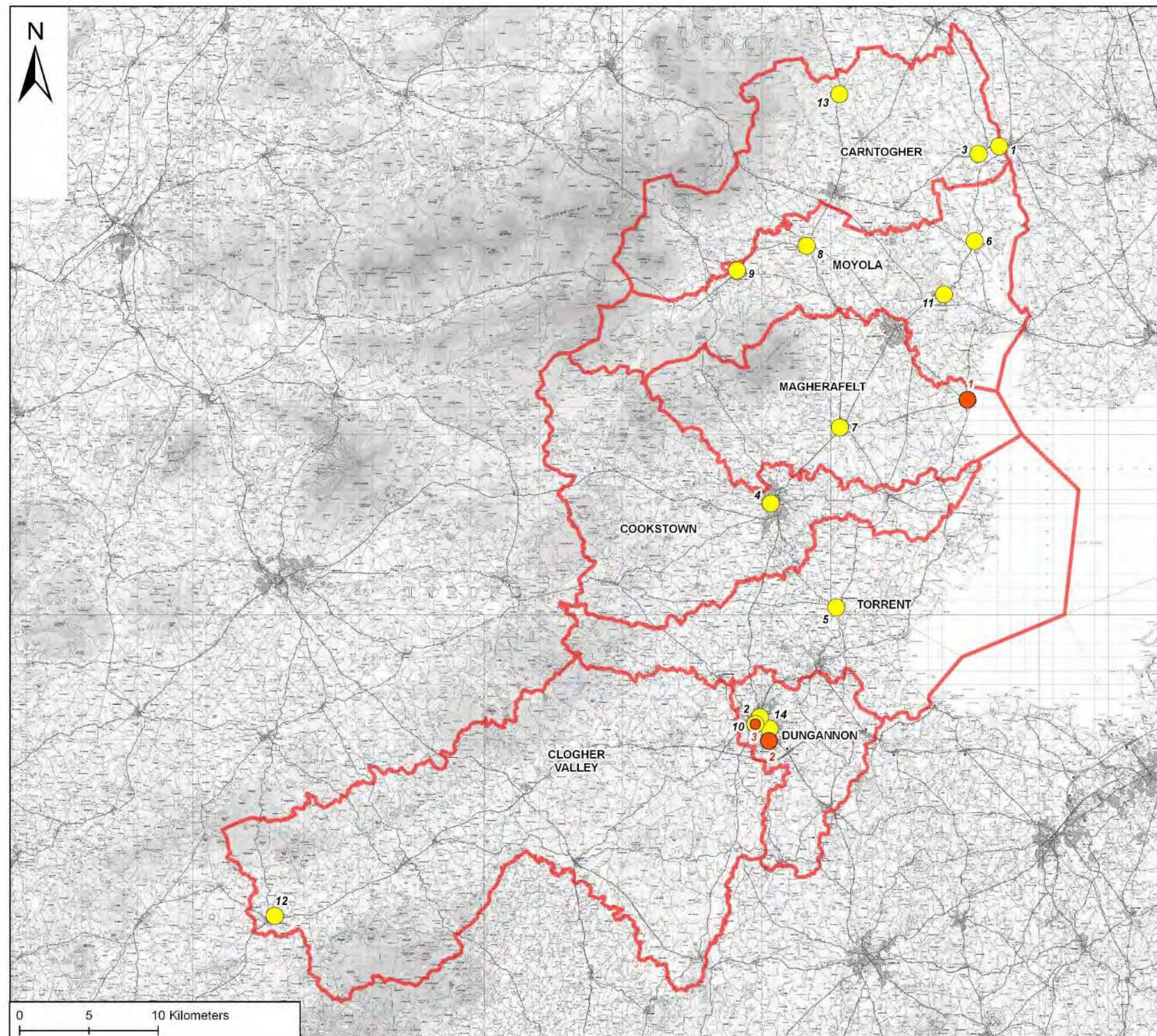


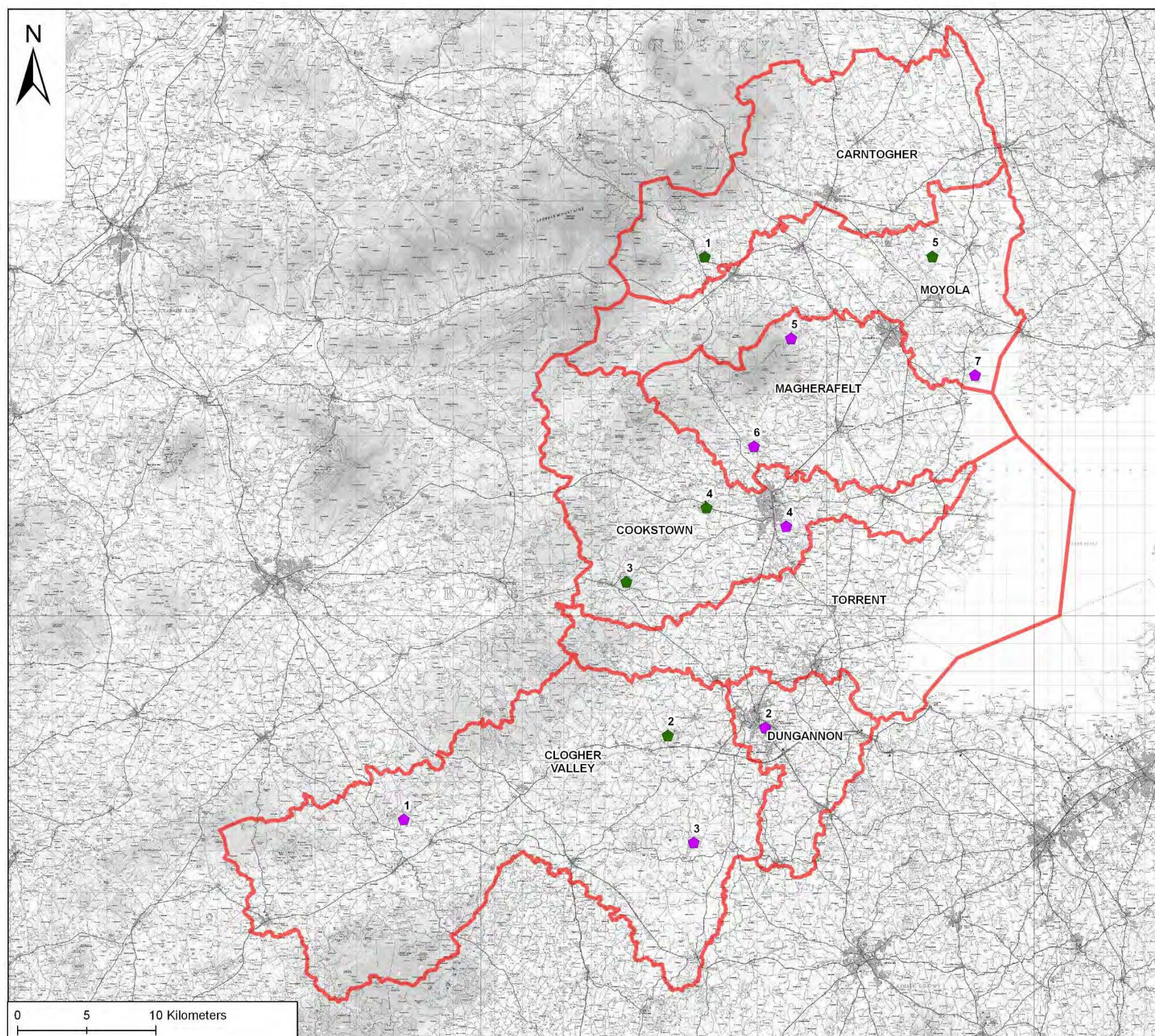
FIGURE 13 POTENTIAL PUBLIC PARK DEVELOPMENT



## Mid-Ulster District Council

### Bespoke Woodland Play

1:260,000



**Key**

- Small Woodland Play
- Significant Woodland Play
- DEA Boundaries

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FIGURE 14 MID ULSTER POTENTIAL WOODLAND PLAY PROVISION



#### 9.4. Dungannon

There are 19 public parks/play parks within Dungannon DEA as well as 3 open/green space sites as shown in Figure 15.

According to Mid Ulster District Council Planning Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure, much of Dungannon is deficient in terms of equipped play provision with no play areas easily accessible from the town centre by foot. It was also noted that the residential areas in the south and west of the town were also deficient in play provision.

Deemed as deficient in the number of equipped play areas, the spatial distribution of play provision in Dungannon is not considered to be strategic. Therefore the proposed recommendations have considered the sites surrounding the town centre as well as utilising the open/green spaces which hold potential for future development.

The 4 zones within Dungannon in Figure 15 are shown in detail in the accompanying ‘Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon’. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 10 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Dungannon.

Table 13 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Dungannon DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations. For more detailed analysis, please refer to ‘Mid Ulster Maps Report – Dungannon’ as necessary.

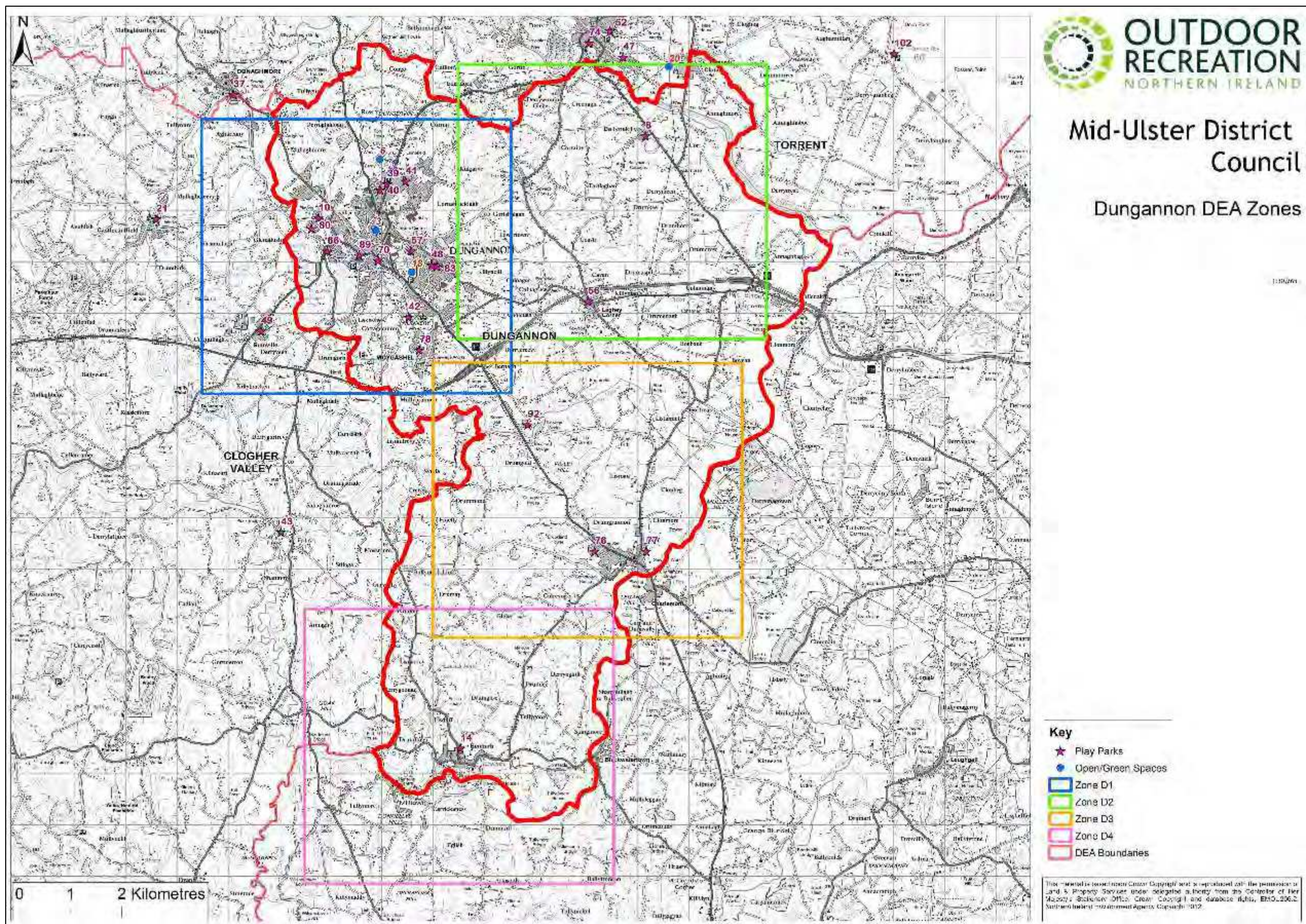
Table 14 details two potential open/green space sites within Dungannon that could potentially be developed into new play locations. In response to the Mid Ulster District Council Planning Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure, it is suggested that the Castlehill (3) is developed into a public park facility with LEAP which will address the gap of park and play provision within the centre of Dungannon. In addition, in line with Mid Ulster’s Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017, it is suggested that Windmill Wood is further enhanced with regards its outdoor recreation provision. This site holds potential for development of a NEAP as well as a small, bespoke woodland play element site making use of the natural surrounding materials to create animal carvings and other imaginary play pieces.

Table 15 highlights two new potential play locations that have been identified for the DEA of Dungannon. As per Figure 1 & 2 in ‘Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon’, it can be seen that the community of Springfield is not catered for with regards a public park/play facility. In addition, this is an area with a high density of housing and a relatively youthful population. Therefore, it is suggested that Council investigates the potential of suitable land for park/play provision in this catchment area.

Table 16 highlights the proposed parks sites that will receive funding under Rural Development Programme in Dungannon. Some sites are already confirmed while other locations are pending on suitable sites being identified. Where relevant, sites not mapped within this strategy have been labelled as such.

Finally, as part of the wider proposed £1m development plan for Railway Park (subject to available funding), it is suggested that the current play provision at Railway Park has the potential to move within the park boundary, thus facilitating the development of a NEAP in the north west of the town. This would address the relatively youthful population while providing an enhanced facility for the area.







Map Zone	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Current Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
D1	10	Ballysaggart	6	LEAP	As part of the wider development plan for Railway Park and the potential development of a NEAP, it is suggested the current play provision at Ballysaggart should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. It is felt the enhanced provision at Railway Park would cater for the community once served by Mullaghmore (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	39	Drumcoo	2	LEAP	The Drumcoo site no longer exists as an equipped area for play. Therefore it is suggested that this site is considered at community consultation with regards a change of use to better serve the surrounding community (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	TBC	TBC
D1	40	Drumcoo Green	10	LEAP	The LEAP at Drumcoo Green holds potential to be developed into a NEAP thus providing the surrounding population with a larger equipped play facility (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£50,000	5 Years+
D1	41	Dunavon	8.8	LEAP	It is suggested that Dunavon will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	42	Dungannon Park	7.5	NEAP	It is suggested that Dungannon Park is further developed into one of two 'Activity Centres'. These sites aim to offer a visitor destination style facility with enhanced all ability play, changing provision and facilities. Activity Centres offer not only enhanced play but also a range of other outdoor reaction facilities such as walking and cycling trails, water recreation and even camping/caravanning. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£250,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
D1	48	Gortnasoar	8.8	LEAP	With the suggestion of significant play provision being developed at Windmill Wood, it is felt that the play provision at Gortnasoar should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. However, it is suggested that the MUGA facilities could still be retained alongside a community allotment proposal (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	57	Killymerron	5	LEAP	With the suggestion of significant play provision being developed at Windmill Wood (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon'), it is felt the play provision at Killymerron should be reviewed based on its recommended life span (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	66	Meadowbank	9.6	NEAP	The NEAP and MUGA facilities at Meadowbank will continue to exist in their current form and will be monitored and maintained to ensure they provide high quality play and recreation (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	70	Milltown	7.5	LEAP	Milltown will continue to exist as a LEAP with MUGA but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£25,000	Year 4

D1	78	Moygashel Jacksonville	7.5	MUGA	It is suggested that the MUGA site at Moygashel Jacksonville holds potential for development into a LEAP (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£50,000	Year 1
D1	80	Mullaghmore	10	LEAP	It is suggested the current play provision at Mullaghmore should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. It is felt the enhanced provision at Railway Park would cater for the community once served by Mullaghmore (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	83	Northland Village	6.8	LEAP	With the suggestion of significant play provision being developed at Windmill Wood, it is felt that the play provision at Northland Village would not continue in its current form and undergo change of use dependant on community consultation (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	89	Railway Park	5	LEAP	The current play provision at location 89 has potential to be relocated within the Railway Park boundary, facilitating the development of a NEAP in the north west of the town. This would address the high population of young people and allow Mullaghmore and Ballysaggart to run to be reviewed based on recommended life span (see site 89 on Figure 1 with the potential relocation mapped at site 2 on Figure 2) within the 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon'. In addition, Council have plans for a £1,000,000 development proposal for Railway Park offering improved visitor experience, infrastructure and events space. (subject to available funding and programming, which may alter current strategic projections in terms of scheduling and indicative costs)	£150,000  £100,000  (£1,000,000 Development subject to available funding)*	Year 2  5 Years+
D2	8	Ballynakelly	10	LEAP	Ballynakelly will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D2	56	Killyman	9	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Killyman will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	RDP*	Year 1
D3	76	Moy Curran's Brae	7.9	LEAP	Moy Curran's Brae has potential to be developed into a NEAP which would better serve the town. It would serve the area that was once catered for by Moy Oakfield (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£50,000	Year 4
D3	77	Moy Oakfield	9.5	LEAP	Given the potential development at Moy Curran's Brae, it is suggested that the site at Moy Oakfield should be reviewed based on its recommended life span, as this NEAP will cater for the whole of the town (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D3	92	Redford	5	LEAP	Redford will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£25,000	Year 1
D4	14	Benburb	7.8*	LEAP with MUGA	Benburb will continue to exist as a LEAP with MUGA. External Community funding has provided an upgrade at Benburb not reflected in the score rating.* The site will be monitored and maintained ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

TABLE 13 DUNGANNON PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS



Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
D1	3	Castlehill	n/a	Proposed LEAP	It is suggested that the Castlehill site is developed into a LEAP which will therefore address the gap of play provision within the centre of Dungannon as highlighted in the Mid Ulster District Council Planning Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure. (Figures 1 & 2 ‘Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon’).	£150,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
D1	18	Windmill Wood	n/a	Proposed NEAP	It is suggested that Windmill Wood would benefit from a NEAP style play facility made from materials appropriate to the setting (Figures 1 & 2 ‘Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon’). There are a number of sites within this location that Council should consider for this development. Windmill Wood also offers potential to be developed into a public park facility for Dungannon.	£150,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 2			Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Windmill Wood benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element (Figures 1 & 2 ‘Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon’). It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, 2017 to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
D1	6	Drumglass Wood	n/a	n/a	This site is currently not open to the Public as there is no access. It has however potential to be a Conservation project for the area.	TBC	TBC

TABLE 14 DUNGANNON OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
D1	1	Springfield	n/a	Proposed LEAP	Given the high density of households combined with a relatively youthful population, it is suggested that Springfield is considered as an area of need with regards play provision. It is advised that Council seek to acquire land in the Springfield catchment area for a potential LEAP (Figure 2 ‘Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon’).	TBC	TBC

TABLE 15 DUNGANNON POTENTIAL NEW PLAY LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Site unmapped	n/a	Ballynakelly/Tamnamore	n/a	TBC	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Ballynakelly/ Tamnamore will benefit from £18,000 to develop a new play facility located at the Education Centre.	RDP*	Year 2

TABLE 16 DUNGANNON PROPOSED RDP PARK SITES

Totals							Total
							£300,000

TABLE 17 DUNGANNON INDICATIVE COSTS

\*Total excludes RDP expenditure, Railway Park £1m development proposal, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years. Mid Ulster District Council reserve the option to amend or vary specific delivery objectives associated to the Parks and Play Strategy, subject to Council approval.

### 9.5. Cookstown

Serving a mix of urban and rural communities, there are 28 public parks/play parks within Cookstown DEA as shown in Figure 16. With a number of locations easily accessible by foot, Cookstown town centre is adequately provided for with regards play provision. However, given the high degree of overlap with regards play location catchment, the spatial distribution of fixed play sites is not considered to be strategic. In comparison with the rest of the town, it can be seen that the east and north-east areas are lacking in play provision.

Outside the town centre, Cookstown's play provision is comprised of a number of rural locations. Given the large proportion of households located in these settlements and villages, it is felt that the existence of play facilities in these locations hold social and environmental importance. Indeed this thinking is in line with the Mid Ulster Local Development Plan and the acknowledgement that its policies and the recommendations within this Strategy are subject to Rural Proofing. The Northern Ireland Assembly recently embarked on an exercise to enhance the rural proofing process by placing it on a statutory footing. As a result, the Rural Needs Act received Royal Assent on the 9th May 2016 and will commence for Local Council's on 1 June 2017. The Act seeks to safeguard the needs of rural communities, to promote a fair and inclusive rural society by introducing a duty on government and councils to consider the needs of rural dwellers when developing policies and delivering public services. This new legislation, imposes a statutory duty on Mid Ulster Council to consider rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services<sup>32</sup>

The 6 zones within Cookstown in Figure 16 are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown'. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 16 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Cookstown.

Table 18 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Cookstown DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown' as necessary.

Table 19 details three new potential play locations that have been identified for the DEA of Cookstown with regards small or significant woodland play. These include Cabin Wood, Pomeroy Forest and Drum Manor Forest. In line with the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy, it is recommended that a number of key areas including forest sites across Mid Ulster undergo development. These are important recreation sites that are well used by the community while some other locations hold real potential in terms of creating a much-needed facility for the community as well as increasing Mid Ulster Council's recreation offering for the visitor. Therefore, it is suggested that to further enhance these sites and to improve the visitor experience, a natural woodland play element should be included also. As already highlighted, it is envisaged that this would consist of natural animal wood carvings and other imaginary 'play' pieces to add interest and value to the natural surroundings.

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<sup>32</sup> Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper, Mid Ulster District Council (November 2016)

It should be noted that Cookstown is somewhat deficient in open/green space and Council are advised to investigate the potential of developing a public park. The Sports Recreation Grounds opposite the Fairhill site may hold potential and could provide this much needed provision in the Cookstown DEA. The playing fields could be relocated at the Mid Ulster Sports Area (MUSA) to allow for redevelopment of the current playing fields into a public park to include an events space with an enhanced play facility opposite this site. It is estimated that development of Fairhill would cost a minimum of £250,000. Should a significant Public Park/Play Hub development be undertaken at Fairhill Recreational Grounds a further review of sites at Orritor Street, Rathbeg and Millburn could be considered, given the expanded catchment area that a Public Park/Play Hub facility at Fairhill . Such a review should consider alternative development proposals to support and enhance wider community use.

Finally, Table 20 highlights the proposed parks sites that will receive funding under Rural Development Programme in Cookstown. Some sites are already confirmed while other locations are pending on suitable sites being identified. Where relevant, sites not mapped within this strategy have been labelled as such.



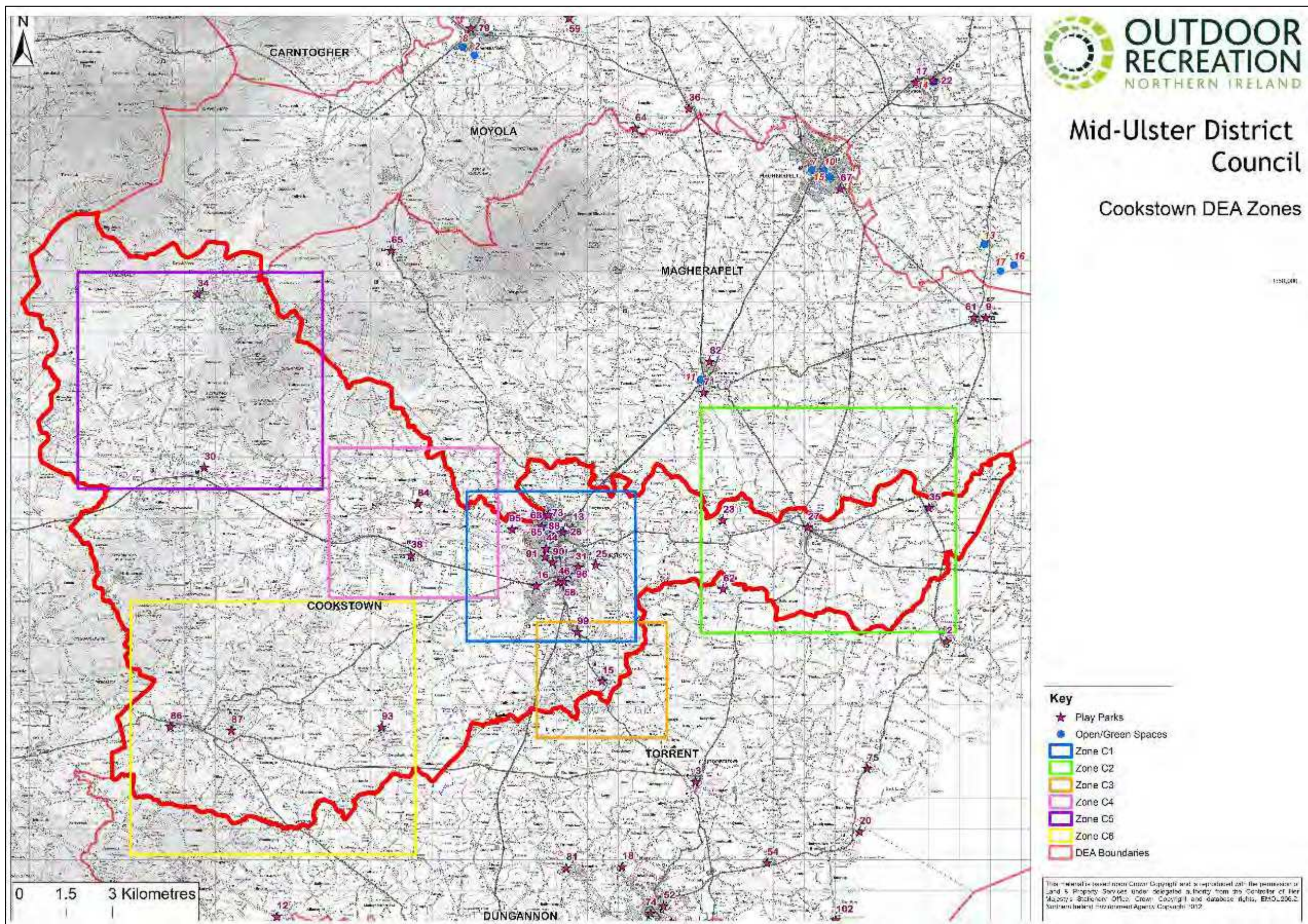


FIGURE 16 COOKSTOWN DEA OVERVIEW



Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
C1	13	Beechway	5.8	LEAP	In-keeping with a strategic approach to play provision, it is suggested that the site at Beechway is upgraded to a NEAP in order to serve the larger surrounding area. Taking in site 28 at Coagh Street, this provision would be collectively known as 'Cookstown East'. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£50,000	Year 3
C1	16	Blackhill	8.5	LEAP	Blackhill will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision. In addition, there is potential for a riverside walk to be developed above Blackhill and an option for the site to benefit from open/greenspace development (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	25	Clare	6.5	LEAP	It is suggested that the play provision at Clare at Festival Park (25) should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. Given the potential to develop the site at Coolnafranky as a NEAP, it is intended that it will provide for the community (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	28	Coagh Street	6	LEAP	It is suggested that the limited play provision at Coagh Street should be reviewed based on its recommended life span to consider the upgrade of the larger facility at Beechway (13) to become a NEAP (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	31	Coolnafranky	5.5	LEAP	The site at Coolnafranky offers potential to be developed into a NEAP. It is intended that this larger facility would be known as 'Cookstown South' and provide for the wider area once served by Stewart Avenue (96) which should be reviewed based on its recommended life span (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£50,000	Year 3
C1	44	Fairhill	8.5	NEAP	It is proposed that the NEAP status of Fairhill is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access. With regards parkland, the playing fields at Fairhill and redevelopment of existing tennis courts has the potential to offer much needed open/green space provision within 'Cookstown Central'. Such a development may suggest a revised assessment of facilities within the catchment area. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£250,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
C1	46	Gortalowry	7.7	LEAP	Gortalowry will be retained alongside Killymoon (58) and will be collectively known as Cookstown South. Given the quality score of play equipment at Gortalowry, it is suggested that this site along with Killymoon undergo continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 4
C1	58	Killymoon	8	LEAP	Killymoon will be retained alongside Gortalowry (46) and will be collectively known as Cookstown South. It is suggested that this site along with Gortalowry are enhanced offering equipment for older children and subsequently NEAP coverage (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown'). The Killymoon site may be subject to future community housing development proposals that could necessitate a subsequent review.	£25,000	Year 4

C1	68	Milburn Close	9.3	LEAP	It is suggested that the play provision at Millburn Close (68) should be retained. Given the potential to develop Monrush as a NEAP and the suggested closure of Princess Avenue, it is essential to retain a site on either side of the main road. These sites will be known as 'Cookstown North' (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown'). Proposals to develop a Fairhill as a District Play Hub may necessitate a further review.	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	73	Monrush	7.1	LEAP	The existing site at Monrush has potential to be developed into a NEAP. Future development could include land north of this site (over 6 acres) offering significant open/greenspace for Cookstown North. Monrush and Millburn sites will have the collective capacity to provide for the wider area once served by Princess Avenue (88) which will be subject to review based on its recommended life span. Monrush has the capacity to provide play primarily for older children (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£50,000 (Phase 1) £30,000 (Phase2)	Year 1 Year 1
C1	85	Orritor St.	7.2	LEAP	Orritor St. will continue to exist as a LEAP. There is potential to extend the current provision to cater for wider ages groups utilising the available space. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 3
C1	88	Princess Avenue	8.1	LEAP	In conjunction with the suggested reclassification of Monrush (73) as a NEAP, Princess Avenue should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. Monrush and Millburn will be collectively known as 'Cookstown North'. While Monrush will cater primarily for older children, it is intended that Millburn will continue to provide play opportunities for younger children. While both facilities are located a short distance from each other, their collective offering will serve the area once provided for by Princess Avenue (81) (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	90	Rathbeg	8.9	LEAP	Rathbeg will continue to exist as a LEAP as it falls near to the periphery of Fairhill (44) NEAP catchment area. Proposals to develop a Fairhill as a District Play Hub may necessitate a further review. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	91	Ratheen	6.4	LEAP	Given the level of current NEAP and LEAP provision in the catchment area Ratheen should be reviewed for alternative community use. The area is sufficiently served by Fairhill, Orritor Street and Rathbeg (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	95	Sperrinview	6	LEAP	It is felt that the site at Sperrinview should be considered for a change of use with the play space to be used as an area for the community as a whole, dependant on community consultation (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	Year 1
C1	96	Stewart Avenue	7	LEAP	It is suggested that the play provision at Stewart Avenue (96) should be reviewed for alternative community use, based on its recommended life span as the area it serves will be catered for by the enhanced provision at Coolnafranky (NEAP) (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	99	Tullywiggan	8.3	LEAP	Tullywiggan will continue to exist as a LEAP. It is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision. Alternatively, the play provision could be relocated within the MUSA (Mid Ulster Sports Arena). Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown'.	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+



C2	27	Coagh Park, Coagh	8.3	LEAP	Coagh Park will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the concerns about localised flooding, demarcation between the river and playpark will need to be undertaken with additional protective fencing installed. This site will continue to be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C2	35	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	7.2	LEAP	Derrychrin will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C3	15	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	7.8	LEAP	The play provision at Berkeley Square will be retained as a LEAP. However, given the quality score it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement in line with the Rural Development Programme. It is planned that Berkeley Square will benefit from £38,103 (Figure 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	RDP*	Year 2
C4	38	Drum Manor Forest	8.2	Existing play provision in forest	The current play provision at Drum Manor adds value to those who visit the forest. However, it is recognised that this site does not offer inclusive play options. Therefore, it is suggested that this site is reviewed, monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play while acknowledging the need for an element of inclusive play under the Bespoke Woodland Play as highlighted in Section 9.2 (See Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£35,000	Year 1
C4	84	Orritor	9.2	LEAP	Orritor will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C5	30	Conway Close	7.8	LEAP	Conway Close will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is intended that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 4
C5	34	Davagh Forest	9.5	Existing play provision in forest	Davagh will continue to offer an element of play provision within the Forest and in line with the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017, this site will be positioned as a strategic location with regards outdoor recreation. This will further complement the Observatory Building and Camping within the Davagh Forest Hub as detailed within MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C6	86	Parkview, Pomeroy	8.8	LEAP	Parkview at Pomeroy will continue to exist as a LEAP and it is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C6	87	Pomeroy Forest	10	LEAP	As per the village plans, it is suggested that the level of play in Pomeroy Forest is upgraded to raise the status of play to a NEAP. This suggestion is also line with the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, which focuses on enhancing the Council's current forestry offering. Consideration for better pedestrian and cycling access from village to Pomeroy Forest. (Figures 7 & 8, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	5 Years+
C6	93	Rockdale, Rock	8	LEAP	Rockdale will continue to exist as a LEAP. It is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision. As per the Village Plan, it is acknowledged that this site requires upgrade of its play equipment (Figure 7, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 4

**TABLE 18 COOKSTOWN PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map	Small/Significant Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	Proposed Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision	Site 4 - Small Woodland Play	Cabin Wood	n/a	Proposed Small Woodland Play	It is suggested that Cabin Wood would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made within the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision	Site 4 - Significant Woodland Play	Pomeroy Forest	n/a	Proposed Significant Woodland Play	In addition to upgrading the play at Pomeroy to NEAP status, it is suggested that Pomeroy Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made within the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017), enhancing the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision	Site 5 - Significant Woodland Play	Drum Manor Forest	n/a	Proposed Significant Woodland Play	It is suggested that Drum Manor would benefit from a significant, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made within the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

**TABLE 19 SIGNIFICANT AND SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
C2	23	Churchview, Drumullan	7.5	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Churchview will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	RDP*	Year 2

**TABLE 20 COOKSTOWN PROPOSED RDP PARK SITES**

Totals						Indicative Cost	Total
							<b>£340,000</b>

**TABLE 21 COOKSTOWN INDICATIVE COSTS**

*\*Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years. Mid Ulster District Council reserve the option to amend or vary specific delivery objectives associated to the Parks and Play Strategy, subject to Council approval.*

### 9.6. Magherafelt

There are 6 public parks/play parks within Magherafelt DEA as shown in Figure 17. With only one Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP), the centre of Magherafelt is almost entirely deficient in terms of play provision. Therefore, it is suggested that Meadowbank Leisure Centre is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered on the basis of geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access. This provision would enhance the current fixed play at this site.

While it is acknowledged that the north east of the town is deficient in fixed play provision, it should be noted that the population of 0-15 is relatively low compared to other areas of Magherafelt. However, it is suggested that Council should give consideration toward development at potential sites around Glenburn, Rainey Endowed School and Mid Ulster Hospital. It is felt that land in these areas would address a potentially emerging youthful population as well as serving a number of residential areas.

The 4 zones within Magherafelt in Figure 17 are shown in more detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 17 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Magherafelt.

Table 22 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Magherafelt DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt' as necessary.

It should be noted that the centre of the Magherafelt area benefits from a number of open/green spaces which are detailed in Table 23 along with recommendations. Manor Park in Moneymore, is a valuable site with regards its open/green space offering and it is recommended that it should be retained and developed into a public park. While Polepatrick offers the green space for passive leisure in Magherafelt, development opportunities are limited given its proximity to the cemetery. However, the disused 'Sounding Hill' quarry on Tobermore Road could hold development potential and address the under provision of public parks in Magherafelt. Council is therefore advised to initiate discussions with the Trustees of this site. It should be noted that development at the Sounding Hill quarry could result in a development project costing in the region of £1,000,000 - £1,500,000.

Table 24 details recommendations for Woodland Play sites in Magherafelt while Table 25 highlights the proposed parks sites that will receive funding under Rural Development Programme in Magherafelt. Some sites are already confirmed while other locations are pending on suitable sites being identified. Where relevant, sites not mapped within this strategy have been labelled as such.



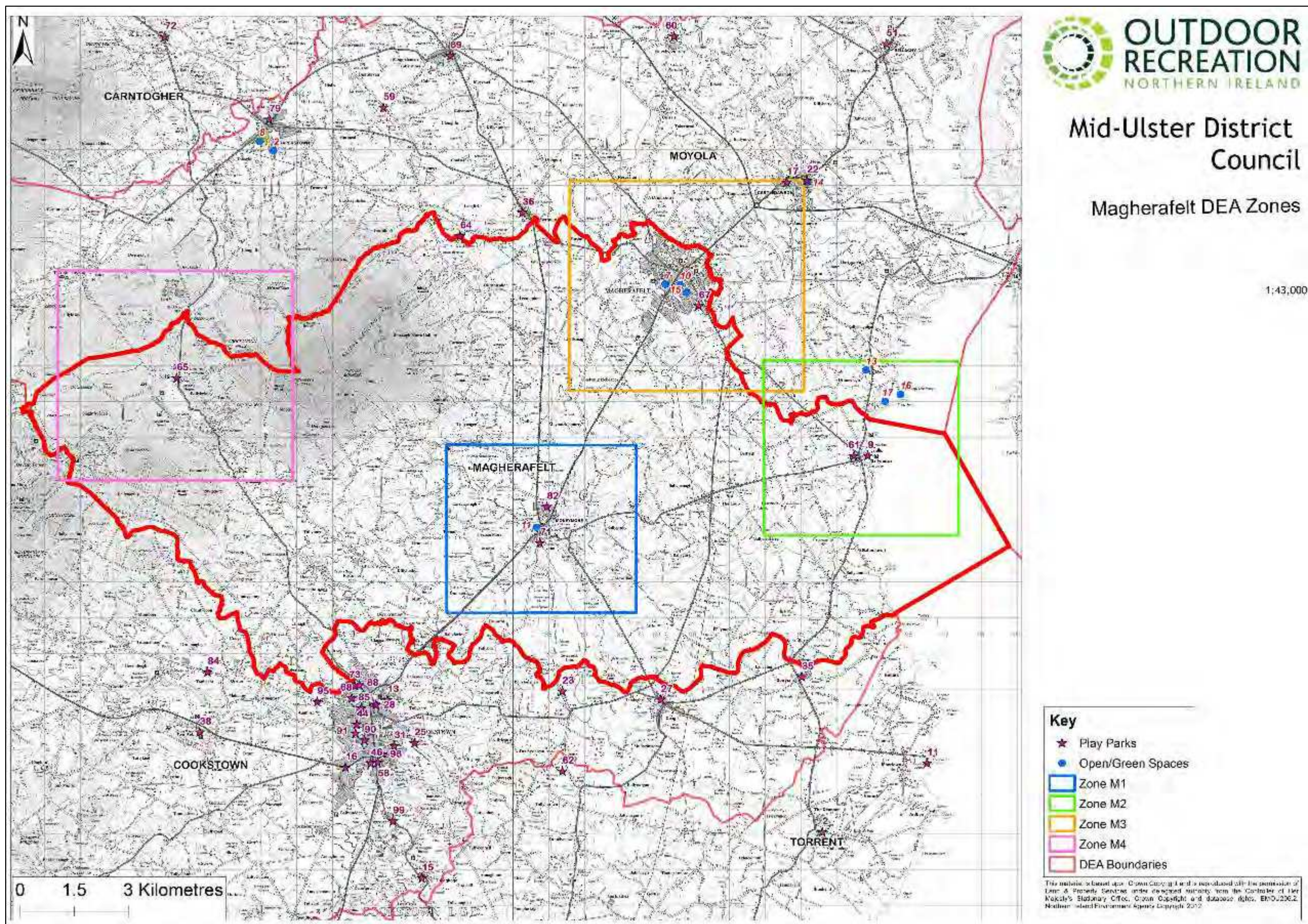


FIGURE 17 MAGHERAFELT DEA OVERVIEW



Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
M1	71	Moneymore RC	9.1	LEAP	The LEAP at Moneymore RC will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
M1	82	Northland Moneymore	6.1	LEAP	The LEAP at Northland Moneymore will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	£20,000	Year 1
M2	9	Ballyronan	6.5	LEAP	With several sites having been considered within the play matrix, it is suggested that the facility at Ballyronan is further developed into one of two 'Activity Hubs'. These sites aim to offer a visitor destination style facility with enhanced all ability play, changing provision and facilities. The Activity Hub sites offer not only enhanced play but also a range of other outdoor reaction facilities such as walking and cycling trails, water recreation and even camping/caravanning. This recommendation for Ballyronan is in line with the 'Projects Under Consideration' within the Council Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 (Figure 3, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	£250,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
M2	61	Lindsayville, Ballyronan	10	LEAP	With the development of an Activity Hub at Ballyronan, Lindsayville Ballyronan should be reviewed based on its recommended life span (Figures 2 & 3, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
M3	67	Meadowbank (Leisure Centre)	7.9	NEAP	It is anticipated that the NEAP at Meadowbank Magherafelt is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 4 & 5, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
M4	65	Lough Fea	9.6	LEAP	Lough Fea will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provided high quality play provision (Figure 6, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

**TABLE 22 MAGHERAFELT PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
M1	11	Manor Park, Moneymore	n/a	n/a	It is suggested that Manor Park (site 11 open/green space parks) is retained as and further developed into a public park for Moneymore, providing a much-needed facility for this DEA.	£150,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
M3	7	Glenburn	n/a	n/a	Glenburn is an open green space with potential for play and community development potential. It is suggested initial development of a LEAP should be located at Glenburn.	£45,000	Year 1
M3	10	Greenvale Spires Park	n/a	n/a	Greenvale Spires Park is a disused play site. Future development potential to be considered.	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
M3	15	Sperrin View	n/a	n/a	Sperrinview is a disused play site. Future development potential to be considered.	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

**TABLE 23 MAGHERAFELT OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Inniscarn Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Inniscarn Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017 to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

**TABLE 24 MAGHERAFELT SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Quadrant	Public Park/Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
Site unmapped	n/a	Loup	n/a	TBC	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Loup will benefit from £38,103.	RDP*	Year 2

**TABLE 25 MAGHERAFELT RDP SITES**

Totals							Total
							<b>£65,000</b>

**TABLE 26 MAGHERAFELT INDICATIVE COSTS**

*\*Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years. Mid Ulster District Council reserve the option to amend or vary specific delivery objectives associated to the Parks and Play Strategy, subject to Council approval.*

### 9.7. Carntogher

Carntogher has 11 public parks/play parks as well as 5 open/green space sites as shown in Figure 18.

Overall Carntogher scored well on the quality assessment with all but one facility falling into the upper band during the audit. It is anticipated that the NEAP at Coleraine Road is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access.

Given the planned enhancement at Coleraine Road it is anticipated that the play provision at Crawfordsburn is considered for alternative community providing council an opportunity to redevelop this site.

Another key development area in Carntogher is Upperlands. Highlighted in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan as a key recreation site, the community of Upperlands is to benefit from £246,000 under Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. A proportion of the total spend will be allocated to parks and play namely a MUGA at Alexander Park and a play park at the Linehall Centre.

The 5 zones within Carntogher mapped in Figure 18 are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 27 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Carntogher.

Table 27 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Carntogher DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Carntogher' as necessary.

Carntogher also has a number of open/green space sites which are detailed in Table 28 along with recommendations. Substantial land at Ballymacombs Road holds potential to re-establish a play facility as well as public park development. The informal green space at Clady also has development potential with regards a public park. The site at Swatragh also lends itself to public park development. The infrastructure as well as the riverside walk would contribute to parkland development based on a site assessment. Finally, it should be noted that the Walled Garden in Maghera should also be considered by Council with regards public park and play development for Carntogher this would complement the Public Realm Programme under MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 to improve Maghera town centre.

Finally Table 29 details recommendations for potential Woodland Play sites in Carntogher.



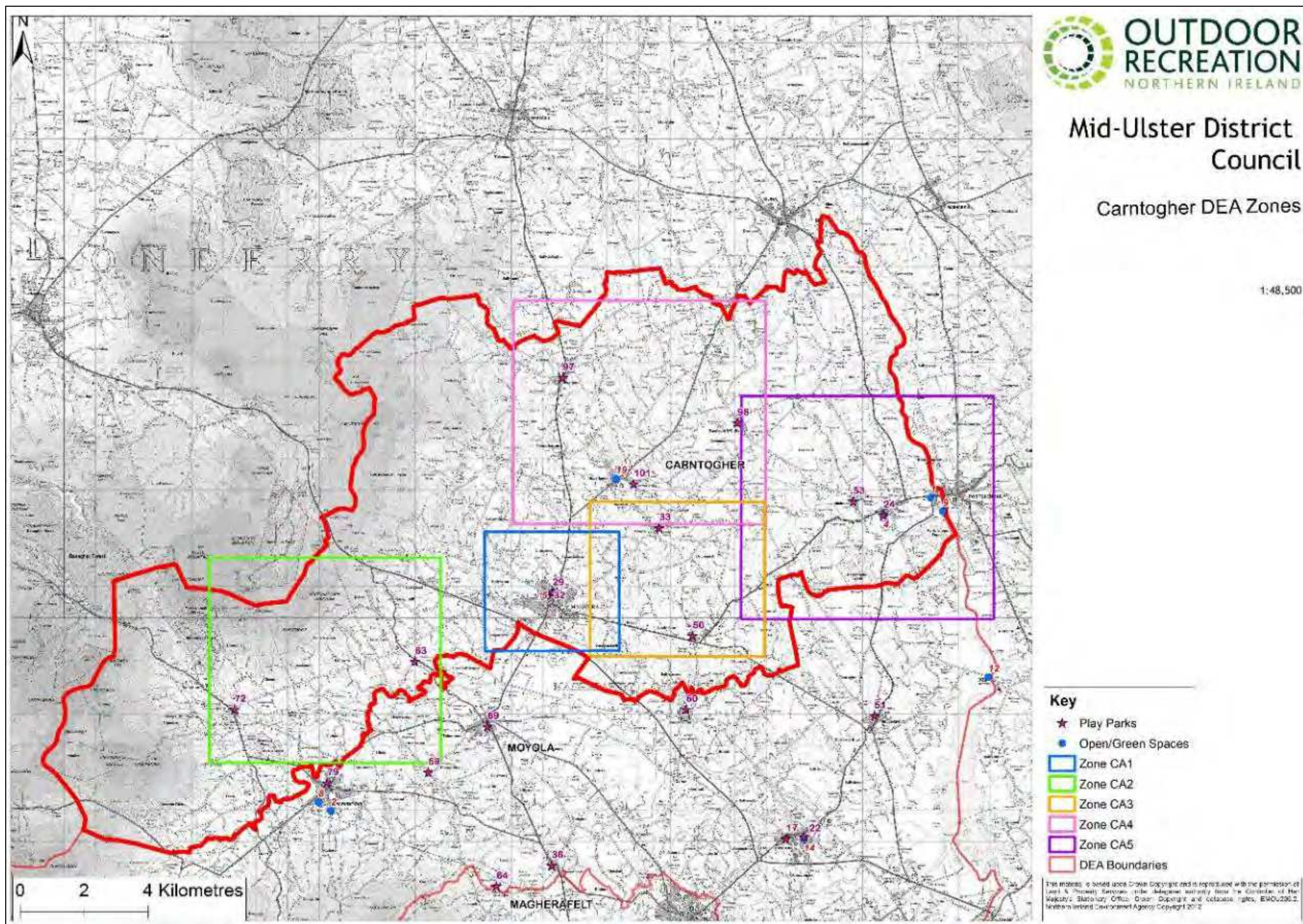


FIGURE 18 CARNTOGHER DEA OVERVIEW



Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
CA1	29	Coleraine Road	8.6	NEAP	It is anticipated that the NEAP at Coleraine Road is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. Play hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
CA1	32	Crawfordsburn	10	LEAP	With the site at Coleraine Road undergoing development to become a District Play Hub, it is suggested that Crawfordsburn (32) should be reviewed for alternative community use as the new play facilities provided at Coleraine Road will serve the catchment area that Crawfordsburn catered for (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA2	63	Lisnamuck	9.3	LEAP	Lisnamuck will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA2	72	Moneyneena	2	LEAP	Given the poor quality rating given to the play at Moneyneena, it is suggested that the fixed play provision is removed and the site used for alternative development dependant on community consultation (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	Year 1
CA3	33	Culnady	9.3	LEAP	Culnady will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA3	50	Gulladuff	9.7	LEAP	Gulladuff will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision. In addition, the site holds potential for the development of a MUGA (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA4	97	Swatragh	8.2	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Swatragh will benefit from £38,103. It is suggested that the play provision at Swatragh undergo development to become a NEAP. This recommendation is also in line with the feedback gathered at Consultation as it was felt the provision at this site could be upgraded (Figures 6 & 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher'). In addition, the existing infrastructure as well as the riverside walk at Swatragh adds to the potential for this site to be further developed into a larger public park.	RDP*  £140,000 (subject to funding)	Year 2  5 Years+
CA4	98	Tamlaght	10	LEAP	Tamlaght will continue to exist as a LEAP. It is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to provide high quality play provision (Figures 6 & 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA4	101	Upperlands	10	LEAP	The community of Upperlands is to benefit from £246,000 under Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. £101,000 will be allocated for a MUGA at Alexander Park with £145,000 allocated for play at the Linenhall Centre community centre (not mapped).	RDP*	Year 1

CA5	24	Clady	8.3	LEAP	Clady will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	£25,000	Year 5
CA5	53	Innishrush	10	LEAP	Innishrush will continue to exist as a LEAP and will continue to be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

**TABLE 27 CARNTOGHER PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Quadrant	Public Park/Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
CA1	5	Coleraine Road - Tamney Crescent	n/a	n/a	Given the play hub development at Coleraine Road, Tamney Crescent is considered surplus to requirements.	TBC	TBC
CA4	19	Upperlands	n/a	n/a	Council have returned this site to the former owner. New development established at Enterprise Centre CA 101. (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	N/A	N/A
CA5	1	Ballymacombs Road	n/a	n/a	There is potential to reinstate play a LEAP/NEAP facility at Ballymacombs Road as well as developing a public park facility at this site (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher'). Ballymacombs will also benefit from £38,103 through Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal.	£100,000 (subject to funding) RDP*	5 Years+ Year 2
CA5	4	Clady	n/a	n/a	There is potential to extend development around the existing play site at Clady to create a public park facility (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
CA5	9	Glenone	n/a	n/a	The site at Glenone is an active green space including Fishing Stands. Public access and angling currently exists at this location. Public access and Fishing Stand improvements undertaken from MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 and external funding (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

**TABLE 28 CARNTOGHER OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Derrynoyd Forest	N/A	Significant Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Derrynoyd Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

**TABLE 29 CARNTOGHER SIGNIFICANT AND SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Totals							Total
							<b>£25,000*</b>

**TABLE 30 CARNTOGHER INDICATIVE COSTS**

\*Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years. Mid Ulster District Council reserve the option to amend or vary specific delivery objectives associated to the Parks and Play Strategy, subject to Council approval.

## 9.8. Moyola

Play provision within Moyola DEA is located in the main towns and villages. With 9 play locations and 7 open/green space sites, this DEA boasts 3 NEAP facilities as shown in Figure 19. The NEAP at Hunters Park is one of the most established Parks in Mid Ulster and dates back to the 1950s. With a significant community footprint, this site continues to be an important location not only in terms of play but also offering an appropriate setting for an Eco-Park development similar to that at Aughnacloy. Hunters Park could also assist in the relocation of the allotments from the Seamus Heaney HomePlace offering a number of additional plots at this site. Hunters Park would require improved access and lighting to facilitate this potential development.

It is planned that Mill Park Tobermore will receive £38,103 from the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. It is envisaged this funding will extend the existing play facility with the addition of low level lighting at the site also. Mill Park provides opportunity for development of an open/green space to become a public park that is suitable for walking through an improved path network, landscaping, an events area as well as basic facilities.

The parkland surrounding the Moykeeran site in Draperstown also provides an opportunity for the community to benefit from a public park facility with enhanced walking provision through landscaping, lighting and maintenance of paths. This path network could hold potential for walkers and runners alike and even provide pockets of natural play for younger user groups. With increased recreation potential, there would be a requirement for improved visitor facilities including car park, toilets etc. In the interim, the current play facilities will continue to exist within their current form, with some enhancement to improve the quality score.

The 6 zones within Moyola mapped in Figure 19 are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola'. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 31 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Moyola.

Table 31 Moyola Public Park/Play Park Recommendation details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Moyola DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Moyola' as necessary.

Table 32 also details the open/green space sites within Moyola and associated recommendations.



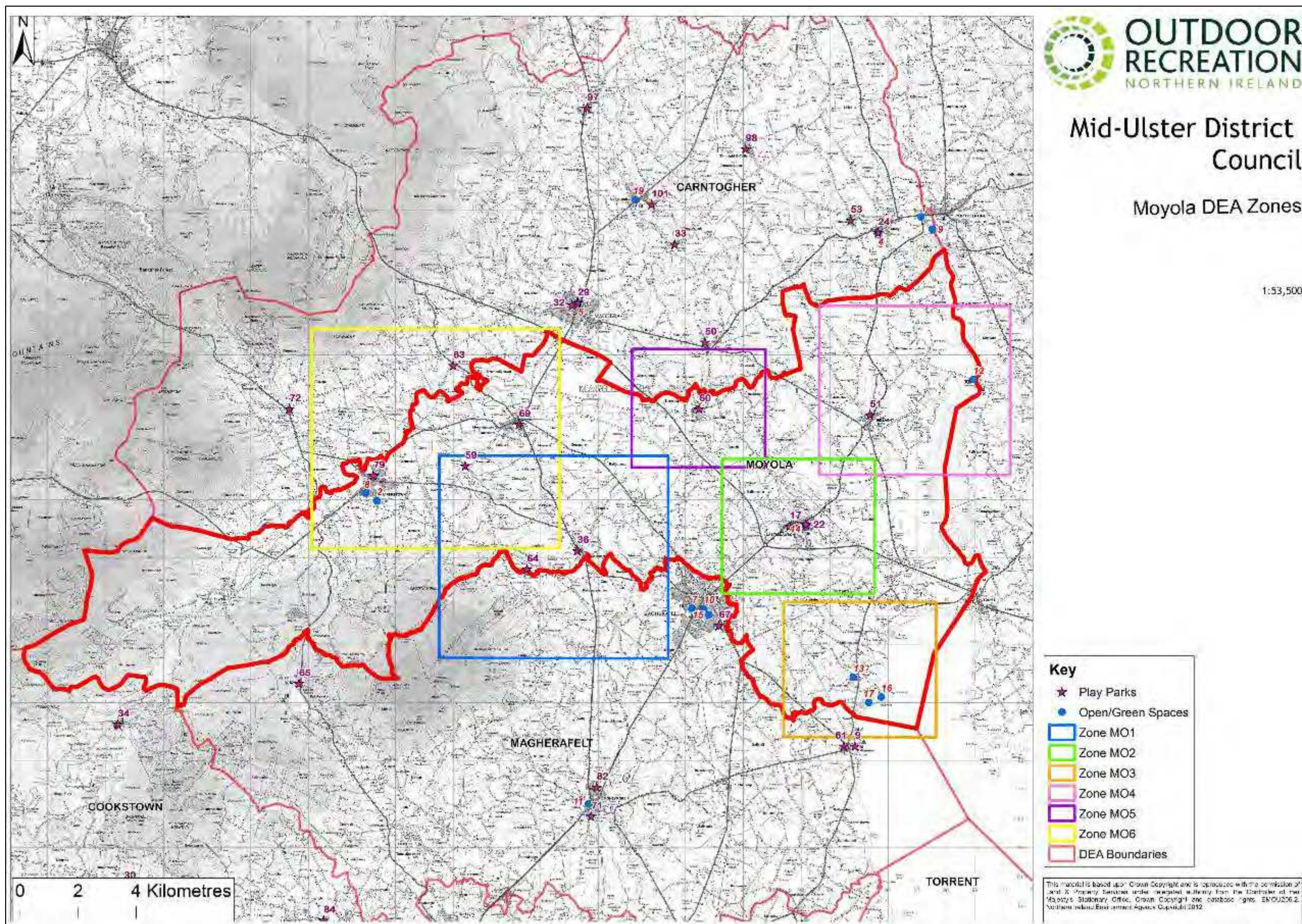


FIGURE 19 MOYOLA DEA OVERVIEW



Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
MO1	36	Desertmartin	8.9	LEAP	Desertmartin will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO1	59	Kilross	10	LEAP	Kilross will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO1	64	Longfield	9	LEAP	Longfield will continue to exist as a LEAP. However, a review of current stock is required. This site will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO2	17	Boyne Row	5	LEAP	Boyne Row will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£25,000	Year 1
MO2	22	Castledawson	10	LEAP	Peace IV funding £100,000 for mini MUGA extension to existing facilities. Castledawson will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Peace IV Maintenance Budget	Year 1/2 5 Years+
MO4	51	Hunters Park	9.2	NEAP	The play provision at Hunters Park will be retained in its current form with a degree of enhancement. However, it is suggested that this site undergoes further development with regards it's open/ green space as detailed in the table below (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO5	60	Knockloughrim	6.3	LEAP	Knockloughrim will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£25,000	Year 1
MO6	69	Mill Park	9.4	NEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Tobermore will benefit from £38,103 in order to extend the existing play facility with the addition of low level lighting also. Mill Park also provides opportunity for development of its open/green space to become a public park that is suitable for walking through an improved path network, landscaping, an events area as well as basic facilities (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	RDP*  £100,000 (subject to funding)	Year 1  5 Years+
MO6	79	Moykeeran	7.2	NEAP	Peace IV capital funding £100,000 Moykeeran (Planter Park) offers potential for parkland development with works including landscaping and improvements to existing paths. Future development could include pump cycle track with possible exercise equipment and pockets of natural play. With increased recreation potential, there would also be a requirement for improved facilities including a car park, toilets etc. In the interim, the current play facilities will continue to exist within their current form, with some enhancement to improve the quality score (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Peace IV*  £100,000 (subject to funding)	Year 1/2  5 Years+

TABLE 31 MOYOLA PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATION

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
MO6	2	Cahore Road	n/a	n/a	The Council Playing fields at Cahore Road are leased to local sports clubs (soccer/GAA)	n/a	TBC
MO6	8	Glenelly Villas	n/a	n/a	Glenelly Villas is a disused play site of approximately 3 acres. Open green space will be retained for future recreation/community development.	n/a	TBC
MO4	51	Hunters Park	9.2	NEAP	Hunters Park provides an appropriate setting for an Eco-Park (similar to that provided at Aughnacloy). Enhanced access and lighting would also be incorporated into the suggested works at this site as well as relocating the allotments from the Seamus Heaney HomePlace (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£125,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
MO4	12	Newferry West Slipway	n/a	n/a	This is an active public slipway and green space. There is development potential at this site for LEAP play and visitor facilities complimenting the Blueway Trail link to Portglenone.	£75,000	5 Years+
MO3	13	O'Neill Park	n/a	LEAP	O'Neill Park is a potential development site for a LEAP facility. No current provision currently exists on site. Development potential dependent on improved access and user car parking facilities. (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£50,000	5 Years+
MO2	14	Parkview/Riverside - Castledawson	n/a	n/a	Playing fields and allotments are located at this site. A former Community House and play site are also situated close by which are currently under NIHE ownership. Mid Ulster Council is currently seeking a transfer of land and facility from NIHE to Council (Figure 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
MO3	16	Tradd Point	n/a	n/a	Current Capital development project with potential (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	TBC	TBC
MO3	17	Tradd House	n/a	n/a	Current Capital development project with potential (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	TBC	TBC

**TABLE 32 MOYOLA OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Traad Point	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Traad Point would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Drumlamph Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Drumlamph Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

**TABLE 33 MOYOLA SIGNIFICANT AND SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Totals							Total
							<b>£50,000*</b>

**TABLE 34 MOYOLA INDICATIVE COSTS**

*\*Total excludes RDP and Peace IV expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years. Mid Ulster District Council reserve the option to amend or vary specific delivery objectives associated to the Parks and Play Strategy, subject to Council approval.*

### 9.9. Torrent

Torrent benefits from a number of Lough shore public park/play park sites as well as some key in-land locations. Currently a capital development project namely, Gortgonis will incorporate improvements to play provision through further enhancement to one of 5 Play Hubs within the District. As previously stated, play hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').

In line with Village Plans for the Torrent DEA, there is a development schedule for Henderson Park with the development of a NEAP/LEAP to be included. This development also holds potential for the relocation of the play provision at Stewartstown to a larger site within Henderson Park.

The 6 zones within Torrent are mapped in Figure 20 and are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 35 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Torrent.

Table 35 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Torrent DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Torrent' as necessary.

Table 36 outlines the open/green space recommendations for Torrent, namely Henderson Park while Table 37 details recommendations for potential Woodland Play sites in Torrent.



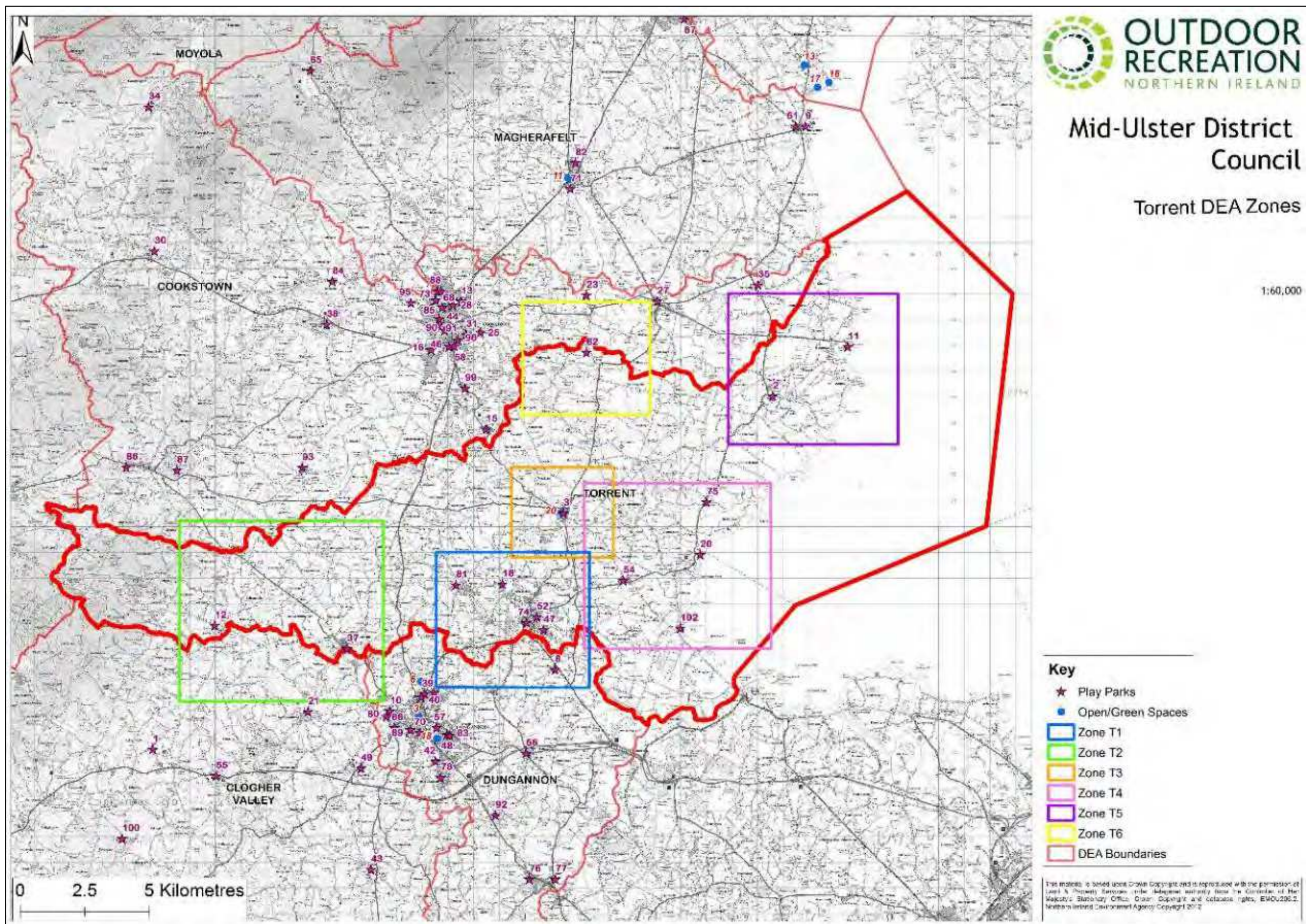


FIGURE 20 TORRENT DEA OVERVIEW



Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
T1	18	Brackaville	6.8	LEAP	Brackaville will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 2
T1	47	Gortgonis	7.2	NEAP	Given the future development plans for Gortgonis, it is suggested that Gortgonis is further enhanced to one of 5 play hubs within the District. Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
T1	52	Innishmore	6	MUGA	It is suggested that Innishmore undergoes a change of use from a MUGA to a LEAP to better serve the surrounding community (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£45,000	Year 2
T1	74	Mountcairn Coalisland	9	LEAP	Mountcairn will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
T1	81	Newmills	9.7	LEAP	Newmills will continue to exist as a LEAP and will continue to be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
T2	12	Beechline, Galbally	8.3	LEAP	Beechline, Galbally will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 5
T2	37	Donaghmore	6.7	LEAP	Donaghmore will continue to exist as a LEAP with MUGA but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 2
T3	3	Ardstewart, Stewartstown	9	LEAP	There are two options available for the play provision at Ardstewart - the site will continue to exist as a LEAP. Alternatively, the current site could be reviewed based on its recommended life span with development of a new play location at Henderson Park (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
T4	20	Castlebay, Brocagh	7.5	MUGA	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Brocagh will benefit from £38,103 (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	RDP*	Year 2
T4	54	Killeen	10	LEAP	Killeen will continue to exist as a LEAP. Additional equipment for older age groups to be investigated. The site will continue to be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
T4	75	Mourneview, Carnan	8.3	LEAP	Mourneview will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 5

T4	102	Washingbay	7.4	LEAP	Washing Bay will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 3
T5	2	Ardboe	9.7	LEAP	Retain as LEAP. Relocation of fixed play provision at Ardboe to alternative area within current site. Ardboe site will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality of play provision (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£50,000	5 Years+
T5	11	Battery Harbour	7.2	LEAP	Battery Harbour will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 3
T6	62	Lisnahall	6.7	LEAP	Lisnahall will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergo continued maintenance and enhancement (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 2
Site unmapped	n/a	Annaghmore/Clonoe	n/a	TBC	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Annaghmore/Clonoe will benefit from £38,103.	RDP*	Year 2

**TABLE 35 TORRENT PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
T3	20	Henderson Park	n/a	n/a	Henderson Park will benefit from £38,103 through the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. The village plan outlined a development schedule for Henderson Park with the development of a NEAP/LEAP to be included. This development also holds potential for the relocation of the play provision at Stewartstown to a larger site within Henderson Park. There is also future potential to extend development around the play site to create a public park facility at Henderson Park.	RDP*  £50,000 (subject to funding)	Year 2  5 Years+

**TABLE 36 TORRENT OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map	Small/Significant Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	Proposed Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Cookstown (Drumcaine) Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Cookstown (Drumcaine) Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

**TABLE 37 TORRENT SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Totals							Total
							<b>£220,000*</b>

**Table 38 Torrent Indicative Costs**

*\*Total excludes RDP and Peace IV expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years. Mid Ulster District Council reserve the option to amend or vary specific delivery objectives associated to the Parks and Play Strategy, subject to Council approval.*



#### 9.10. Clogher Valley

Due to its size and scale, play provision within Clogher Valley is widely dispersed with Granville and Eglis in the east of the DEA and Fivemiletown Fairgreen at the very western edge. However, this DEA currently benefits from a substantial amount of funding from the Rural Development Fund under the Village Renewal measure, improving facilities for its rural communities

Furthermore, in line with the strategic approach to play provision in Mid Ulster, it is suggested that the site at The Roundlake is upgraded to one of the five District Play Hubs. As previously stated, play hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access in comparison with other sites within the DEA and indeed Mid Ulster as a whole. Other sites in Clogher Valley were considered for this provision within the play matrix including Ballygawley. However, it is suggested that Augher and Ballygawley (through RDP) as well as Clogher and Fivemiletown should benefit from enhanced play facilities ensuring equal provision across these villages. In addition, due to the importance of the Roundlake, it is felt that this site should be developed further raising its status to a public park facility for Clogher Valley. It is estimated that development of the Roundlake site would cost in the region of £200,000.

The 7 zones within Clogher Valley are mapped in Figure 21 and are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 39 are also shown providing a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Clogher Valley.

Table 39 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Clogher Valley DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each while Table 40 outlines the proposals for significant and small bespoke woodland play within Clogher Valley Forests. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Clogher Valley' as necessary.



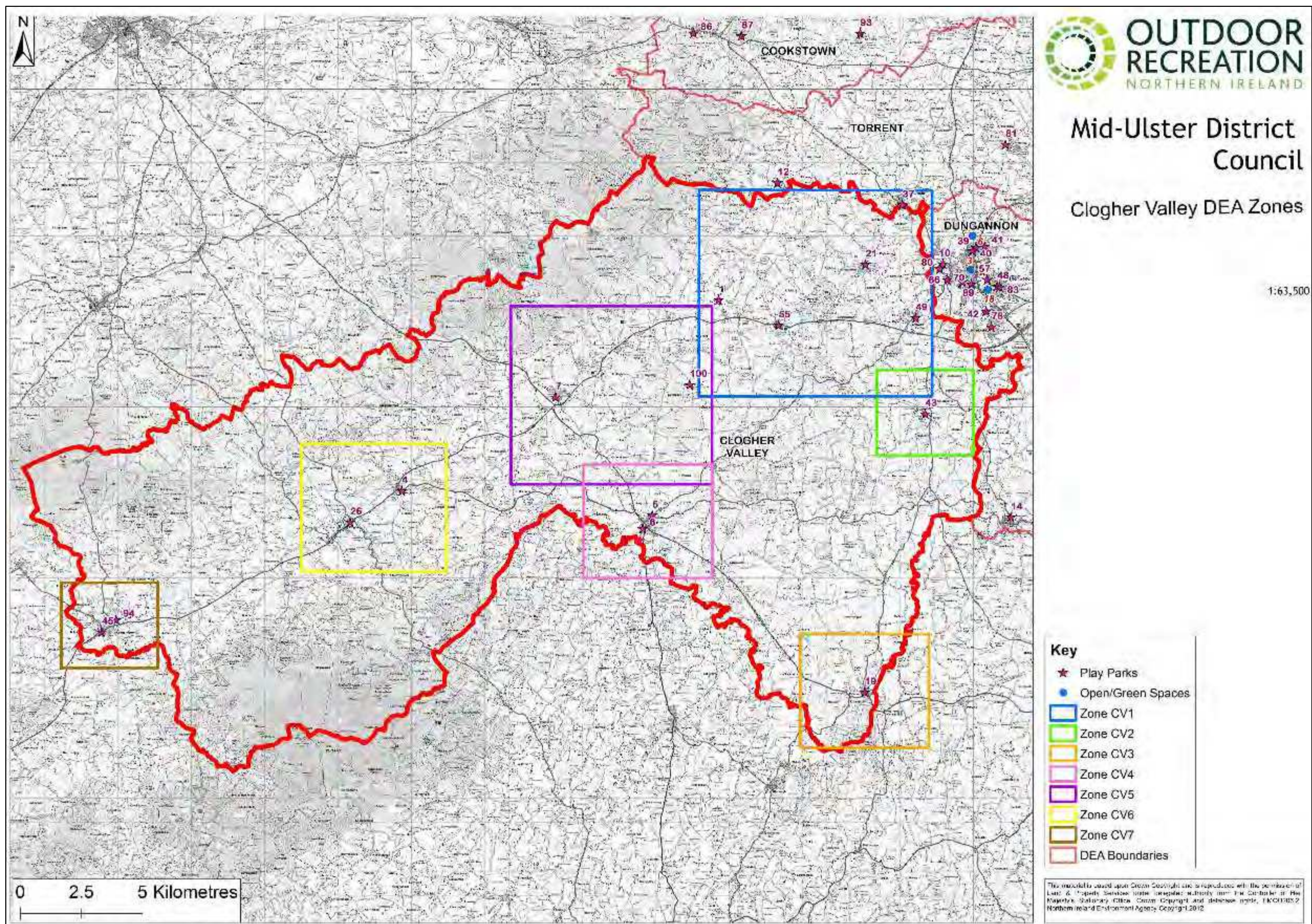


FIGURE 21 CLOGHER VALLEY DEA OVERVIEW



Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
CV1	1	Ackinduff	10	LEAP	Ackinduff will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CV1	21	Castlecaulfield	8.3	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Castlecaulfield will benefit from £17,000 (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV1	49	Granville	9.7	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Granville will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV1	55	Killymaddy	2	LEAP	Once a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) site, a small area of play was provided at Killymaddy. However with the TIC no longer on site and given the poor quality rating of play at Killymaddy, it is suggested that the fixed play provision is removed and the site undergoes a change of use. It is acknowledged that this proposal should be considered at community consultation (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	Maintenance Budget	Year 1
CV2	43	Eglis	8.8	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Eglis will benefit from £17,000 in order to enhance existing play facilities within the village. Consideration to extend play opportunities to utilised available space, subject to funding. (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP* £25,000	Year 1 5 years+
CV3	19	Caledon	6.8	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Caledon will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figure 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV4	5	Aughnacloy	8.6	LEAP	Peace IV Funding £100,000 to develop eco-park and allotments project. The site at Aughnacloy offers potential to be developed into a NEAP close to where the playing fields are located (an Eco Park and sports changing facilities are already located here) Figures 5 & 6, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley'.	Peace IV* £50,000	Year 1/2 Year 5
CV4	6	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	7.3	LEAP	Coronation Park location should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. Potential LEAP relocation to cater for the wider community in Aughnacloy (Figures 5 & 6, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	£40,000	5 Years+
CV5	7	Ballygawley	8.5	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme – Village Renewal, it is planned that Ballygawley will benefit from £51,000 in order to enhance existing play, extension to existing perimeter and carry out resurfacing. This will address the high density of households surrounding the Ballygawley site. It is suggested that this location is further developed into a NEAP (Figures 7 & 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV5	100	U.S. Grants	7.5	LEAP	Given the quality score of equipment at U.S. Grants, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 7 & 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	£25,000	Year 4



CV6	4	Augher	10	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Augher will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play (Figures 9 & 10 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV6	26	Clogher	7	LEAP	Clogher will be enhanced from a LEAP with MUGA to a NEAP with MUGA to better serve those aged between 0-15 years (Figures 9 & 10 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley'). While capacity is limited at the Clogher site, it is recognised that Council may need to investigate additional land in the area in order to adequately cater for the youthful population.	£50,000	Year 3
CV7	45	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	4.6	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Fivemiletown Fairgreen will benefit from £160,000 in order to enhance the current LEAP to a NEAP (Figure 11 & 12 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV7	94	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	5.5	LEAP	It is anticipated that the LEAP status of Roundlake is further enhanced to one of 5 play hubs within the District. Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 11 & 12 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley'). In addition, it is suggested that the Roundlake undergoes additional development to increase its status to a public park for the DEA of Clogher Valley.	£100,000 (subject to funding) £100,000	5 Years+ 5 Years+

**TABLE 39 CLOGHER VALLEY PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Knockmany Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	Sport (NI) and DAERA Funding £260k Forest Community Development Project. It is suggested that Knockmany Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	Sport (NI)/DAERA* £25,000 (subject to funding)	Year 1/2 5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 2	Brantry Lough and Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Brantry Lough and Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	5 Years+ (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 3	Parkanaur	N/A	Significant Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Parkanaur would benefit from a significant, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

**TABLE 40 CLOGHER VALLEY SIGNIFICANT AND SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Totals							Total
							<b>£125,000*</b>

**TABLE 41 CLOGHER VALLEY INDICATIVE COSTS**

*\*Total excludes RDP, Peace IV and Sport (NI)/DAERA expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years. Mid Ulster District Council reserve the option to amend or vary specific delivery objectives associated to the Parks and Play Strategy, subject to Council approval.*

## 10. Case Studies

### 10.1. Nature Play at Tollymore and Castlewellan

#### Aim:

The project at Castlewellan was developed to help deliver a strategic vision for the redevelopment of Castlewellan Forest Park positioning it as a key outdoor recreation and activity tourism venue. Designed for four to eleven year olds, 'Animal Wood' in Castlewellan Forest Park and the 'Big Deer' in Tollymore Forest Park are aimed at bringing each park's natural and built heritage to life whilst providing a safe environment for children to play and interact with the outdoors.

#### Background:

These developments represent a shift away from traditional catalogue play parks which aim to help encourage an important 'early years connection' with nature and woodland environments resulting in a host of health benefits from physical development to mental and emotional well-being.

'Animal Wood' incorporates a short path with wild woodland animals including a badger and its den, a red squirrel and a giant spider. In addition, it boasts a wooden play structure with a tower in the image of The Moorish Tower where children can enjoy the climbing wall, fireman's pole and rope-bridge over to a hollow tree stump slide and Red Kite nest. In Tollymore, the aptly named 'Big Deer' includes a giant timber Fallow Deer, castle turret, folly tower and hollow tree all connected through a series of rope-bridges, tunnels, spider webs, basket swings and slides.

#### Result:

Both these new play facilities were managed by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland having secured funding through the NGO Challenge Fund (Forest Service Northern Ireland) administered by NI Environment Link alongside Down District Council. This example shows how a shared vision and effective partnerships between Forest Service Northern Ireland, Down District Council and Outdoor Recreation NI help develop and shape a wealth of recreation facilities across Northern Ireland.

#### Estimated costs:

£80,000 (across both projects)



FIGURE 22 ANIMAL WOOD AT CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK



FIGURE 23 'BIG DEER' AT TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK



## 10.2. Diversity Park at Flowerfields – Portstewart

### Aim:

In September 2013, the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council opened Diversity Park in Portstewart. Taking on board the views and needs of consumers and stakeholders in the delivery of Council Services, the decision to develop an all-ability play park suitable for children and young people of all ages was taken.

### Background:

Council undertook several research methods, reviewed relevant legislation as well as Council's current Disability Action Plan. The consultation with relevant agencies including governing bodies and a local special school proved to be invaluable in assessing the needs of those with disabilities within the Borough. While Council recognised its playparks included inclusive pieces of equipment, it acknowledged its stock did not address some of the sensory needs highlighted through the consultation process. Further research and analysis of a number of sites within the Borough was carried out within the Council's estate led to Flowerfields Arts Centre being chosen as the preferred

### Result:

Council opted to develop a new park with landscaping and sensory paths to provide a suitable inclusive spectrum of sensory experiences for both disabled and non-disabled children. In addition, and of equal importance, Council installed a number of disabled toilets as well a fully equipped changing area to allow all children and young people to avail of (visitor) services in an equal manner as outlined in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

In the very short time it has been open, Diversity Park has aimed to change how diversity is seen. It is a site that facilitates all who use it and by being inclusive it is not exclusive to those with special or complex needs – the elderly grandparent within the family group, a parent with young child in a buggy, a wheelchair using partner or a group of students with learning difficulties are all accommodated, everyone is welcome and catered for at this facility.

### Estimated costs:

£250,000



FIGURE 25 SENSORY APPARATUS AT FLOWERFIELDS



FIGURE 24 PLAY EQUIPMENT AT FLOWERFIELDS

### 10.3. National Trust – Mount Stewart

#### Aim:

The 'Magic Ink Pot' aims to provide natural play in a setting in which families can play and learn. Children develop an affinity with nature and let their imagination run wild with balance beams, stepping logs, traversing beams, tree cave, squirrel run, see-saw / teeter-totter, and sea dragon climbing frame.

#### Background:

Natural play at Mount Stewart has taken on an extra dimension with the structures based around the stories penned by Lady Londonderry. Edith, Lady Londonderry wrote these stories for her children combining ideas from fairy tales and Irish legends. She called it "The Magic Inkpot" after a well-known object in the house. In the book, the inkpot is transformed into Dagda Mor, the ancient Irish King of the fairies and takes two of the children, Mairi and Robin on exciting and marvellous adventures. Dagda Mor is always there to intervene in times of trouble, but the children are also protected by the Stewart Dragon, magically brought to life from the Londonderry coat of arms.

#### Result:

It is clear to see that the materials used at Mount Stewart are not only in-keeping with its environment within the woodland but it offers challenging, natural play which combined with creative storytelling, inspires children to develop their imaginations which is important in children's cognitive development.

Estimated Costs: Work carried out in-house by National Trust and volunteers.





FIGURE 26 WOODEN CHARACTER CARVINGS FROM THE 'MAGIC INK POT'



FIGURE 27 BALANCE BEAMS AND WOOD CARVINGS AT MOUNT STEWART





FIGURE 28 UPTURNED TREES AND STORY CHAIR FROM THE 'MAGIC INK POT' AT MOUNT STEWART

#### 10.4. National Trust – Bishops Play Trail

Aim:

Part of the Downhill Demesne at Bishop's Gate, this relatively new play development is aimed to entertain the kids during family walks.

Background:

The trail was built mainly from Downhill's resources with the National Trust team at Downhill taking the opportunity to use what they already had on the Estate. As part of their woodland management plan they began thinning out selected trees. This helped encourage greater growth of specialist trees and provide a healthier woodland thus benefiting both projects. Woodchip for the ground was provided by chipping fallen tree branches from across the estate.

Result:

Tackling the spider's web, climbing the causeway stones and challenging the walking see-saw are just some of the adventures on offer at the Bishop's Trail. The Trail is accessible all year round and everyone is encouraged to give it a go, young and old alike. It also links in the National Trust 50 things to do before 11 ¾ activities.

Estimated Costs: Work carried out in-house by National Trust





FIGURE 29 NATURAL SIGNAGE AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL



FIGURE 30 BALANCE BEAMS AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL





**FIGURE 31 NATURAL CARVINGS AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL**



**FIGURE 32 NATURAL CLIMBING STRUCTURES AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL**

## 11. Funding

A number of funding schemes have been investigated including Ulster Garden Villages, Land Fill Tax funding (including Ulster Wildlife, Biffa and Groundwork NI) and Everybody Active 20:20 – Outdoor Spaces. Council's non-charitable status however means it does not meet the criteria for the aforementioned schemes. However, Council in association with its community groups and associations may be eligible for Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery funding. In addition, a number of villages highlighted within the Strategy are already benefiting from RDP funding and it is worth noting that some of the development highlighted within this works programme may be eligible for support from RDP in the future.

### 11.1. Big Lottery

The 'People and Communities' programme is designed to support projects that work with local people to bring about positive changes in a community. Projects must meet the three key themes of –

- **People-led:** local people are meaningfully involved in development, design and delivery
- **Strengths-based:** supports people and communities to build on knowledge, skills and experience they already have to make the changes they want
- **Connected:** projects demonstrate a good understanding of other activities and services in the community and how the project complements these.

Grants range from £30,000 to £500,000 for projects lasting 2-5 years. Grants for small scale capital projects is capped at £100,000 but up to 100% of costs.

Eligible applicants are voluntary or community groups such as a charity, co-operative, social enterprise or community interest company. Partnerships are also eligible where the lead partner is one of the above.

The programme is open for applications all year round. To apply, applicants must phone and discuss the project with a Project Officer. Only if the project is deemed to 'ready' will the applicant be invited to submit an application form. A decision is typically given within 4 months.

For more information see - <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peopleandcommunities>

### 11.2. Heritage Lottery Fund

#### 11.2.1. Our Heritage

The Our Heritage open programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK.

Under Our Heritage, HLF accept applications from not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships. If individuals or for-profit organisations are involved, the public benefit from the project must be greater than any private gain.

Grants of £10,000 to £100,000 are available at up to 100%. There are no application deadlines for this programme; applications can be made at any time and are turned around within 8 weeks.

More information is available at: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes>

#### *11.2.2. Parks and Places*

The Parks for People programme is for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK.

Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.

The application process is in two rounds with success at stage 2 involving substantial development work. Funding is available from £100,000 up to £5 million.

For those applying for grants of less than £1million, applicants must provide at least 5% of the development costs and 5% of the delivery phase costs

For those applying for grants of more than £1million, applicants must provide at least 10% of the development costs and 10% of the delivery phase costs

More information is available at: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes>

### **11.3. Rural Development Programme (2014-2020)**

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is jointly funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and is administered in Northern Ireland by DAERA. It supports a range of projects with the aim of developing the economic potential of rural areas.

#### *11.3.1. Heritage Grants*

The Heritage Grants open programme is for any type of project related to the national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations; and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.

The application process is in two rounds with success at stage 2 involving substantial development work.

Funding is available from £100,000 up to £2 million or £5 million.

For those applying for grants of less than £1million, applicants must provide at least 5% of the development costs and 5% of the delivery phase costs

For those applying for grants of more than £1million, applicants must provide at least 10% of the development costs and 10% of the delivery phase costs

More information is available at: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes>

#### *11.3.2. Basic Services Scheme*

The Basic Services Scheme supports capital investments which provide access to basic services or improvements in social infrastructure to improve the welfare and access of those living in rural areas which are an integral part of and in line with the Council Community Plan.

Capital grants available range from £5,000 to £250,000 up to 75%. Confirmation of match funding must be in place at the time of application with 5% from Council, 5% from the applicant and 15% other.



The following should be taken into consideration –

- to be eligible to apply, applicants must attend a pre-application workshop followed by submission of an Expression of Interest (Eoi) form.
- if the Eoi is successful, application will be asked to submit full application in addition to a business plan
- all procurement must be carried out at time of full application
- projects must relate directly to the MUDC's Community Plan
- projects with a total cost exceeding £250,000 require a greenbook economic appraisal
- evidence in form of a written letter from Planning Service for projects where planning permission is not required
- Mid Ulster Council submitted an EOI for Davagh Forest under 1<sup>st</sup> call

Decisions are circulated 90 days after deadline closes.

Applicants must attend mandatory workshops, the first round of which have already taken place in Mid Ulster see <http://www.midulstercouncil.org/Business/Rural-Development/Funding-Workshops>. It is anticipated there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> call available.

#### *11.3.3. Village Renewal Scheme Summary*

At the time of report writing this scheme was still under development by Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (a recently formed Local Action Group). Full details of the Village Renewal Scheme have still to be confirmed but the following applies –

- the Scheme will provide financial support for the renewal of rural villages through village plans – this infers that any project which is included or specifically mentioned within the Village Plan will be eligible for funding through this scheme
- potential projects must fit with the Council's Community Plan – which this project does
- the purchase or lease of land is not eligible
- only local authorities (i.e. Councils) in partnership with local community associations are eligible to apply
- the maximum grant available is likely to be £200,000 at 75% for capital grants
- match funding of £25% must be provided by the Council
- there will be a call for Expressions of Interest with those successful asked to submit a full application with business case completed and all procurement carried out

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## 12. Revenue Resourcing

Resourcing the Strategy with appropriate staff is fundamental to its future delivery and ultimate success. Given that suggested Activity Centres, District Play Hubs and New Public Park proposals are heavily dependent on sourcing external funding streams and are scheduled beyond the initial five year delivery programme, immediate staff resources are not a requirement. Suggested staff requirements have been correlated as an indicator in relation to potential revenue costs and could be factored into development projects on a rolling basis

(Appendix 3).

## 13. Recommendations

### 13.1. Strategic

This Strategy has afforded the opportunity to review in detail public parks, play and open/green spaces sites across Mid Ulster. While the legacy Councils were committed to providing high quality play and public park provision, on reviewing the District as a whole, it has become apparent that this provision is no longer adequate in serving the population of Mid Ulster. A more strategic approach has led to the following recommendations which should be implemented over the life of the Strategy from 2017-2022. These include:

- **Consultation** – It is recommended that Council place consultation with the community at the centre of any proposed future development regards the recommendations for Activity Centres and District Play development as well as those sites considered on the basis of their recommended life span, change of use, enhancement, upgrade, relocation, new park development and woodland play provision. It is felt the proposals for the Activity Centres and District Play should undergo a thorough public consultation process with input from children and young people as well as representation from those with a disability. The establishment of a Steering Group made up of members of the community, Special Education representation as well as relevant agencies would be beneficial and is recommended (including but not limited to Disability Action, MENCAP, RNIB, Guide Dogs NI). In addition, it is felt that a Statistical Disabilities Analysis of children within Northern Ireland and more specifically Mid Ulster would further determine all-ability, facility need.
- **Inclusive Play** – As highlighted in the Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016), planning must: “ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities”. Should Council embark on the process of developing two Activity Centres, it is recommended that these facilities are designed for the groups in need, with consideration being given to the young and those with disabilities. These all ability facilities will not only provide for the community of Mid Ulster but will also enhance the offering for the visitor. Development of the activity centres would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).
- **Public Park Development** – With a lack of open/green space in some DEA’s (e.g. Cookstown, Magherafelt and Moyola), it is suggested that Mid Ulster Council consider developing 14 of its current park sites and its open/green space sites into public parks as well as including a play element in its Forests. Potential new public park sites include: Ballymacombs - Carntogher, Castlehill - Dungannon, Clady - Carntogher, Fairhill - Cookstown, Henderson Park - Torrent, Hunters Park - Moyola, Manor Park - Magherafelt, Mill Park - Moyola, Moykeeran - Moyola, Railway Park - Dungannon, Parkview/Riverside - Moyola, Roundlake - Clogher Valley, Swatragh - Carntogher and Windmill Wood - Dungannon. Council have a £1m development proposal for Railway Park, deliverable within the strategy period subject to funding. Development of Public Parks would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).



- Woodland Play – With a high concentration of woodland and forests across Mid Ulster, it is proposed that a Woodland Play element be developed in some of the key forest sites. This will add value to these locations for the local community and will help support visitor numbers. 8 Small Woodland Play sites and 5 Significant Woodland Play sites have been identified. The 8 Small Woodland Play site identified are: Knockmany Forest, Windmill Wood, Brantry Lough and Forest, Cabin Wood, Inniscarn Forest, Traad Point and Drumcairne Forest. The Significant Woodland Play sites identified include: Derrynoyd Forest, Parkanaur Forest, Pomeroy Forest, Drum Manor Forest and Drumlamph Forest. Development of Woodland Play would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).
- Public Parks and Play Strategy complemented by other Council Strategies – As highlighted above, this Strategy should be considered alongside other relevant Council Strategies including the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, Tourism Strategy, Sports Facility Strategy and the Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy
- Harness Community Relationships – The consultation process highlighted that Mid Ulster has strong community involvement with a number of groups developing recreational facilities for their own communities and successfully funding these programmes through relevant grants. One of the 5 themes in the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan is: *‘Vibrant and Safe Communities - promote and develop shared space across the area and make more use of existing facilities’*. Therefore, it is recommended that where gaps in provision exist, that Council work alongside the community including established community groups and associations as well as local sports clubs and other bodies such as schools and Forest Service.
- Assessments and Audits – While Quality Inspections take place on an annual basis, it is suggested that a Play Value Assessment takes place alongside the forthcoming Quality Audit. Play Value assessments consider the range of play types and the experiences that children derive from the equipment as well as locational and environmental factors and access issues. A Play Value Assessment will be instrumental when determining the enhancements, upgrades and relocations of play sites.
- Risk-Benefit Approach to Play – When considering future play development in Mid Ulster it is suggested that a Risk-Benefit Approach is adapted. The benefits of challenging play have been highlighted in previous sections but this is a relatively new way of thinking when developing fixed play. Health and safety considerations in the past have meant that play provision is somewhat lacking in challenging play which offers essential developmental skills. However, Council needs to consider that providing a high standard of play means that children and young people are challenged, whilst minimising unnecessary danger through a common-sense approach.
- Land availability – Land availability is at a premium across Mid Ulster, especially in the DEA of Magherafelt. However, this Strategy acknowledges the lack of provision of open/green space in Magherafelt and it is suggested that Council focus its efforts on investigating possible areas for development at Glenburn and work with other statutory bodies to identify potential sites e.g. Education Authority and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

- **Planning** – In line with Council’s Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy, Council seek to protect existing areas of open space and encourage the provision of new open space. This will be achieved by identifying important parcels of open space to be protected, zoning of new open space and by formulating policy to require open space to be provided by the developer in new housing developments. In addition, Council recognise the benefits of dual use of open spaces and are working with the Education Authority to share sports pitches. Council are also working with NIHE to facilitate children’s play provision on land under their control. It is suggested that Council adopt a strengthened policy approach to ensure that the loss of open space is prevented unless it can be demonstrated that redevelopment would bring substantial community benefit that outweighs the loss of the open space. This strengthened approach should take account of the Regional Development Strategy, SPSS 7 and 8 and the Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy.
- **Manned/Staff provision** – Park sites that have a staffing element are proven to suffer reduced levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. While additional staff resources are not an immediate requirement, suggested staff requirements within the Strategy have been correlated as an indicator in relation to potential revenue costs and should be factored into development projects on a rolling basis. While the development of Activity Centres, District Play and new Public Park proposals are heavily dependent on sourcing external funding streams and are also scheduled beyond the initial five year delivery programme, should the number of these larger facilities develop or increase, staffing will need to be reviewed.

### 13.2. **Product Development:**

The Strategy has identified a range of actions that have been attributed estimated costs in order to deliver. Timescales have been indicated were possible subject to available funding streams.

Development	DEA	Park Site	Action	Year	Indicative Cost
<b>Activity Centre Development (2)</b>					
	Magherafelt	Ballyronan	Activity Centre	5 Years+	£250,000 (subject to funding)
	Dungannon	Dungannon Park	Activity Centre	5 Years+	£250,000 (subject to funding)
<b>District Play Development (5)</b>					
	Torrent	Gortgonis	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
	Cookstown	Fairhill	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)

	Carntogher	Coleraine Road	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
	Magherafelt	Meadowbank	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
<b>Removed (1)</b>					
	Dungannon	Drumcoo		-	-
<b>Recommended Life Span/ (12)</b>					
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballysaggart	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Clare	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Coagh Street	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Killymerron	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Stewart Avenue	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Crawfordsburn	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Gortnasoar	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lindsayville – Ballyronan	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Moy Oakfield	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Mullaghmore	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams.					
<b>Change of Use/Remove (7)</b>					
	Clogher Valley	Killymaddy	Remove	Year 1	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Moneyneena	Remove	Year 1	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Sperrin View	Remove	Year 1	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Northland Village	Change of Use	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Innishmore	Change of use MUGA to LEAP. Subject to funding via Gortgonis Community Hub	Year 2	£40,000



			Development Project		
	Cookstown	Ratheen	Change of use	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Ardstewart	Change of use	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
<b>Maintenance/ Enhancements (48)</b>					
	Moyola	Boyne Row	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£25,000
	Moyola	Knockloughrim	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Northland Moneymore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£20,000
	Dungannon	Redford	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£25,000
	Torrent	Brackaville	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 2	£25,000
	Torrent	Donaghmore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 2	£25,000
	Torrent	Lisnahall, Ardtrea	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 2	£25,000
	Torrent	Battery Harbour	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 3	£25,000
	Cookstown	Orritor St.	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 3	£25,000
	Torrent	Washingbay	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 3	£25,000
	Cookstown	Conway Close	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Cookstown	Gortalowry	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Cookstown	Killymoon	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Cookstown	Rockdale, Rock	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	U.S. Grants	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Dungannon	Milltown	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Torrent	Beechline, Galbally	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000

	Torrent	Mourneview, Carnan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	Ackinduff	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Benburb	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Blackhill	Maintenance/ Enhancement	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Castledawson	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Coagh Park, Coagh	Maintenance/ Enhancement	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Culnady	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Davagh Forest	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Desertmartin	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Dunavon	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Gulladuff	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Innishrush	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Killeen	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Kilross	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Lisnamuck	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Longfield	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lough Fea	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Meadowbank	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Milburn Close	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Moneymore RC	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Mountcairn Coalisland	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Newmills	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget

	Cookstown	Orritor	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Parkview, Pomeroy	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Rathbeg	Maintenance/ Enhancement	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Tamlaght	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Tullywiggan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
<b>Upgrades (13)</b>					
	Cookstown	Coolnafranky	Upgrade	Year 3	£50,000
	Dungannon	Moygashel Jacksonville	Upgrade MUGA to include LEAP	Year 1	£50,000
	Cookstown	Beechway	Upgrade	Year 3	£50,000
	Magherafelt	Glenburn	Upgrade	Year 1	£45,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Upgrade to provide inclusive play options	Year 1	£35,000
	Dungannon	Railway	Upgrade Subject to development plan funding	Year 2	£100, 000
	Clogher Valley	Clogher	Upgrade	Year 3	£50,000
	Cookstown	Monrush Phase 1	Upgrade	Year 1	£50,000
	Dungannon	Moy Curran's Brae	Upgrade	Year 4	£50,000
	Cookstown	Monrush Phase 2	Upgrade	Year 1	£30,000
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy	Upgrade	Year 5	£50,000
	Dungannon	Drumcoo Green	Upgrade	5 Years+	£50,000
	Cookstown	Pomeroy Forest	Upgrade	5 Years+	£25,000
<b>Relocation (2)</b>					
	Dungannon	Railway Park	Relocation Subject to development plan funding	Year 2	£50,000
	Torrent	Ardboe	Relocation	5 Years+	£50,000



Park Development	DEA	Park Site	Action	Year	Indicative Cost
<b>RDP Funded (19)</b>					
	Clogher Valley	Caledon	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	RDP Funded	Year 1	£160,000
	Clogher Valley	Ballygawley	RDP Funded	Year 1	£51,000
	Clogher Valley	Eglis	RDP Funded	Year 1	£17,000
	Dungannon	Killyman	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Granville	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Augher	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Carntogher	Upperlands	RDP Funded	Year 1	£145,000 Play park  £101,000 MUGA
	Moyola	Mill Park Tobermore	RDP  Proposal subject to match funding	Year 1  5 Years+	£38,103  New Public Park
	Clogher Valley	Castlecaulfield	RDP Funded	Year 2	£17,000
	Cookstown	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Carntogher	Swatragh	RDP  Proposal subject to match funding	Year 2  5 Years+	£38,103  New Public Park
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Torrent	Henderson Park	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Magherafelt	LOUP	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	RDP Funded	Year 2	£18,000
	Torrent	Annaghmore/Clonoe	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Torrent	Castlebay, Brocagh	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Cookstown	Churchview, Drumullan	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
<b>Peace IV Funded (3)</b>					
	Moyola	Moykeeran	Peace IV Funded	Year 1/2	£100,000
	Moyola	Castledawson	Peace IV Funded	Year 1/2	£100,000
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy	Peace IV Funded	Year 1/2	£100,000

Woodland Park Development					
<b>Small Woodland Parks (7)</b>	Clogher Valley	Knockmany Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	Brantry Lough and Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Moyola	Traad Point	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Cookstown	Cabin Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Inniscarn Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Torrent	Drumcairne Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
<b>Significant Woodland Parks (5)</b>					
	Moyola	Drumlamph Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Carntogher	Derrynoyd Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Clogher Valley	Parkanaur Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Cookstown	Pomeroy Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000

Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams.

Park Development	DEA	Park Site	Action	Year	Indicative Cost
<b>New Park Sites (15* O'Neill Play only)</b>					
	Moyola	O'Neill Park*	Park Development (subject to land availability/funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Magherafelt	Manor Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£150,000
	Moyola	Mill Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Carntogher	Swatragh	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£140,000
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Moyola	Parkview/Riverside	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Cookstown	Fairhill	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£250,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£150,000
	Dungannon	Castlehill	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£150,000
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£125,000
	Moyola	Moykeeran	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Dungannon	Railway Park £1,000,000 Project Proposal	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Torrent	Henderson Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Moyola	Newferry	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£75,000

Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams.

## APPENDIX 1

District Electoral Area (DEA)	Play Park ID Number	Public Park/Play Park	LEAP or NEAP Status	Quality Score
<b>Clogher Valley</b>	1	Ackinduff	LEAP	10
<b>Torrent</b>	2	Ardboe	LEAP	9.7
<b>Torrent</b>	3	Ardstewart, Stewartstown	LEAP	9
<b>Clogher Valley</b>	4	Augher	LEAP	10



Clogher Valley	5	Aughnacloy	LEAP	8.6
Clogher Valley	6	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	LEAP	7.3
Clogher Valley	7	Ballygawley	LEAP	8.5
Dungannon	8	Ballynakelly	LEAP	10
Magherafelt	9	Ballyronan Marina	LEAP	6.5
Dungannon	10	Ballysaggart	LEAP	6
Torrent	11	Battery Harbour	LEAP	7.2
Torrent	12	Beechline, Galbally	LEAP	8.3
Cookstown	13	Beechway	LEAP	5.8
Dungannon	14	Benburb	LEAP	7.8
Cookstown	15	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	LEAP	7.8
Cookstown	16	Blackhill	LEAP	8.5
Moyola	17	Boyne Row	LEAP	5
Torrent	18	Brackaville	LEAP	6.8
Clogher Valley	19	Caledon	LEAP	6.8
Torrent	20	Castlebay, Brocagh	MUGA/LEAP	7.5
Clogher Valley	21	Castlecaulfield	LEAP	8.3
Moyola	22	Castledawson	LEAP	10
Cookstown	23	Churchview, Drumullan	LEAP	7.5
Carntogher	24	Clady	LEAP	8.3
Cookstown	25	Clare	LEAP	6.5
Clogher Valley	26	Clogher	LEAP	7
Cookstown	27	Coagh Park, Coagh	LEAP	8.3
Cookstown	28	Coagh Street	LEAP	6
Carntogher	29	Coleraine Road	NEAP	8.6
Cookstown	30	Conway Close	LEAP	7.8
Cookstown	31	Coolnafranky	LEAP	5.5
Carntogher	32	Crawfordsburn	LEAP	10
Carntogher	33	Culnady	LEAP	9.3
Cookstown	34	Davagh Forest	Existing play provision in forest	9.5
Cookstown	35	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	LEAP	7.2
Moyola	36	Desertmartin	LEAP	8.9
Torrent	37	Donaghmore	LEAP	6.7
Cookstown	38	Drum Manor Forest	NEAP	8.2
Dungannon	39	Drumcoo	LEAP	2
Dungannon	40	Drumcoo Green	LEAP	10
Dungannon	41	Dunavon	LEAP	8.8
Dungannon	42	Dungannon Park	NEAP	7.5
Clogher Valley	43	Eglish	LEAP	8.8
Cookstown	44	Fairhill	NEAP	8.5
Clogher Valley	45	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	LEAP	4.6
Cookstown	46	Gortalowry	LEAP	7.7
Torrent	47	Gortgonis	NEAP	7.2
Dungannon	48	Gortnasoar	LEAP	8.8
Clogher Valley	49	Granville	LEAP	9.7
Carntogher	50	Gulladuff	LEAP	9.7
Moyola	51	Hunters Park	NEAP	9.2

Torrent	52	Innishmore	MUGA	6
Carntogher	53	Innishrush	LEAP	10
Torrent	54	Killeen	LEAP	10
Clogher Valley	55	Killymaddy	LEAP	2
Dungannon	56	Killyman	LEAP	9
Drumcoo	57	Killymerron	LEAP	5
Cookstown	58	Killymoon	LEAP	8
Moyola	59	Kilross	LEAP	10
Moyola	60	Knockloughrim	LEAP	6.3
Magherafelt	61	Lindsayville, Ballyronan	LEAP	10
Torrent	62	Lisnahall, Ardtrea	LEAP	6.7
Carntogher	63	Lisnamuck	LEAP	9.3
Moyola	64	Longfield	LEAP	9
Magherafelt	65	Lough Fea	LEAP	9.6
Dungannon	66	Meadowbank	NEAP	9.6
Magherafelt	67	Meadowbank (leisure centre)	NEAP	7.9
Cookstown	68	Milburn Close	LEAP	9.3
Moyola	69	Mill Park Tobermore	NEAP	9.4
Dungannon	70	Milltown	LEAP	7.5
Magherafelt	71	Moneymore RC	LEAP	9.1
Carntogher	72	Moneyneena	LEAP	2
Cookstown	73	Monrush	LEAP	7.1
Torrent	74	Mountcairn Coalisland	LEAP	9
Torrent	75	Mourneview, Carnan	LEAP	8.3
Dungannon	76	Moy Curran's Brae	LEAP	7.9
Dungannon	77	Moy Oakfield	LEAP	9.5
Dungannon	78	Moygashel Jacksonville	MUGA	7.5
Moyola	79	Moykeeran	NEAP	7.2
Dungannon	80	Mullaghmore	LEAP	10
Torrent	81	Newmills	LEAP	9.7
Magherafelt	82	Northland Moneymore	LEAP	6.1
Dungannon	83	Northland Village	LEAP	6.8
Cookstown	84	Orritor	LEAP	9.2
Cookstown	85	Orritor St.	LEAP	7.2
Cookstown	86	Parkview, Pomeroy	LEAP	8.8
Cookstown	87	Pomeroy Forest	LEAP	10
Cookstown	88	Princess Avenue	LEAP	8.1
Dungannon	89	Railway	LEAP	5
Cookstown	90	Rathbeg	LEAP	8.8
Cookstown	91	Ratheen	LEAP	6.4
Dungannon	92	Redford	LEAP	5
Cookstown	93	Rockdale, Rock	LEAP	8
Clogher Valley	94	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	LEAP	5.5
Cookstown	95	Sperrinview	LEAP	6
Cookstown	96	Stewart Avenue	LEAP	7
Carntogher	97	Swatragh	LEAP	8.2
Carntogher	98	Tamlaght	LEAP	10
Cookstown	99	Tullywiggan	LEAP	8.3
Clogher Valley	100	U.S. Grants	LEAP	7.5

<b>Carntogher</b>	101	Upperlands	LEAP	10
<b>Torrent</b>	102	Washingbay	LEAP	7.4

**TABLE 42 PLAY PROVISION CLASSIFICATION**



## APPENDIX 2

### Details of the seven public consultation events:

- 23 <sup>rd</sup> January, Cookstown Leisure Centre	Cookstown DEA
- 31 <sup>st</sup> January, Maghera Leisure Centre	Carntogher DEA
- 31 <sup>st</sup> January, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy	Moyola DEA
- 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, Dungannon Park	Dungannon DEA
- 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, Cornmill Centre, Coalisland	Torrent DEA
- 6 <sup>th</sup> February, Ballygawley BADA Community Hall,	Clogher Valley DEA
- 8 <sup>th</sup> February, Meadowbank Sports Arena	Magherafelt DEA

### Additional Members Workshops

- **31<sup>st</sup> July Dungannon Park**  
Dungannon Torrent and Cloghervalley DEA's
- **2<sup>nd</sup> August Meadowbank Leisure Centre**  
Cookstown, Carntogher, Moyola and Magherafelt DEA's

## APPENDIX 3

### Revenue Resourcing Activity Centres

Activity Centre	Site	Contract	Gross Cost to Council
	Ballyronan Marina	1x 15hr per week post	£11,645
District Play Hub	Site	Contract	Gross Cost to Council
	Fairhill	1 x 37hr per week post	£28,571
	Fairhill	1 x 25hr per week posts	£19,414
	Roundlake	1x 25hr per week post	£19,414
			<b>£79,044</b>

### Revenue Resourcing New Public Park and Play sites

Public Park	Site	Contract	Gross Cost to Council
	Ballymacombs	1 x 7hr per week post	£4,784
	Parkview/Riverside	1 x 7hr per week post	£4,784
			<b>£9,568</b>
<b>Total Gross Cost</b>			<b>£88,612</b>

### Activity Centres

One part-time staff post at Ballyronan Marina, one full-time and one part-time posts at Fairhill and one part-time post at The Roundlake are proposed in order to support existing part-time resources at these proposed hub sites. It is suggested that the newly appointed staff at Fairhill will be based at the central public park site (Cookstown Central) and also provide supervisory services to all of the proposed NEAPs in Cookstown North, Cookstown South and Cookstown East and also the LEAP at Blackhill. Current staff provision at Dungannon Park, Gortgonis, Maghera Leisure Centre and Meadowbank Magherafelt will manage the hub provision at these sites, without any additional cost.

### New Public Park and Play sites

Council currently has a number of play park Caretaker roles in place at Clady, Hunters, Moykeeran, Swatragh, Manor Park and Upperlands. It is envisaged that this resource would assist in the management of the public park proposals at these sites. Therefore it is anticipated that two similar posts would be created for Ballymacombs and Parkview/Riverside

## APPENDIX 4

### Questionnaire and Questionnaire Results

*Outdoor Recreation NI has recently been engaged by Mid Ulster Council to develop a Parks and Play Strategy and an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Mid Ulster area.*

*The Strategic Plans will provide direction for the Council in managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the next three-year period that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and also the needs of the community.*

*Outdoor Recreation NI has developed this short survey to gain your views on the current provision and opportunities for development.*

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes.

*All responses are completely confidential and will remain anonymous. Please rest assured that any information made available will be combined in aggregate to give a view of the park and play and outdoor recreation provision in Mid Ulster.*

#### Section 1 Most frequented park

Q1. In which village/town of Mid Ulster do you live?

Q2. Do you use public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster? (please note this excludes National Trust properties including Springhill and Wellbrook Beating Mill)

Yes

No

(if no please state why from the options below. Thank respondent and close)

Filtered question

Q6. Why do you not use public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster?

Have no need to go to a park

No personal transport to travel to park

No public transport available to park

No safe off road route to walk to park

Presence of anti-social behaviour within the park

Poor facilities (toilets, parking, bins, café)

Lack of inclusion (limited or non-existent facilities for special needs)

Lack of facilities for those with limited mobility

Q3. If yes (at Q1b), please can you state which park/play park you use **most often**? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name)



- Q4. How often would you use this park/play park?
- Everyday
  - A few times/week
  - Once/week
  - Few times/month
  - Once/month
  - Few times per year
- Q5. Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?
- Partner/Spouse
  - Family/Children
  - Friends
  - Group/Club (Formal e.g. Running or cycling club, formal/arranged event)
  - Group/Club (Informal e.g. Members of a club arrange to go and run/cycle of their own accord)
  - Just myself
- Q7. How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)
- Less than 0.5 mile
  - 0.5 < 1 mile
  - 1 < 1.5 miles
  - 1.5 < 2 miles
  - 3-5 miles
  - 5 miles+
- Q8. How do you travel to this park/play park?
- Walk
  - Bike
  - Car
  - Public Transport
  - Mini Bus (Club/Group)
  - Other (please state)

- Q9. What is your **primary** reason for visiting this park? (choose 1)
- To get the children outdoors for half an hour
  - Have a fun day out with the family
  - To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air
  - Take the dog for a walk
  - Exercise
- Q10. What do you do at this park/play park?
- Make use of playpark facilities
  - Running
  - Walking
  - Cycling
  - Water sports
  - Sports club/training
  - Nature/wildlife observation
  - Have a picnic
  - Attend an event
  - Other (please state)
- Q11. On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you **rate** this park/play park on each of the following (include a DK and n/a option for each):
- Provision of play equipment
  - Provision of toilets
  - Provision of parking
  - Provision of bins
  - Provision of dog Bins
  - Café
  - Provision of off road family cycle trails
  - Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user
  - Access to green space (for walking or running)
  - Provision of events
  - Feeling safe
  - Cleanliness/well maintained
  - Ambience

Q12. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not important at all and 5 very important), how **important** are the following in relation to this park/play park (include a DK option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

## **Section 2 Favourite Park**

Q13. Please can you state which park/play park is your favourite park? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name)

Q14. How often would you use this park/play park?

Everyday

A few times/week

Once/week

Few times/month

Once/month

Few times per year

Q15. Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?

Partner/Spouse

Family/Children

Friends

Group/Club (Formal e.g. Running or cycling club, formal/arranged event)

Group/Club (Informal e.g. Members of a club arrange to go and run/cycle of their own accord)

Just myself



Q16. How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)

Less than 0.5 mile

0.5 <1 mile

1 < 1.5 miles

1.5 < 2 miles

3-5 miles

5 miles+

Q17. How do you travel to this park/play park?

Walk

Bike

Car

Public Transport

Mini Bus (Club/Group)

Other (please state)

Q18. What is your **primary** reason for visiting this park? (choose 1)

To get the children outdoors for half an hour

Have a fun day out with the family

To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air

Take the dog for a walk

Exercise

Q19. What do you do at this park/play park?

Make use of playpark facilities

Running

Walking

Cycling

Water sports

Sports club/training

Nature/wildlife observation

Have a picnic

Attend an event

Other (please state)

- Q20. On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this park/play park on each of the following (include a DK and n/a option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

- Q21. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not important at all and 5 very important), how important are the following in relation to this park/play park (include a DK option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of facilities:

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events  
Feeling safe  
Cleanliness/well maintained  
Ambience

### Section 3 Other Parks

- Q22. Which park/play park outside the Council district have you visited in the last 12 months?  
(please chose from options below)

Loughgall Country Park, Loughgall  
Castle Archdale Country Park, Fermanagh  
Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne  
The Peoples Park, Ballymena  
Wallace Park, Lisburn  
Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, Belfast  
Stormont Park, Belfast  
Other (please state)

- Q23. Who did you visit this park/play park with?  
Partner/Spouse  
Family/Children  
Friends  
Group/Club (Formal e.g. Running or cycling club, formal/arranged event)  
Group/Club (Informal e.g. Members of a club arrange to go and run/cycle of their own accord)  
Just myself

- Q24. What was your **primary** reason for visiting this park/play park? (choose 1)  
It was somewhere different to go  
Good range of play facilities for all ages  
Provided a 'day out' for the family  
Good visitor service facilities e.g. Visitor Centre, café, toilets etc.  
Well maintained  
Themed park/play park visitor attraction



Q25. What did do you do at this park/play park?

Make use of playpark facilities

Walking

Cycling

Water sports

Nature/wildlife observation

Have a picnic

Attend an event

Other (please state)

#### **Section 4 Playpark Facilities:**

Q26. Please can you state **again** which park/play park is your **favourite** park in Mid Ulster? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name)

Q27. Did you have children accompanying you who used the play park?

Yes (go to Q28)

No (go to section 5)

Q28. What age were the children who used this play park?

Children under 4yrs

Children 5-8yrs

Children 9-12yrs

Children 13yrs and over

Q29. On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this park/play park on each of the following (include a DK and n/a option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Q30. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not important at all and 5 very important), how important are the following in relation to this park/play park (include a DK option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of facilities:

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Q31. How could this playpark be improved? (please state)

## Section 5: Future Provision

Q32. What other outdoor recreation facilities would you like to see in your local public park/play park in Mid Ulster (You can choose more than one option)

Walking Trails

Park Run

Park Walk

Bike Trails/Pump Track

Water sports (including Angling)

Improved play facilities

Alternative play facilities e.g.

- Nature Play (the provision of a play opportunity using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree trunk as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access)
- Wild Play (opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment e.g. climb a tree)

Other (please state)

None

Q33. How far would you travel from your home address if the above was provided in a public park in Mid Ulster

0-10 miles

11-20 miles

21-30 miles

31 - 40 miles

## Section 6: Additional Comments

Q34. Please provide any further comments or observations you feel are important to the future development of outdoor recreation and parks and play provision in Mid Ulster.

## Section 7: Demographics

Q35. Please select your age bracket

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16 - 25
- ☐ 26 -35
- ☐ 36 -45
- ☐ 46 - 55
- ☐ Over 55

Q36. Please select your gender

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Q37. Can you please tell me which of the following best describes your working status

- Working full time
- Working part time
- Parent or carer
- Self employed
- Unemployed
- In full time education
- Retired
- Not working due to illness or disability

Q38. What is your approximate total annual income in your household (before tax)

- Under 10,000
- £10,000 – £20,000
- £21,000 - £30,000
- £31,000 - £50,000
- £51,000 - £75,000
- £76,000 or more



Q39. Please state the number of children in your household in the age brackets below (if relevant)

Under 4 years

5-8 years

9-12 years

13 years and over

Q40. Do one of your children have a disability?

Yes

No

Q41. What age is the child who has a disability?

0-4 years

5-8 years

9-12 years

13 years and over

Q42. What is their disability?

Physical

Hearing

Sight

Learning

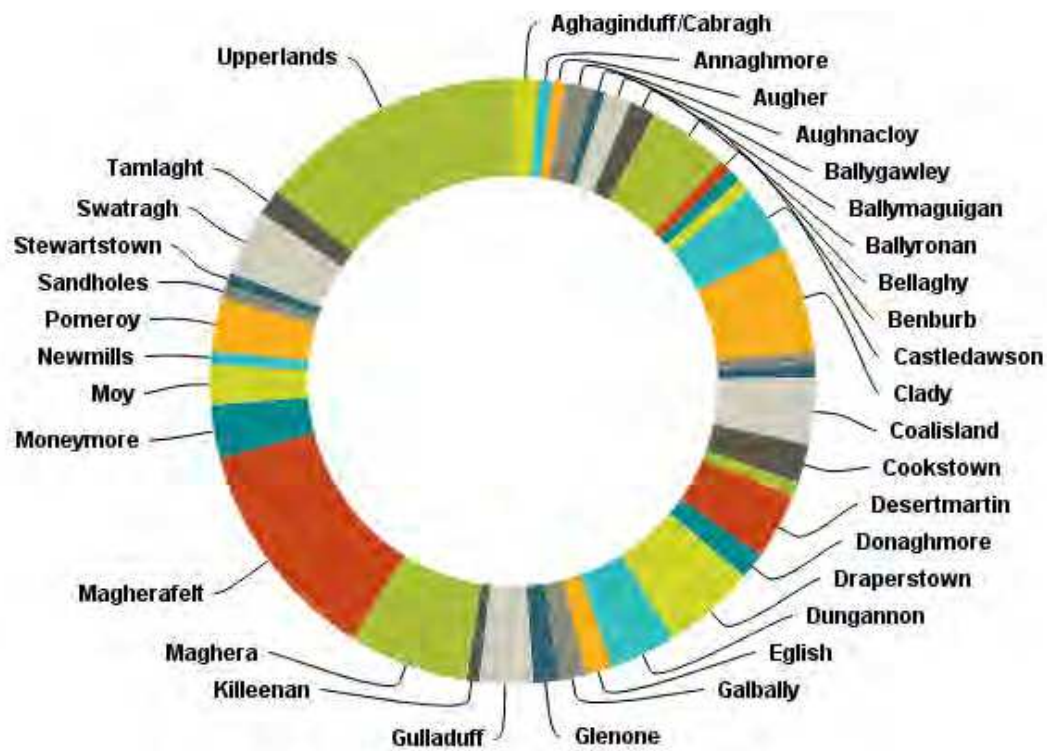
Mental Health

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Other (please specify)

## Q1 In which village/town of Mid Ulster do you live?

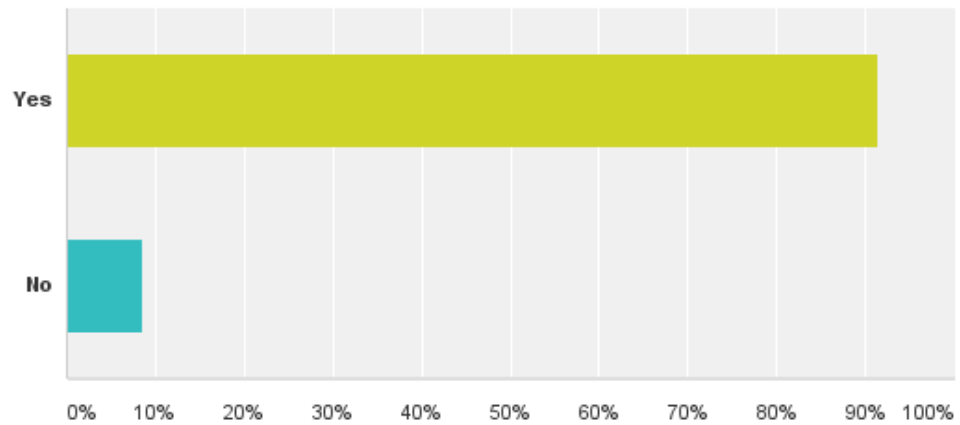
Answered: 141 / Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
➤ Aghaginduff/Cabragh	1.42%	2
➤ Annaghmore	0.71%	1
➤ Augher	0.71%	1
➤ Aughnacloy	1.42%	2
➤ Ballygawley	0.71%	1
➤ Ballymaguigan	1.42%	2
➤ Ballyronan	1.42%	2
➤ Bellaghy	4.26%	6
➤ Benburb	0.71%	1
➤ Brockagh/Mountjoy	0.71%	1
➤ Caledon	0.71%	1
➤ Castledawson	3.55%	5
➤ Clady	5.67%	8
➤ Clogher	0.71%	1
➤ Coagh	0.71%	1
➤ Coalisland	3.55%	5
➤ Cookstown	2.13%	3
➤ Creagh	0.71%	1
➤ Desertmartin	3.55%	5
➤ Donaghmore	1.42%	2
➤ Draperstown	4.96%	7
➤ Dungannon	3.55%	5
➤ Eglis	1.42%	2
➤ Galbally	1.42%	2
➤ Glenone	1.42%	2
➤ Gulladuff	2.84%	4
➤ Killeenan	0.71%	1
➤ Maghera	6.38%	9
➤ Magherafelt	12.06%	17
➤ Moneymore	2.84%	4
➤ Moy	2.13%	3
➤ Newmills	0.71%	1
➤ Pomeroy	2.84%	4
➤ Sandholes	0.71%	1
➤ Stewartstown	0.71%	1
➤ Swatragh	3.55%	5
➤ Tamlaght	1.42%	2
➤ Upperlands	14.18%	20
Total		141

## Q2 Do you use public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 0

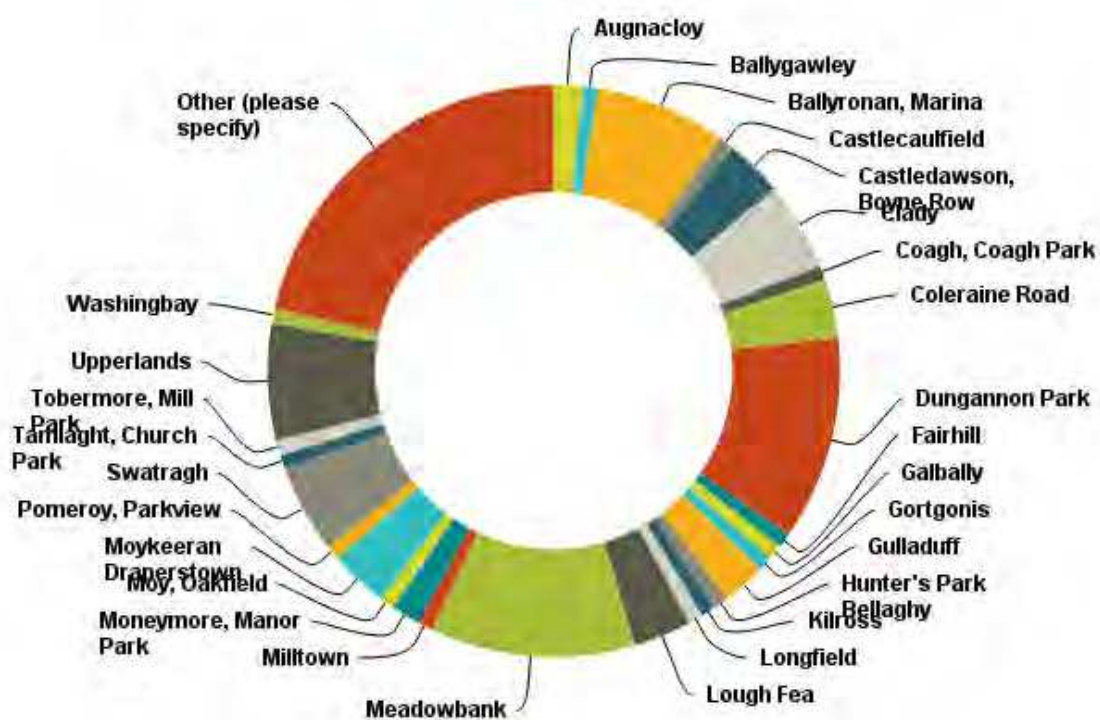


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	91.49%	129
No	8.51%	12
Total		141



**Q3 Please can you state which park/play park you use most often? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name under 'Other' at bottom of the drop down list).**

Answered: 121 Skipped: 28



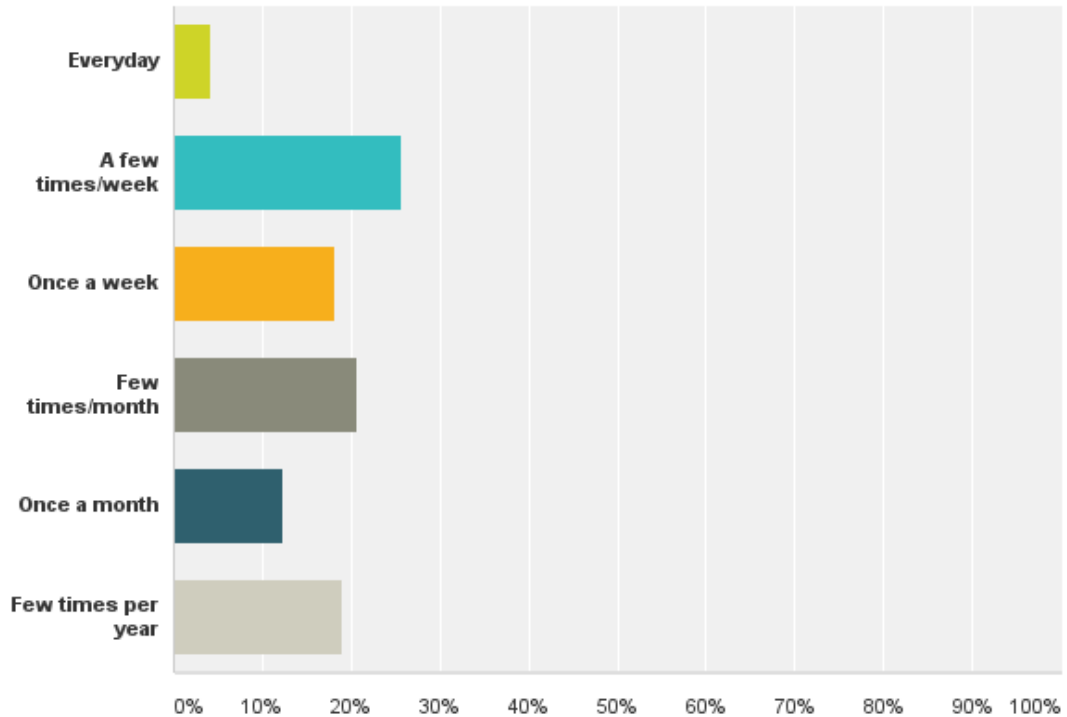
Answer Choices	Responses	
→ Augnacloy	1.65%	2
→ Ballygawley	0.83%	1
→ Ballyronan, Marina	7.44%	9
→ Castlecaulfield	0.83%	1
→ Castledawson, Boyne Row	3.31%	4
→ Clady	4.96%	6
→ Coagh, Coagh Park	0.83%	1
→ Coleraine Road	3.31%	4
→ Dungannon Park	11.57%	14
→ Fairhill	0.83%	1
→ Galbally	0.83%	1
→ Gortgonis	0.83%	1
→ Gulladuff	2.48%	3
→ Hunter's Park Bellaghy	0.83%	1
→ Kilross	0.83%	1
→ Longfield	0.83%	1
→ Lough Fea	3.31%	4
→ Meadowbank	11.57%	14
→ Milltown	0.83%	1
→ Moneymore, Manor Park	1.65%	2
→ Moy, Oakfield	0.83%	1
→ Moykeeran Draperstown	3.31%	4
→ Pomeroy, Parkview	0.83%	1
→ Swatragh	4.96%	6
→ Tamlaght, Church Park	0.83%	1
→ Tobermore, Mill Park	0.83%	1
→ Upperlands	6.61%	8
→ Washingbay	0.83%	1
→ Other (please specify)	<b>Responses</b> 21.49%	26

### OTHER PARKS/PLAY PARKS

Drum Manor - 3; Polepatrick, Magherafelt -3; and Maghera – 3; Maghera Leisure Centre – 2; Pomeroy Forest – 2; Glenone – 2. Other singular mentions: Kilrea; Antrim; Killylea, County Armagh; Moorside Villas; Maghera Rec; Glenmore Walk; Gortgonis; Knockmany; Moneymore; U.S. Grant homeplace; Drumnaph; Windmill Wood.

## Q4 How often would you use this park/play park?

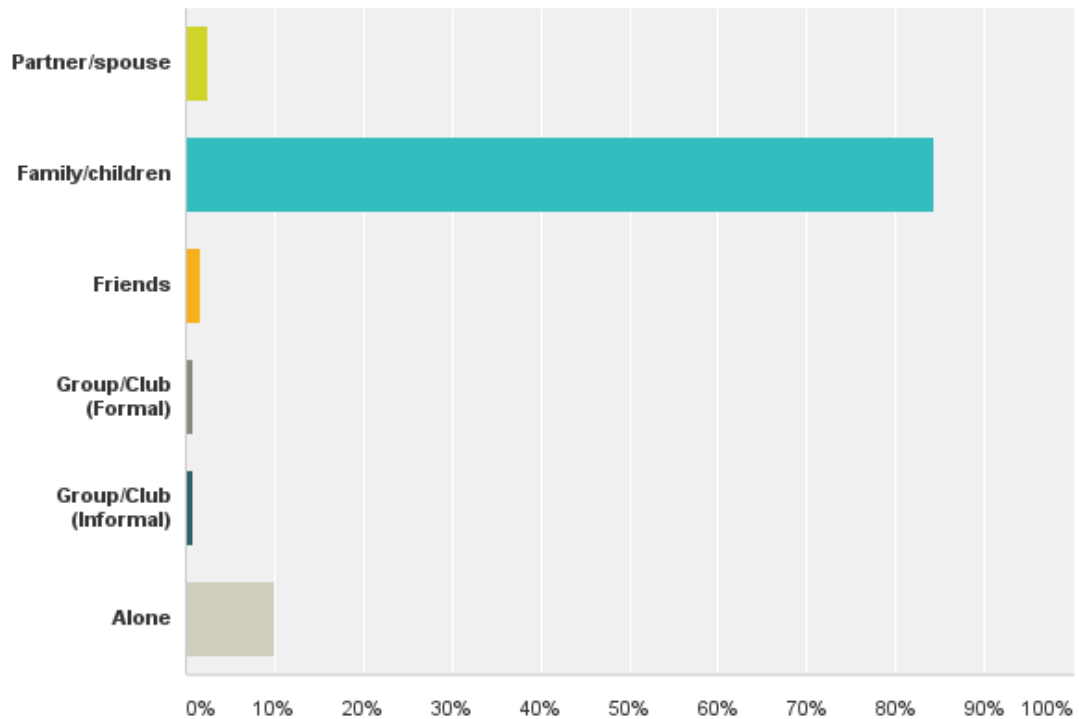
Answered: 121 Skipped: 20



Answer Choices	Responses	
Everyday	4.13%	5
A few times/week	25.62%	31
Once a week	18.18%	22
Few times/month	20.66%	25
Once a month	12.40%	15
Few times per year	19.01%	23
Total Respondents: 121		

## Q5 Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?

Answered: 121 Skipped: 20

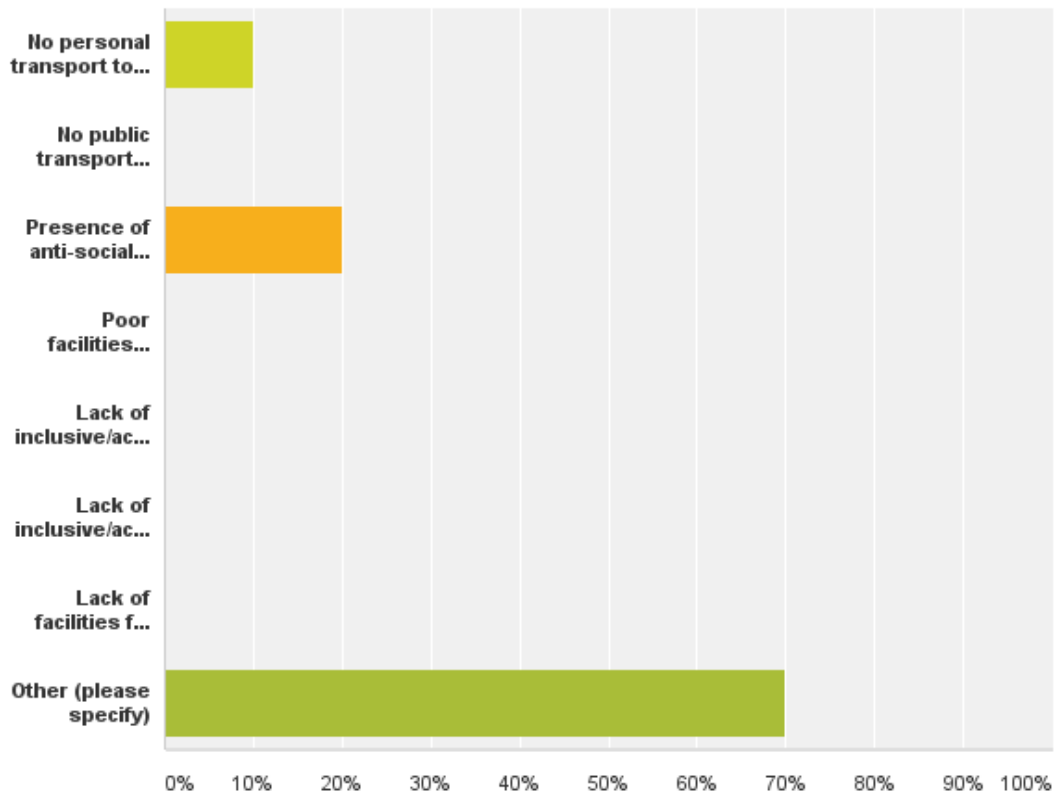


Answer Choices	Responses
Partner/spouse	2.48% 3
Family/children	84.30% 102
Friends	1.65% 2
Group/Club (Formal)	0.83% 1
Group/Club (Informal)	0.83% 1
Alone	9.92% 12
Total	121



## Q6 What is your primary reason for not using public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 131



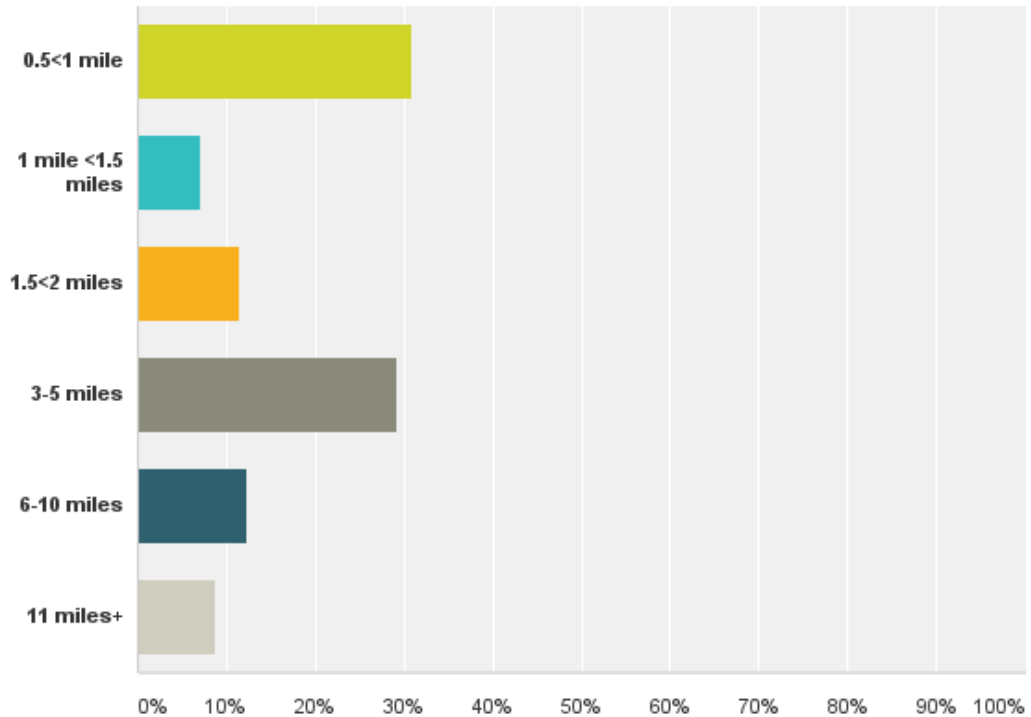
Answer Choices	Responses
▼ No personal transport to travel to park	10.00% 1
▼ No public transport available to park	0.00% 0
▼ Presence of anti-social behaviour within the park	20.00% 2
▼ Poor facilities (toilets, parking, bins, café)	0.00% 0
▼ Lack of inclusive/accessible play (limited or non-existent play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0
▼ Lack of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for those people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0
▼ Lack of facilities for those with limited mobility	0.00% 0
▼ Other (please specify) <b>Responses</b>	70.00% 7
Total Respondents: 10	

### OTHER REASONS

Outdated equipment – 1; Distance – 1; Lack of parkland - 1; Nothing of interest/no reason to – 3.

## Q7 How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)

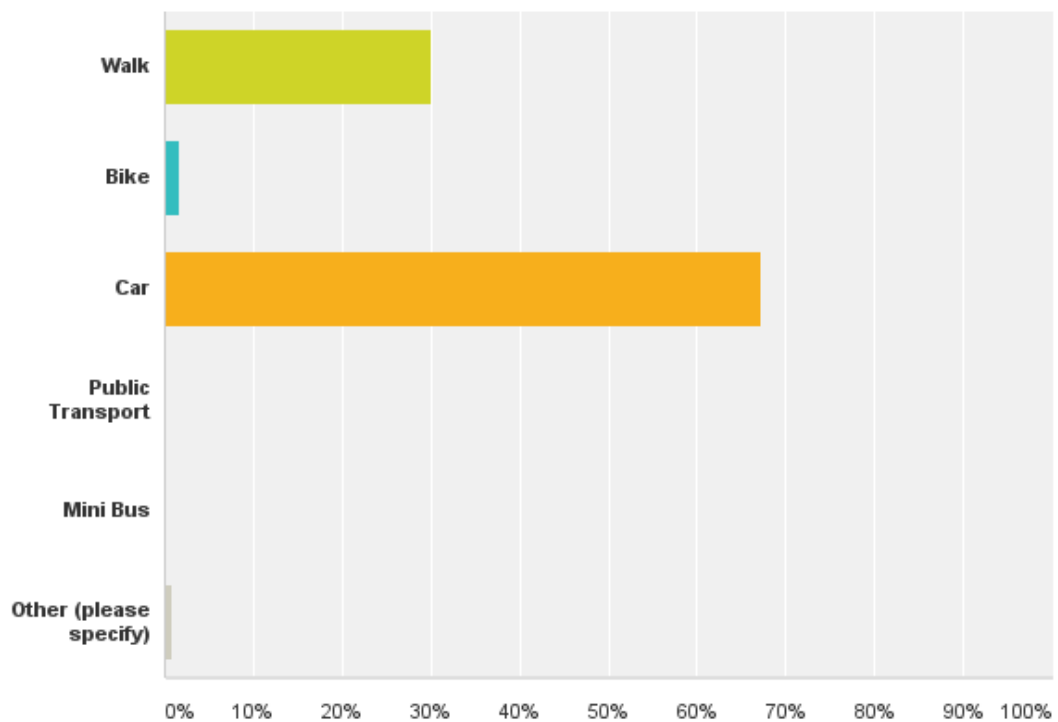
Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses	
0.5<1 mile	30.97%	35
1 mile <1.5 miles	7.08%	8
1.5<2 miles	11.50%	13
3-5 miles	29.20%	33
6-10 miles	12.39%	14
11 miles+	8.85%	10
Total		113

## Q8 How do you travel to this park/play park

Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



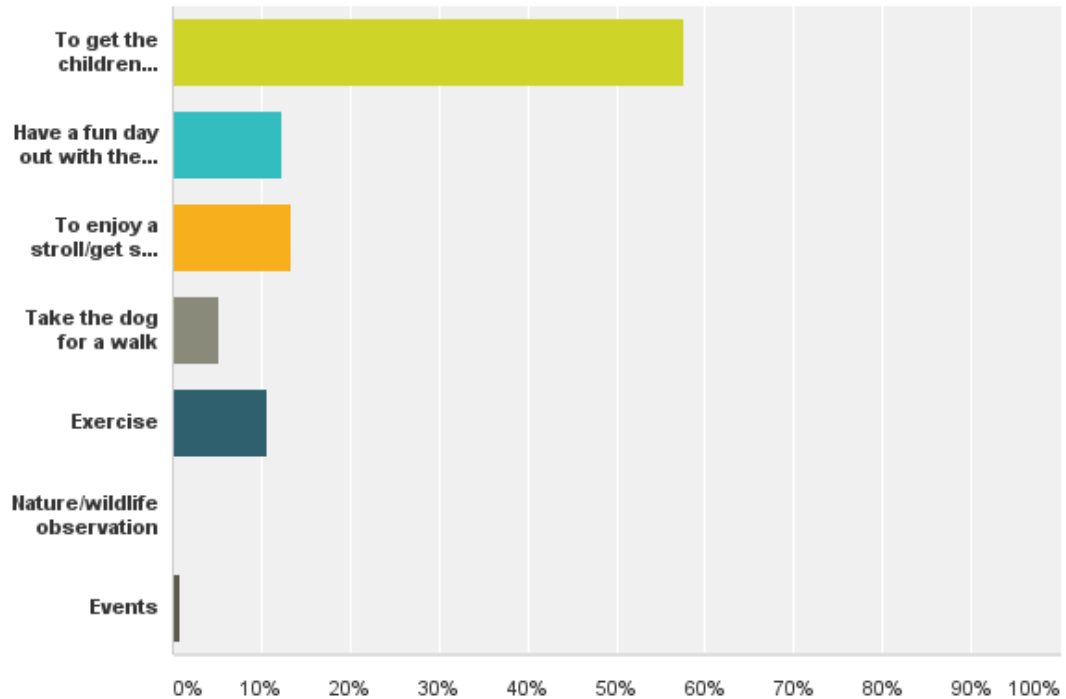
Answer Choices	Responses	
Walk	30.09%	34
Bike	1.77%	2
Car	67.26%	76
Public Transport	0.00%	0
Mini Bus	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.88%	1
Total		113

### OTHER RESPONSES

The other response indicated that they walk but that the route was not ideal

## Q9 What is your primary reason for visiting this park/play park?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ To get the children outdoors for half an hour	57.52%	65
▼ Have a fun day out with the family	12.39%	14
▼ To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air	13.27%	15
▼ Take the dog for a walk	5.31%	6
▼ Exercise	10.62%	12
▼ Nature/wildlife observation	0.00%	0
▼ Events	0.88%	1
Total	113	

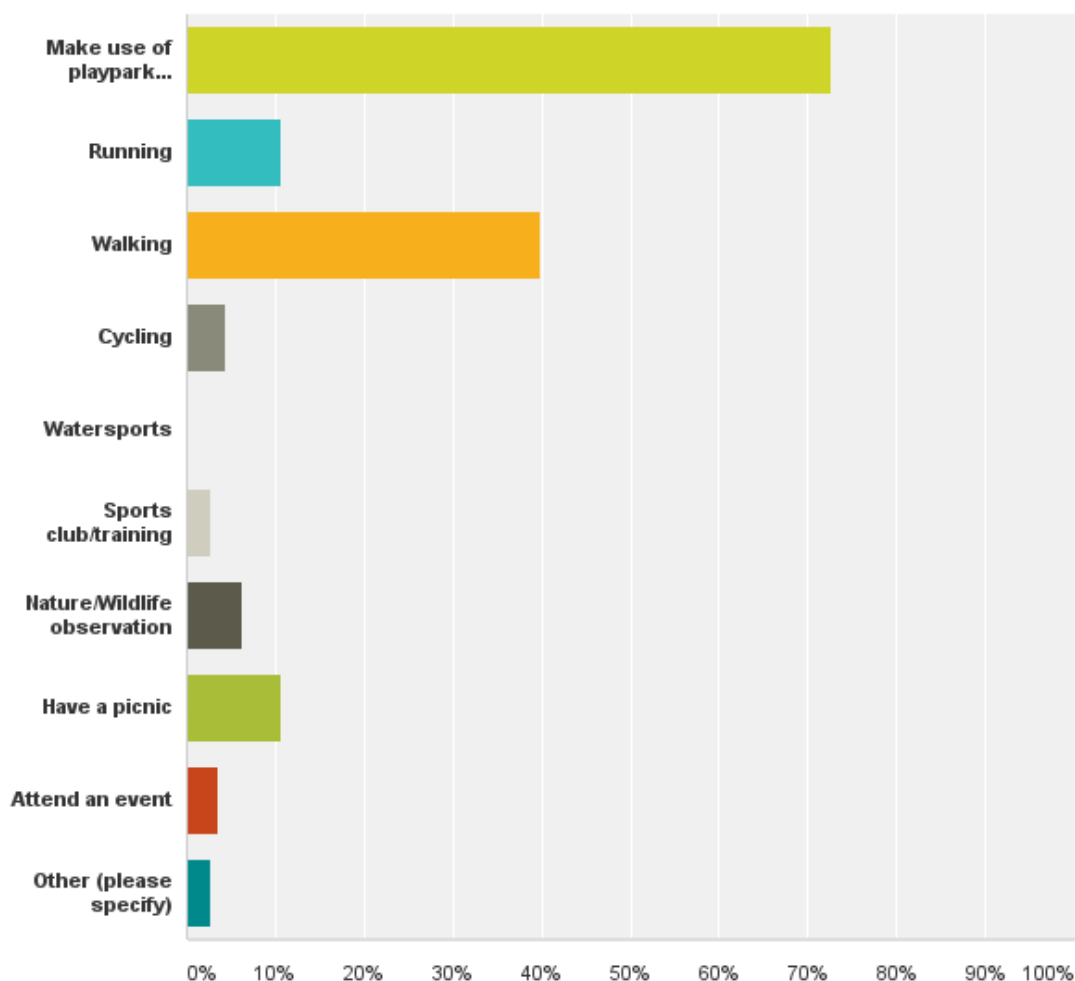
### ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY

Also, to kill time between school runs.  
The closest play park for the children.  
With my granddaughter.  
To walk my disabled child.



## Q10 What do you do at this park/play park?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



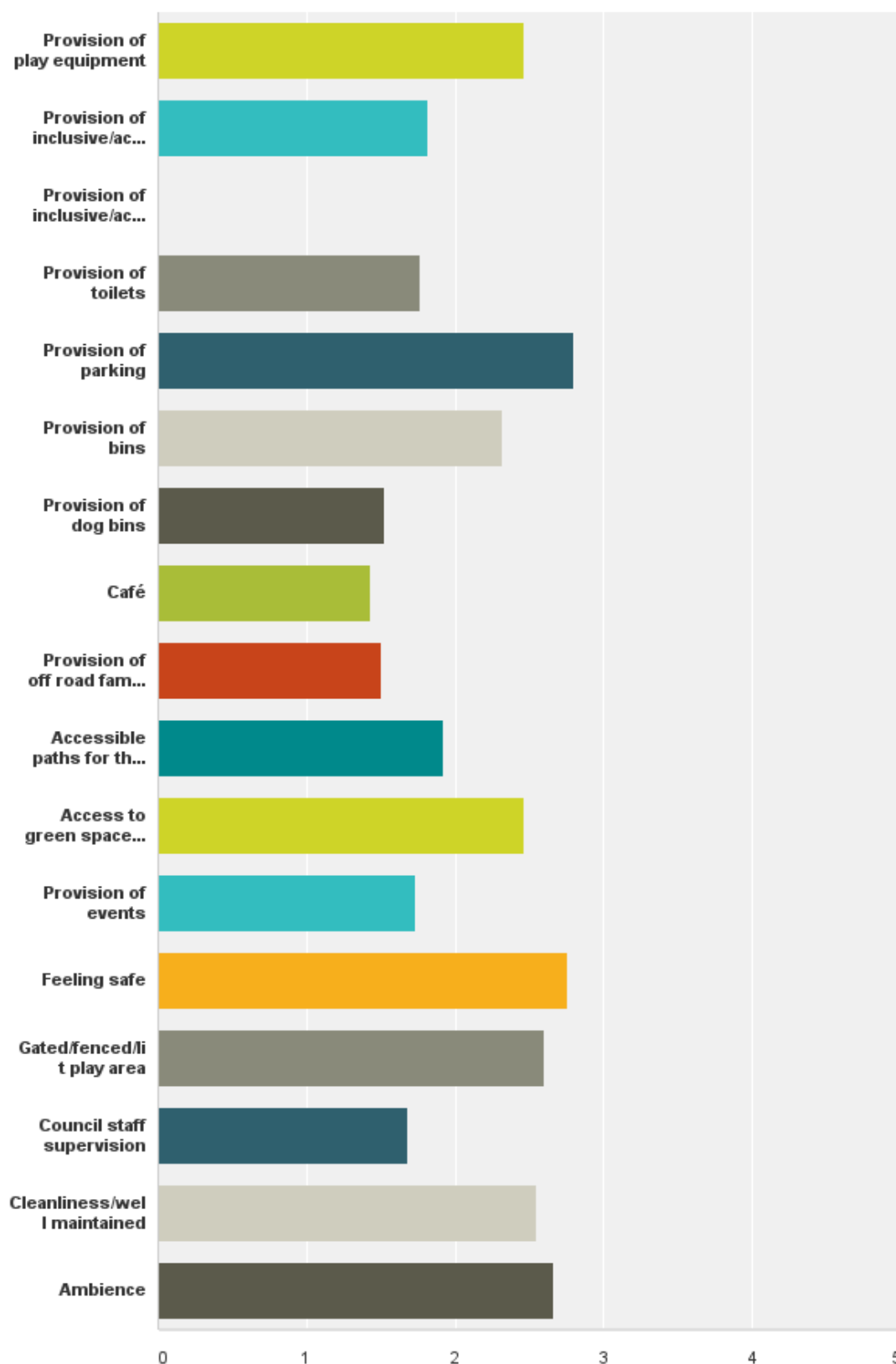
Answer Choices	Responses	
Make use of playpark facilities	72.57%	82
Running	10.62%	12
Walking	39.82%	45
Cycling	4.42%	5
Watersports	0.00%	0
Sports club/training	2.65%	3
Nature/Wildlife observation	6.19%	7
Have a picnic	10.62%	12
Attend an event	3.54%	4
Other (please specify)	2.65%	3
Total Respondents: 113		

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

It is perfect for walking laps and we can choose to bring our young nephews to enjoy the river and small maze. Let the children play on the only 2 swings that are there. Just sit for a while nothing, there is for children with special needs to do.

**Q11 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this park/play park on each of the following?**

Answered: 99 Skipped: 42

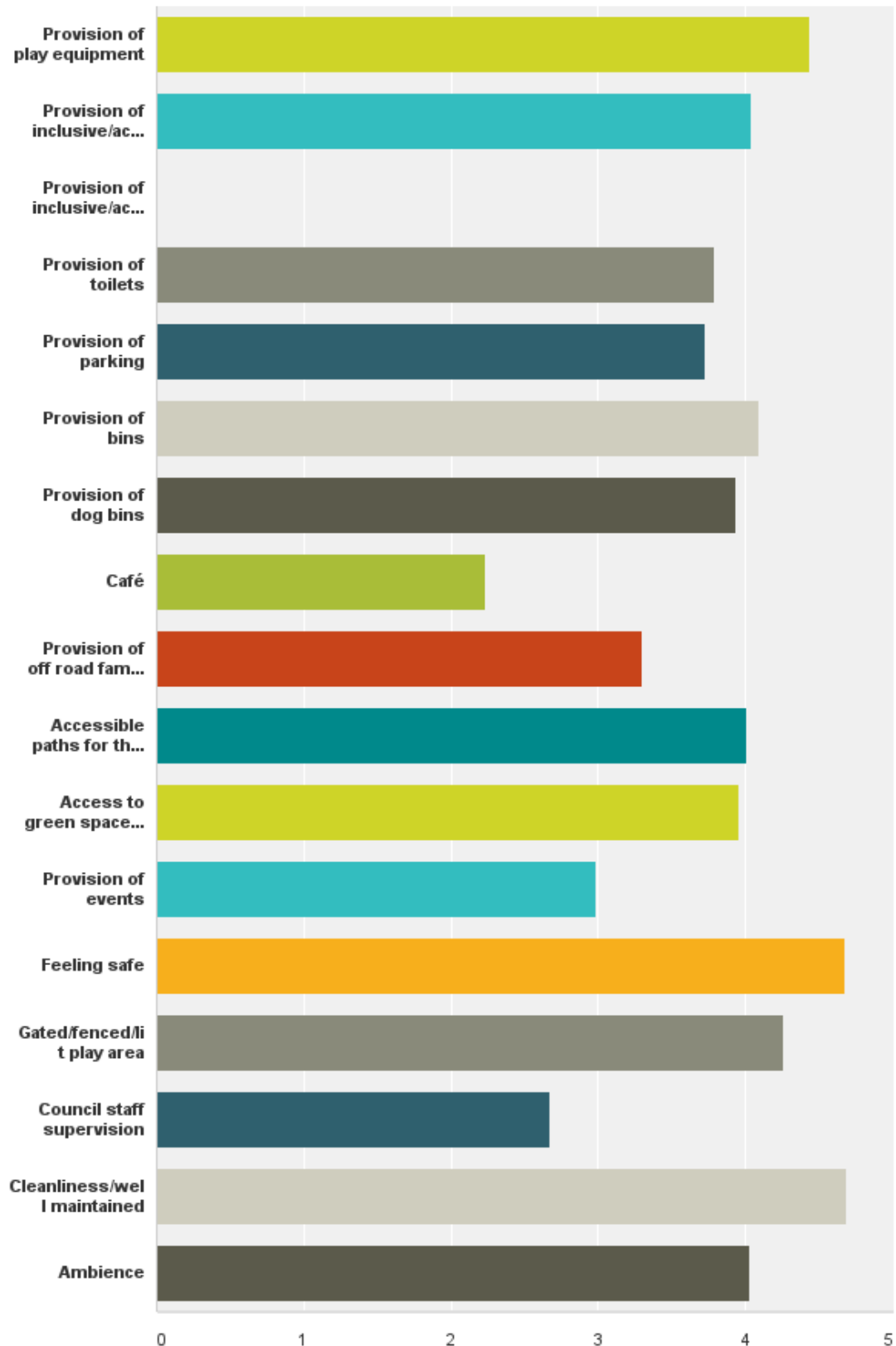


	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	25.25% 25	27.27% 27	21.21% 21	16.16% 16	5.05% 5	5.05% 5	99	2.46
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	54.55% 54	14.14% 14	10.10% 10	11.11% 11	2.02% 2	8.08% 8	99	1.82
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	53.54% 53	12.12% 12	13.13% 13	5.05% 5	3.03% 3	13.13% 13	99	1.76
Provision of parking	18.18% 18	20.20% 20	33.33% 33	15.15% 15	11.11% 11	2.02% 2	99	2.80
Provision of bins	19.19% 19	40.40% 40	29.29% 29	6.06% 6	3.03% 3	2.02% 2	99	2.32
Provision of dog bins	49.49% 49	19.19% 19	7.07% 7	1.01% 1	1.01% 1	22.22% 22	99	1.52
Café	48.48% 48	8.08% 8	4.04% 4	1.01% 1	2.02% 2	36.36% 36	99	1.43
Provision of off road family cycle trails	57.58% 57	6.06% 6	2.02% 2	2.02% 2	5.05% 5	27.27% 27	99	1.50
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	45.45% 45	15.15% 15	16.16% 16	2.02% 2	6.06% 6	15.15% 15	99	1.92
Access to green space (for walking or running)	24.24% 24	27.27% 27	19.19% 19	11.11% 11	8.08% 8	10.10% 10	99	2.46
Provision of events	44.44% 44	13.13% 13	9.09% 9	6.06% 6	1.01% 1	26.26% 26	99	1.73
Feeling safe	14.14% 14	28.28% 28	32.32% 32	18.18% 18	7.07% 7	0.00% 0	99	2.76
Gated/fenced/lit play area	23.23% 23	21.21% 21	29.29% 29	13.13% 13	8.08% 8	5.05% 5	99	2.60
Council staff supervision	41.41% 41	17.17% 17	10.10% 10	1.01% 1	2.02% 2	28.28% 28	99	1.68
Cleanliness/well maintained	18.18% 18	33.33% 33	27.27% 27	15.15% 15	5.05% 5	1.01% 1	99	2.55
Ambience	19.19% 19	30.30% 30	19.19% 19	18.18% 18	9.09% 9	4.04% 4	99	2.66



**Q12 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how important are each of the following at this park/play park?**

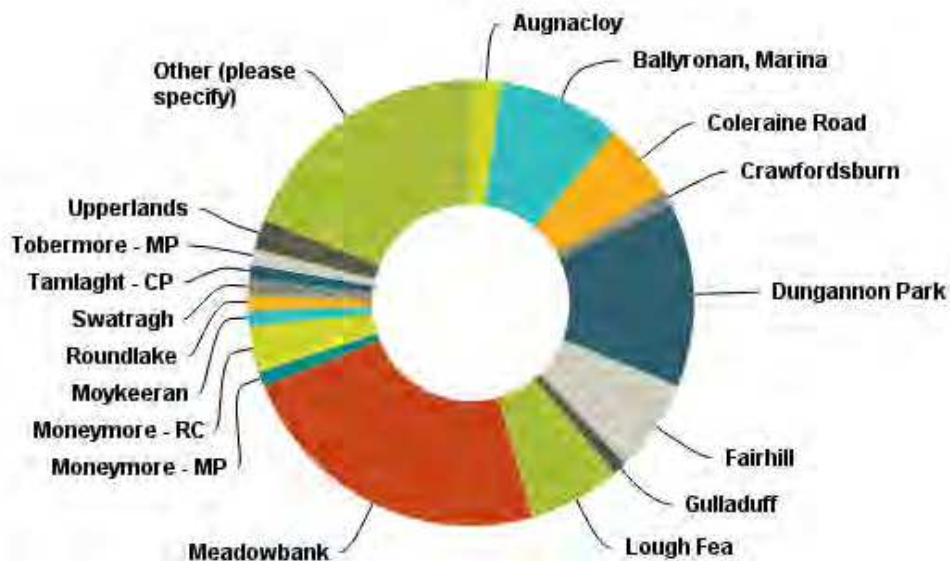
Answered: 99 Skipped: 42



	Not important at all	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	2.02% 2	2.02% 2	11.11% 11	18.18% 18	63.64% 63	3.03% 3	99	4.44
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	2.02% 2	6.06% 6	21.21% 21	21.21% 21	43.43% 43	6.06% 6	99	4.04
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	7.07% 7	11.11% 11	17.17% 17	22.22% 22	40.40% 40	2.02% 2	99	3.79
Provision of parking	1.01% 1	12.12% 12	30.30% 30	24.24% 24	31.31% 31	1.01% 1	99	3.73
Provision of bins	1.01% 1	4.04% 4	19.19% 19	35.35% 35	39.39% 39	1.01% 1	99	4.09
Provision of dog bins	2.02% 2	2.02% 2	28.28% 28	29.29% 29	32.32% 32	6.06% 6	99	3.94
Café	36.36% 36	22.22% 22	14.14% 14	11.11% 11	7.07% 7	9.09% 9	99	2.23
Provision of off road family cycle trails	9.09% 9	12.12% 12	30.30% 30	16.16% 16	20.20% 20	12.12% 12	99	3.30
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	4.04% 4	2.02% 2	25.25% 25	21.21% 21	42.42% 42	5.05% 5	99	4.01
Access to green space (for walking or running)	3.03% 3	5.05% 5	25.25% 25	20.20% 20	40.40% 40	6.06% 6	99	3.96
Provision of events	14.14% 14	16.16% 16	25.25% 25	19.19% 19	12.12% 12	13.13% 13	99	2.99
Feeling safe	0.00% 0	1.01% 1	6.06% 6	16.16% 16	75.76% 75	1.01% 1	99	4.68
Gated/fenced/lit play area	2.02% 2	3.03% 3	16.16% 16	22.22% 22	53.54% 53	3.03% 3	99	4.26
Council staff supervision	17.17% 17	27.27% 27	26.26% 26	11.11% 11	10.10% 10	8.08% 8	99	2.67
Cleanliness/well maintained	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.03% 3	24.24% 24	70.71% 70	2.02% 2	99	4.69
Ambience	1.01% 1	3.03% 3	29.29% 29	21.21% 21	41.41% 41	4.04% 4	99	4.03

**Q13 Please can you state which park/play park is your favourite park/playpark in Mid Ulster? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name under 'Other' at bottom of the drop down list).**

Answered: 90 Skipped: 51

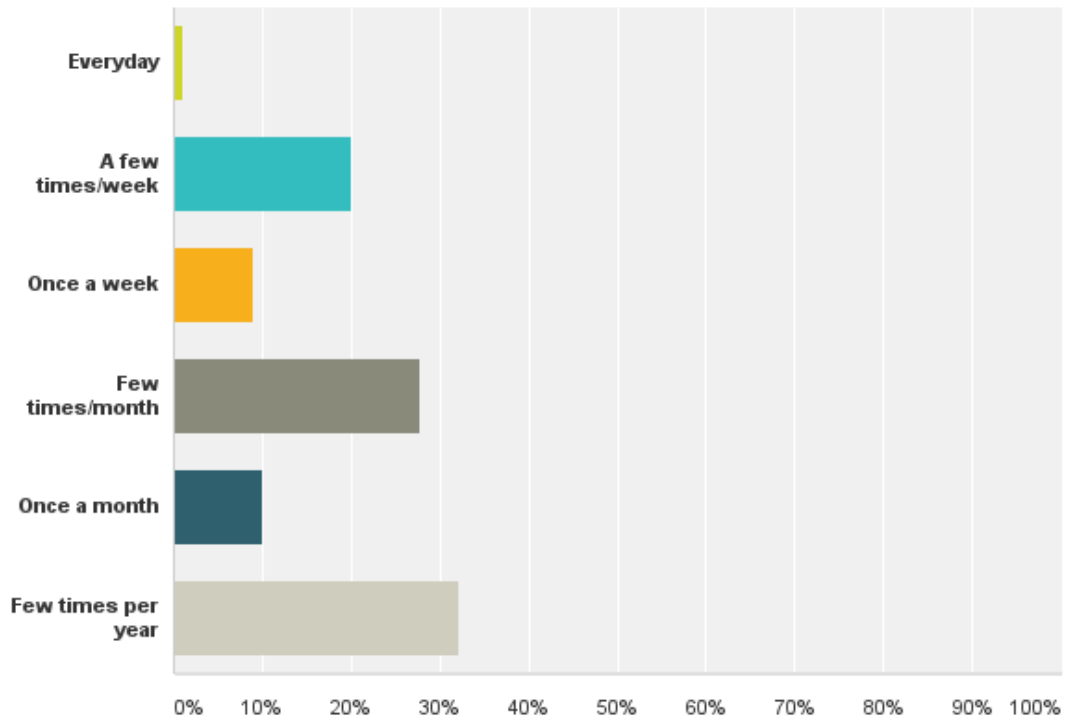


Answer Choices		Responses	
➤	Augnacloy	2.22%	2
➤	Ballyronan, Marina	8.89%	8
➤	Coleraine Road	5.56%	5
➤	Crawfordsburn	1.11%	1
➤	Dungannon Park	13.33%	12
➤	Fairhill	6.67%	6
➤	Gulladuff	1.11%	1
➤	Lough Fea	6.67%	6
➤	Meadowbank	23.33%	21
➤	Moneymore, Manor Park	1.11%	1
➤	Moneymore, Recreation Centre	3.33%	3
➤	Moykeeran Draperstown	1.11%	1
➤	Roundlake Fivemiltown	1.11%	1
➤	Swatragh	1.11%	1
➤	Tamlaght, Church Park	1.11%	1
➤	Tobermore, Mill Park	1.11%	1
➤	Upperlands	2.22%	2
➤	Other (please specify)	<b>Responses</b> 18.89%	17
Total			90



### Q14 Thinking about your favourite park/playpark, how often would you use this park/play park?

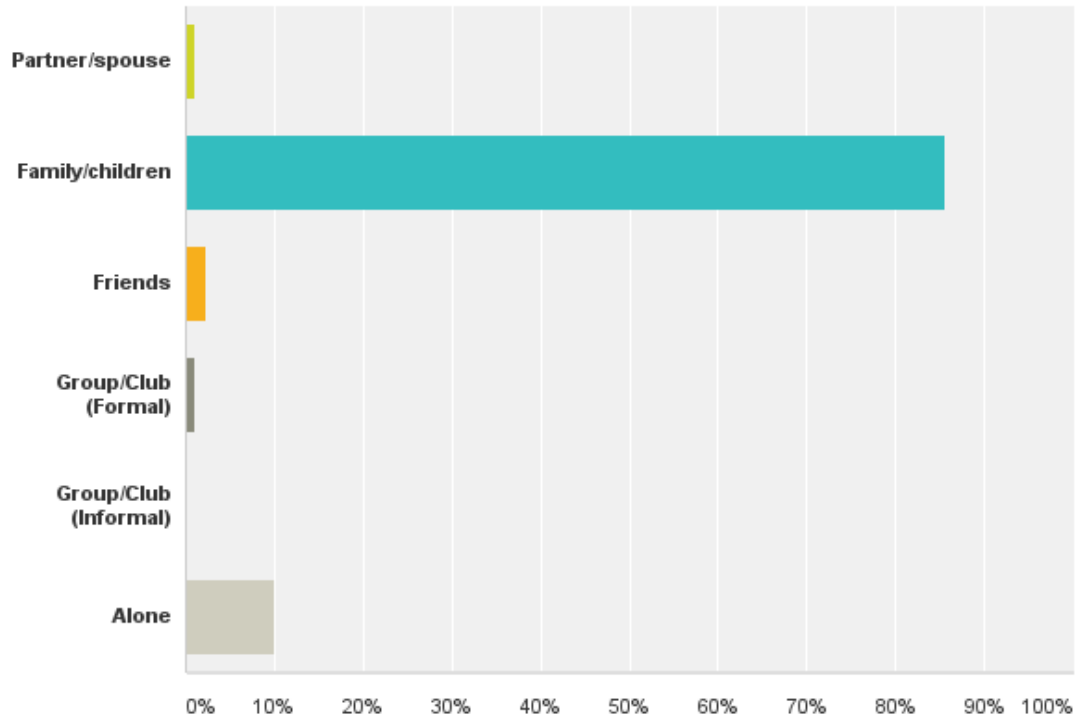
Answered: 90 Skipped: 51



Answer Choices	Responses	
Everyday	1.11%	1
A few times/week	20.00%	18
Once a week	8.89%	8
Few times/month	27.78%	25
Once a month	10.00%	9
Few times per year	32.22%	29
Total		90

### Q15 Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?

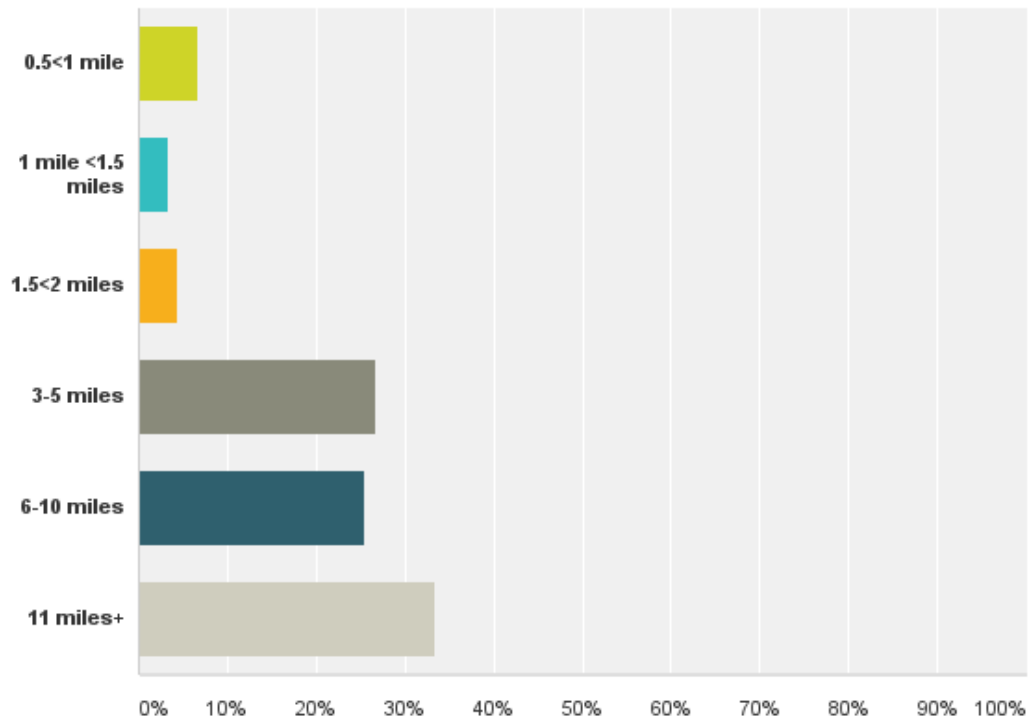
Answered: 90 Skipped: 51



Answer Choices	Responses	
Partner/spouse	1.11%	1
Family/children	85.56%	77
Friends	2.22%	2
Group/Club (Formal)	1.11%	1
Group/Club (Informal)	0.00%	0
Alone	10.00%	9
Total		90

## Q16 How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)

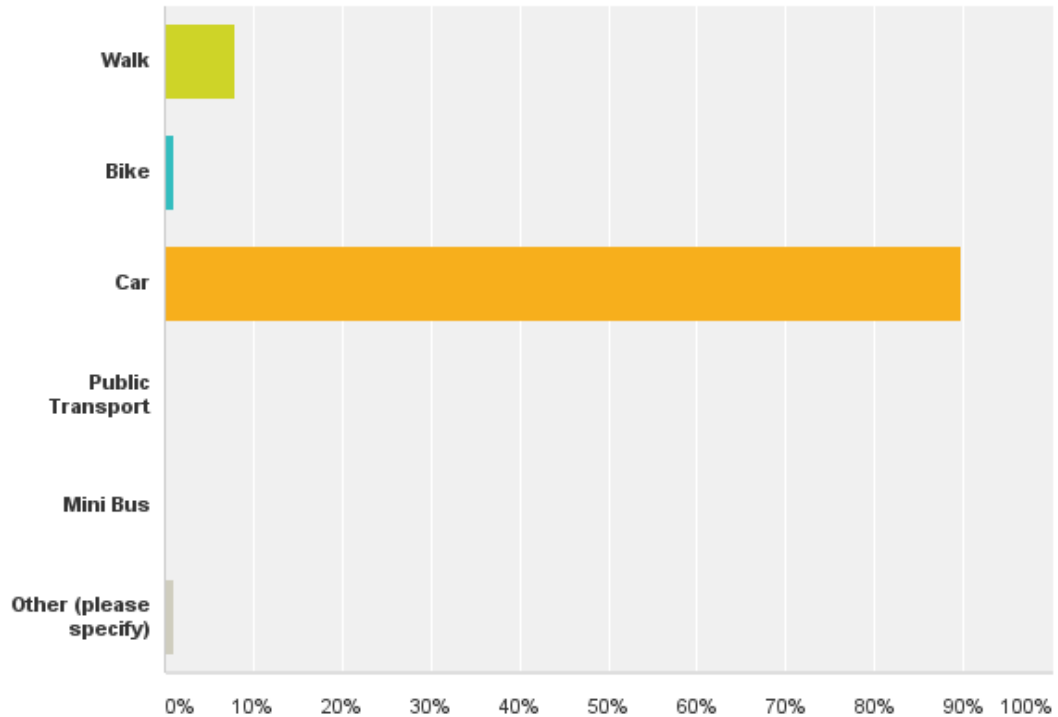
Answered: 90 Skipped: 51



Answer Choices	Responses	
0.5<1 mile	6.67%	6
1 mile <1.5 miles	3.33%	3
1.5<2 miles	4.44%	4
3-5 miles	26.67%	24
6-10 miles	25.56%	23
11 miles+	33.33%	30
Total		90

## Q17 How do you travel to this park/play park

Answered: 88 Skipped: 53



Answer Choices	Responses	
Walk	7.95%	7
Bike	1.14%	1
Car	89.77%	79
Public Transport	0.00%	0
Mini Bus	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.14%	1
Total		88

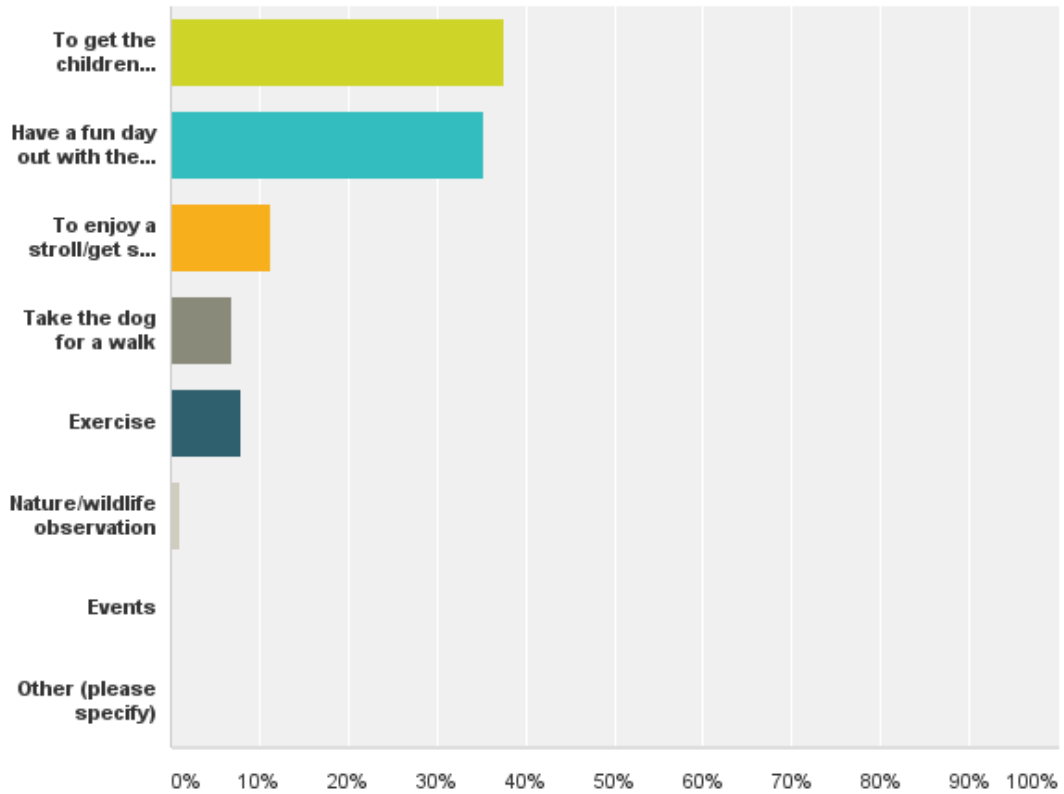
### OTHER COMMENTS

Irrelevant as it highlights only a lack of a good local park.



## Q18 What is your primary reason for visiting this park/play park?

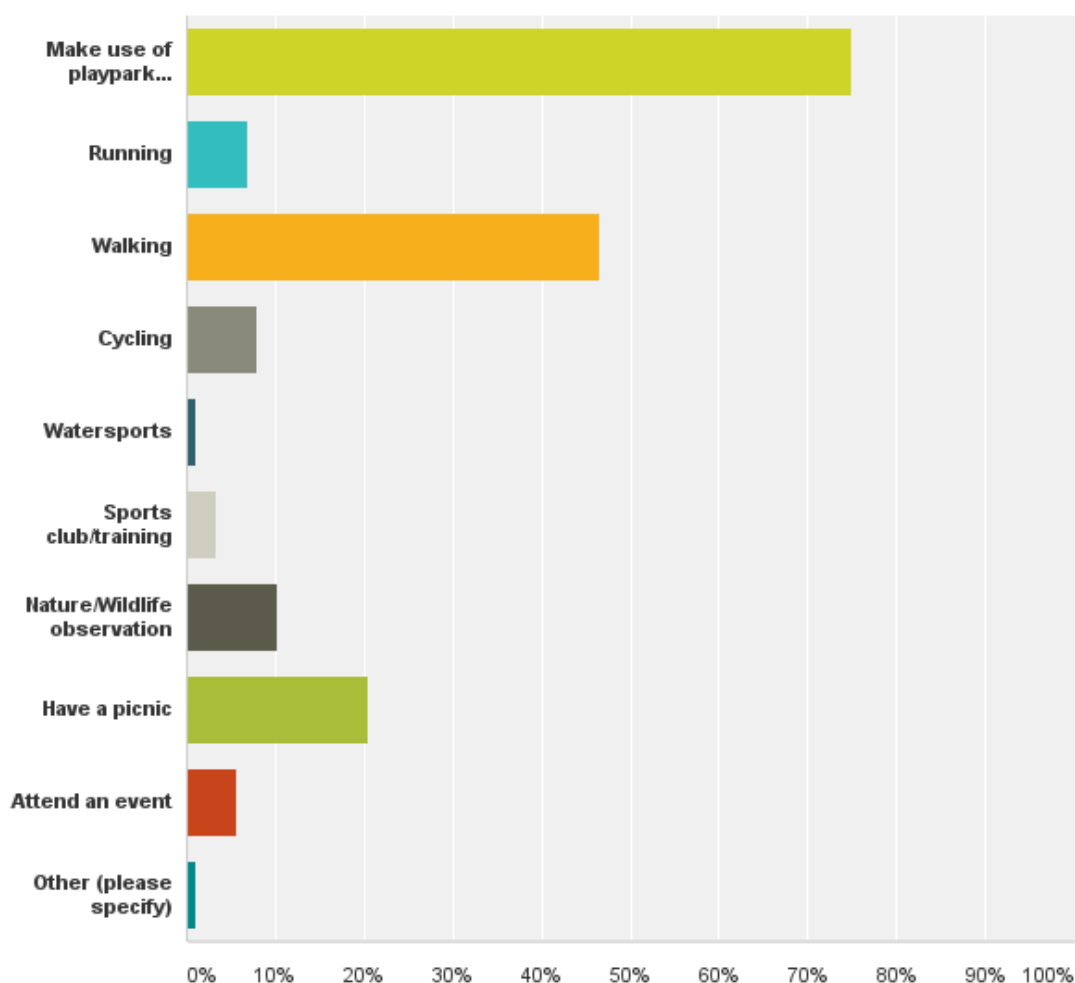
Answered: 88 Skipped: 53



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ To get the children outdoors for half an hour	37.50%	33
▼ Have a fun day out with the family	35.23%	31
▼ To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air	11.36%	10
▼ Take the dog for a walk	6.82%	6
▼ Exercise	7.95%	7
▼ Nature/wildlife observation	1.14%	1
▼ Events	0.00%	0
▼ Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total		
		88

## Q19 What do you do at this park/play park?

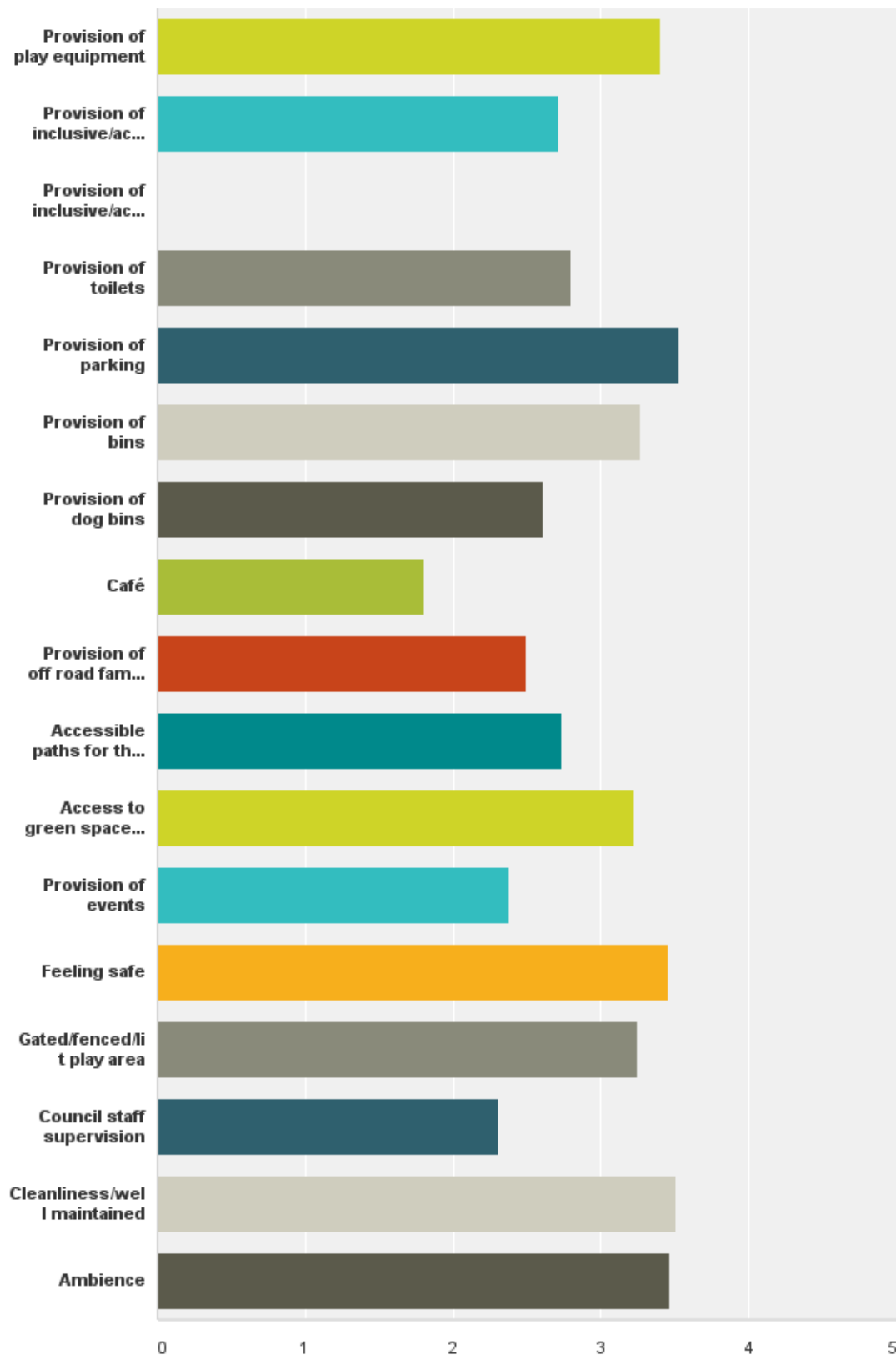
Answered: 88 Skipped: 53



Answer Choices	Responses	
Make use of playpark facilities	75.00%	66
Running	6.82%	6
Walking	46.59%	41
Cycling	7.95%	7
Watersports	1.14%	1
Sports club/training	3.41%	3
Nature/Wildlife observation	10.23%	9
Have a picnic	20.45%	18
Attend an event	5.68%	5
Other (please specify)	1.14%	1
Total Respondents: 88		

**Q20 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate your favourite park/play park on each of the following**

Answered: 78 Skipped: 63

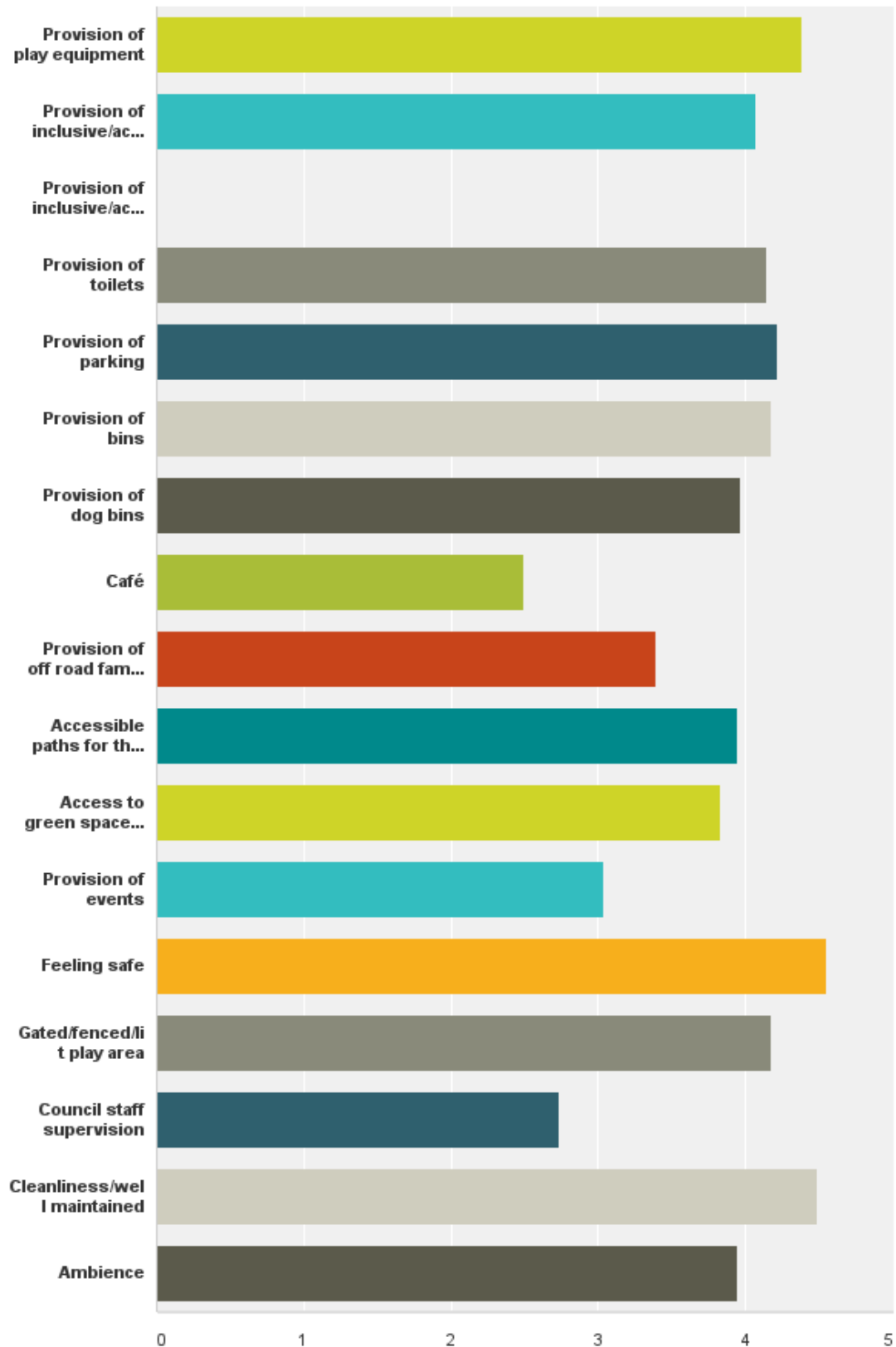


	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	8.97% 7	15.38% 12	23.08% 18	25.64% 20	23.08% 18	3.85% 3	78	3.40
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	24.36% 19	17.95% 14	24.36% 19	11.54% 9	14.10% 11	7.69% 6	78	2.71
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	25.64% 20	8.97% 7	26.92% 21	16.67% 13	12.82% 10	8.97% 7	78	2.60
Provision of parking	5.13% 4	11.54% 9	33.33% 26	23.08% 18	25.64% 20	1.28% 1	78	3.53
Provision of bins	1.28% 1	20.51% 16	43.59% 34	16.67% 13	16.67% 13	1.28% 1	78	3.27
Provision of dog bins	16.67% 13	20.51% 16	25.64% 20	7.69% 6	7.69% 6	21.79% 17	78	2.61
Café	33.33% 26	7.69% 6	7.69% 6	3.85% 3	2.56% 2	44.87% 35	78	1.81
Provision of off road family cycle trails	28.21% 22	11.54% 9	11.54% 9	6.41% 5	12.82% 10	29.49% 23	78	2.49
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	20.51% 16	17.95% 14	23.08% 18	12.82% 10	11.54% 9	14.10% 11	78	2.73
Access to green space (for walking or running)	15.38% 12	11.54% 9	21.79% 17	19.23% 15	21.79% 17	10.26% 8	78	3.23
Provision of events	21.79% 17	23.08% 18	20.51% 16	3.85% 3	7.69% 6	23.08% 18	78	2.38
Feeling safe	2.56% 2	17.95% 14	34.62% 27	19.23% 15	24.36% 19	1.28% 1	78	3.45
Gated/fenced/lit play area	11.54% 9	20.51% 16	21.79% 17	16.67% 13	25.64% 20	3.85% 3	78	3.25
Council staff supervision	24.36% 19	24.36% 19	14.10% 11	5.13% 4	7.69% 6	24.36% 19	78	2.31
Cleanliness/well maintained	2.56% 2	12.82% 10	32.05% 25	32.05% 25	17.95% 14	2.56% 2	78	3.51
Ambience	3.85% 3	12.82% 10	33.33% 26	28.21% 22	19.23% 15	2.56% 2	78	3.47



**Q21 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how important to you are each of the following at your favourite park/play park?**

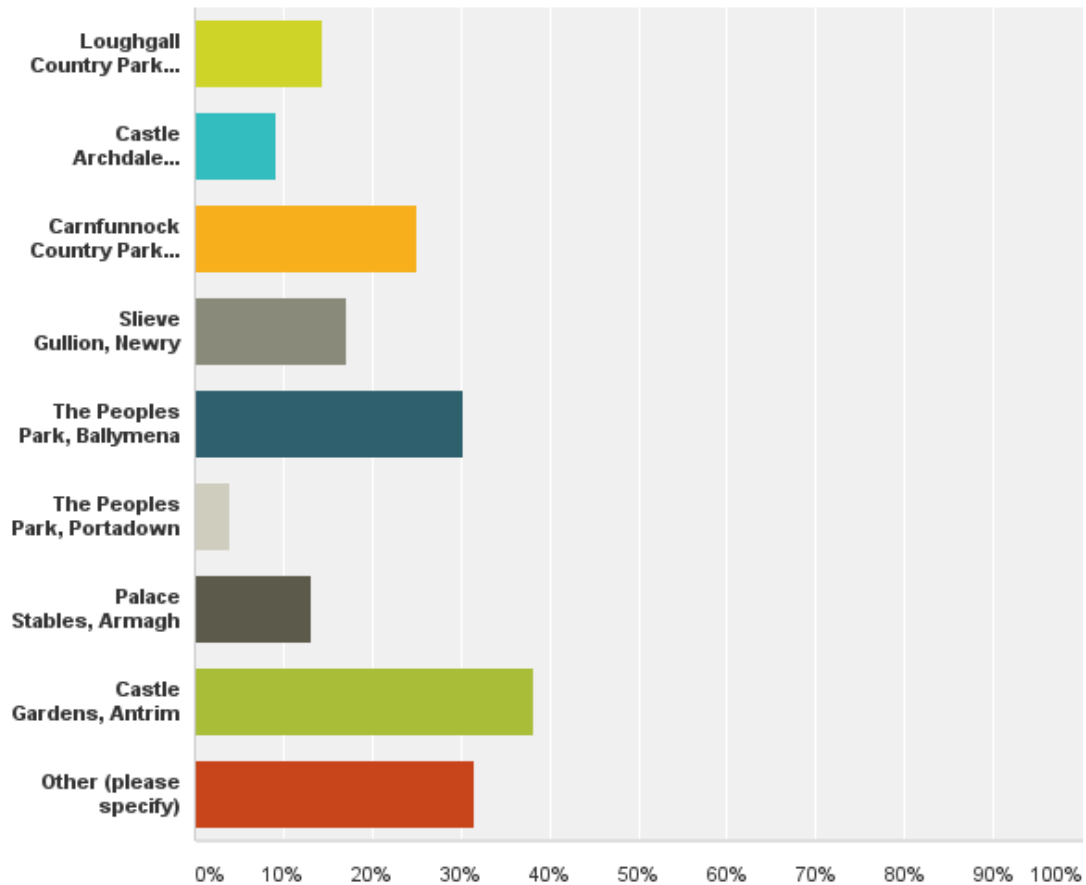
Answered: 78 Skipped: 63



	Not important at all	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	2.56% 2	5.13% 4	7.69% 6	19.23% 15	62.82% 49	2.56% 2	78	4.3
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	2.56% 2	5.13% 4	15.38% 12	33.33% 26	39.74% 31	3.85% 3	78	4.0
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.0
Provision of toilets	3.85% 3	1.28% 1	17.95% 14	29.49% 23	46.15% 36	1.28% 1	78	4.1
Provision of parking	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19.23% 15	38.46% 30	41.03% 32	1.28% 1	78	4.2
Provision of bins	0.00% 0	2.56% 2	17.95% 14	35.90% 28	41.03% 32	2.56% 2	78	4.1
Provision of dog bins	0.00% 0	5.13% 4	24.36% 19	32.05% 25	32.05% 25	6.41% 5	78	3.9
Café	26.92% 21	19.23% 15	21.79% 17	8.97% 7	10.26% 8	12.82% 10	78	2.5
Provision of off road family cycle trails	7.69% 6	14.10% 11	28.21% 22	16.67% 13	24.36% 19	8.97% 7	78	3.3
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	1.28% 1	5.13% 4	26.92% 21	24.36% 19	35.90% 28	6.41% 5	78	3.9
Access to green space (for walking or running)	1.28% 1	3.85% 3	35.90% 28	24.36% 19	30.77% 24	3.85% 3	78	3.8
Provision of events	14.10% 11	15.38% 12	32.05% 25	11.54% 9	17.95% 14	8.97% 7	78	3.0
Feeling safe	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.54% 9	21.79% 17	65.38% 51	1.28% 1	78	4.5
Gated/fenced/lit play area	2.56% 2	6.41% 5	14.10% 11	21.79% 17	52.56% 41	2.56% 2	78	4.1
Council staff supervision	19.23% 15	17.95% 14	30.77% 24	10.26% 8	11.54% 9	10.26% 8	78	2.7
Cleanliness/well maintained	1.28% 1	1.28% 1	8.97% 7	23.08% 18	64.10% 50	1.28% 1	78	4.4
Ambience	2.56% 2	0.00% 0	34.62% 27	23.08% 18	37.18% 29	2.56% 2	78	3.9

## Q22 Which park(s)/play park(s) outside the Council district have you visited in the last 12 months?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 65



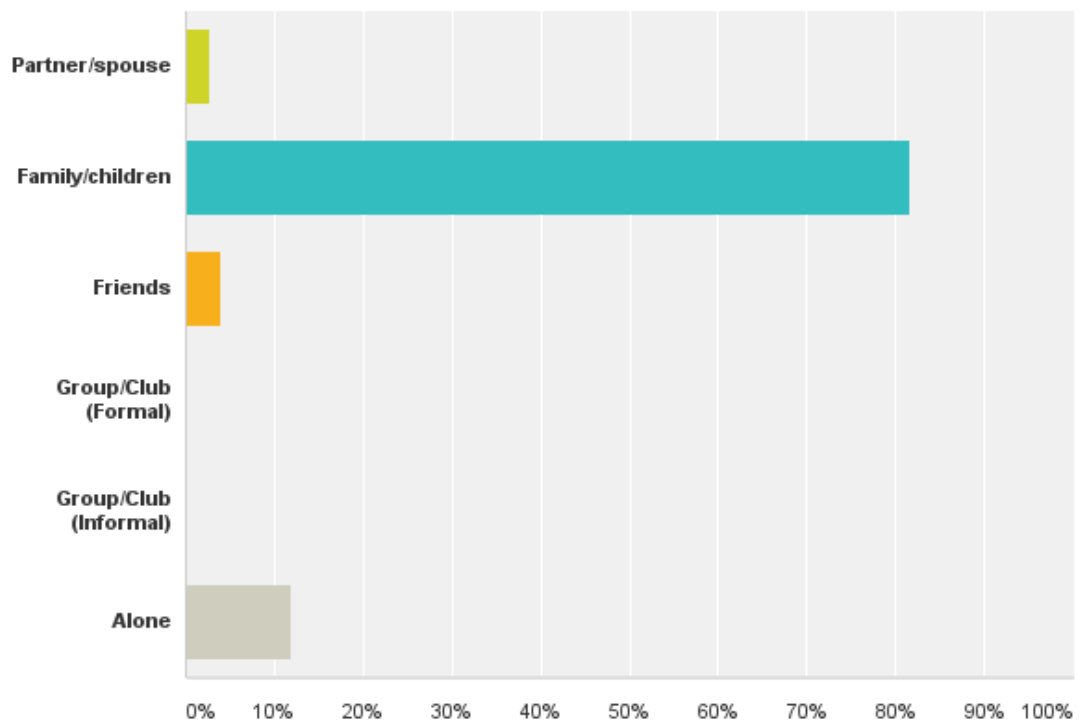
Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Loughgall Country Park, Loughgall	14.47%	11
▼ Castle Archdale Country Park, Fermanagh	9.21%	7
▼ Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne	25.00%	19
▼ Slieve Gullion, Newry	17.11%	13
▼ The Peoples Park, Ballymena	30.26%	23
▼ The Peoples Park, Portadown	3.95%	3
▼ Palace Stables, Armagh	13.16%	10
▼ Castle Gardens, Antrim	38.16%	29
▼ Other (please specify)	31.58%	24
Total Respondents: 76		

## OTHER PARKS

No parks outside District – 7; Peatlands Park – 2; Singular mentions: Ballycastle; Victoria Park; Banagher Dam; Cranfield Play Parks; Lurgan; Craigavon Lakes; Portrush; Claudy; Kilrea; Roe Valley Country Park; Ballymoney; Address; Navan; Portglenone; Marine Gardens Carrickfergus; Flower Arts Centre Portstewart.

### Q23 Who did you visit this park/play park with?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 65

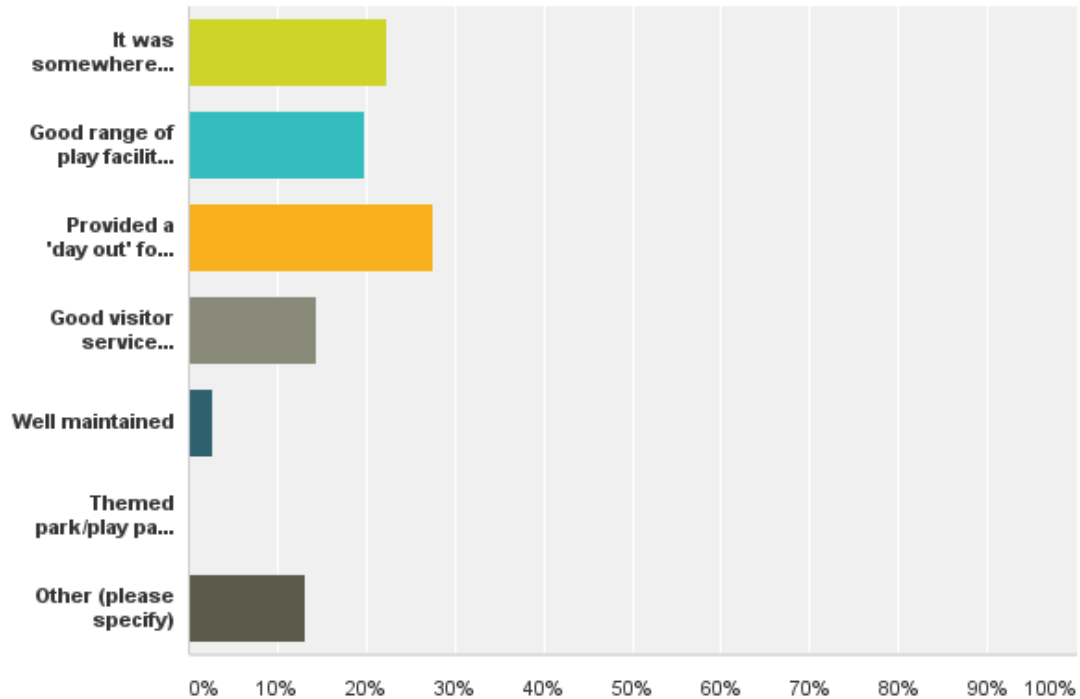


Answer Choices	Responses
Partner/spouse	2.63% 2
Family/children	81.58% 62
Friends	3.95% 3
Group/Club (Formal)	0.00% 0
Group/Club (Informal)	0.00% 0
Alone	11.84% 9
Total	76



## Q24 What was your primary reason for visiting this park(s)/play park(s)?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 65



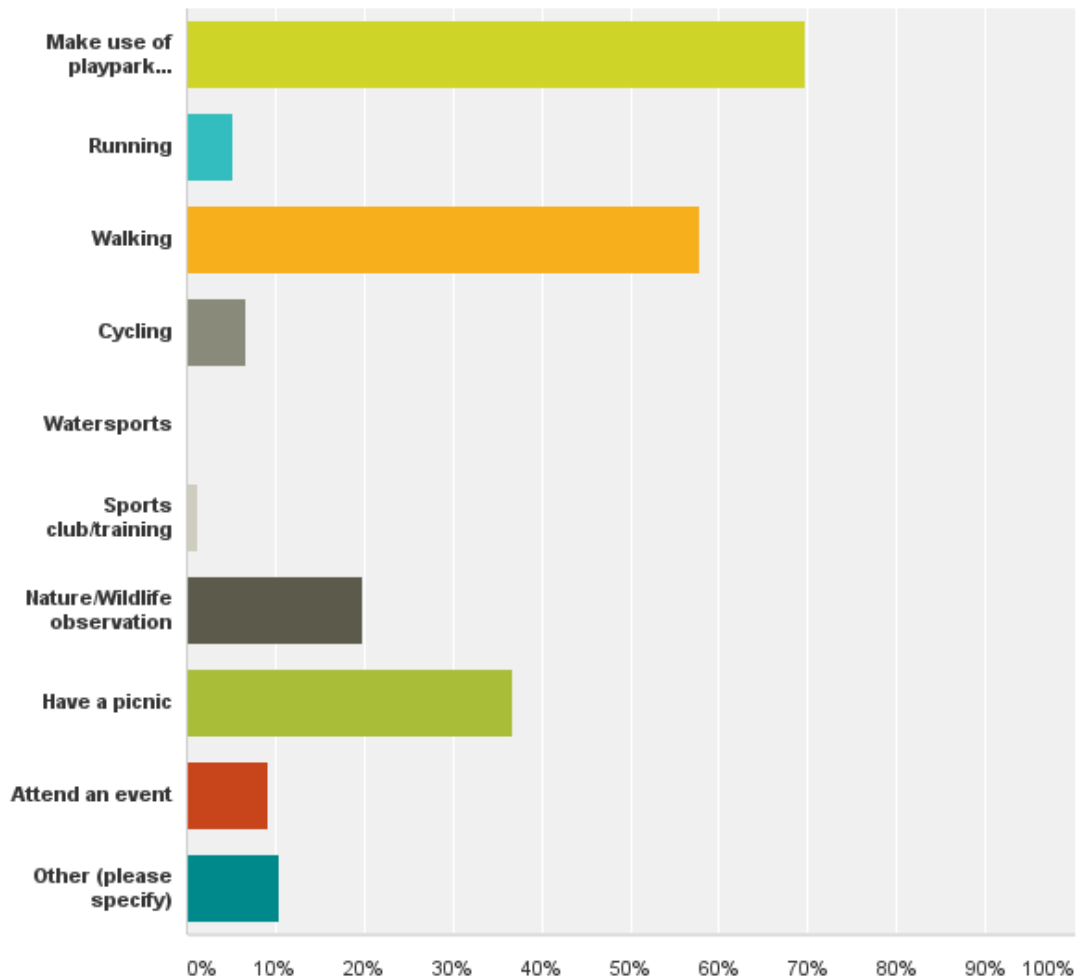
Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ It was somewhere different to go	22.37%	17
▼ Good range of play facilities for all ages	19.74%	15
▼ Provided a 'day out' for all the family	27.63%	21
▼ Good visitor service facilities e.g. Visitor Centre, café, toilets etc.	14.47%	11
▼ Well maintained	2.63%	2
▼ Themed park/play park visitor attraction	0.00%	0
▼ Other (please specify) <span>Responses</span>	13.16%	10
Total		76

### OTHER RESPONSES

Not applicable – 6; Nature and natural unkempt features – 2. Singular responses: event such as Park Run; Close to home; changing facilities for disabled person.

## Q25 What did do you do at this park/play park?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 65



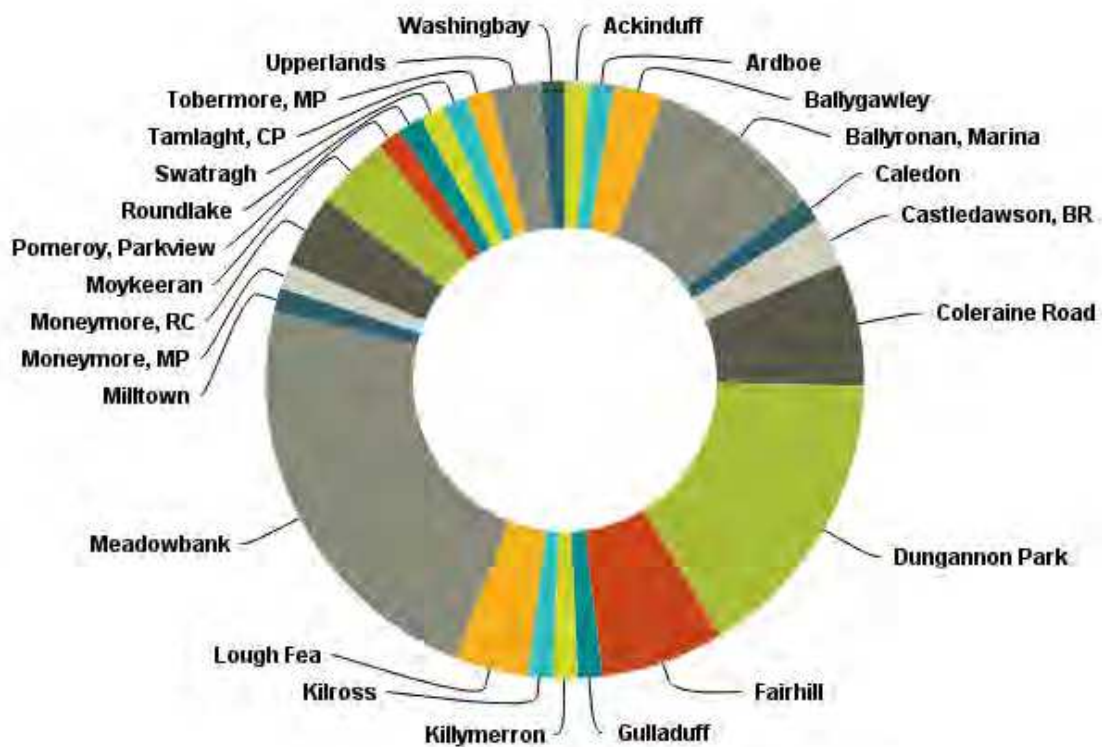
Answer Choices	Responses	
Make use of playpark facilities	69.74%	53
Running	5.26%	4
Walking	57.89%	44
Cycling	6.58%	5
Watersports	0.00%	0
Sports club/training	1.32%	1
Nature/Wildlife observation	19.74%	15
Have a picnic	36.84%	28
Attend an event	9.21%	7
Other (please specify)	10.53%	8
Total Respondents: 76		

## OTHER RESPONSES

Nothing – 5; walked the dog -2; Singular response - It has full range of disabled facilities and inclusive play for my disabled daughter to play with others with no disabilities together, it has also got sensory garden and disabled picnic tables for wheelchair use.

**Q26 Can you please can you state again which park/play park is your favourite park in Mid Ulster? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name).**

Answered: 75 Skipped: 66



Answer Choices	Responses	
Ackinduff	1.33%	1
Ardboe	1.33%	1
Ballygawley	2.67%	2
Ballyronan, Marina	9.33%	7
Caledon	1.33%	1
Castledawson, Boyne Row	2.67%	2
Coleraine Road	6.67%	5
Dungannon Park	16.00%	12
Fairhill	6.67%	5
Gulladuff	1.33%	1
Killymerron	1.33%	1
Kilross	1.33%	1
Lough Fea	4.00%	3
Meadowbank	22.67%	17
Milltown	1.33%	1
Moneymore, Manor Park	1.33%	1
Moneymore, Recreation Centre	4.00%	3
Moykeeran	4.00%	3
Pomeroy, Parkview	1.33%	1
Roundlake	1.33%	1
Swatragh	1.33%	1
Tamlaght, Church Park	1.33%	1
Tobermore, Mill Park	1.33%	1
Upperlands	2.67%	2
Washingbay	1.33%	1
Total		75

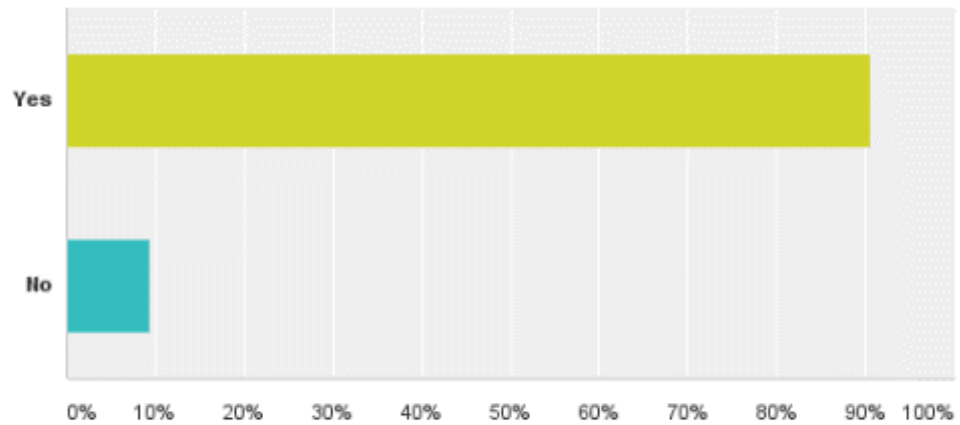
#### OTHER PARKS/PLAY PARKS

Drum Manor - 3; Pomeroy Forest – 2. Other singular mentions: Glenmore Walk; Maghera; Maghera Leisure Centre.



## Q27 Did you have children accompanying you who used the play park?

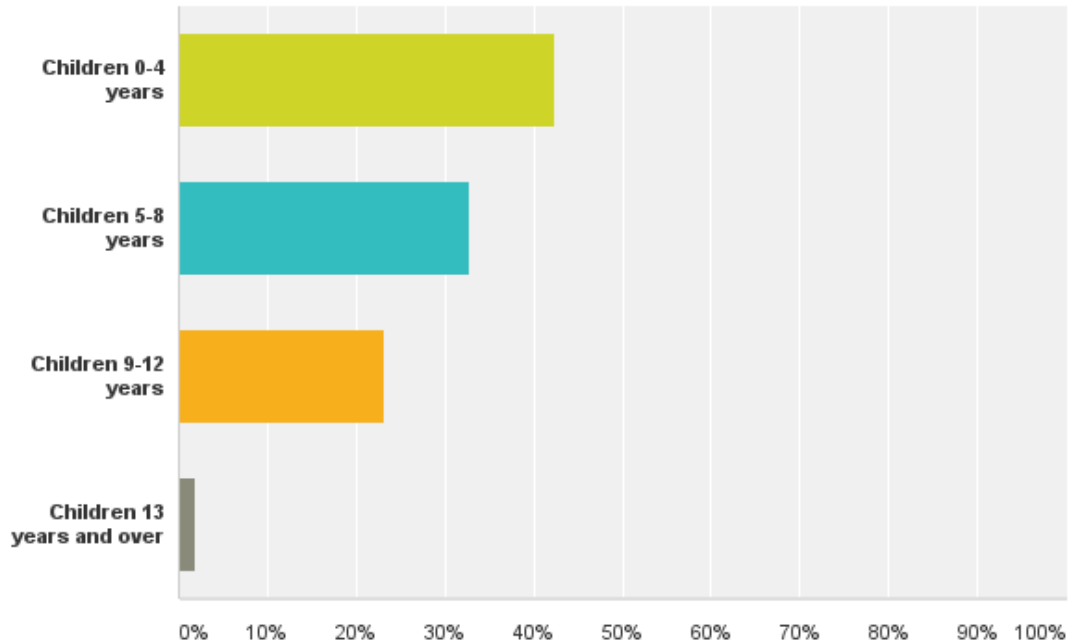
Answered: 75 Skipped: 66



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	90.67%	68
No	9.33%	7
Total		75

## Q28 What age were the children who use this play park?

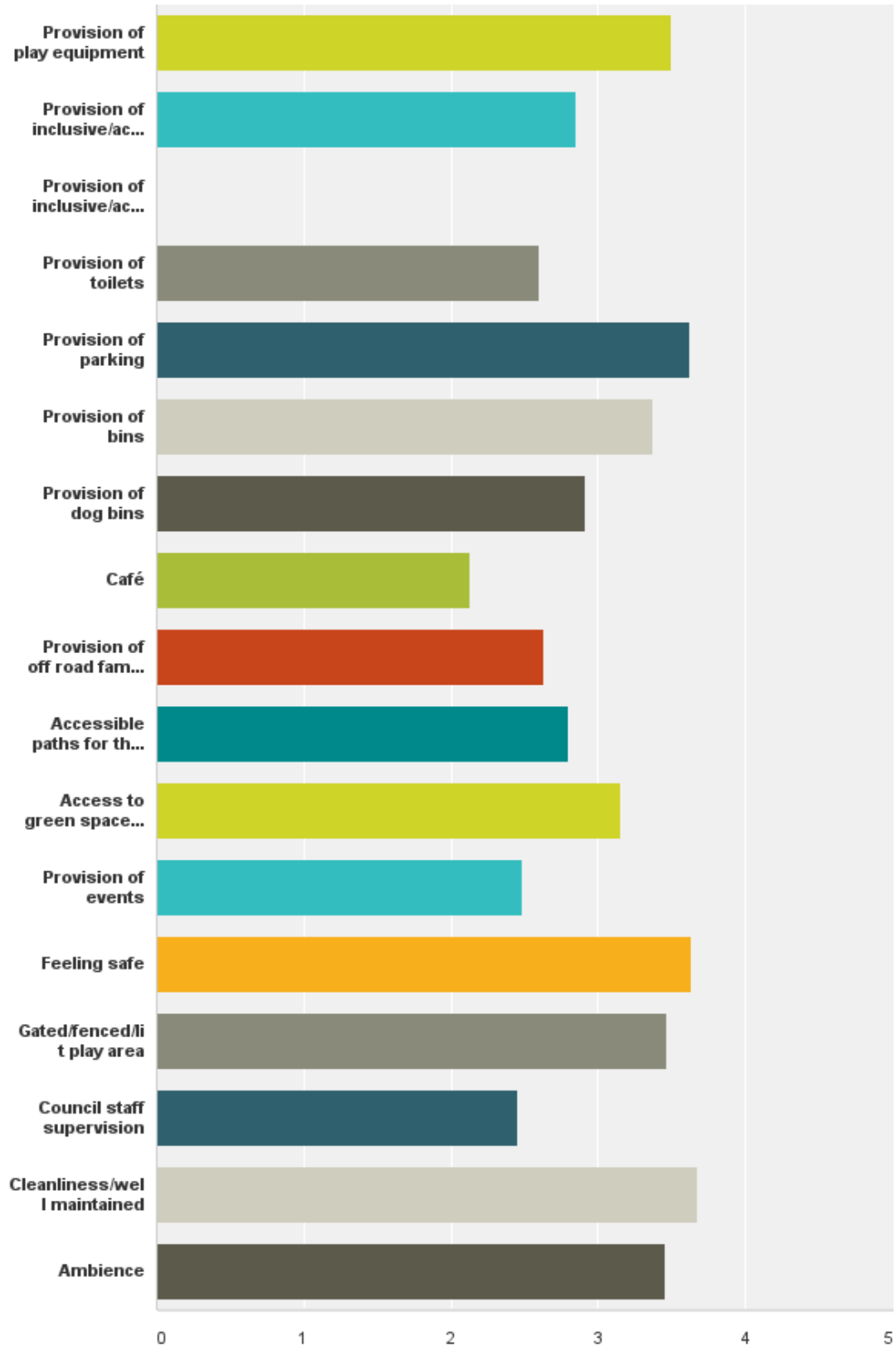
Answered: 52 Skipped: 89



Answer Choices	Responses	
Children 0-4 years	42.31%	22
Children 5-8 years	32.69%	17
Children 9-12 years	23.08%	12
Children 13 years and over	1.92%	1
Total		52

**Q29 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this play park on each of the following**

Answered: 52 Skipped: 89

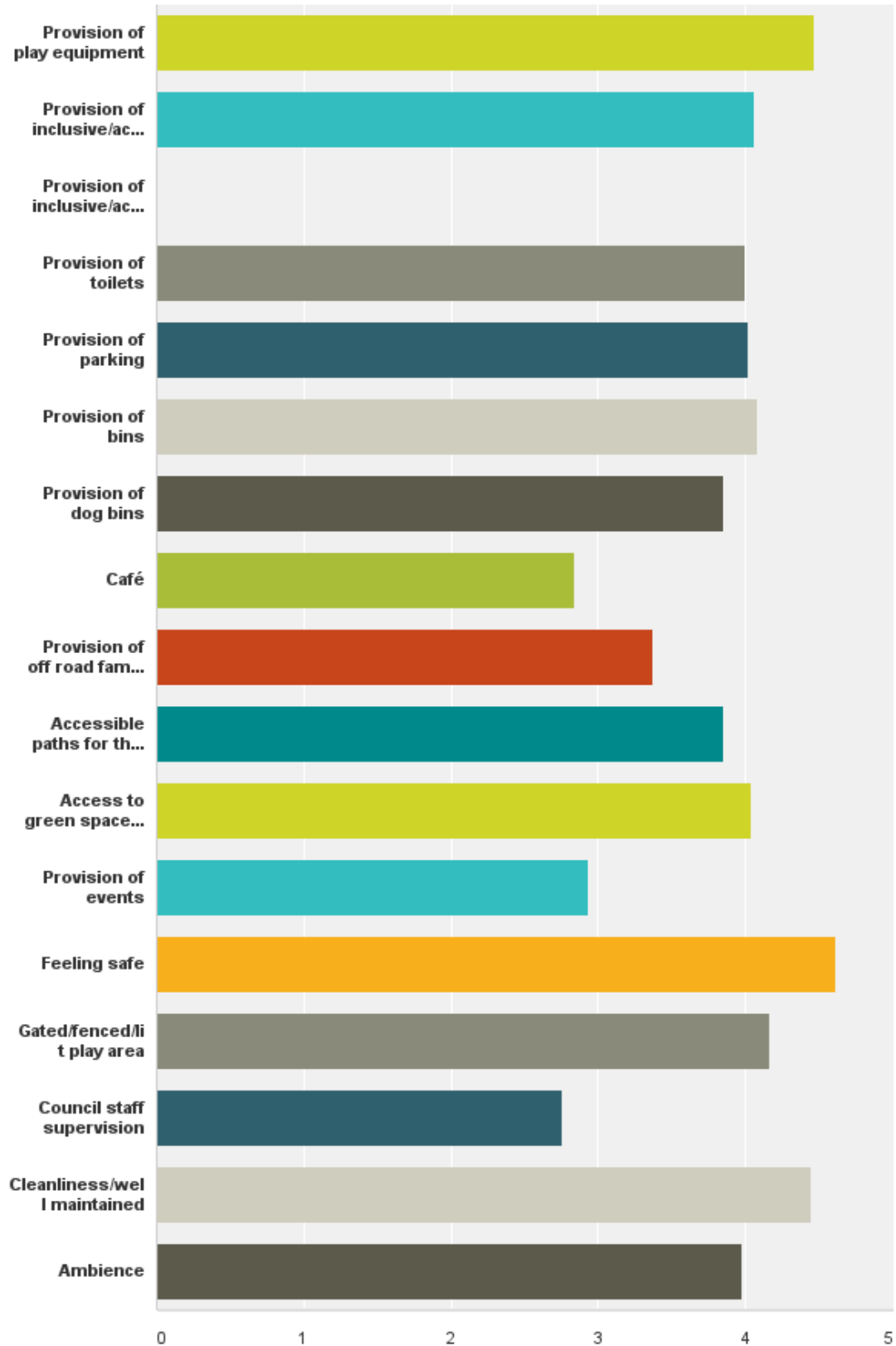


	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	19.23% 10	32.69% 17	25.00% 13	0.00% 0	52	3.50
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	28.85% 15	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	23.08% 12	15.38% 8	9.62% 5	52	2.85
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	34.62% 18	11.54% 6	21.15% 11	15.38% 8	13.46% 7	3.85% 2	52	2.60
Provision of parking	7.69% 4	9.62% 5	19.23% 10	40.38% 21	23.08% 12	0.00% 0	52	3.62
Provision of bins	7.69% 4	13.46% 7	26.92% 14	38.46% 20	13.46% 7	0.00% 0	52	3.37
Provision of dog bins	11.54% 6	17.31% 9	30.77% 16	13.46% 7	9.62% 5	17.31% 9	52	2.91
Café	28.85% 15	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	5.77% 3	3.85% 2	38.46% 20	52	2.13
Provision of off road family cycle trails	30.77% 16	3.85% 2	17.31% 9	13.46% 7	11.54% 6	23.08% 12	52	2.63
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	21.15% 11	15.38% 8	23.08% 12	13.46% 7	13.46% 7	13.46% 7	52	2.80
Access to green space (for walking or running)	17.31% 9	3.85% 2	28.85% 15	25.00% 13	13.46% 7	11.54% 6	52	3.15
Provision of events	26.92% 14	9.62% 5	25.00% 13	7.69% 4	7.69% 4	23.08% 12	52	2.48
Feeling safe	3.85% 2	7.69% 4	30.77% 16	34.62% 18	21.15% 11	1.92% 1	52	3.63
Gated/fenced/lit play area	9.62% 5	9.62% 5	25.00% 13	32.69% 17	21.15% 11	1.92% 1	52	3.47
Council staff supervision	19.23% 10	21.15% 11	19.23% 10	7.69% 4	5.77% 3	26.92% 14	52	2.45
Council staff supervision	19.23% 10	21.15% 11	19.23% 10	7.69% 4	5.77% 3	26.92% 14	52	2.45
Cleanliness/well maintained	3.85% 2	9.62% 5	21.15% 11	46.15% 24	19.23% 10	0.00% 0	52	3.67
Ambience	5.77% 3	11.54% 6	30.77% 16	28.85% 15	19.23% 10	3.85% 2	52	3.46



**Q30 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how important are each of the following at this play park?**

Answered: 52 Skipped: 89



	Not important at all	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	1.92% 1	3.85% 2	5.77% 3	21.15% 11	65.38% 34	1.92% 1	52	4.47
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	1.92% 1	3.85% 2	21.15% 11	26.92% 14	40.38% 21	5.77% 3	52	4.06
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	19.23% 10	32.69% 17	36.54% 19	3.85% 2	52	4.00
Provision of parking	0.00% 0	3.85% 2	23.08% 12	38.46% 20	32.69% 17	1.92% 1	52	4.02
Provision of bins	0.00% 0	1.92% 1	17.31% 9	48.08% 25	28.85% 15	3.85% 2	52	4.08
Provision of dog bins	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	23.08% 12	32.69% 17	26.92% 14	9.62% 5	52	3.85
Café	15.38% 8	21.15% 11	21.15% 11	15.38% 8	11.54% 6	15.38% 8	52	2.84
Provision of off road family cycle trails	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	21.15% 11	23.08% 12	21.15% 11	11.54% 6	52	3.37
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	30.77% 16	19.23% 10	34.62% 18	7.69% 4	52	3.85
Access to green space (for walking or running)	0.00% 0	3.85% 2	21.15% 11	34.62% 18	32.69% 17	7.69% 4	52	4.04
Provision of events	15.38% 8	13.46% 7	30.77% 16	11.54% 6	13.46% 7	15.38% 8	52	2.93
Feeling safe	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.62% 5	19.23% 10	69.23% 36	1.92% 1	52	4.61
Gated/fenced/lit play area	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	13.46% 7	30.77% 16	46.15% 24	1.92% 1	52	4.16
Council staff supervision	19.23% 10	17.31% 9	28.85% 15	11.54% 6	11.54% 6	11.54% 6	52	2.76
Cleanliness/well maintained	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	15.38% 8	23.08% 12	59.62% 31	1.92% 1	52	4.45
Ambience	3.85% 2	0.00% 0	25.00% 13	32.69% 17	34.62% 18	3.85% 2	52	3.98

### Q31 How could this play park be improved?

Response Number	Verbatim Response
1	<i>It is quite good I think improvements needed to be focused and made instead to parks that aren't good in the likes of smaller villages like mine Upperlands</i>
2	<i>Couldn't</i>
3	<i>It could be covered so it could be used all year round as we do not have the weather in this country for parks in general. There should also be more provision in Upperlands.</i>
4	<i>It's a disgrace that drum manor play park is not meeting the needs of disabled children in this community.</i>
5	<i>It couldn't I just wish we didn't have to travel so far to this standard of park and we had something more local for our children to play in more regularly</i>
6	<i>Improved????? How about planning on putting a park onsite please? There are 2 useable swings for older children. I had to answer N/A for most of the questions as there is no park to answer the questions too!!! Personally, i think it's a disgrace what the children in and around Caledon have! As a mum of quite a large family of a big age range i know my kids, as are other children from the 3 schools in Caledon are missing out!</i>
7	<i>Excellent playground but could have more equipment for toddler age range</i>
8	<i>cycling routes toilets changing rooms Events better equipment Ball well swing rope More for older children</i>
9	<i>More lamps (evening time) safety</i>
10	<i>It's fine as it is</i>
11	<i>More play facilities. Play area fenced in. Seats for adults when children playing.</i>
12	<i>More challenging equipment for age 10 plus. E.g. Sandwell play park in West Bromwich, Lake Windermere play park. There is no green space, cycle paths areas to walk, picnic tables. No opportunity for a day out in the area - apart from to the local cemetery. No thanks</i>
13	<i>Tables for picnic</i>
14	<i>More seating</i>
15	<i>More walks</i>
16	<i>Better lighting</i>
17	<i>Extra trails orienteering tracks water sports</i>
18	<i>The green area is always saturated when it rains. Park green therefore can experience limited use. Park is not lit at night which could limit potential use in evening for at least 4months of the yr.</i>
19	<i>n/a</i>
20	<i>Put in a play park.</i>
21	<i>More parking better toilets</i>
22	<i>Dungannon park - the grass gets very muddy between the play spaces. There are a few very steep/sudden steps off the soft areas that could hurt someone (esp. if you're standing watching you could tumble off - at the edge of the large climbing frame especially). There also is a lack of facilities for children between toddlers and those 6/7+ who can use the larger equipment.</i>
23	<i>Improved play park facilities</i>
24	<i>Toilets</i>
25	<i>More facilities for infants</i>

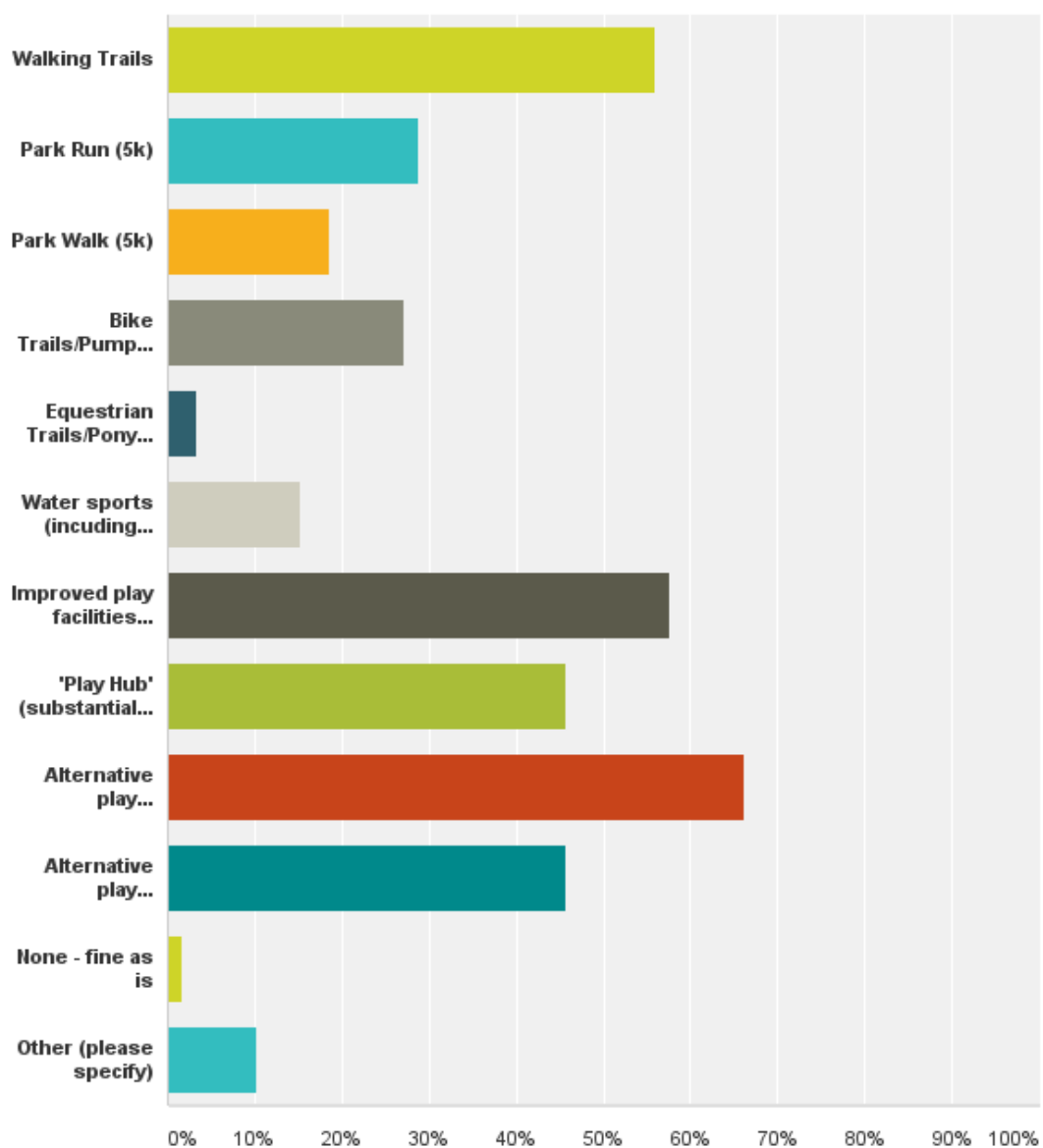
26	<i>Made bigger. More use of the green space beside it</i>
27	<i>Space for family fun</i>
28	<i>Moneymore main park needs to protected more between anti-social behaviour and children trying to cross what is an extremely dangerous fast road and the park being locked it's not an accessible place to let the children go to</i>
29	<i>We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need adventure type parks made with wood and rope etc., not all metal. The park is closed on bank holidays and at other times when we would be likely to use it.</i>
30	<i>Made much larger to accommodate for the population of Cookstown the same goes for Coagh park.</i>
31	<i>Better parking. Kids can run out straight to carpark which is very busy</i>
32	<i>made bigger</i>
33	<i>Gravel carpark beside play park extended and tarmacked. Toilet provision.</i>
34	<i>MADE BIGGER</i>
35	<i>It seems unwelcoming of the Protestant/ unionist community. The staff are cold, suspicious and uninterested. It appears to run NYA small group of people that run the Maria centre for themselves. It needs new staff and managers.</i>
36	<i>More seats and modern equipment</i>
37	<i>More walking trails nearby</i>
38	<i>more equipment, facilities, paths and disabled access</i>
39	<i>Meadowbank is quite good which I have answered these questions for. Castledawson park is very small and quite basic</i>
40	<i>None</i>
41	<i>Water safety for children events</i>
42	<i>It's very good</i>
43	<i>I don't think it needs to be improved however better provision in smaller villages would be better</i>
44	<i>Supervised play</i>
45	<i>I would love a park with this mix of play equipment, green space and shared walking/cycling paths nearer my home in Maghera.</i>
46	<i>Keep working with local groups and clubs and let them input into the development of the park.</i>
	<i>Too many parks are over manicured, Windmill wood is great for both kids and adults.</i>
47	<i>This park is excellent compared to our local park it's a shame our local park isn't better. We need a more central to the village of Upperlands rather than just the residents of Alexander park. The park in Alexander park is treat like it is owned by the residents of that estate as it is so close to the estate and is not very welcoming to those from outside the estate and those from outside the village would certainly not go down there to use it. Our village for being rural has a big intake of children in Ampertaine and also little amps and there are also children nearby in Culnady, St John's Swatragh, crossroads, Maghera and Kilrea. I would love to see a mutual park in the centre of the village near the main Kilrea road open and welcoming to all as the coffee shop is also near that road and walks around nearby dams so people could make more of a day out</i>
48	<i>No dogs allowed in this or any parks or play parks in Mid Ulster. Instead introduce dog walking fields, secured/fenced in so those without dogs can get peace to actually enjoy our parks</i>
49	<i>Further development</i>



50	N/A
51	Replicated elsewhere in the District!
52	Knock it down and rebuild a fully inclusive play park. Add changing places toilet to Meadowbank building. Or find new location in Magherafelt for a fully inclusive play park with green area for picnics/ walking too.

**Q32 What other outdoor recreation facilities would you like to see in your local public park/play park in Mid Ulster (You can choose more than one option)**

Answered: 59 Skipped: 82



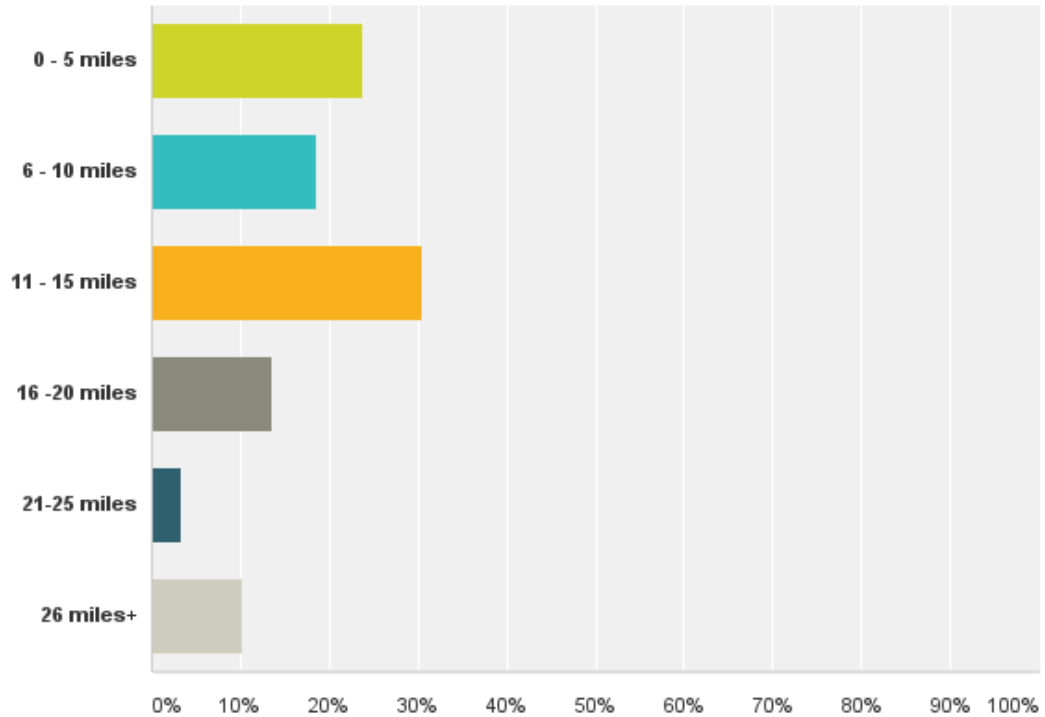
Answer Choices ▼	Responses ▼
▼ Walking Trails	55.93% 33
▼ Park Run (5k)	28.81% 17
▼ Park Walk (5k)	18.64% 11
▼ Bike Trails/Pump Track	27.12% 16
▼ Equestrian Trails/Pony Trekking Trails	3.39% 2
▼ Water sports (including Angling)	15.25% 9
▼ Improved play facilities (better swings, slides etc)	57.63% 34
▼ 'Play Hub' (substantial, equipped play resource catering for all age groups and abilities on a single site with in a designated catchment area)	45.76% 27
▼ Alternative play facilities: Nature Play (the provision of a play opportunity using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree trunk as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access)	66.10% 39
▼ Alternative play facilities: Wild Play (opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment e.g. climb a tree)	45.76% 27
▼ None - fine as is	1.69% 1
▼ Other (please specify) <b>Responses</b>	10.17% 6
Total Respondents: 59	

## OTHER RESPONSES

Add inclusive play – 2; Singular mentions: build a playpark; green gym for adults; refurbish Swatragh; build toilets at Clady.

**Q33 How far would you travel from your home address if the above was provided in a public park in mid Ulster? (miles)**

Answered: 59 Skipped: 82



Answer Choices	Responses	
0 - 5 miles	23.73%	14
6 - 10 miles	18.64%	11
11 - 15 miles	30.51%	18
16 -20 miles	13.56%	8
21-25 miles	3.39%	2
26 miles+	10.17%	6
Total		59

**Q34 Finally, please provide any further comments or observations you feel are important to the future development of outdoor recreation and parks and play provision in Mid Ulster.**

Response Number	Verbatim Response
1	<i>We need more money spent on a proper park for our village of Upperlands. I have 3 children of varying age ranges and we don't have a fit for purpose park for them. I feel our village of Upperlands and children are forgotten although we are a smaller village we have a lot of children locally with nowhere to go and nothing to do in their village which isn't fair, they should get the same chances as others regardless of where they live. I hope our council can start to invest in a proper park facility and events etc. in our village and small villages like ours as I have to drive for miles for a park facility to suit them all and therefore can't take them to the park as much as they want to go. I hope to see a cap and less investment in already good standard parks and more in developing the same or similar for all children.</i>
2	<i>The park in Upperlands is awful that's why we visit so little as the children from that estate feel they have ownership of it and sometimes you don't feel very welcome we need a park for all the children of the village and outside it, it's not fair that only alexander park has their own park, we need a better bigger park that all can use on neutral ground in the village. I hope something can be done as this is a big issue locally and lots of people have this same opinion. Meadowbank etc. does not need any more money spent on it we need money in rural parks now to make a fit for purpose park in our village for all to use and events shouldn't always have to be held in just Meadowbank they should be spread about the smaller villages too so everyone gets a chance to attend something local and other people can come into each other's villages.</i>
3	<i>I feel that the questionnaire is a bit leading and not enough focus put on where you would like future provision being placed. The questions I answered were about parks I used and if I liked them or not. I did not feel that I was able to contribute to the debate that Upperlands is held within a high deprivation area and has a vast walkable area and space for a play park for old and young. This could also be used for allotments and wheelchair friendly picnic tables.</i>
4	<i>These areas need to be able to meet the diverse needs of all children and family and include play equipment for children with special needs.</i>
5	<i>Our nearest park is Upperlands and it is in one of the housing estates which I don't think is fair to those who don't live in that estate, we need a larger fit for purpose park that all people around the village and outside of the village can comfortably use. We have to travel quite a distance to allow our children to use good standard and variety park facilities like Meadowbank and would like to see that our Council can now focus and invest in the more rural parks outside of the council area to improve them and make them fit for purpose for all the local children.</i>
6	<i>We NEED a playpark for our children in Caledon! There are 2 useable swings (which can only be used by older children), what is there has been there for over 30 years! We need something for our children!!</i>
7	<i>Feedback from tourists to the area commented on lack of cycleways.</i>



8	<i>I think we need to improve our parks in our local areas so we can get children outside into parks away from electronic games etc. and get fresh air have fun and meet their friends Also football pitches for older boys and girls to play football hurling rugby etc.</i>
9	<i>Would love to see a running track at the Marina.</i>
10	<i>More run/ walk tracks.</i>
11	<i>I generally use my local roads to walk my dog.</i>
12	<i>Events at weekends as we are always trying to go somewhere to entertain our children.</i>
13	<i>There are no safe walking routes on the roads around Moneymore, in fact the volume of traffic in the village itself means that it is difficult for a pensioner like me to get to the Manor Park.</i>
14	<i>Provision for open spaces is really poor in our local area. The new sports facilities at Meadowbank and Greenvale are outstanding, but there is nowhere close to go for a safe walk, bike ride with family. Current play parks are only suitable for up to 9 years of age. We need some beautiful outdoor space for our community with challenging play equipment. Polepatrick cemetery but not an option for my family - feels totally disrespectful.</i>
15	<i>None.</i>
16	<i>The area of Slaughtneil / Carntogher has a great centre in An Carn and the Drumlamph Woodland Trust but no play area which would be very popular.</i>
17	<i>More areas for walking / cycling (kids) in Magherafelt.</i>
18	<i>A play park for Sandholes village.</i>
19	<i>A green way for walking and cycling.</i>
20	<i>More adventures. Make orienteering available to all.</i>
21	<i>Most of the timber structure within the park is coming out of its build for purpose state. There are two bridges for viewing water and they are in need of attention.</i>
22	<i>N/A.</i>
23	<i>More walkways.</i>
24	<i>Look at options around water for water sports etc.</i>
25	<i>Overall quality is good. Moy park seems totally underused and a bit lonely at times. Dungannon park is brilliant, a bit of an upgrade to the play area would make it perfect!</i>
26	<i>Please improve the basic facilities at Knockmany Forest Park to that we continue to safely use them as a running group and as a family with young children. Thank you.</i>
27	<i>Nicer green space with events like Antrim castle garden.</i>
28	<i>Parkrun is great for any community and should be helped.</i>
29	<i>Bigger selection of swings slides or climbing frames for older children.</i>
30	<i>'Open space' parks are needed for walking/ running/picnics etc. in each locality</i>
31	<i>Stop anti-social behaviour at kids play area it's a disgrace.</i>
32	<i>We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need a park that is not located as an afterthought within a car park. We need other facilities around the park. We need equipment created from natural resources such as wood and rope in an adventure playground style, not metal equipment. We need a facility that is open on bank holidays and at other times when we would like to use it, not closed because council staff are off.</i>

33	<i>The Parks in the Dungannon area tend to be very well kept and are a great asset for the MUD area to develop further.</i>
34	<i>To attract tourists, we need modernised play parks that are open to everyone and not situated in housing estates. If we had modernised play parks and green gyms families would be much healthier and it would suit all those on low incomes, but need to be locked at night time to prevent anti-social behaviour with floral decorations and plants like what we see in other countries.</i>
35	<i>More equipment.</i>
36	<i>Play areas should be enclosed for safety.</i>
37	<i>Parks must be clean and free for rubbish.</i>
38	<i>Toilet provision is very important and safe.</i>
39	<i>Swatragh playpark has been neglected for years and has been 'improved' in bits and pieces but it stands out, in contrast to places like Kilrea, Money more and Maghera that have seen very significant investment and vision!! and Maghera.</i>
40	<i>No mention of Davagh Forest Park in this survey.</i>
41	
42	<i>Just 4 swings in any play area is inadequate.</i>
43	<i>More open green spaces and forests with walking trails is needed closer to Bellaghy and Castledawson area.</i>
44	<i>More local play areas without leaving that area.</i>
45	<i>Castledawson park needs updated and improved. There are virtually no safe walk trails in Castledawson.</i>
46	<i>Upperlands needs a park most villages have a park in a central location.</i>
47	<i>Encouraging children to be active in the environment is critical to protecting our environment and our children health.</i>
48	<i>A play park in Upperlands would be excellent.</i>
49	<i>Simple basic equipment is what our children look for a good swing a slippery slide etc.</i>
50	<i>Upperlands needs a better park safer away from main road.</i>
51	<i>The town of Maghera is sorely missing green space and walking/cycling/running paths.</i>
52	<i>Kids need to be challenged and not wrapped in cotton wool. They need to learn to assess and manage risk at an early age.</i>
53	<i>Our local park in Upperlands is no good; it is not open and accessible to all. We need a park more central to the village of Upperlands rather than just the residents of Alexander park. The park in Alexander Park is treat like it is owned by the residents of that estate as it is so close to the estate and is not very welcoming to those from outside the estate and even less welcoming to those from outside the village would certainly not go down there to use it. Our village for being rural has a big intake of children in Ampertaine and also little amps approximately 170 kids not all of whom live in that estate and there are also children nearby in Culnady, St. John's Swatragh, Crossroads, Maghera and Kilrea. I would love to see a mutual park in the centre of the village near the main Kilrea road open and welcoming to all as the coffee shop is also near that road and walks around nearby dams so people could make more of a day out, I hope the council can take all this feedback on board as every child and parent from inside and outside the village should be provided with a neutral park that they can freely use and mix with other children regardless of background.</i>

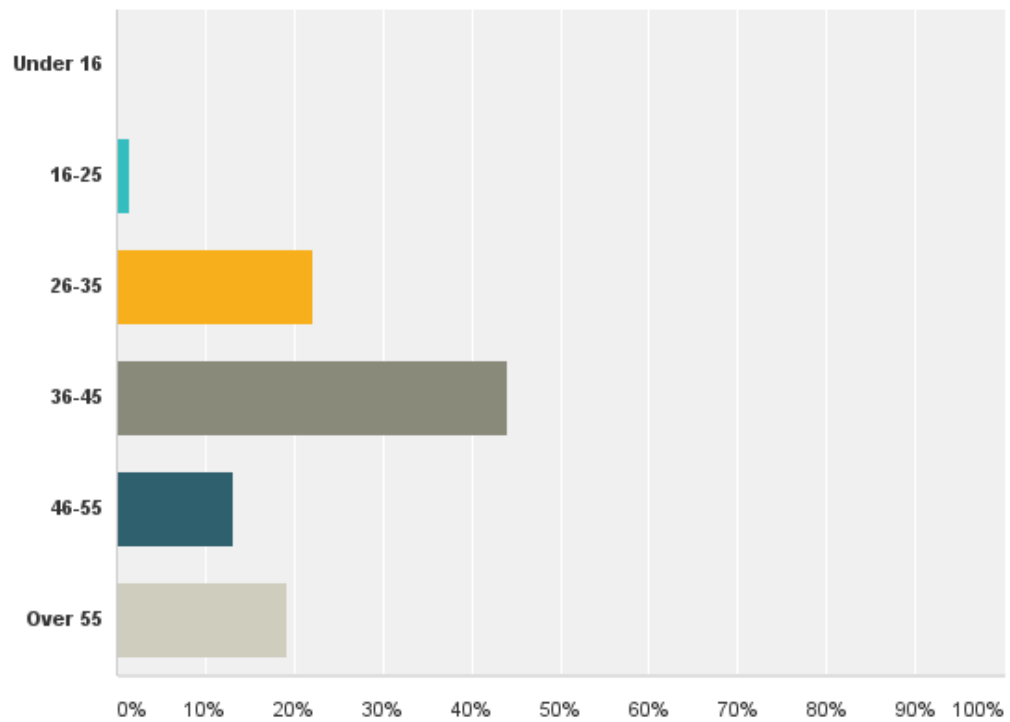
54	<i>Please, please return play equipment of some shape or form to Glenone Park, located at the junction of Clady Road and Ballymacombs Rd. Even swings would be great as a start. This small settlement had seen a significant rise in population with the development of The Orchards, housing development, yet incrementally over the years all the play equipment had been removed. For the sake of the significant of young children living in close proximity to this park please put something back into it so they can play e.g. mounded grass, puzzles or roads painted on the pavers so kids can be entertained on foot or on small bikes. Also, please ban dogs from Glenone Park and all other parks in Mid Ulster, they are a safety hazard to children &amp; adults and foul over pitches, grass play areas, and footpaths which is disgusting.</i>
55	<i>None</i>
56	<i>Clady park would be nice if it was well maintained.</i>
57	<i>I would like to see my other local play park in Glenone being restored to somewhere families can take their children to. I played there as a child and would love my child to have this opportunity. There is currently only an open space where a park once was. It was used by so many was slowly got less and less play equipment over years until none at all. Now a football pitch is only functional thing. Now council workers waste time blowing leaves and cutting grass.</i>
58	<i>In regard to the park in Glenone, which is very close to my house, it used to be a well-equipped play park with a skateboard rink. The rink and all the equipment has incrementally been removed over 20 years, so all that is left is a bricked surface, with no equipment whatsoever. This is the only public green space in the small settlement of Glenone, which currently has a large housing development under construction (with no green space, thanks to the Developer manipulating to avoid Planning Policy Statement 8 requirements!), namely the Orchards (where there is a high number of young families). In addition to the car park and playing field in this park, it needs either gated children's play equipment reinstated, even the most basic equipment would be welcomed. Gated because the previous equipment was vandalised by teenagers in the past, particularly on a Friday night when they gathered to get a bus to a teenage disco. If at present the council cannot afford a full equipped play park, natural play equipment (logs, balance beam, contoured surface) would even be an improvement. Come on new council, get your act together and give this park the TLC it has missed for so many years (once people came from all over the Magherafelt District to use the park - now council workers brush up leaves and trim trees in a space devoid of anything for children to play on/with, which just seems such a waste). On a wider note, and no doubt this will be controversial, I do not think dogs (either on or off leads) should be permitted in ANY park due to the danger to children and dog fouling. Council should provide dedicated agricultural fields/areas for those who have to walk their dogs, clearly signed, so the rest of us know to avoid these areas. Our parks, forests and woods in the District (including Glenone Woods) have been taken over by dogs making them an unattractive location for everyone else to walk- this is extremely unfair as I pay my rates and do not feel safe using a local amenity to walk and am forced to walk on public roads following a number of dog attacks in Glenone Wood/Molloys Ford. Let's look after the people and children of the Borough NOT the give the dogs priority.</i>





### Q35 Please select your age bracket

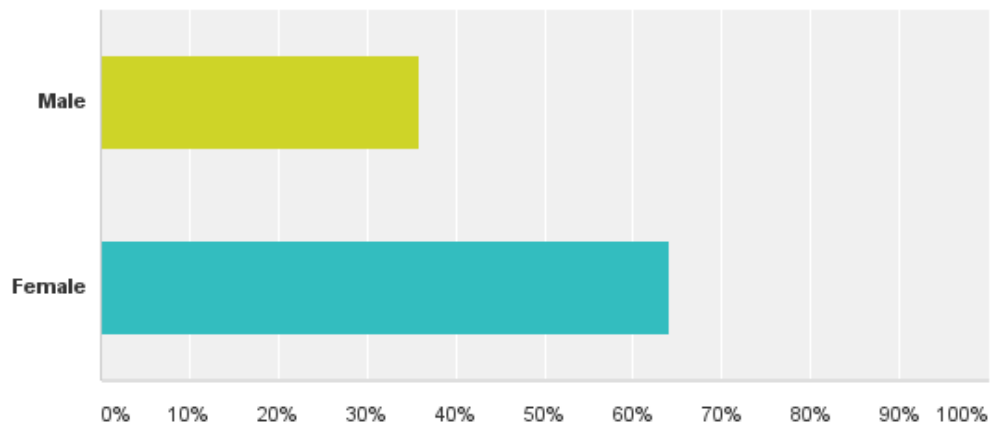
Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



Answer Choices	Responses
Under 16	0.00% 0
16-25	1.47% 1
26-35	22.06% 15
36-45	44.12% 30
46-55	13.24% 9
Over 55	19.12% 13
Total	68

### Q36 Please select your gender

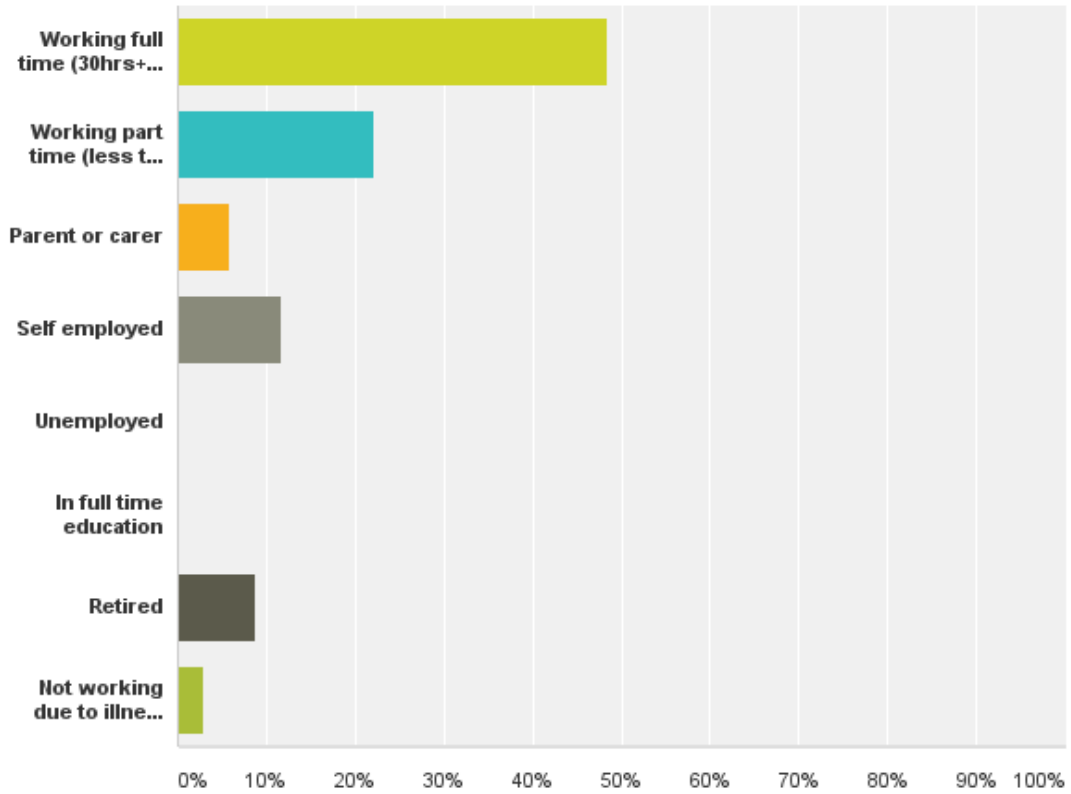
Answered: 67 Skipped: 74



Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	35.82%	24
Female	64.18%	43
Total		67

### Q37 Can you please tell me which of the following best describes your working status?

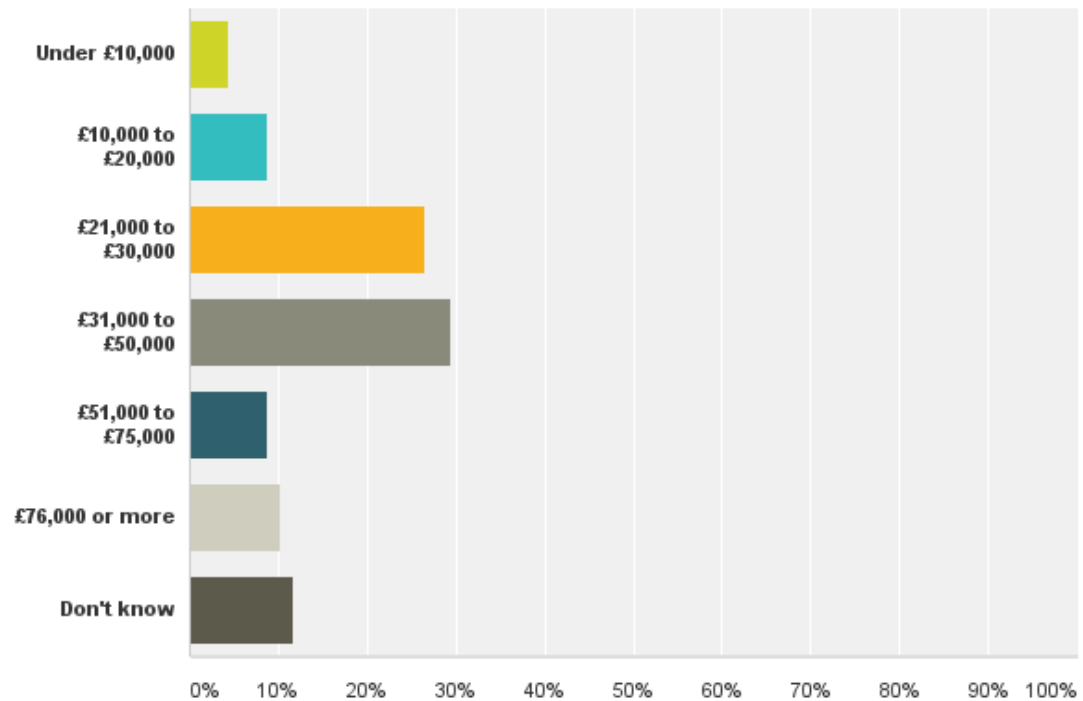
Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



Answer Choices	Responses	
Working full time (30hrs+ per week)	48.53%	33
Working part time (less than 30hrs per week)	22.06%	15
Parent or carer	5.88%	4
Self employed	11.76%	8
Unemployed	0.00%	0
In full time education	0.00%	0
Retired	8.82%	6
Not working due to illness or disability	2.94%	2
Total		68

### Q38 What is your approximate total annual income in your household (before tax)?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under £10,000	4.41%	3
£10,000 to £20,000	8.82%	6
£21,000 to £30,000	26.47%	18
£31,000 to £50,000	29.41%	20
£51,000 to £75,000	8.82%	6
£76,000 or more	10.29%	7
Don't know	11.76%	8
Total		68



Q39

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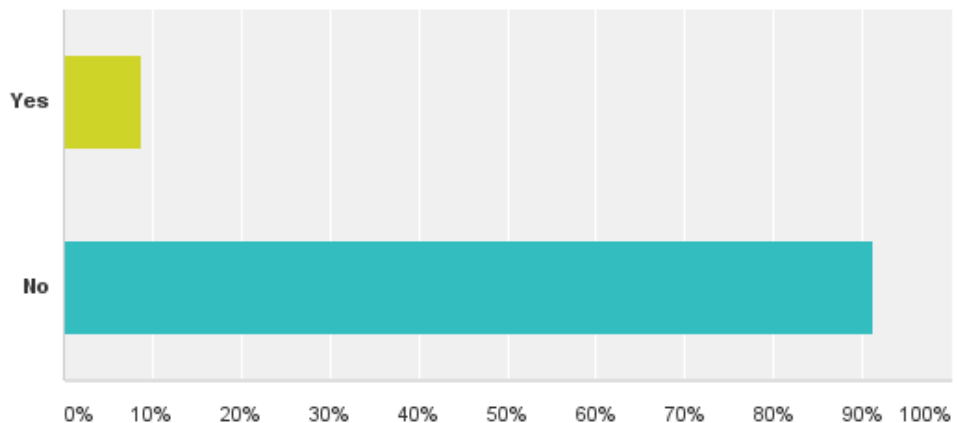
Please state the number of the children in your household in the age brackets below (if relevant)

Answered: 68 Skipped: 73

Answer Choices		Responses	
Under 4 years	Responses	64.71%	44
5-8 years	Responses	58.82%	40
9-12 years	Responses	39.71%	27
13 years and over	Responses	47.06%	32

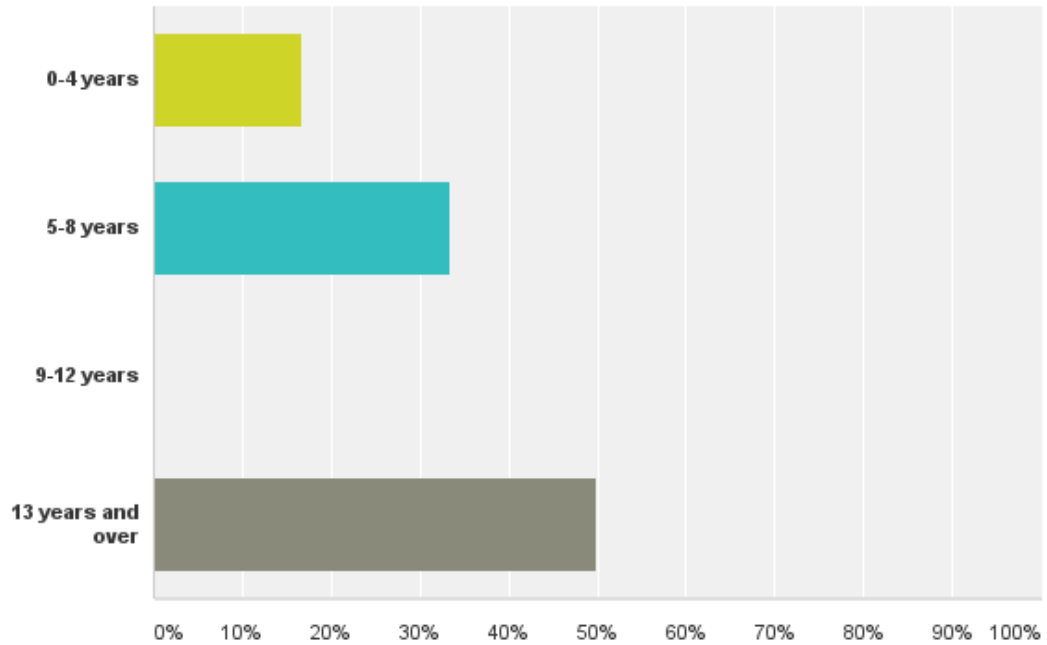
**Q40 Do one of your children have a disability?**

Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



### Q41 What age is the child who has a disability?

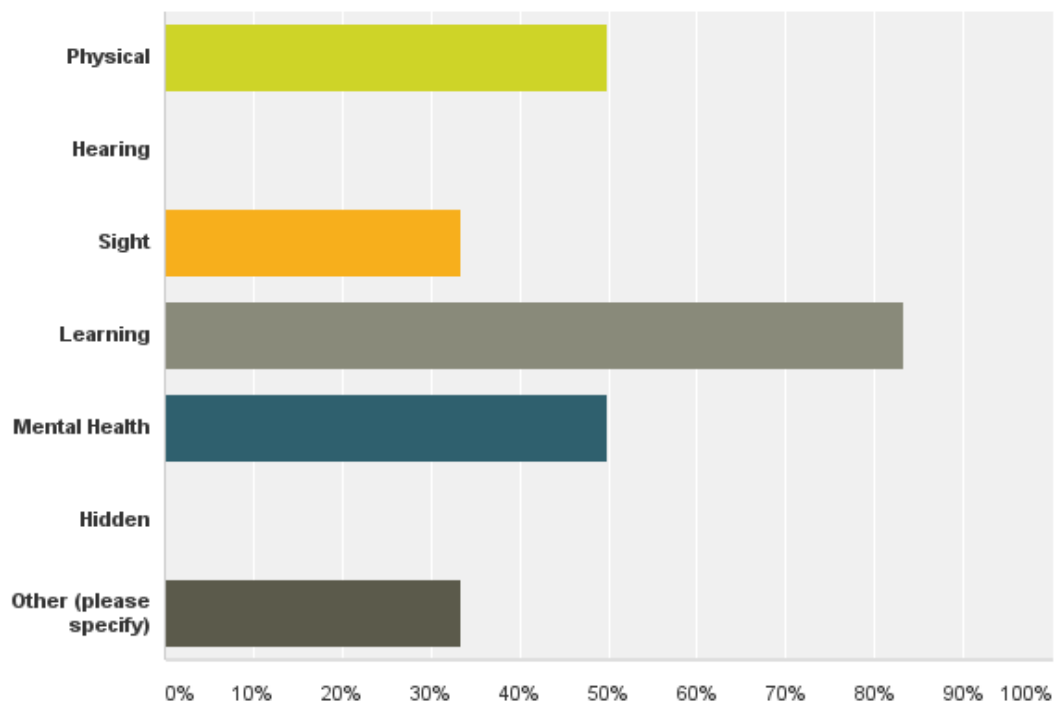
Answered: 6 Skipped: 135



Answer Choices	Responses	
0-4 years	16.67%	1
5-8 years	33.33%	2
9-12 years	0.00%	0
13 years and over	50.00%	3
Total		6

## Q42 What is their disability?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 135



Answer Choices	Responses
Physical	50.00% 3
Hearing	0.00% 0
Sight	33.33% 2
Learning	83.33% 5
Mental Health	50.00% 3
Hidden	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	33.33% 2
Total Respondents: 6	

### OTHER RESPONSES

Add inclusive play – 2; Singular mentions: build a playpark; green gym for adults; refurbish Swatragh; build toilets at Clady. ☐

- Cerebral palsy and blind. Benefits from sensory garden smells, sounds and movement in a wheelchair swing etc.
- Autism

## APPENDIX 5

45 villages in the Mid Ulster area have had Village Community Plans completed.

The table below provide an overview of each of the village plans in relation to the current and future opportunities for outdoor recreation and play development.

45 villages in the Mid Ulster area have had Village Community Plans completed.

The table below provide an overview of each of the village plans in relation to the current and future opportunities for outdoor recreation and play development.

Village Plan	Current status	Future potential
<b>Annaghmore (Clonoe)</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insufficient community provision and existing facilities are oversubscribed</li><li>• New signage required - The area has a rich heritage and has potential to attract visitors</li><li>• Insufficient range of activities to help Older People stay healthy and active. Need to increase access to transport for older people</li><li>• Insufficient recreational facilities for women and families</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of off-road cycle tracks, walkways, sensory garden, allotments, additional sporting area</li><li>• Signage would improve information for visitors and define Clonoe as a definite destination</li><li>• Develop a range of events and activities in Clonoe Community Centre to encourage an active lifestyle. Make better use of community transport scheme</li><li>• Range of events and activities in Clonoe Community Centre: <b>Play park at football pitch grounds</b></li></ul>
<b>Ardboe</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green in Lakeview is being used for bonfire</li><li>• <b>Existing play park needs updates</b></li><li>• Eco projects and ecotourism potential not developed</li><li>• <b>No centre community greenspace</b></li><li>• Lack of provision for the elderly</li><li>• Loss of tourism potential from key sites</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Develop green as potential play for older children</b></li><li>• <b>Update existing play park to include disability and older children</b></li><li>• Develop eco-tourism with the help of RSPB and site on the shores of the Lough at Brookend through nature walks</li><li>• <b>Develop a community greenspace as centre point of the village</b></li><li>• Establish older person's group that will run activities including a walking group</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardboe Cross no toilets, car parking, security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Lough Shore mini guide to support the wider tourism development of water and land based recreation – charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling, wildlife, birdwatching trails.</li> <li>• Develop toilets and car parking at Abbey.</li> </ul>
<b>Augher</b> <b>Clogher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths in poor condition around the village</li> <li>• Upgrade sections of walkway along the river</li> <li>• Basic facilities at Knockmany need improved</li> <li>• New social housing developments are being planned for the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths need to be maintained on a regular basis and replaced where there are problems</li> <li>• Conduct survey on the walkway along River Blackwater and identify areas where work is needed</li> <li>• Investment needed at Knockmany to bring facility up to standard for local people and visitors.</li> <li>• Ensure social housing schemes complement area</li> </ul>
<b>Aughnacloy</b> <b>Clougher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current play park needs upgrading</li> <li>• Orange Hall requires additional provision to meet need of young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading of play park to provide new play equipment and safety surface</li> <li>• Provision of a playpark outside the Orange Hall to service the rural community of the Bawn.</li> </ul>
<b>Ballinascreen</b> <b>(Ballinascreen, Moneyneany, Straw and Sixtowns)</b> <b>Moyola</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Park for Moneyneena had been earlier identified</li> <li>• No safe place to go off road walking or running in Straw and the 'Big bridges'</li> <li>• No play park in Straw</li> <li>• Development of Derrynoyd Forest and Rural College</li> <li>• Tourism potential is not utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate further</li> <li>• Provision of safe off-road walking and cycling track – Old railway line considered a possibility.</li> <li>• Develop a play park in the area</li> <li>• Look at options to revive the facility and its surroundings</li> <li>• Natural assets in the local areas need to be developed and promoted</li> </ul>
<b>Ballinderry</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of suitable and appropriate play areas</li> <li>• Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Ballinderry River and Cott Lane (fishing, walking, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to upgrade play park facilities</li> <li>• Creation of a Tourism Strategy for the Loughshore area</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angling facilities inadequate</li> <li>• Canoeing facilities inadequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Cot Lane and Gortmoss Walkway and better signage at Cott Lane</li> <li>• Information boards at key sites</li> <li>• Develop a walkway along the Ballinderry River</li> <li>• Angling infrastructure needs improved</li> <li>• Develop a canoe trail along the Ballinderry River</li> </ul>
<b>Ballygawley</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting around walkway at playing field is a major concern particularly in dark evenings</li> <li>• Walkway is prone to flooding at times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erect floodlights around walkway</li> <li>• Install proper drainage along pathway</li> </ul>
<b>Ballymaguigan</b> <b>Moyola</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Tourism potential</li> <li>• Lack of footpaths and cycle lanes</li> <li>• No children's play park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of soccer pitch to include walkway and running track</li> <li>• Health and wellbeing activities – sports activities and walks cross country</li> <li>• New Cross Community play park at TRAAD point.</li> </ul>
<b>Ballyronan</b> <b>Magherafelt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathway from Ballyronan to Ballinderry required</li> <li>• Tourism potential of Lough and Marina need to be maximised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to develop between legacy Councils to be resurrected</li> <li>• Tourism Strategy/Marketing Plan needed for the area</li> </ul>
<b>Bellaghy</b> <b>Moyola</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate access from Bawn to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• Inadequate signage</li> <li>• No heritage trail linking Seamus Heaney landmarks noted in his poetry</li> <li>• More health and well-being projects required</li> <li>• Wetlands underused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and link Bawn by path to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• New signage of heritage sites e. Lough Beg, Toners Bog</li> <li>• Develop Seamus Heaney Trail</li> <li>• Develop cross country walks and walking group</li> <li>• Development of famous wetlands</li> </ul>

<b>Benburb</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade to playground required</li> <li>• Family walking and cycling trails needed</li> <li>• Need to develop community facilities</li> <li>• Require a safer environment for the children and elderly</li> <li>• Improved infrastructure at Benburb Playing Fields</li> <li>• To improve spaces for people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelop Benburb playing fields using funding secured from Big Lottery 'Space &amp; Place'</li> <li>• Develop walking and cycling routes in Benburb Valley Park along Ulster Canal Greenway</li> <li>• Develop a community fishing hub at River Black Water</li> <li>• Develop a park ranger service to manage the eco system in Benburb Valley and River Blackwater</li> <li>• Car park development at recreational area</li> <li>• To develop a Good Relations Programme for Benburb Playing Fields</li> </ul>
<b>Brocagh</b> <b>Torrent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boats cannot access the quay because of sandbars</li> <li>• Need to develop permissive paths and Greenway</li> <li>• Exploit Heritage Sites</li> <li>• Little opportunity for older people to stay healthy and active as well as no recreational facilities for women and families</li> <li>• Develop play park and 3G games area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract to dredge channel into the quay and maintain on an annual basis</li> <li>• Develop off-road cycle tracks to allow young people and families to walk and cycle safely between shops, school and Brocagh Community Centre</li> <li>• Develop tours, walks and events for visitors to the area</li> <li>• Develop range of events and activities in Brocagh Community Centre to encourage active lifestyle</li> <li>• Develop play park, site to be confirmed</li> </ul>
<b>Broughderg</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximization of use of Davagh Forest and increased visitor services and experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bird watching facilities</li> <li>- Development of Forest Garden / Nature Trail (link schools)</li> <li>- More walking trails, geared towards families, challenging and non-challenging</li> <li>- Angling Facilities, stock river, salmon spawn/sea trout</li> <li>- Incorporate disability access where possible</li> <li>- Showers / changing area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for evening classes/activities for community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- camping facility / glamping pods</li> <li>- Brick built BBQ facilities (Island in middle of carpark suggested for picnic are / tables)</li> <li>- Activities / Equipment for older children outside of play park, e.g. Zip lines</li> <li>- Seating in/near play park</li> <li>- Cycle rental / repair (consistent times)</li> <li>- GPS App of Forest developed (dependent on broadband)</li> <li>• Sessions on natural local environment, heritage, astronomy (link to tourism opportunities)</li> </ul>
<b>Bush</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant development in village for necessary footpaths. Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian/cycle path around the village</li> <li>• Lack of recreational amenities – play park, MUGA facilities need upgraded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath link to Dungannon/Tamnamore/Clairefields required</li> <li>• Play park required (pending site availability)</li> </ul>
<b>Caledon</b> <b>Clogher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of footpaths in the village need improvements</li> <li>• Caledon has a wealth of natural resources which could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool. The Blackwater River, and Ulster Canal, represent a vital part of Caledon's fabric and are a valuable resource to the village and its heritage – Glaslough/Caledon walkway and famine wall project</li> <li>• Upgrade need to play park facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paving flags on Main Street need repaired – footpath require on Carricklane with lighting and signage</li> <li>• Opportunities to promote natural resource tourism – potential for Greenway/Riverside/Outdoor Gym/Cross Border walk way project – needs ongoing maintenance needed to check over growth on riverbank – picnic area spruce-up, - dog fouling provision of scoop-bag and waste bin</li> <li>• Play park in state of neglect and needs to be re-vamped to meet growing need for the village</li> </ul>
<b>Churchtown/Lissan</b> <b>Magherafelt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No play provision in the area for the wider community. Play area in Lissan House closed due to vandalism and insurance</li> <li>• Lissan House and grounds is a key asset – yet little evidence of buy in from the local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play area required</li> <li>• Establish a Working Group with reps from Lissan House Trust and Community. Local needs analysis to be undertaken.</li> <li>• Learning journey to other successful community/heritage projects</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited disability access for anglers and ramblers at Lough Fea</li> <li>• Valuable local assets are under developed, under-promoted and under-utilised due to access and wider knowledge</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructure support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase accessibility at Lough Fea</li> <li>• Project development and feasibility associated with Lissan House, Lough Fea and Slieve Gallion</li> <li>• Accommodation provision within the area to be further investigated (including B&amp;B, bunk barns, bothys glamping etc)</li> </ul>
<b>Clady</b> <b>Carntogher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of footpath from Fisherman's Walk to Portglenone. Lacking facilities also.</li> <li>• Opportunity for walkway/Greenway circuit from Clady -Innishrush-Glenone-Clady. Highway to Health route</li> <li>• Council playing fields at Ballymacombs well used but lack of facilities including play park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of river walkways and Bann (walk from Bann Bridge to Molloy's Ford)</li> <li>• Walkway to be investigated</li> <li>• Potential for 3G pitch at playing fields, play park, access to water and toilets</li> </ul>
<b>Clogher</b> <b>Clogher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths in poor condition around the village</li> <li>• Basic facilities at Fardross Forest need improved</li> <li>• The caravan park brings a lot of visitors to the Clogher Valley area and needs to be promoted</li> <li>• New social housing developments are planned for the village</li> <li>• Play park in Clogher requires upgrading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths need to be maintained and replaced where there are problems</li> <li>• Investment needed at Fardross to bring facility up to standard for local people and visitors</li> <li>• Encourage maintenance of the caravan park and encourage greater usage through MUDC tourism information</li> <li>• Ensure social housing schemes are in-keeping with local developments and that the local community can access</li> <li>• Identify sources of funding for upgrade or refurbishment of play facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Coagh</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximisation of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walks including Hanover House to the old mill, linking up with Ballinderry along the River and creating a</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate angling facilities</li> <li>Safety concerns in play park – low fencing, swing gate given proximity to river, when river floods it leaves waste deposits</li> <li>Need for safe route for walking trails to encourage health and well being</li> </ul>	<p>circuit from Hanover House to the football club and back into Coagh along the Ballinderry Road (CP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve existing infrastructure</li> <li>Identification of potential routes and liaison with local landowners</li> <li>Develop names and signage for walks</li> <li>Liaise with Rivers Agency re provision of angling facilities in Ballinderry River</li> <li>Liaise with local angling club to confirm requirements regarding use of anglers' huts</li> <li>Play park fencing and upgrade of facilities to include disability friendly equipment</li> <li>Development of an all-weather walking track around the perimeter of the Sports Centre grounds</li> </ul>
<b>Culnady, Innisrush and Tamlaght Carntogher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stone bridge linking Innisrush to Clade needs maintained and enhanced as part of a walking trail</li> <li>River walk along Clady River consistently floods</li> <li>Lack of opportunities for activities within the three villages and limited provision of space for development of activities</li> <li>Existing play facilities in the 3 villages need upgrading.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop points of interest board for users of the walk</li> <li>Walk needs better protected to allow users full access</li> <li>Develop green space for recreational walking and cycling. Potential for creation of allotments. Dedicated space for Mother and Toddler provision</li> <li>Upgrading of the play facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Desertmartin Moyola</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iniscarn Forest has minimal development but has high potential for tourism.</li> <li>There are few health and well-being projects outside mainstream sports</li> <li>Elderly isolated</li> <li>Loss of tourism potential from Slieve Gallion and surrounding Sperrins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Iniscarn Forest.</li> <li>Establish community allotments, walkway circuit (CP)</li> <li>Establish walking group</li> <li>Develop a walking trail from Lough Fea to Slieve Gallion</li> </ul>

<b>Drummullan</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise potential of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy</li> <li>• Increasing interest in walking and cycling in the area - need for safe routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walking routes identifying local beauty spots/historical places of interest e.g. Ballinderry River/St Patrick's Well/The Drummullan Giant – link to Springhill</li> <li>• Tourism signage and interpretation developed</li> <li>• Develop floodlit walkway around football pitch</li> <li>• Development of footpath to link up two rural roads providing a safe walk (CP)</li> <li>• Support plans for Greenway Development and connect Drummullan</li> </ul>
<b>Edendork</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cullion Lake under developed in terms of local wetland/heritage/ecosystem resource</li> <li>• No footpath provision off the Coalisland Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential development as local amenity/educational resource with access pathways and signage</li> <li>• Lobby DfI for provision of adequate foot paving off the main Coalisland Road</li> </ul>
<b>Eglis</b> <b>Clogher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing play park is well used</li> <li>• Very few areas for open recreation in the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade existing play park and minor planting</li> <li>• Identify potential Greenways and walking routes in the area</li> </ul>
<b>Fivemiletown</b> <b>Clogher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Round Lake is a major asset</li> <li>• The play park is well used but needs to be improved/updated</li> <li>• Heritage Tourism product in the area is good but could be developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Round Lake is maintained on a regular basis</li> <li>• Additional equipment would be welcomed</li> <li>• Look towards enhancing tourism product in the area to include Brantry Lough/ Brantry Woods/Cowans House</li> </ul>
<b>Galbally and Cappagh</b> <b>Torrent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reservoir is an asset that should be enhanced and developed</li> <li>• The area has many natural resources which should be enhanced as potential tourism products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out feasibility study on potential development at Cappagh Reservoir in relation to environmental and tourism potential</li> <li>• Carry out scoping exercise of local natural resources with tourism potential</li> </ul>

<b>Granville</b> <b>Clogher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council football pitch in the area is a valuable asset but is not kept up to a reasonable standard</li> <li>• The current play park needs repair and updating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure pitch is maintained throughout the year</li> <li>• Update of play park</li> </ul>
<b>Gulladuff /</b> <b>Termoneeny</b> <b>Carntogher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for safer routes for walking and cycling</li> <li>• Not enough green space and play park provision around housing estates</li> <li>• Lack of developed walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk and others</li> <li>• Cycling/running/walking clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St Brigid's Cross making</li> <li>- Gymnastics-additional activities to GAA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements to roadways, footpaths and roadside verges.</li> <li>• The creation of a cycle lane network, specifically from the Termoneeny centre to Gulladuff village.</li> <li>• Look at the potential for developing off road cycling.</li> <li>• Not enough green space and play park provision around housing estates</li> <li>• Developing walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk, Dreenan Road and others</li> <li>• Continue to develop social and sporting activities within Lavey/TCA</li> </ul>
<b>Killeeshill and</b> <b>Ackinduff</b> <b>Clogher Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little or poor play provision for children in the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update existing play park and investigate potential new play park at the community centre</li> </ul>
<b>Killyman</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths in the village are wholly inadequate - Significant development in the village without necessary footpaths</li> <li>• Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian/cycle path around the village</li> <li>• Street lighting needs to be improved – some areas are poorly lit and places with no lighting</li> <li>• Lack of Recreational amenities – Play park, MUGA facilities need upgraded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby DfI for provision of adequate foot paving – need a footpath link to Dungannon / Tamnamore, Clairefields, safe routes to schools initiative.</li> <li>• Need a dropped kerb at Cavanagh Rd</li> <li>• Tamnamore Rd</li> <li>• Enhance the provision children's play park – potential to open-up the 3G facility at the local school for wider community use.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise existing village assets such as the MUGA at local school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with school to explore potential for usage of MUGA outside of core time and school facilities for community use.</li> </ul>
<b>Moortown</b> <b>Torrent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLF Landscape Partnership produced a three part report including cross country walking and heritage trails with key points within the village</li> <li>Lack of suitable and appropriate play areas</li> <li>No secure outdoor recreational space for young people</li> <li>Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Airfield, The Battery Harbour and the Old Cross</li> <li>Lack of water based recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sharing with key agencies and Council Tourism Strategy. Join up all initiatives to ensure a strategic approach to planning</li> <li>Need to upgrade play park facilities – provision for teenagers</li> <li>Create secure outdoor recreation space at the Youth centre</li> <li>Exploit the area's water and land base outdoor recreation, charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling wildlife, birdwatching trails – links to Kinturk centre</li> <li>Progress ORNI report on water based recreation at the Battery Harbour</li> </ul>
<b>Moygashel</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrance to Dungannon Park at Moygashel end isn't aesthetically pleasing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tidy up entrance and ensure it is maintained. Need to maintain and enhance the area at Bleach Field that links the village to Dungannon Park</li> </ul>
<b>Newmills</b> <b>Torrent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited play space for families and children</li> <li>Provide opportunity for local people to walk and cycle safely on an off-road path. Develop permissive paths and Greenway to aqueduct</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of off-road cycle tracks</li> </ul>
<b>Orritor</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instilling a greater sense of pride in the local area as well as helping contribute to the health and well-being of local residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play area/MUGA developed</li> </ul>
<b>Pomeroy</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximising the use of Pomeroy Forest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension and development of pathways, signage and information boards, picnic tables</li> <li>Install toilet facilities with open access for playpark use</li> <li>Additional bins installed</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car parking needed beside play park</li> <li>• Develop access path and lighting linking the forest entrance at front and rear back to the village</li> <li>• Suitable area for various outdoor activities</li> <li>• Develop campsite facilities /glamping</li> <li>• Safe access route between Queen Elizabeth II Primary school and the Forest (CP)</li> <li>• Re develop old forestry school building and out building as a multi-use shared assets of the community</li> <li>• Redevelop old forestry school building and out buildings as a multi-use shared assets of the community e.g. toilets and accommodation for forest users</li> </ul>
<b>Sandholes</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No play provision in the area despite increasing number of under 16 year olds</li> <li>• Local recreation assets under developed, promoted and under utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop play facility at Church Hall for wider community use</li> <li>• Develop river walkways along the Tullylagan River</li> <li>• Develop access to Tullylagan House and gardens</li> </ul>
<b>Stewartstown</b> <b>Torrent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost ¼ of population have a limiting long term illness, health problem of disability</li> <li>• Few opportunities for walking and cycling</li> <li>• Henderson Park play facility not catering for children 10+ years</li> <li>• Local recreation assets under developed, promoted and under utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop play facilities at GAA pitch</li> <li>• Develop walking routes at Drumcairne Forest</li> <li>• Map walking and cycling routes around the Village</li> <li>• NCN route at Drumcairne</li> <li>• Walking routes at Drumcairne</li> <li>• Consider new play facility for 10+ years at Henderson Park</li> <li>• Link both areas together and create a shared space 'village green'</li> <li>• Develop access trail to Crieve Lough and erect interpretation panels, signage etc</li> <li>• Explore feasibility of improving Stuart Hall</li> <li>• Develop walking, cycling and play infrastructure at Drumcairne Forest</li> </ul>

<b>Swatragh</b> <b>Carntogher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play park equipment in need of an upgrade. Play equipment for children with physical disabilities is required.</li> <li>• Playing fields at park in poor condition</li> <li>• Railings at play park entrance need repaired</li> <li>• River Walkway cycle route/nature walk along the river. Extend cycle lane throughout the village to connect with Maghera</li> <li>• Activities for older people required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play park upgrade and additional piece of equipment for those with disabilities.</li> <li>• Upgrade playing fields to an 'All Weather Surface'</li> <li>• Railings to be repaired in line with Health and Safety standards</li> <li>• Informal walkway could be developed between Swatragh and Upperlands – a substantial amount of works required including installation of stiles and crossings</li> <li>• Undertake consultation to establish level of interest in walking group.</li> </ul>
<b>The Loup</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of footpath linkage between key sites in village</li> <li>• Need for safe walking routes</li> <li>• Need for safe route for walking trails to encourage health and well-being</li> <li>• Young population but no play/games area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop footpaths and lighting from Primary School and village to Loup GAC sports and community facilities Extend footpath on Loup Road on to end of 40mph zone</li> <li>• Develop all weather path around football pitch as this is already lit</li> <li>• Development of an all-weather walking track around the perimeter of the Football pitch as lighting already in place</li> <li>• Investigate funding opportunities for development – Football area suggested as possible site to include tennis/outdoor games.</li> <li>• </li> </ul>
<b>The Rock &amp; Slatequarry</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is demand for access and improvement to The Church Moss as a safe walking route</li> <li>• Upgrading of play park</li> <li>• Road Safety Issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance and extension of walkway at Church Moss (problem with Japanese Knotweed) needs removed</li> <li>• Play park at Rockdale Close requires upgrade of play equipment for younger and older children</li> <li>• Tullyodonnell Bridge and footpath (extremely dangerous for school children using this route between school, chapel and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of youth provision, leisure facilities</li> <li>• Lack of organized activity for those over 50 – issues around rural and social isolation</li> </ul>	<p>football pitch) - extend existing path and lighting, footbridge on the outside of bridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lights and kerbing on Rockdale Road</li> <li>• Engage young people in community activity, sports etc - assess need for youth club and link key agencies.</li> <li>• Feasibility study to assess local need. Proactively link with other areas and initiatives – Pomeroy, Agewell project, outreach provision.</li> </ul>
<b>Tamnamore</b> <b>Ballinakelly</b> <b>Dungannon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of play facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New play park at Education Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Tobermore</b> <b>Moyola</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement for youth facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to investigate provision of recreational facilities with MUDC and play park upgrade.</li> </ul>
<b>Tullyhogue</b> <b>Cookstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to enhance village environment</li> <li>• Current play provision is small</li> <li>• Valuable local assets are under promoted and under-utilised such as Tullyhogue Fort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop footpaths to Tullyhogue Fort</li> <li>• Opportunity to upgrade the play area for the community including security fencing, parking, signage and change of entrance</li> <li>• Project development and feasibility associated with access to Tullyhogue Fort and associated walkways and trails</li> </ul>
<b>Upperlands</b> <b>Carntogher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amphitheatre area opposite the enterprise centre has become run down and derelict</li> <li>• Existing play facility (Alexander Park) in Upperlands need upgrading and installation of new equipment. Not enough facilities for younger children. Access to the play facility also needs to be improved</li> <li>• Lack of recreational space in the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelopment of the amphitheatre area as a park and recreational space for the village with links to the pathways along the river and redevelopment of the civic space entrance area</li> <li>• Upgrading of play park with suitable facilities – refurbished recently but some equipment too high (monkey bars)</li> <li>• Look at potential to develop all weather pitch at Alexander Park with green surface</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People of the village need to be presented with a range of options to participate in healthy and physical activity</li> <li>• The village's strong heritage and valuable built fabric must be retained and respected</li> <li>• Natural resources in the area that are not being used could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool. The village's natural resources need to be capitalised upon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify accessible routes for walk/cycle paths. Develop waymarked walking routes, allotments, walking clubs – possible linkages with Dams project</li> <li>• Develop a scheme for the development of the Beetling Dams as a natural asset providing green accessible space, water based activities, walking and fishing</li> <li>• Phased project required. Phase 1 to involve the completion of a feasibility study and development plan, phase 2 – securing the necessary funding and phase 3 – implementation of the Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Washing Bay</b> <b>Torrent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to develop small scale capital infrastructure to retain and attract visitors</li> <li>• Lack of accessible and useable Walkways is an issue especially for families potentially linking with other areas - Coalisland etc</li> <li>• The Wetlands are a local resource that should be enhanced and developed</li> <li>• The bogland area at Washingbay need preserved to ensure longevity</li> <li>• The nature walk is an asset that needs to be kept clear and clean for visitors</li> <li>• The beach area at Washingbay is in need of developing and linking in with pathway</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Footpaths to and from community buildings are either non-existent or of poor quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways, street lighting street lighting, softening of hard areas, flower beds, community gardening, green, camping site redevelopment, cycle store, hire of boats, quayside and beach development</li> <li>• Create a fully accessible and safe walkway for residents which will potentially link in current pitch at Derrylaughan with nature walk and canal / river and Greenways</li> <li>• Investigate better ways to enhance the wetland features including better access to the Lough</li> <li>• Initiate a scheme to preserve the existing bogland</li> <li>• Clear shrubbery and tidy nature walk area and develop an appropriate management plan for same</li> <li>• Develop sandy beach and open up to link in with existing pathway</li> <li>• Identify priority areas that need addressed to include Washingbay Road to football field Prioritizing footways for high risk areas.</li> </ul>

<b>Report on</b>	Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Nigel Hill

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Member approval for the Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) to prepare an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Council area which will <i>provide direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2019-2024 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.</i>
2.2	<p>Given the special qualities of the area, it is vital that any Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the area takes a balanced approach to ensure that the very resource which provides the opportunities for recreation and enjoyment is protected and managed appropriately.</p> <p>It is well recognised that outdoor recreation realises significant benefits both in personal terms to individual participants and in wider terms to society, the economy and the environment. More specifically this includes getting more people active and therefore generating cost savings to the health service, improving the educational attainment of children and young people, supporting people into education, employment and training for example, through volunteering, increasing social capital and creating economic prosperity through tourism.</p>
2.3	MUDC area covers an area of some 1714 km <sup>2</sup> , straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east. The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent.
2.4	The outdoors of the MUDC area has undoubtedly a high-quality natural resource base, both spatially extensive and diverse in nature. The area includes forests, woodlands, loughs, wetlands, canals, rivers, uplands and open land. This extensiveness and diversity of the resource base lends itself to the provision of

	opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreation activities for both the local population and for an increasing number of visitors to the area.
2.5	Within the area, the key providers of outdoor recreation are Forest Service NI (FSNI), MUDC, NIEA, Waterways Ireland, DAERA, RSPB, Woodland Trust, National Trust and the Ulster Wildlife Trust. In addition, a significant contribution to the provision of outdoor recreation within the Mid Ulster area is made from community associations, private sector activity providers and through initiatives such as the Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership, the Blackwater Regional Partnership and the Lough Neagh Partnership.
2.6	An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, public and private landowners, outdoor activity providers, community associations and groups, clubs, SORF members and the general public. In addition, seven public consultation events took place, one in each of the Council's seven DEAs.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The overall aim is to prepare a strategy that will provide direction for managing and developing outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over a projected 5 year period. The Strategic Plan process has assessed the status of countryside and green spaces within the Council area and planned a future that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>In order to achieve the aim of the Strategy, the following objectives were carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• detail and GIS map the nature and extent of current outdoor recreation provision in the MUDC area including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ all land, air and water-based activities</li> <li>○ whether these take place on public and private land</li> <li>○ both area and site-specific facilities</li> <li>○ PROW and access agreements</li> </ul> </li> <li>• detail and GIS map the current land management bodies involved in outdoor recreation provision in the area - private, public, community, Forest Service NI (FSNI), NI Water, charitable trusts, etc.</li> <li>• detail and GIS map all environmental designations across the region.</li> <li>• outline the relevant context of outdoor recreation within the area, against what is happening at a regional and national level.</li> <li>• conduct consultation with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community, tourism and business sector, public bodies, national governing bodies (NGB) of sport and user groups to identify current outdoor recreation provision and aspirations for future development of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area.</li> <li>• benchmark current provision and future development against other areas in the UK identifying current trends and best practice.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete a SWOT analysis identifying the issues which could potentially affect the success of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area moving forward.</li> <li>• identify the future opportunities and priorities for both strategic development and site-specific development that will increase the outdoor recreation opportunities across the area for both the local population and visitors alike.</li> <li>• undertake a financial review of current service resources impacting on existing outdoor recreation provision.</li> <li>• produce a 5-year Action Plan (2019-2024) outlining clear recommendations and priorities for development and identify partner organisations who can help deliver the Plan's actions.</li> <li>• cost the Action Plan providing estimates for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan.</li> </ul> <p>A programme of actions and works based on 24 key recommendations has been identified. The strategy has identified a projected spend of £4,763,047 over the five year period of the action plan. The strategy will be reviewed in year three to assess progress and profile the remaining two years.</p> <p>This Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan for the Mid Ulster Council area sets out a strategic framework for the next five years in order to help reposition our outdoor recreation opportunities across Mid Ulster District Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources. In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken by the legacy Councils.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p><b>Financial:</b> Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan will require council resourcing for the period of the programme that equates to £4,763,047 (£1,080,547 existing and £3,682,500 additional excluding external funding streams) over a five year period as scheduled in the action plan. The Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan may be subject to variables and change associated to opportunities of external funding that may enhance or re-prioritise the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</p>
	<p><b>Human:</b> Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan in conjunction with the appointment of appropriately qualified and experienced consultancy (ICT) and supply team (IST).</p>
	<p><b>Risk Management:</b> The strategic plan will be managed and monitored by the Parks Services in line with Council's risk management governance procedures.</p>



<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures associated to Equality and Good Relations.
	Rural Needs Implications: Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures associated to rural proofing.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked approve the Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan as presented.
5.2	Members endorsement is sought to present the funding request to P&R Committee for approval.
5.3	Approval is sought to seek the appointment of suitably qualified Integrated consultancy and supply teams (ICT and IST) where required to deliver the programme of investment.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan



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Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan

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Prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI on behalf of Mid Ulster  
District Council

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October 2019

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## ACRONYMS

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
CANI	Canoe Association Northern Ireland
DEA	District Electoral Area
DAERA	Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DfC	Department of Communities
DFI	Department of Infrastructure
FSNI	Forest Service NI
GIS	Geographic Information System
ILDRA	Irish Long-Distance Riders Association
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LPS	Landscape Partnership Scheme
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUDC	Mid Ulster District Council
NCN	National Cycle Network
NGB	National Governing Body
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIOA	Northern Ireland Orienteering Association
NNR	National Nature Reserve
ORAP	Outdoor Recreation Action Plan
ORNI	Outdoor Recreation NI
PROW	Public Right of Way
RDP	Rural Development Programme
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SGLP	Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership
SPA	Special Protection Area
TNI	Tourism NI
UAF	Ulster Angling Federation
UHGPC	Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding School
URRA	Ulster Rural Riders Association



## FOREWORD

Please note that this report is not an exhaustive list of all current outdoor recreation within Mid Ulster. The results recorded are based on the information received through consultation with various organisations and local groups.

Although every endeavour has been taken to ensure accuracy in mapping, some trails, sites, public land and activities may appear under-represented due to a lack of feedback or limited response.

This report and Action Plan however do provide a comprehensive picture of the status of current outdoor recreation and opportunities for future development in the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) area.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) to prepare an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Council area which will *provide direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2019-2024 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.*

Given the special qualities of the area, it is vital that any Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the area takes a balanced approach to ensure that the very resource which provides the opportunities for recreation and enjoyment is protected and managed appropriately.

It is well recognised that outdoor recreation realises significant benefits both in personal terms to individual participants and in wider terms to society, the economy and the environment. More specifically this includes getting more people active and therefore generating cost savings to the health service, improving the educational attainment of children and young people, supporting people into education, employment and training for example, through volunteering, increasing social capital and creating economic prosperity through tourism.

MUDC area covers an area of some 1714 km<sup>2</sup>, straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east. The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent.

The outdoors of the MUDC area has undoubtedly a high-quality natural resource base, both spatially extensive and diverse in nature. The area includes forests, woodlands, loughs, wetlands, canals, rivers, uplands and open land. This extensiveness and diversity of the resource base lends itself to the provision of opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreation activities for both the local population and for an increasing number of visitors to the area.

Within the area, the key providers of outdoor recreation are Forest Service NI (FSNI), MUDC, NIEA, Waterways Ireland, DAERA, RSPB, Woodland Trust, National Trust and the Ulster Wildlife Trust. In addition, a significant contribution to the provision of outdoor recreation within the Mid Ulster area is made from community associations, private sector activity providers and through initiatives such as the Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership, the Blackwater Regional Partnership and the Lough Neagh Partnership.

An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, public and private landowners, outdoor activity providers, community associations and groups, clubs, SORF members and the general public. In addition, seven public consultation events took place, one in each of the Council's seven DEAs.

From the consultation process several key issues regarding the current and future management, development and promotion of outdoor recreation in MUDC were identified. These included:

#### Management:

- there is some provision within the MUDC's new staff structure for posts related to the development, management and promotion of outdoor recreation.
- few mechanisms exist within MUDC to encourage collaboration between the many different organisations and interest groups involved in outdoor recreation across the area. These include landowners/land managers, NGBs, private sector activity providers and service providers
- there is disparity between the number and quality of outdoor recreation sites that currently exists based on the boundaries of the former three legacy Councils.
- monitoring and consequently understanding the level of use being made of sites across MUDC is limited with only a few key sites having counters in place to record user numbers.

#### Development:

- current provision is concentrated in several geographic areas and these are particularly important in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition namely; the Lower Bann, western shores of Lough Neagh, the Clogher Valley corridor, the area that falls within the Sperrins AONB and the Blackwater /Ulster Canal Corridor.
- there are several key activity sites across the area that are important and will continue to remain so in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition.
- whilst all 22 Forests across the area provide local recreation opportunities, some forests have the potential if developed appropriately, to attract visitors from outside the MUDC area.
- in terms of specific activities, the area already offers good walking, mountain biking, canoeing, orienteering and angling opportunities but there is still significant opportunity to develop specific products further to increase the outdoor recreation product.
- several initiatives currently being developed have the potential to create 'stand out' recreation products namely; the Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenways, the Lower Bann Blueway, the Heaney Trails, Davagh Forest and the western shores of Lough Neagh (Ballyronan/Traad).
- whilst the area already has several informal walking trails around villages and along river corridors, there is an overwhelmingly demand for a formal network of Community Trails to be developed across the area.
- specific bodies/initiatives have and will continue to play a significant role in the development of local outdoor recreation initiatives e.g. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, local community groups and private sector activity providers.

#### Promotion:

- there is an absence of a strategic approach to the communication and marketing of information on outdoor recreation.
- information available on the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Mid Ulster particularly through the existing MUDC channels such as the Council website is currently limited.
- the experience to date with MountainbikeNI.com and WalkNI.com has shown that there are also other highly effective mechanisms, external to the Council's core channels, to promote the opportunities available.

- some of the more niche customers such as camping and caravans are provided with good levels of information, but the more 'mass' offering to local people or visitors on outdoor recreation and parks is insufficient.
- there is some discrepancy between the sites of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area in the provision and quality of onsite visitor information and signage particularly within the area's forests. In addition, partly due to the legacy of each Council, there is an absence of identity in the visitor information and signage.
- there is an expressed desire by local people in the MUDC area to have better access to information on the outdoor recreation opportunities available across MUDC.
- the integration between key areas of the Council, including Leisure and Tourism, to collate, disseminate and promote information on outdoor recreation in a meaningful way to local people and visitors is limited.
- the Marketing and Communication Team at MUDC are currently reviewing their plans for key platforms. There is a clear direction to simplify and integrate the approach under the Council brand.

An Action Plan setting out 24 key recommendations costed at £4,763,047 over the next 5 years was developed. Of the total budget, 3.8% is towards staffing the implementation and delivery of the Plan.

The main recommendations were:

#### Management Structures:

- On-going review of staff structure
- Expand the membership of the Council's existing Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group.
- Put in place an adequately resourced rolling maintenance programme for all current and future outdoor recreation facilities.
- Monitor existing and develop where appropriate new SLAs with Community Groups for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities.
- Monitor existing and install new counters at outdoor recreation sites.

#### Master Planning:

- Undertake Master Planning/Feasibility Studies for three Regional Sites and six Local Sites.
- Develop a Community Trail Plan for each DEA.

#### Product Development:

- Support the development of the Lower Bann Blueway.
- Support the development of the Clogher Valley Greenway and the Ulster Canal Greenway.
- Develop 3 regional multi-use activity hubs.
- Develop 9 local multi-use activity hubs.
- Assess the feasibility of a canoe trail on the Lower Ballinderry River.
- Extend the Davagh Mountain Bike Trail system.
- Deliver the Clogher Valley off-road mountain biking trail
- Develop an off-road longer distance horse riding trail in the Clogher Valley.
- Develop short and medium distance walking trails.
- Develop a network of Community Trails across the area.



### Promotion/marketing

- Prepare a 5-year Marketing Strategy and tactical Marketing Action Plan.
- Develop visitor information and signage guidelines for all forest recreation sites.
- Undertake a review of signage, visitor information and waymarking at all outdoor recreation sites.
- Implement new visitor information and signage guidelines at all outdoor recreation sites across the area.
- Develop an Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan.
- Develop partnerships with the private sector to deliver outdoor recreation participation programmes.

# 1. BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Introduction

A recent survey undertaken for Sport England (2015) revealed that 89% of people value *outdoor spaces* like forests, lakes and waterways as much as they value leisure centres, pitches and courts for sport<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the survey highlighted that almost one third of those currently active outdoors want to do more with a further survey undertaken for Natural England in the same year, reporting that 94% of the adult population in England believe having access to green open spaces close to where they live is important and that spending time outdoors is an important part of their life<sup>2</sup>.

In Northern Ireland, walking is, by far, the most participated in physical activity. 65% of the population of Northern Ireland participate in walking and cycling whereas only 58% of the population take part in activities which typically take place in leisure centres including swimming, keep fit, weight training and football.

Despite the evidence, few policy makers and politicians truly value the contribution that outdoor recreation makes to society and consequently there has been a concerted effort recently across the UK to get outdoor recreation the recognition it deserves alongside sport.

This Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) area sets out a strategic framework for the period 2019-2024 in order to help reposition outdoor recreation within the Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources.

In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken individually by the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone, Magherafelt and Cookstown Councils.

Given the special qualities of the area, it is vital that any Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the area takes a balanced approach to ensure that the very resource which provides the opportunities for recreation and enjoyment is protected and managed appropriately.

## 1.2 Aim

The overall aim of the Strategy is:

'To prepare a Strategy that will provide direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2019-2024 within the Mid Ulster District Council area'.

---

<sup>1</sup> Getting Active Outdoors - Sport England (2015)

<sup>2</sup> MENE Report - Natural England (2015)

### 1.3 Objectives

In order to achieve the aim of the Strategy, the following objectives were carried out:

- detail and GIS map the nature and extent of current outdoor recreation provision in the MUDC area including;
  - all land, air and water-based activities
  - whether these take place on public and private land
  - both area and site-specific facilities
  - PROW and access agreements
- detail and GIS map the current land management bodies involved in outdoor recreation provision in the area - private, public, community, Forest Service NI (FSNI), NI Water, charitable trusts, etc.
- detail and GIS map all environmental designations across the region.
- outline the relevant context of outdoor recreation within the area, against what is happening at a regional and national level.
- conduct consultation with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community, tourism and business sector, public bodies, national governing bodies (NGB) of sport and user groups to identify current outdoor recreation provision and aspirations for future development of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area.
- benchmark current provision and future development against other areas in the UK identifying current trends and best practice.
- complete a SWOT analysis identifying the issues which could potentially affect the success of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area moving forward.
- identify the future opportunities and priorities for both strategic development and site-specific development that will increase the outdoor recreation opportunities across the area for both the local population and visitors alike.
- undertake a financial review of current service resources impacting on existing outdoor recreation provision.
- produce a 5-year Action Plan (2019-2024) outlining clear recommendations and priorities for development and identify partner organisations who can help deliver the Plan's actions.
- cost the Action Plan providing estimates for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan.

#### 1.4 Outdoor Recreation defined

The term outdoor recreation invokes many different images. For some it automatically triggers a stereotype of activities such as rock climbing, canoeing and orienteering. For others it has a much wider connotation including general leisure activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding. Outdoor recreation therefore includes all land, water and air activities normally found in a rural or urban fringe location that depend upon sustainable access to the natural environment including those which use built facilities but which have their roots in the outdoors and are predominantly reliant on the natural environment e.g. mountain biking, canoeing (Table 1). Outdoor Recreation spans all levels of participation, ranging from the informal to formalised and organised events.

LAND	WATER	AIR
Adventure Racing	Angling	Model Flying
Archery	Boat cruising	Gliding
Boot Camps	Canoeing	Hang Gliding and Paragliding
Bouldering	Coasteering	Micro-light Flying
Bush Craft	Diving	Sky Diving
Caving	Hover crafting	
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Rowing	
Climbing	Sailing	
Cycling (On-and Off-Road)	Stand Up Paddle boarding (SUP)	
Fell Running	Surfing	
High Ropes/Zip lines	Water ski-ng	
Horse riding	Wakeboarding	
Kite Buggy and Land Buggy	Jet ski-ing	
Mountain Biking		
Mountain Boarding		
Orienteering		
Paintballing and Combat		
Segway		
Walking		
Zorbing		

Table 1 Outdoor Recreation Defined



## 1.5 Benefits of Outdoor Recreation

It is well documented that participation in outdoor recreation realises significant benefits both in personal terms to individual participants and in wider terms to society, the economy and the environment.

More specifically this includes getting more people active and therefore generating cost savings to the health service, improving the educational attainment of children and young people, supporting people into education, employment and training for example through volunteering, increasing social capital and creating economic prosperity through tourism.

### 1.5.1 Health and Well-Being

The link between active outdoor recreation participation and improved physical and mental health is well documented through research<sup>3</sup>. It is known that it contributes to the reduction of illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, some types of cancer, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease, can help tackle obesity and reduce the risk of depression, dementia and Alzheimer's.

In addition, contact with green spaces and natural environments is also known to improve psychological well-being, by improving self-perception and self-esteem, mood and sleep quality and by reducing levels of anxiety and fatigue<sup>4</sup>

A recent report (September 2016) has indicated that outdoor exercise delivers an estimated £2.2bn of health benefits to adults in England each year and therefore natural environments should be protected and managed for health promotion<sup>5</sup>

### 1.5.2 Environmental Awareness

Participation in outdoor recreation is also one of the main ways of developing environmental awareness and care for the outdoors. Although the majority of the Northern Ireland population now lives in towns and cities, enjoying and using the outdoors enables many people to become aware and develop an understanding of the natural environment and its landscapes, wildlife, history and culture. For those who take up environmental volunteering, social return on investment research shows that £1 invested in environmental volunteering can lead to a return of up to £4<sup>6</sup>. It has also been shown that people who volunteer in sport have a 10% greater self-esteem, emotional well-being and resilience and are 15% less likely to worry<sup>7</sup>

### 1.5.3 Community Cohesion and Social inclusion

The added value that outdoor recreation can bring to communities, particularly through increased social capital has become increasingly recognised over the past few years. Outdoor recreation promotes social inclusion, making communities become more cohesive and stronger. Research has shown that higher levels of social capital are associated with better health, higher educational achievement, better employment outcomes and lower crime rates.

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<sup>3</sup> A Countryside for health and well-being- the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise (CRN, 2005)

<sup>4</sup> Learning in the Natural Environment, Understanding the diverse benefits of learning in natural environments (Natural England, 2012)

<sup>5</sup> BBC online news. 20 September 2016. Kinver (2016)

<sup>6</sup> Inspiring People, Improving Places. (BCTV, 2010)

<sup>7</sup> Hidden Demands – uncovering the true value of sport volunteers (Join In, 2015)

#### 1.5.4 Growing the Economy

In 2013, SportNI, NIEA and Tourism NI published a report on the economic contribution of outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland which found that outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland generated £102million gross added value and that the sector employs more than 3,537 Full Time Equivalent<sup>8</sup>.

In addition, the importance of outdoor recreation development on the local economy through tourism is significant. The outdoor adventure tourism sector was estimated by Mintel to be worth €128m in Northern Ireland in 2013, increasing to €146m<sup>9</sup> by 2018, whilst in Wales, outdoor activity tourism contributes £481 million per annum to the economy<sup>10</sup>, in the Republic of Ireland overseas visitors engaging in activity tourism are worth €1.2 billion per annum<sup>11</sup> and in England 42.4 million adults visiting the natural environment generate a total visitor spend of £21 billion per annum<sup>12</sup>.

## 2. SCOPE

### 2.1 Project Area

MUDC covers an area of some 1714 km<sup>2</sup>, straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east.

The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent (Fig. 1).

The Council serves a population of over 141,000, one third of which live in urban areas. The area's principal towns are Cookstown, Coalisland, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Maghera. Two thirds of its population live in rural areas.

The outdoors of the MUDC area has undoubtedly a high-quality natural resource base, both spatially extensive and diverse in nature. The area includes forests, woodlands, loughs, wetlands, canals, rivers, uplands and open land. This extensiveness and diversity of the resource base lends itself to the provision of opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreation activities for both the local population and for an increasing number of visitors to the area.

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<sup>8</sup> Assessing the Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation in NI (SportNI, NEA, NUIB, 2013)

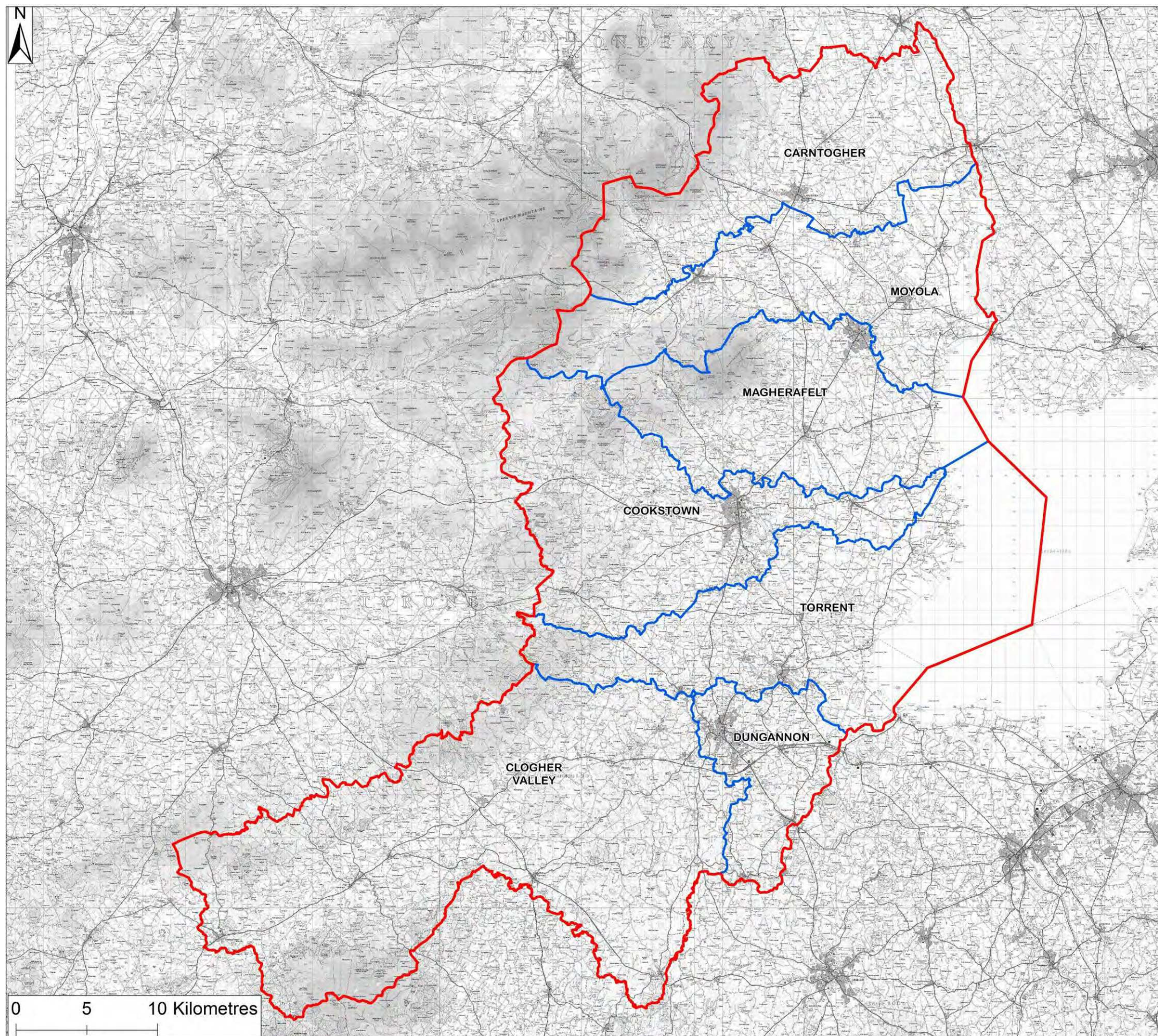
<sup>9</sup> Information from Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BTS, 2016)

<sup>10</sup> The Economic Impact of Outdoor Activity Tourism in Wales (Visit Wales, 2014)

<sup>11</sup> Survey of Overseas Travellers (Failte Ireland, 2011)

<sup>12</sup> MENE Survey 2012-2013. (Natural England, 2014)





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

DEA - Overview

1:125,000

**Key**  
 DEA Boundaries  
 MUDC Boundary

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Figure 1. District Electoral Areas within MUDC



The exceptional quality of many of Mid Ulster's landscapes and waterscapes, together with the recognition of the need to protect and conserve its rich natural resources for future generations is reflected in the scale and range of environmental designations across the area.

The area is abundantly rich in both natural and built heritage which is protected under a number of statutory designations. These designations in turn govern the management and development of this area to ensure the natural landscape and built features remain protected.

The Mid Ulster area includes seven different types of statutory natural heritage designations ranging from National to European level (Fig.2). The study area incorporates:

- 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCA)
- 1 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- 48 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)
- 10 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- 3 National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- 4 Ramsar sites; and
- 2 Special Protection Areas (SPA)

(see Appendix A for details)

Mid Ulster also has a substantial amount of Ancient Woodland. Ancient woodland is considered NI's richest land-based wildlife habitat, as well as one of the most important cultural links to the past, and once lost, cannot be replaced. Of the 1,457 hectares of Ancient Woodland present in Mid Ulster, 41% is owned by Forest Service NI (FSNI) (590 hectares). Ancient Woodland is largely undesignated but has the potential to become a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Mid Ulster is also awash with built heritage and features of archaeological interest (Fig.3) including the Beaghmore Stone Circles, Creggandevsky Court Tomb and Anya's Tomb.

Within the area there are:

- 212 features listed on NIEA's Scheduled Monuments Record as being under 'state care', 'scheduled', 'state care and scheduled' or 'listed'
- 198 Scheduled Areas;
- 1301 Listed Buildings<sup>13</sup>

(see Appendix B for list of Scheduled Areas)

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<sup>13</sup> NIEA's SMR can be found at: [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home/protection/scheduled\\_monuments-2.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home/protection/scheduled_monuments-2.htm)



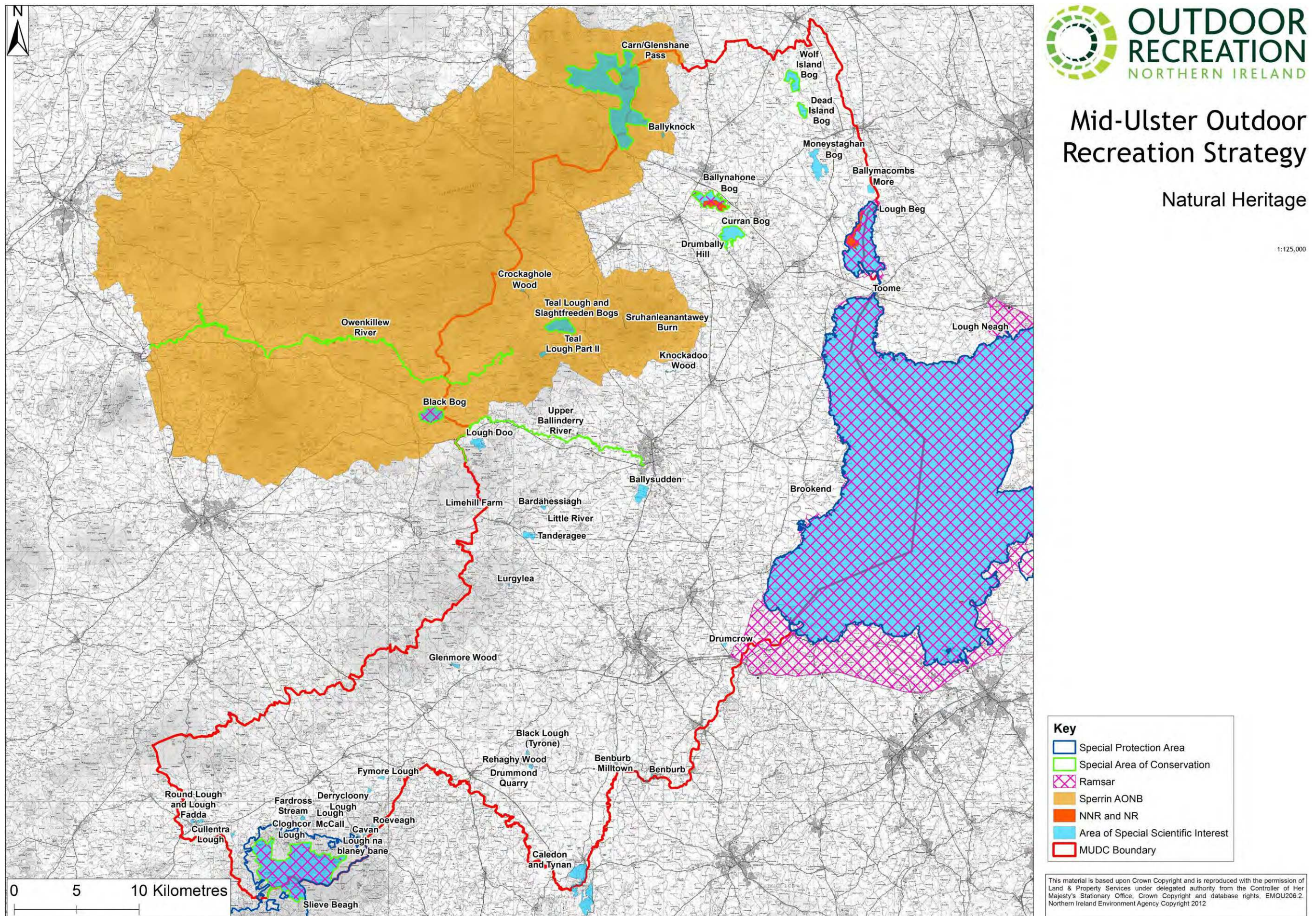
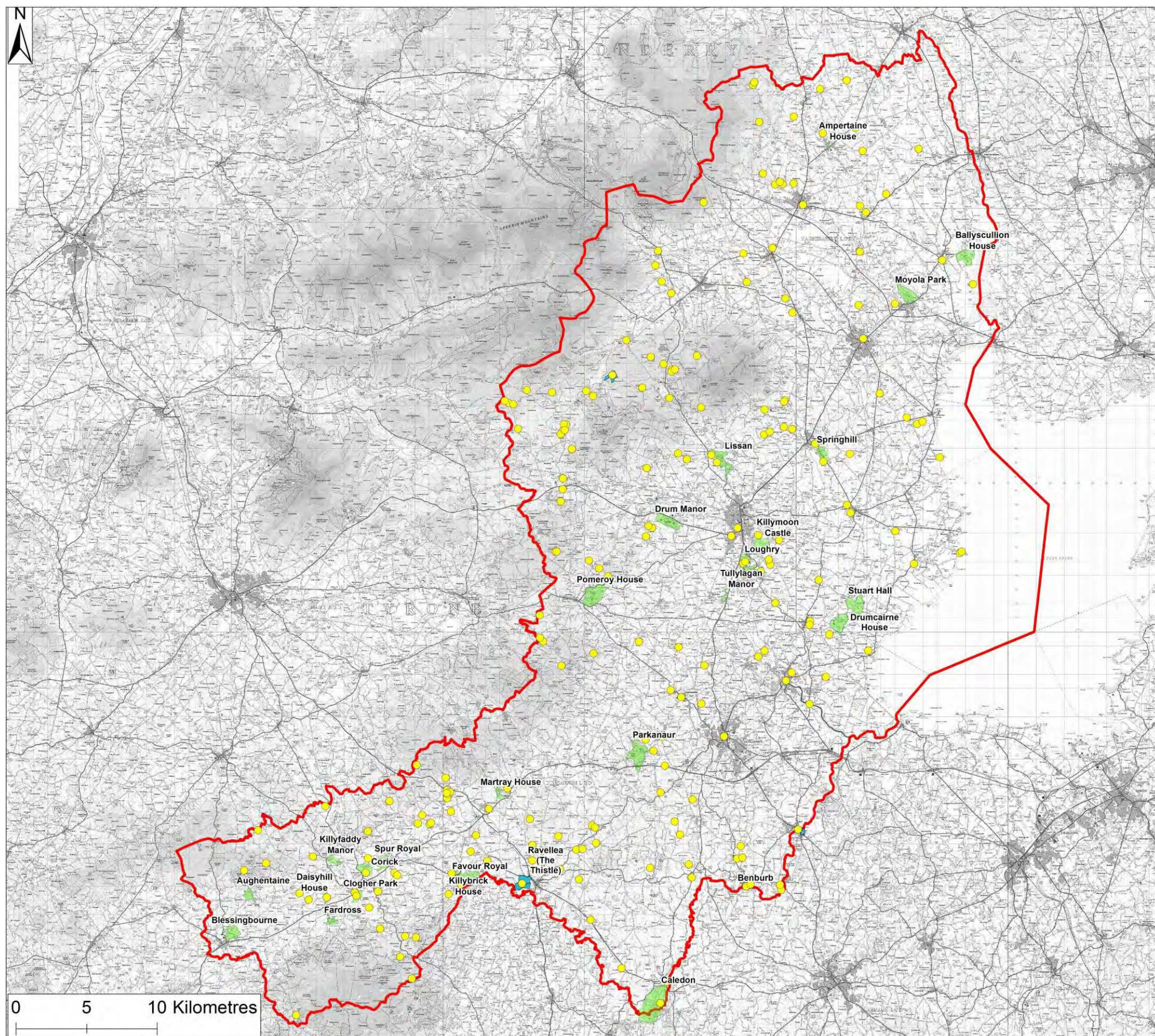


Figure 2. Natural Heritage Designations within MUDC





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Built Heritage

1:125,000

Figure 3. Built Heritage within MUDC



Most of the land in Mid Ulster is owned and managed by FSNI. The remaining land is owned and managed by other public sector organisations including DAERA, NIEA, NI Water, Waterways Ireland, the Council and environmental organisations such as the National Trust and the Woodland Trust whose key remit includes heritage preservation and public access.

9 landowners have been identified:

- Forest Service NI (FSNI)
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEARA)
- NI Water
- Waterways Ireland
- National Trust
- Ulster Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust
- Local council

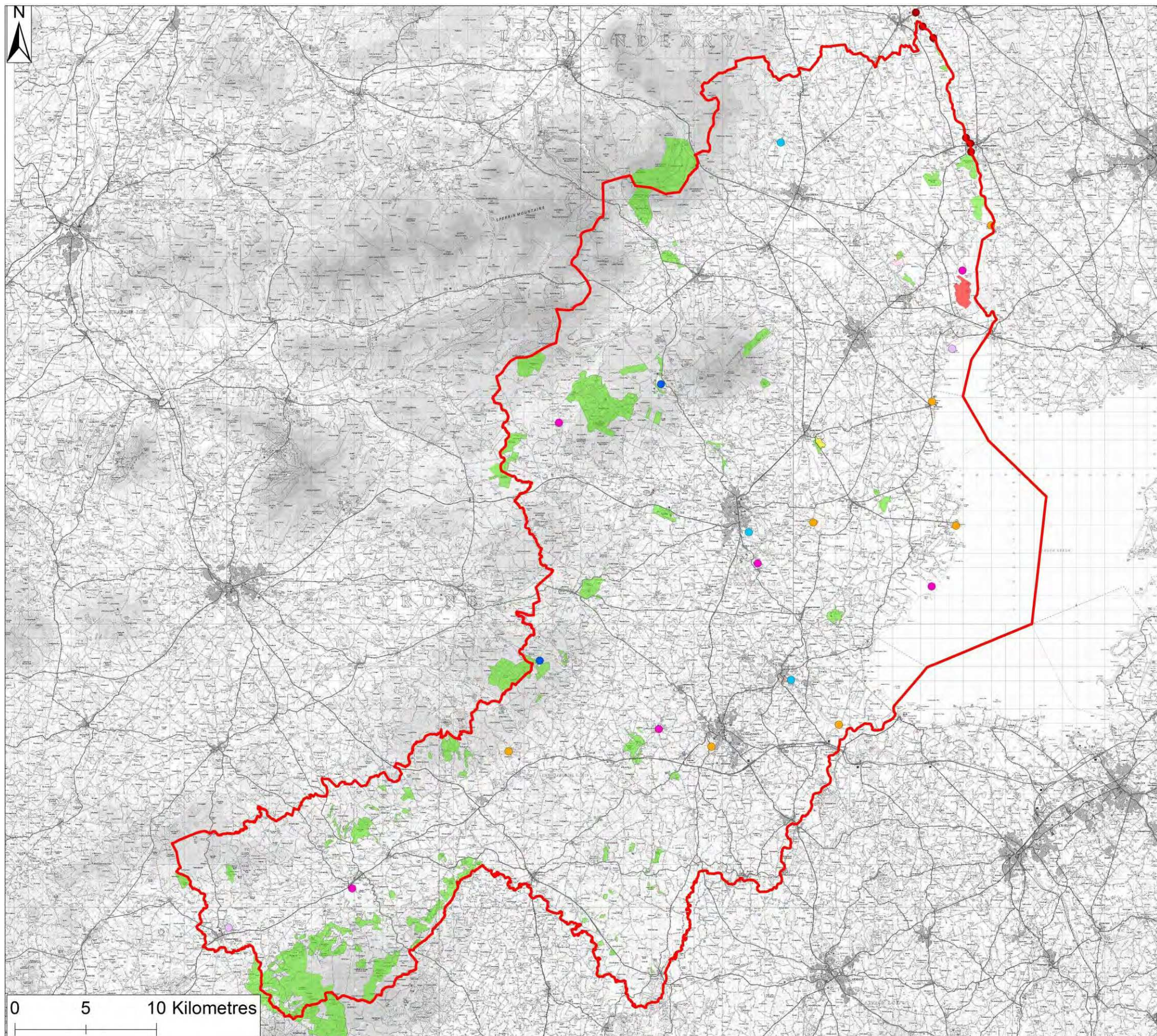
See Appendix C for full list of sites.

Fig.4 shows the extent and distribution of land owned/managed by government and environmental organisations within the study area. Where the extent of the landownership was known, this was shown in polygon format e.g. FSNI owned land. Where the extent of land ownership was not known, this is shown in point or triangle format.

In addition, that part of the MUDC area which forms part of the Sperrins has a significant proportion of both private land and 'common' land, that is, land owned by more than one person. This is typically confined to the uplands.

There are also two private estates in the area which facilitate controlled public access namely, Blessingbourne and Lissan House. Both estates are also designated 'Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes'.





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Land Ownership

1:125,000

Key	
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Mid Ulster District Council
<span style="color: magenta;">●</span>	NIEA
<span style="color: blue;">●</span>	NI Water
<span style="color: purple;">●</span>	Ulster Wildlife Trust
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Waterways Ireland
<span style="color: cyan;">●</span>	Woodland Trust
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Lough Beg RSPB
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	National Trust
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Forest Service
<span style="color: red;">□</span>	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 4. Land ownership in MUDC



## 3. CONTEXT

### 3.1 Introduction

This Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Mid Ulster is set in the context of numerous strategic, regional and local plans, strategies and policy statements including:

1. Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
2. Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019
3. Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (SportNI, DCAL, Tourism NI and NIEA, 2014)
4. Our Passion, Our Place - NIEA Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022
5. Regional Development Strategy for NI 2035
6. Northern Ireland Changing Gear – A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland
7. Exercise, Explore and Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways (DFI, 2016)
8. Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024 (ORNI, 2014)
9. A Fitter Future For All - Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022 (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2012)
10. Assessment of the Existing and Potential Tourism Development Opportunities Available from NI Forests (NITB and Forest Service NI, 2012)
11. Tourism Strategy for NI to 2020
12. Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)
13. Planning Policy Statement 16 – Tourism (2013)
14. Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019
15. Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
16. Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
17. Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council
18. Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins
19. Dungannon and South Tyrone Forests – Tourism and Recreation Scoping Study
20. Lough Neagh – Assessing the Current and Potential Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities
21. Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan 2014 - Lough Neagh Partnership
22. Draft 2014 –2019 Lough Neagh Destination Management Plan -Lough Neagh Partnership

Although all the above are important, the following 9 documents are considered of most relevance and detailed below:

1. Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
2. Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019
3. Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland
4. Exercise, Explore and Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways
5. Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024
6. Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019
7. Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
8. Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
9. Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council

A summary of the remaining 13 documents are included in Appendix D.

### **3.1.1 Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021**

The Draft Programme for Government 2016–2021 is currently out for public consultation. In due course, the Programme for Government Framework will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and an Anti-Poverty/Social Strategy. The Programme will also inform the development of the Executive's budget over the course of this mandate and provide a mechanism for ensuring limited funds are best directed to where they can contribute most.

The Draft Framework contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing. They touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and building confident and peaceful communities. In addition to merely fulfilling statutory obligations, the new Executive hopes to be able to target those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen.

The strategic outcomes are supported by 42 indicators, which are clear statements for change. The following indicators are particularly relevant to the proposed project:

- Reduce health inequality
- Increase life expectancy
- Improve mental health
- Improve our attractiveness as a destination and improve our international reputation.

Key to the success of the new Programme for Government is the ability of Departments to work collaboratively with not only themselves but also with other public bodies and the voluntary and private sector.

### **3.1.2 Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019**

Whilst Northern Ireland's environment provides conditions of international quality for a range of activities, Sport Matters recognises that not everyone will wish to achieve in performance sport and the Strategy encourages the development and use of open spaces for a variety of informal recreational and outdoor pursuits. Being out in the fresh air enjoying the scenery, whilst taking exercise, is recognised as important elements of Sport Matters. The Strategy acknowledges that the natural environment provides many opportunities for a range of sporting and physical recreation activities but that access issues exist.

In aspiring to the target that "by 2019 Northern Ireland will have developed a range of new, improved and shared sports facilities to a standard comparable with other similar regions of the UK", the Strategy indicates that this will require:

- public access to and sustainable use of, publicly owned lands across Northern Ireland for sport, physical recreation and activity tourism (2015 target included in the Strategy);
- a planning system which facilitates and protects the provision of spaces for sport and physical recreation by following Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2019 target included in the Strategy).

Sport Northern Ireland has also approved a position statement regarding access to the natural environment in support of targets set out in the Sport Matters Strategy. The objective is to communicate Sport Northern Ireland's position on the importance it attaches to outdoor recreation through:

- promoting the best possible access to the natural environment for sport and physical recreation within the confines of existing legislation and organisation of the land ownership prevalent in Northern Ireland.
- encouraging and supporting full access for responsible and sustainable recreation on public land through the development of policy frameworks by other public bodies – especially those that are custodians of public land.

### **3.1.3 Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland**

This Action Plan published in 2014 was commissioned by Sport NI and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) with support from Tourism NI and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) Inland Waterways Branch.

The Action Plan highlights the importance of making the outdoors accessible to everyone and the opportunities that there are to participate, not only in rural areas but also in the urban fringes.

The Plan's vision is: "a culture of dynamic, sustainable outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland"

To achieve this vision, the aim is for Northern Ireland to be a place where:

- there are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure for sustained and increased participation for everyone in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities
- there are accompanying benefits to local communities, especially those who are socially excluded in terms of health, social inclusion, cohesion, equality, and economic development; and
- people enjoy the outdoors and show a high degree of responsibility for themselves, towards others and towards the environment they are using, and play their part in maintaining, supporting and enhancing our environment and heritage.

### **3.1.4 Exercise, Explore and Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways**

Published by DFI in 2016, the Strategic Plan for Greenways fulfils a commitment in the 2015 Bicycle Strategy to explore the potential for the development of greenways.

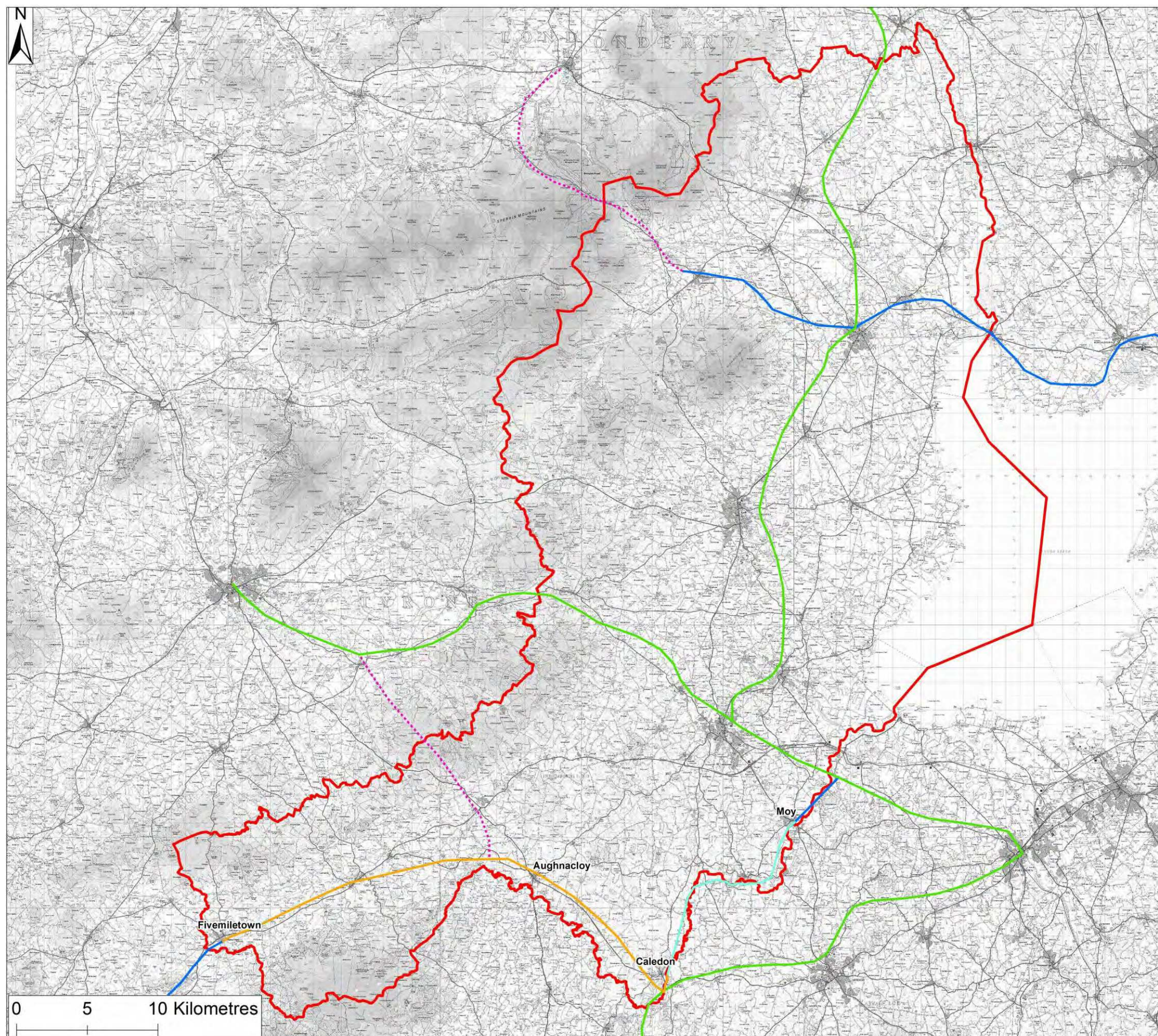
The Plan's aim is to 'encourage a substantial increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway network which will significantly increase the length of traffic free routes.

It is anticipated that realising the vision will create a region where active lifestyle and active travel can become part of everyday life for everyone – improving health and well-being, economic activity, social interaction and providing a resource for recreation and leisure.

The Plan identifies potential routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region. The Plan also suggests that plans in the future may provide for a third level network of community paths that would provide doorstep opportunities to connect local communities to their local green space and neighbouring communities.

The Primary Greenway Network proposed includes a 97 km greenway from Dungannon to Coleraine and a 51 km greenway in the Secondary Network from Caledon to Maguiresbridge via the Clogher Valley and the Ulster Canal from Moy to Caledon. Also, part of the proposed greenway from Doagh to Draperstown via Antrim and Magherafelt and Craigavon to Derry-Londonderry via Omagh (Fig. 5)





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Greenways Strategy

1:125,000

Key	
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	Primary NI Greenway Routes
<span style="color: blue;">—</span>	Secondary NI Greenway Routes
<span style="color: purple;">...</span>	Potential Secondary Greenway Routes
<span style="color: orange;">—</span>	Proposed Clogher Valley Greenway
<span style="color: cyan;">—</span>	Proposed Ulster Canal Greenway
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 5. Proposed Greenways within MUDC



### **3.1.5 Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024**

The vision of this Strategy, published by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) in 2014, is to ‘make Northern Ireland a world class mountain bike destination’.

By delivering this vision, a wide range of significant economic and social benefits will be achieved, such as greater economic prosperity, sustained employment in the trail construction sector through the building and maintenance of trails and increased employment in the visitor services sector. Social benefits include increased health and wellbeing of the population as participation levels rise and more people take up mountain biking, improved social inclusion as the trails attract a wide demographic population base, improved community cohesion, local enthusiasm harnessed and channelled into trail development, trail management and trail maintenance, physical connection of communities to trails and greater sporting success by local mountain bikers in all mountain biking disciplines as a consequence of improved formal trail facilities.

The Strategy identified Tyrone and the Sperrins destination as having the potential to become a short break destination for mountain biking, with Davagh Forest Park and Gortin Glen Forest Parks operating as two National Trail Centres complemented by the Regional Trail Centre of Blessingbourne Estate. It also identified the potential to create long-distance rides including one in the Clogher Valley in the short to medium term and another in Tyrone and Sperrins, which may include Slieve Gallion in the longer term (2024).

### **3.1.6 Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019**

The overarching vision of the Council’s Corporate Plan is ‘Mid Ulster Council aspires to be at the heart of our community’.

The Council has identified several key issues of importance to the people across Mid Ulster including; education, the economy, the environment, safety, a sense of belonging, partnership working, improved infrastructure, accessible amenities and attractive vibrant, tourism villages and open spaces. These issues are reflected in four themes namely:

1. Delivering for our People
2. Creating Growth
3. Sustaining our Environment
4. Building Unity

Theme 1: ‘Delivering for our People’ includes as its priorities for action: ‘High quality, responsive, indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction’.

Theme 2: ‘Creating Growth’ recognises the importance of a capital investment and improvement programme for the area including improving the physical infrastructure and connectivity of Mid Ulster and the importance of optimising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster’.

Theme 3: ‘Sustaining our Environment’ recognises the important of the environment which the Plan notes as deserving to be protected, preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of everyone. Specific priorities include:

- maximising potential of the area’s natural and built attractions and facilities, building collaborative partnerships and strategic alliances
- realising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster, being clear upon the opportunities and targeting resources

- developing and enhancing parks, play areas and open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.

The importance of community planning is recognised in Theme 4: 'Building Unity', whereby a key priority of the Council is to use Community Planning and consequently Community Trails to connect communities and form collaborative partnerships.

### 3.1.7 Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan

Community Planning is a significant new statutory power which has been presented to Councils within Northern Ireland as a result of local government reform. Mid Ulster's first Community Plan published in 2016 sets out the vision of:

'Mid Ulster – a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel'.

The Plan sets out 15 outcomes to be achieved through a number of actions that have been structured into 5 themes namely:

- Economic growth
- Infrastructure
- Education and Skills
- Health and Well Being and
- Vibrant and Safe Communities

Running across the five themes are three cross cutting themes which impact on all aspects of life in Mid Ulster. One of these is 'sustainable environment' which recognises that Mid Ulster is home to many precious environments which its people have fostered and cherished for generations.

Four of the five themes include actions relating directly to the wider agenda of outdoor recreation as follows:

#### Economic growth

- maximise tourism investment and employment concentrating on the three strategic tourism themes of Seamus Heaney, Activity and Heritage.

#### Infrastructure

- secure the transfer of Lough Neagh into public ownership.
- progress the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links.
- increase the protection of, and access to and development of heritage assets – both natural and man-made including; Seamus Heaney countryside, O'Neill heritage, Lough Neagh, Sperrins, Beaghmore and the area's forests.

#### Health and Well Being

- deliver a Recreation and Active Lifestyle Plan which will provide formal and informal recreation and play opportunities.

#### Vibrant and Safe Communities

- promote and develop shared space across the area.

### 3.1.8 Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans

Forty-six village plans cover MUDC. Many of these have been updated within the past 12 months. Within many of the individual Village Plans there are specific recommendations relating to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. These have been extracted and are highlighted in Appendix E.

### 3.1.9 Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016–2021 for Mid Ulster District Council

Prepared by BTS, the Action Plan sets out the vision for tourism in Mid Ulster as;

‘to enhance Mid Ulster’s image and reputation for visitors and grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021 as measured by overnight visitor expenditure’.

In order to achieve this vision, the Plan highlights five strategic themes and interrelated actions for delivery one of which is the:

- development of three strategic tourism strands (Seamus Heaney, Archaeological Sites history and heritage and Outdoor Activities).

The development of outdoor activities in the area is therefore recognised as serving as one of the three strategic core propositions for Mid Ulster to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer in the area and ensure that tourism contributes to the local economy.

The Action Plan states that ‘the objective of focussing on the outdoor activity market lies in its scale and size and the opportunity of strengthening the competitiveness of the Mid Ulster destination, by building on this underdeveloped sector’.

Key actions identified in the Plan to improve the economic contribution of outdoor and activity tourism include:

- creating a coherent and compelling range of outdoor activity sites and facilities by pulling all existing and potential new sites under one umbrella.
- positioning Mid Ulster as a centre of excellence for the visitor, thus encouraging them to visit the area, stay longer and spend more.
- the development of the outdoor and activity tourism product comprising both physical development and management and organisational dimensions – marketing, interagency collaboration and cluster development.
- the development of key Forest Parks – Parkanaur, Knockmany and Drum Manor.
- the delivery of a year-round programme of events.



## 4. METHODOLOGY

Both primary and secondary research techniques were employed during the preparation of the Strategy. Data from previous projects within the area supplemented with further on-line research was used to complement an extensive consultation exercise.

Background and contextual information, existing outdoor recreation provision and land ownership within the project area was collated from the following sources:

Websites:	WalkNI.com, CycleNI.com, CanoeNI.com, MountainbikeNI.com, EcotrailsNI.com, OutdoorNI.com
Previous projects:	Public Land Mapping Phase 1 and 2 (ORNI, 2013) Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan (Lough Neagh Partnership, 2013) Sperrins Walking Audit (ORNI, 2010) An Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins AONB (ORNI, 2013) Lough Neagh - Assessing the Current and Potential Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities (ORNI, 2014) Dungannon and South Tyrone Forests – Tourism and Recreation Scoping Study (ORNI, 2015) Lower Bann Corridor recreation, tourism and commercial product identification study (BTS, 2016) Seamus Heaney Trails Concept Plan (in progress)

Consultation involved a variety of techniques including email, telephone, face-to-face, on-line questionnaires and a series of public consultation events. In total, seven public consultation events took place, one in each of the Council's seven DEAs. See Appendix F for details of the different consultation methods used throughout the preparation of the Strategy and details of the public consultation events and methods used to promote them.

At each of the consultation events a short presentation, given by ORNI, was followed by facilitated discussion where attendees had the opportunity to report the sites and areas they currently use for outdoor recreation, which activities they do at each and what they would like to see developed in the future. In total 55 people attended the public consultation events, the results of which are detailed in Appendix H.

Site visits also took place to those sites across the area which has been identified as being important in providing future outdoor recreation in the area.

All data collected was analysed and presented using the spatial mapping tool ArcGIS. The following information was mapped:

- current provision of all land, air and water-based activities (sites and trails)
- land ownership (public and private)
- both area and site-specific facilities
- Public Rights of Way (PROW) and permissive path agreements

- environmental designations
- future development opportunities

## 5. CURRENT PROVISION

### 5.1 Introduction

Given the extensiveness and diversity of the Mid Ulster resource base, the current provision of outdoor opportunities within the area is wide ranging. The following table lists the outdoor recreation activities known to take place in the area.

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR		
LAND	WATER	AIR
Archery	Angling	Hang Gliding and Paragliding
Boot Camps	Boat cruising	
Bouldering	Canoeing	
Bush Craft	Sailing	
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Water ski-ing	
Climbing	Wakeboarding	
Cycling (On-and Off-Road)	Jet ski-ing	
Fell Running		
High Ropes/Ziplines		
Horse riding		
Mountain Biking		
Orienteering		
Paintballing		
Segway		
Walking		
Zorbing		

Table 2. Outdoor recreation activities currently provided for in the MUDC area.

Many of these activities are offered largely and, in some cases, exclusively, by private activity providers in the MUDC area, mostly on their own land. In contrast, several activities namely; walking, cycling (road and mountain biking), canoeing, orienteering and fishing, are provided for at numerous sites across the MUDC area.

For some activities a differentiation is made between those that are provided for on a formal versus those that take place on an informal basis.

	<b>Formal</b>	<b>Informal</b>
Walking	Route signage in place and /or Interpretation panels present	No route signage in place and /or No interpretation panels present
Cycling	Route signage in place and /or Interpretation panels present and/or Land Manager encourages this activity	No route signage in place and /or No interpretation panels present and /or Land Manager does not encourage this activity
Canoeing	Part of a canoe trail and /or Formal access and egress and /or Land Manager encourages this activity	Not part of a canoe trail and /or No formal access and egress and /or Land Manager does not encourage this activity
All other land- based activities	Formal facilities in place and / or Land Manager encourages this activity	No formal facilities in place and / or Land Manager does not encourage this activity
All other water- based activities	Formal facilities in place and / or Land Manager encourages this activity	No formal facilities in place and / or Land Manager does not encourage this activity
All other air- based activities	Formal facilities in place and / or Land Manager encourages this activity	No formal facilities in place and / or Land Manager does not encourage this activity

Table 3. Definition of formal versus informal provision.

## **5.2 Key providers of outdoor recreation**

Within the area, the key providers of outdoor recreation are those landowners/land managers as previously detailed in section 2.1. In addition, a significant contribution to the provision of outdoor recreation within the Mid Ulster area is made from community associations, private sector activity providers and through initiatives such as the Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership, the Blackwater Regional Partnership and the Lough Neagh Partnership.

### **5.2.1 Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership**

Although the area covered by The Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership (SGLP) that falls within the Mid Ulster area is relatively small namely, the Moyola Valley and Slieve Gallion area, the contribution the Partnership made in providing for outdoor recreation per se in the area was significant. 'Enhancing access' to the Sperrins was one of four main aims of the SGLP and a key strength of the Partnership was the ability to negotiate access on the ground with private landowners to allow the delivery of walking trails, heritage trails and improving access along the Moyola River corridor.

### **5.2.2 Blackwater Regional Partnership**

Established in 2000, the Blackwater Regional Partnership sought to improve the environmental, economic and community development of the Blackwater region by working in partnership with the legacy Armagh City, Banbridge District and Craigavon Borough Councils and Monaghan County Council. Concentrating on the villages and settlements along the route of the Blackwater River and the Ulster Canal namely, Maghery, Charlemont, Moy, Benburb, Blackwatertown, Caledon and Tynan, Middletown, Augher and Clogher, the Partnership has been instrumental in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation in the area particularly with respect to developing and promoting the walking and cycling product of the area and progressing the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links. It continues to deliver the following events; Paddle the Blackwater, Bike the Blackwater, Blackwater 10k and the Ulster Canal Festival.

### **5.2.3 The Lough Neagh Partnership**

The Lough Neagh Partnership, a not-for-profit company, is made up of representatives from the main government departments, local Councils and the private and community sector. Established in 2003, it has played a significant role in the development, management and promotion of the Lough. It previously managed a £3.8 million Rural Development Programme (RDP) with a focus on developing the Lough as a tourism destination and since 2009 it has continued to be funded by the local Councils around the Lough for its promotional and marketing of the Lough as a tourism destination. Outdoor recreation development projects funded in the past by the Lough Neagh Partnership include upgrading Ballyronan Marina and the Lough Neagh Canoe Trail.

### **5.2.4 Community Associations**

Several proactive community associations are involved in providing outdoor recreation which directly benefit the local community and visitors alike. These include:

- Carntogher Community Association and its work in providing walking trails on Carntogher Mountain, private land and trails in Drumnaph Community Nature Reserve
- Broughderg Community Association and its work in Davagh Forest and the Beaghmore Stone Circles
- Pomeroy Community Association and its work in Pomeroy Forest



- Bann Valley Community Association and its work on creating Community Trails at Clady and Inishrush
- Reahaghy and Brantry Community Groups linked to Bantry Forest project
- Eskra Community Association in conjunction with Knockmany Forest
- Portglenone Community Association and its work on creating a recreation hub at Portglenone
- Muintir na Mointeach and its work in creating recreation facilities at Washing Bay
- BADGER and its work in creating recreation facilities at Castlebay

### 5.2.5 Outdoor Activity Providers

Within Mid Ulster there are three significant commercial activity providers operating namely, The Jungle, Todds Leap and AWOL all of whom mostly operate on their own land. Their outdoor recreation and tourism offering appeals to a specific, niche market, i.e. Tourism NI's 'young and lively', the adrenaline seekers, youth and corporate groups and hen/stag parties. However, despite providing a 'unique experience' which fulfils Tourism NI's 'experiential tourism', typically they do not hold visitors in the area for longer than a few hours to a day.

#### 5.2.5.1 The Jungle NI

Located 2 miles outside Moneymore, Jungle NI offers the visitor a multitude of 'adventure' activities including paintballing, zorbing, forest segway tours and llama trekking. It is also home to Northern Ireland's first and only 'Go Ape' style high ropes course which has two variations, a tree top course for adults or 'Tarzans' and one aimed at 'Mowglis' or children aged 5-11 years.

Glamping pods are available on site with electric lighting and power sockets and heating. In addition, it operates the Old Manor House in Moneymore, a former Bed & Breakfast, offering en-suite accommodation solution for groups.

#### 5.2.5.2 Todds Leap

Todds Leap Activity Centre located near Ballygawley offers a range of adventure and team building activities including archery, clay pigeon shooting, climbing wall, paint balling and zip line as well as a purpose built off-road driving course. It also offers on-site accommodation for up to 100 people with the option of staying in traditional log cabins to the more modern glamping snooze box. Additional facilities include showers, bed linen and Wi-Fi and a fully licensed bar and restaurant.

#### 5.2.5.3 AWOL

A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure, located in the Blackwater Valley offers a wide range of group activities. Activities are land-based and water-based and they also offer a range of mobile adventure activities including archery, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering, mud slide and assault course. It also provides a range of skills courses in outdoor activities, bushcraft, BCU/ICU Canoe & Kayak, REC I & II First Aid, GNSA archery awards and orienteering. They also run workshops in traditional crafts, Coracle boat building, canoe paddle making and nature projects.

Within the area there are also several mobile operators working. Most of their work makes use of the recreational facilities on publicly owned land given the infrastructure of basic services such as parking, toilets and changing facilities.

### 5.3 Land-based Activities

Fig. 6 shows the current provision in the Mid Ulster area for the following land-based activities: adventure racing, archery, boot camps, bushcraft, clay pigeon shooting, climbing, fell running, high ropes/Ziplines, mountain boarding, paintballing, segway, zorbing and horse riding.

These activities are offered largely, and in some cases exclusively, by private activity providers, mostly on their own land. In contrast, several land-based activities namely; walking, cycling (road and mountain biking), canoeing and orienteering are provided for at numerous sites across the area.

#### 5.3.1 Adventure Racing

In the past the area has been used by Causeway Coast Adventure Racing to host one of its winter races. Although not strictly adventure racing, The Jungle NI offers charity events such as the 'Zombie Run' and it held its first 'Rampage Weekender' during April 2017 which combined a 10km run with 40 obstacles. The event has over 1000 competitors and is now held annually.

#### 5.3.2 Archery

Archery is primarily delivered either by organised clubs affiliated with the Northern Ireland Archery Society or private activity providers, both site-based and mobile. Archery takes place at the following sites:

- The Jungle NI (on-site)
- Todds Leap NI
- A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure
- Loughry College (via Take a Bow Archery club)

Bubble Ball NI also offers Archery and while it is a mobile operator, it is based in Mid Ulster.

Target archery is the most popular form of archery whereby participants shoot stationary circular targets at varying distances. However, 'Take a Bow Archery Club' at Loughry College also facilitates field archery whereby participants move around a site or over rough terrain shooting targets.

#### 5.3.3 Boot Camps

Boot camps in this study refers to the use of the outdoors for the improvement of physical fitness. Both The Jungle NI and Todds Leap provide boot camps using their own land and facilities.

#### 5.3.4 Bushcraft

A relatively new outdoor recreation activity, bushcraft involves learning skills to facilitate survival in the wild such as lighting fire by friction, eating wild food and making a water tight shelter from natural materials. Drumlamph Farm (provided by Carntogher Community Association) is the only provider in the area.

#### 5.3.5 Clay Pigeon Shooting

Traditional and laser clay pigeon shooting are both provided in Mid Ulster. Both are a form of target shooting whereby participants use either a shotgun, air rifle or laser to essentially shoot a moving clay target known as 'clay pigeons' which mimic real birds. Both The Jungle NI and Todds Leap offer clay pigeon shooting.

### **5.3.6 Climbing**

Mid Ulster does not lend itself to the activity of climbing with few topographical features such as crags and exposed rock faces. However, Todds Leap and The Jungle NI both provide climbing via artificial climbing walls whilst A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure offer abseiling both on and off-site.

### **5.3.7 Fell running**

Fell running, governed by the Northern Ireland Mountain Runners' Association, is typically a competitive sport but also a popular leisure activity. Although no formal provision for fell running in the area was identified, fell running is popular on an informal basis in many of the area's forests particularly Knockmany. In addition, Blood Sweat and Tears Extreme 10k use Parkanaur Forest and Davagh Forest as venues for their extreme running.

### **5.3.8 High Ropes /Ziplines**

Both The Jungle NI and Todds Leap have zip lines on-site. In addition, the Jungle NI is home to Northern Ireland's first and only 'Go Ape' style high ropes course which has two variations, a tree top course for adults and another for children aged 5-11 years.

### **5.3.9 Horse Riding**

Horse riding takes place predominantly on local riding schools' land, private estates, e.g. Lissan House Riders and FSNi land e.g. Crocknagrally Forest. Within the area, equestrian centres include Beechill Stables, Clogher Valley Horses, The Forest Stables, Marsh Kyfe Riding School and Meadowvale Equestrian Centre.

### **5.3.10 Mountain Boarding**

Mountain boarding also known as Dirtboarding, Off-road Boarding or an All-Terrain Boarding (ATB) is provided for at A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure.

### **5.3.11 Paintballing**

Paintballing is provided by The Jungle NI, Todds Leap and A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure on their own land.

### **5.3.12 Segway**

The only provider offering segway tours is The Jungle NI who use their own land and equipment.

### **5.3.13 Zorbing**

The Jungle NI is the only provider offering zorbing within the area.



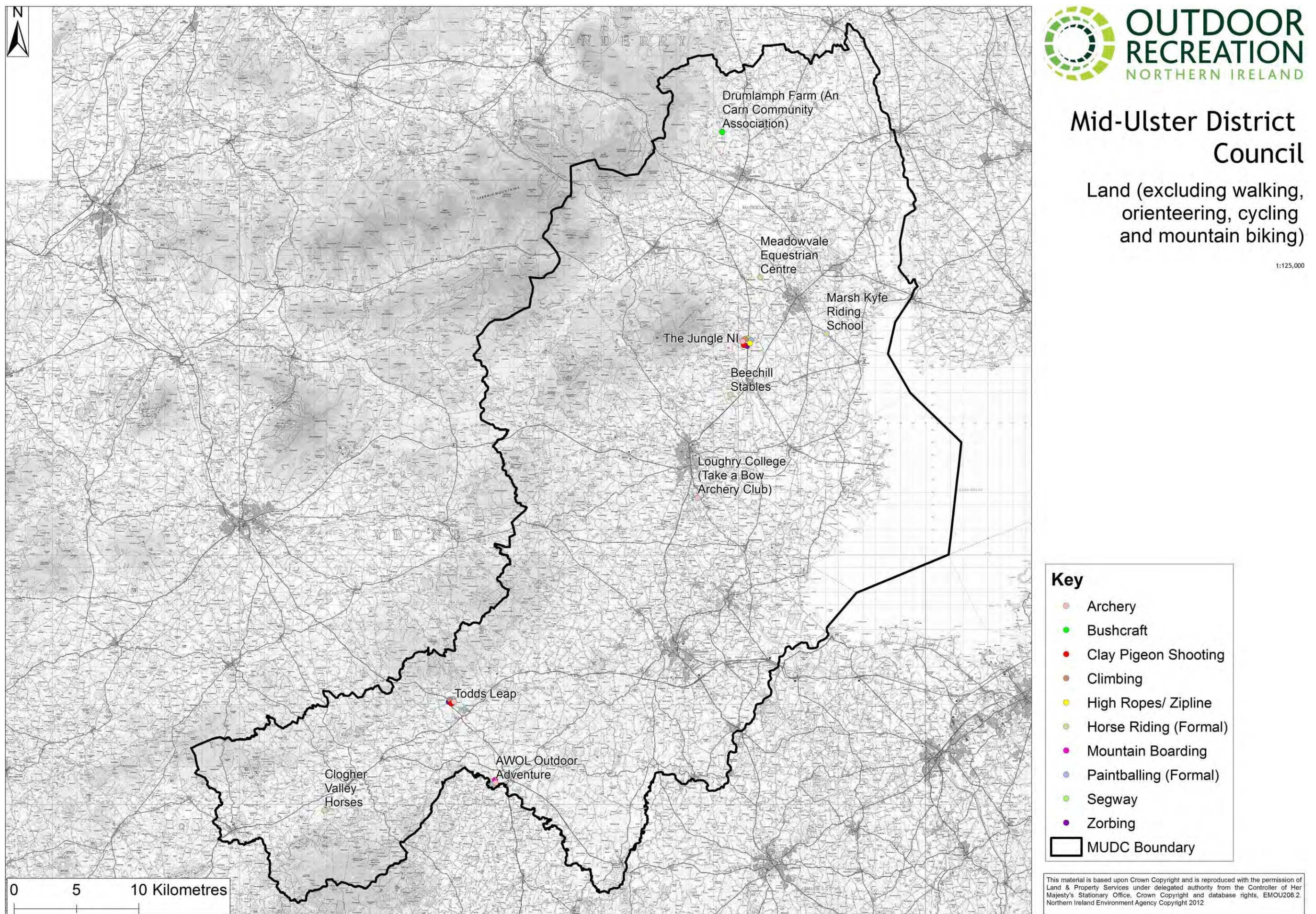


Figure 6. Land-Based Activities within MUDC



### 5.3.14 Walking

Walking is one of the most popular and well-developed forms of outdoor recreation geographically spread across MUDC. The area contains a range of walking opportunities from 'quality walks' to formal and informal walks to PROW and permissive paths.

#### 5.3.14.1 Quality Walks

Developed in 2007 by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI), the 'Quality Walk' Scheme recognises and promotes Northern Ireland's best short, medium and long-distance walking routes and includes the Waymarked Ways and sections of the Ulster Way. All Quality Walks have been accredited in partnership with NIEA and Tourism NI and promoted on WalkNI.com

Within the Mid Ulster area over 100km of quality walks exist comprising of:

- 2 sections of the Ulster Way totalling 14km in length
- 1 long-distance quality walk 8.4km in length
- 3 medium-distance quality walks totalling 30.7km in length
- 20 short-distance quality walks totalling 50.5km in length

Type	Section/ Name	Length (km)
<b>Ulster Way</b>	Moneyneeny to Dungiven (partial)	6.1
	Gortin to Moneyneeny (partial)	7.9
<b>Waymarked Way/ Long Distance Quality Walk (+32km/+20miles)</b>	Sliabh Beagh Way (partial)	8.4
<b>Medium Quality Walk (8-32km/5-20miles)</b>	Carntogher Way	9.8
	Crockbrack Way	11.7
	Hudy's Way	9.2
<b>Short Quality Walk (0-8km/0-5miles)</b>	Argory Lime Tree Walk	3.2
	Benburb Valley Park	6.3
	Blessingbourne Woodland Walk	3.8
	Davagh Forest	2.4
	Derrynoyd River Trail	1.4
	Derrynoyd Wood Trail	3.2
	Drum Manor Forest Park	3.2
	Drum Manor Forest Park - Forest Plots Trail	2.2
	Drum Manor Terrace and Pleasuregrounds Trail	1.2
	Dungannon Park	2
	Eagles Rock Trail	6.7
	Glenmore Scenic Walk	1.9
	Lough Fea	4
	Moydamlaght Forest - medium trail	2.1
	Moydamlaght Forest - short trail	1.6
	Plantin Park	1
	Reuben's Glen	1
	Springhill House Beech Walk	0.6
	Springhill House Swapit Hill Walk	1.7
	Springhill House Woodland Walk	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>103.6km</b>

Table 4. Quality Walk provision in the Mid Ulster area

#### 5.3.14.2 Formal Walking

In addition to the Quality Walks, there are several sites where formal walking takes place. A formal walking route is defined as a route which is signed and/or has on-site information but is not classified as a Quality Walk. Routes not classified as a Quality Walk either do not meet the Quality Walk assessment criteria, or they may not yet have been assessed. A full list of known formal walking sites in MUDC can be found in Appendix G.

There are several other formal trails which have been developed and are managed by local Councils, community associations and public bodies with a community interest, e.g. Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership Scheme. Many of these are 'heritage trails' and have been designed to link the many features of unique historic and archaeological interest.

#### 5.3.14.3 Informal Walking

In addition to Quality and formal walking routes, informal walking occurs at sites mostly used by the local community. An informal walking route has no route signage or information present on-site and the route has not been classified as a Quality Walk. A full list of known informal walking sites within MUDC can be found in Appendix G.

In many cases, informal walking takes place on land which although there is not necessarily a designated trail, the public have a right to access to, for example, the general public has a right to access to all Forest Service land on foot.

#### 5.3.14.4 Public Rights of Way (PROW)

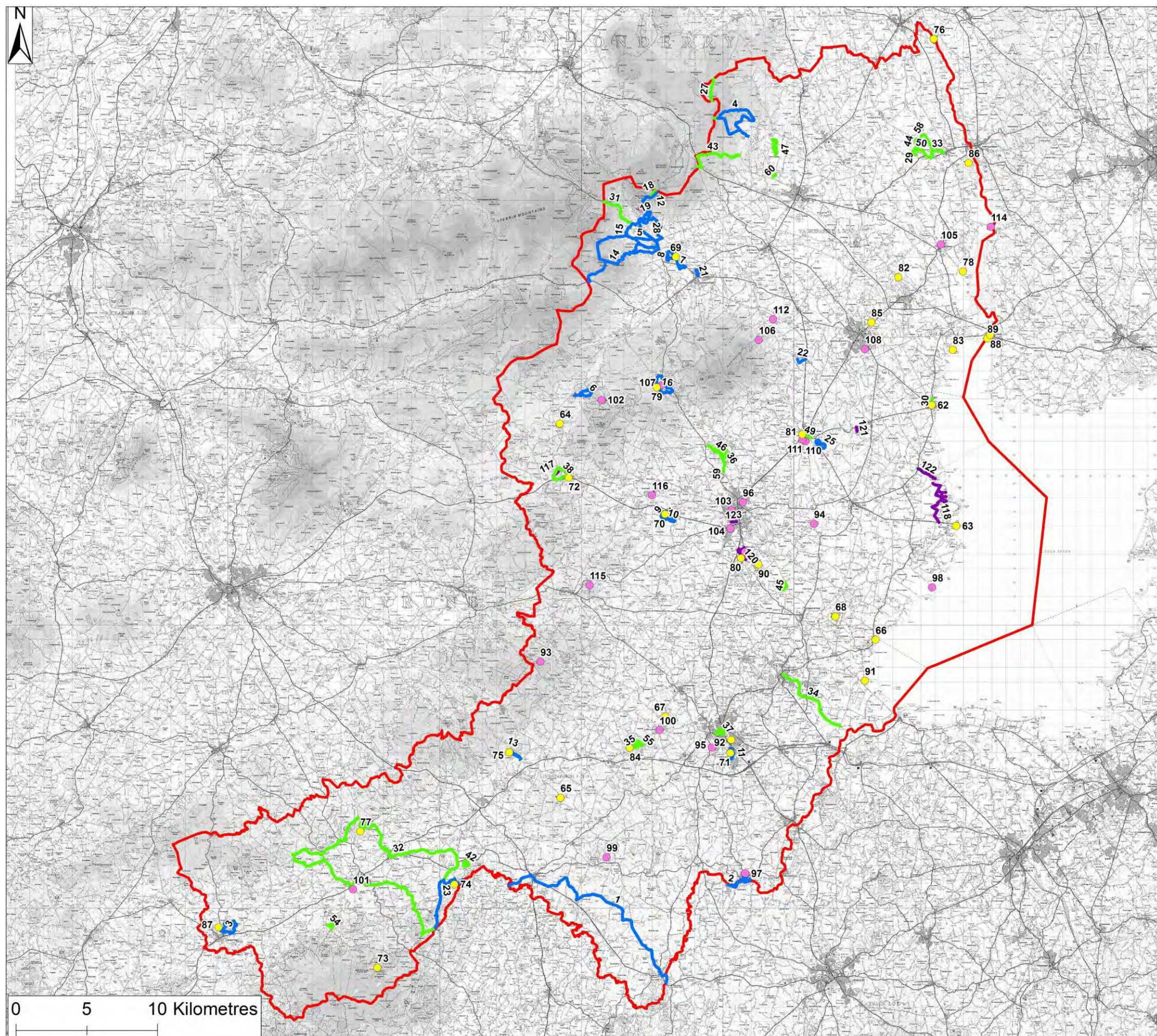
PROWs are routes that the public are legally allowed to access, regardless of whether the land is in public or private ownership. PROWs are created through the Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and responsibility for implementing this Order lies with District Councils. District Councils are also responsible for the management and maintenance of PROWs.

The Mid Ulster area has 7 PROWs totalling 15.9km (Table 5). In addition, work is currently on-going to investigate a further two alleged PROWs namely, Dunman Lane, Cookstown and Spring Road/Brookmount Road, Coagh.

Route Type	Name ( legacy Council name)	Length (km)
<b>Public Right of Way</b>	Drum Road Loop, Dunnamore (Cookstown)	3.6
	Innevall (Cookstown)	1.6
	Gort Moss (Cookstown)	6.3
	Old Chapel Road, Warwicks Way (Cookstown)	0.4
	Loup Road to Ballyeglish Old Graveyard (Cookstown)	0.3
	Loughry Estate (Cookstown)	2.2
	Mullan Road (Cookstown)	1.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15.9km</b>

Table 5. PROWs in the Mid Ulster Council area.





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Walking

1:125,000

Key	
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Walking (Formal)
<span style="color: pink;">●</span>	Walking (Informal)
<span style="color: blue;">—</span>	Quality Walks
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	Non Quality Walks
<span style="color: purple;">—</span>	PROWs
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 7. Walking Provision within MUDC



### 5.3.15 Cycling

Cycling is divided into cycling (on and off-road) and mountain biking. In MUDC area cycling infrastructure is well developed and this together with the area's scenic landscape and quiet country road network provides the ideal environment. Consequently, cycling is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in Mid Ulster. Cycling provision was mapped as either on or off-road and a distinction made between those sites where cycling takes place formally versus informally.

In 2005, Sperrins Tourism Limited developed 12 on-road cycling routes known as 'The Sperrins Cycle Routes'. These circular, waymarked routes (Fig.8) range from 18 to 65km with six falling within the Mid Ulster area namely;

- Gold Cycle Route (3.2km)
- The White Hare Cycle Route (58km)
- The Lough Fea Cycle Route (66km)
- The Slieve Gallion Cycle Route (40km)
- The Moyola Cycle Route (18km)
- The Swatragh Cycle Route (24km)

Fig.8 also shows how the six routes link into the National Cycle Network (NCN) routes 94 and 95. NCN route 95 (Belfast – Ballyshannon) traverses the Mid Ulster area providing 72km cycling in Mid Ulster. Route 94 also incorporates the 'Loughshore Trail' and as its name suggests, follows the shores of Lough Neagh (46km). Route 94 also incorporates the Ballyronan to Ardboe Cross Trail (14km).

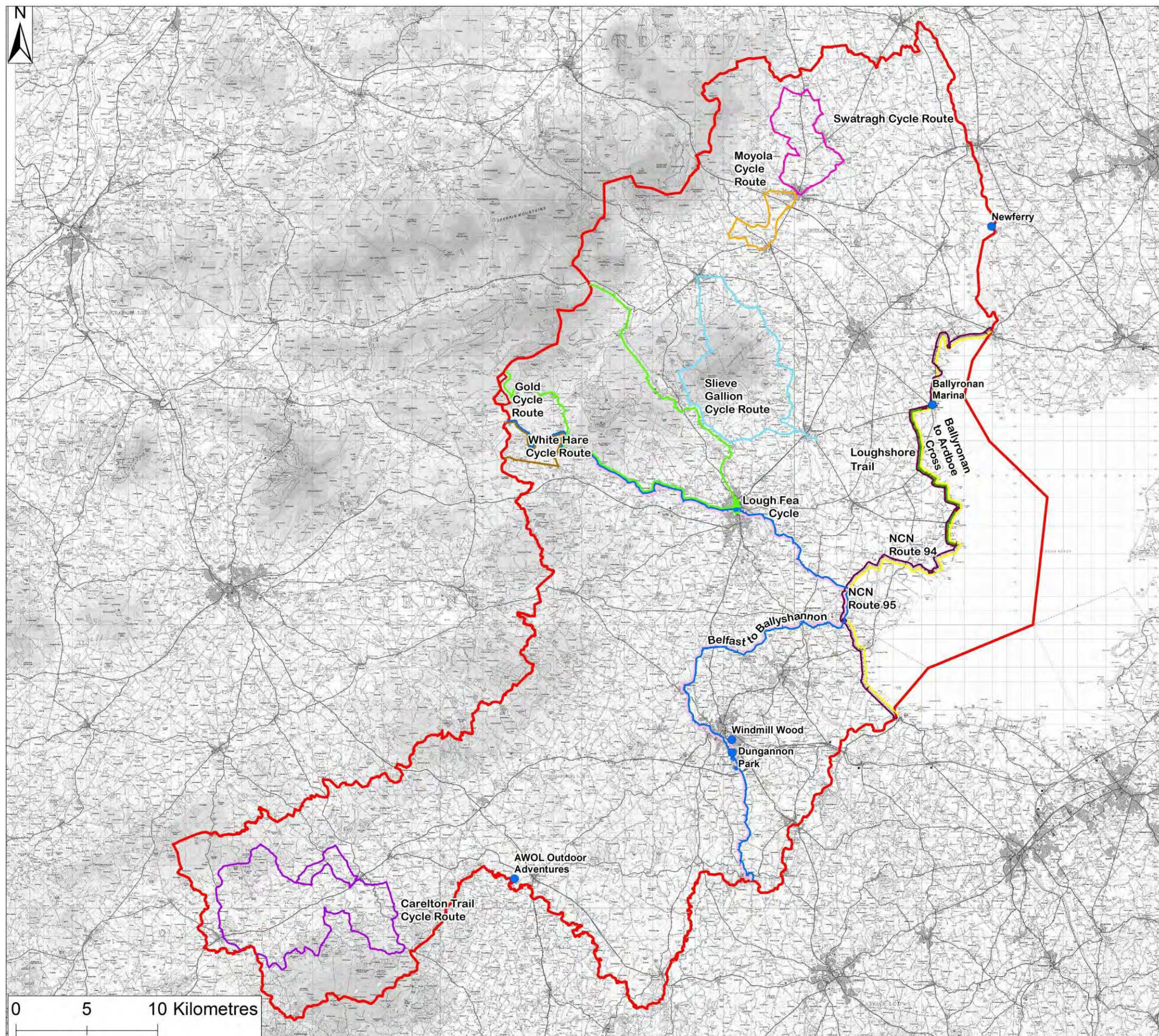
The other significant formal cycle trail provided and promoted on CycleNI.com within Mid Ulster is the Carleton Trail Cycle Route.

Formal off-road cycling sites, sometimes known as 'family cycling' facilities, were identified at the following locations

- Blessingbourne Estate
- Dungannon Park
- Windmill Wood

Despite the considerable provision of formal trails, no information exists in the numbers using these routes. Except for CycleNI.com limited information exists for the visitor about facilities along these routes, i.e. accommodation, toilets, cafes, etc.





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Cycling

1:125,000

### Key

- Cycling (Formal)
- Belfast to Ballyshannon
- Carleton Trail Cycle Route
- Gold Cycle Route
- Lough Fea Cycle Route
- Loughshore Trail
- Ballyronan to Ardboe Cross
- Moyola Cycle Route
- Slieve Gallion Cycle Route
- Swatragh Cycle Route
- White Hare Cycle Route
- NCN Route 94
- NCN Route 95
- MUDC Boundary

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Figure 8. Cycling Provision within MUDC



### 5.3.16 Mountain Biking

Off-road cycling in the form of mountain biking is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation activities in Northern Ireland. The MUDC area boasts one of Northern Ireland's three National Trails Centres (Davagh Forest) and one of Northern Ireland's three Regional Trail Centres (Blessingbourne Estate) (Fig.9).

#### 5.3.16.1 Davagh Forest (National Trail Centre)

Developed in 2013 by the former Cookstown Borough Council in partnership with FSNI, Davagh Forest provides 26.5kms of mountain bike trails, including 7.5kms of blue trail, 16kms of red trail and 3kms of green trail. It also has a pump track and skills park.

Since the trails were launched in early 2013 visitor numbers have far exceeded expectations. In 2017, over 10,000 visits were made to the mountain bike trails in Davagh.

The trails have also hosted several events including a round of the Ulster XC series and National Points Series and the Davagh Enduro and Youth Enduro.

#### 5.3.16.2 Blessingbourne Estate (Regional Trail Centre)

The trails at Blessingbourne, a partnership between the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and the Estate's owners were developed in two phases. Phase 2 was launched in 2013 culminating in a total of 12kms of mountain bike trails, including 4km of blue trail, 8km of red trail and a small pump track. The site provides toilets and a café which is open on a seasonal basis.

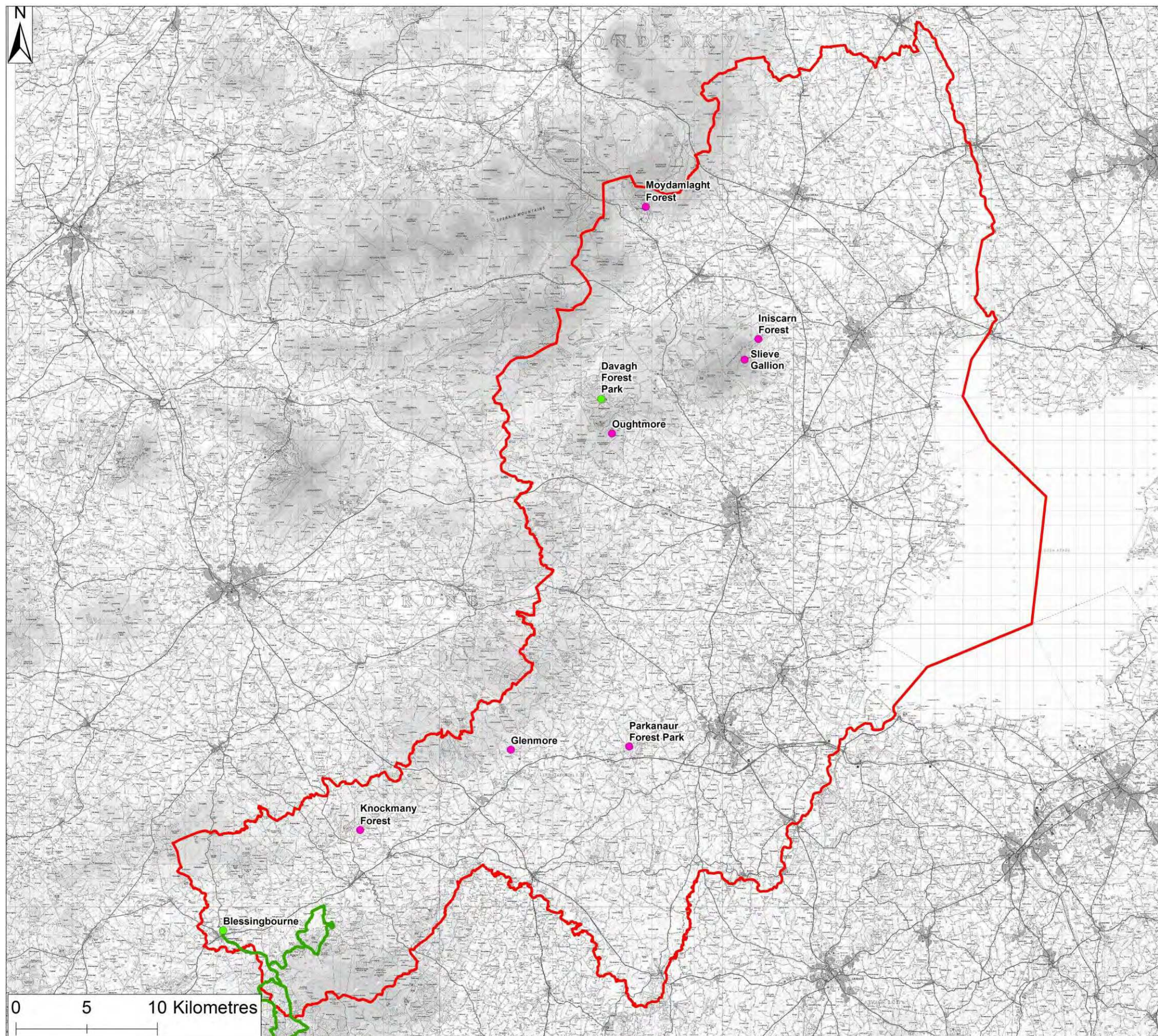
Within Mid Ulster, informal mountain biking also occurs at the following sites:

- Glenmore
- Iniscarn Forest
- Knockmany Forest
- Moydamlaght Forest
- Oughtmore Mountain
- Parkanaur Forest Park
- Slieve Gallion

The Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 – 2024 (ORNI, 2014) defines a long-distance ride as a cross-country trail providing at least 1 days biking along a route in excess of 35km with at least 75% off-road or minimum 'C – Class' or 'minor road'. A 40km Clogher Valley long-distance ride through Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh with a trailhead in Fivemiletown has been identified.

However, the Mountain Bike Northern Ireland Research Report (October 2016) carried out by Cogent Management Consulting on behalf of the MountainBikeNI Consortium identified that mountain bike enthusiasts spend only 4% of their time riding long-distance trails i.e. more than 35km with the use of a map. Moreover, only 10% of mountain bike enthusiast respondents indicated that they ride more than 4 hours a day on a typical mountain bike trip. Any decision to develop future long-distance trails in MUDC should take account of the findings of this research.





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Mountain Biking

1:125,000

Key	
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	Mountain Biking (Formal)
<span style="color: magenta;">●</span>	Mountain Biking (Informal)
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	Clogher Valley Long Distance MTB Trail
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 9. Mountain Biking Provision within MUDC



### 5.3.17 Orienteering

Within the area orienteering is relatively well developed due to the area's popularity as a training environment for Duke of Edinburgh, Scout and Guide groups (Fig.10). It predominantly occurs within the area's forests and is available to the community, clubs and visitors either through the governing body, Northern Ireland Orienteering Association (NIOA) or through Todds Leap and A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure who provide orienteering both on and off-site.

Permanent orienteering courses (POC) are located in:

- Drum Manor Forest Park
- Benburb Valley Park
- Parkanaur Forest
- Dungannon Park
- Windmill Hill, Dungannon

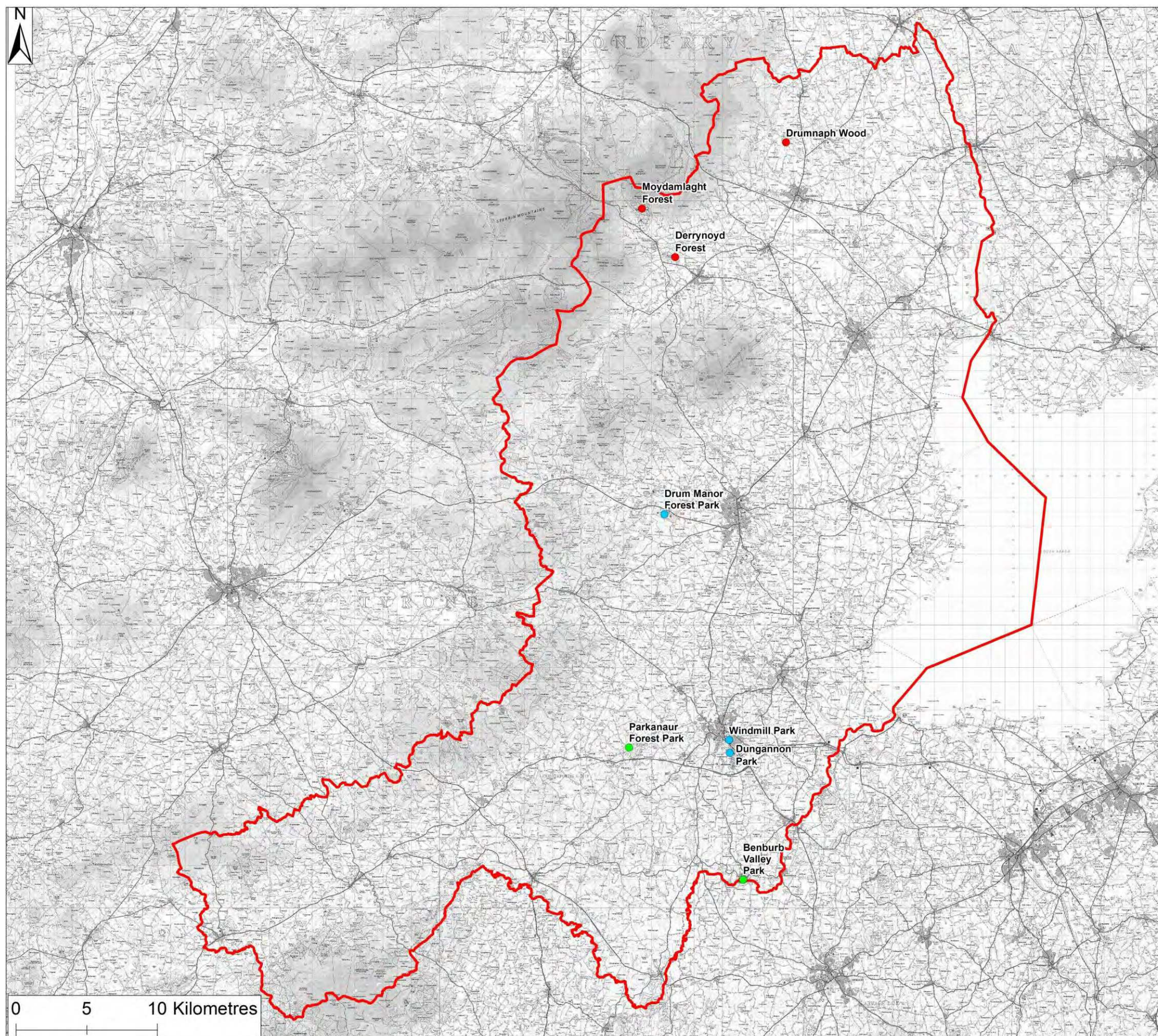
whilst the following sites although not having a permanent course have been mapped:

- Moydamlaght Forest (Mullaghmore)
- Derrynoyd Forest
- Drumlamph Wood

The area also has two 'ecotrails' located at

- Benburb Valley Park
- Parkanaur Forest





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Orienteering (Formal)

1:125,000

Key	
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Mapped
<span style="color: blue;">●</span>	Permanent Orienteering Course (POC)
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	POC and Ecotrail
<span style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 10. Orienteering Provision within MUDC



## 5.4 Water-based Activities

Fig. 11 shows the current provision in the MUDC area for the following water-based activities: angling, boat cruising, water skiing/wake boarding and jet skiing, whilst Fig. 12 shows the current provision in the area for canoeing/kayaking.

### 5.4.1 Angling

Angling currently takes place on most rivers and loughs/lakes in Mid Ulster however the pattern of use differs between water courses with some being over-subscribed and others under-subscribed.

Main fishing rivers: Ballinderry, Blackwater, Torrent, Moyola and the River Bann.

Most of the rivers in Mid Ulster are 'spate' rivers and so provide ideal 'game' environments for migratory fish such as salmon and sea trout.

Loughs/Lakes: Ballysaggart Lough, Ballyronan, Battery Harbour, Dungannon Park, Lough Fea, Roundlake, Fivemiletown, Blessingbourne Lakes, Brantry Lough, Carrick Lough, Creevelough, Enagh Lough, Tullygiven.

Like the rest of Northern Ireland, angling in the Mid Ulster is a complicated process of permits and licences. The fishing rights will also differ depending on the river or lough/lake and as such territorial issues can arise. In some cases, the fishing rights may be courtesy of one party, but another party is responsible for issuing the permit and rod licence.

For both the local community and visitors interested in recreational angling this can be a complicated system exacerbated by the lack of co-ordinated information about where to fish, catch and release' policies, start and end dates for the angling season, where and how to access the different rivers and loughs, etc.

These issues are largely removed however when angling is provided either through a private activity provider or on a private estate, whereby the provider owns the rights, provides the permits, offers advice, acts as a 'guilly' or guide and arranges transport and/or accommodation.

The Jungle NI offer fishing off site, taking groups to Annaginney Fishery.

### 5.4.2 Boat Cruising

Boat cruising takes place from three sites in Mid Ulster namely, Portna Lock, Hutchinson's Quay and Aughnahoy Jetty.

### 5.4.3 Water skiing /Wakeboarding

Water skiing/ wakeboarding takes place from Aughnahoy Jetty and Newferry on the Lower Bann River, Ballyronan Marina and Roughan Lough. Waterway Ireland's waterski zone on the Lower Bann is highlighted in Fig. 11

### 5.4.4 Jet Skiing

Jet skiing takes place from Aughnahoy Jetty on the Lower Bann and Ballyronan Marina. Fig. 11 highlights Waterways Ireland's jet-ski zone on the Lower Bann River.

### 5.4.5 Sailing

Sailing takes place from Ballyronan Marina, Battery Harbour and Curran Quay.



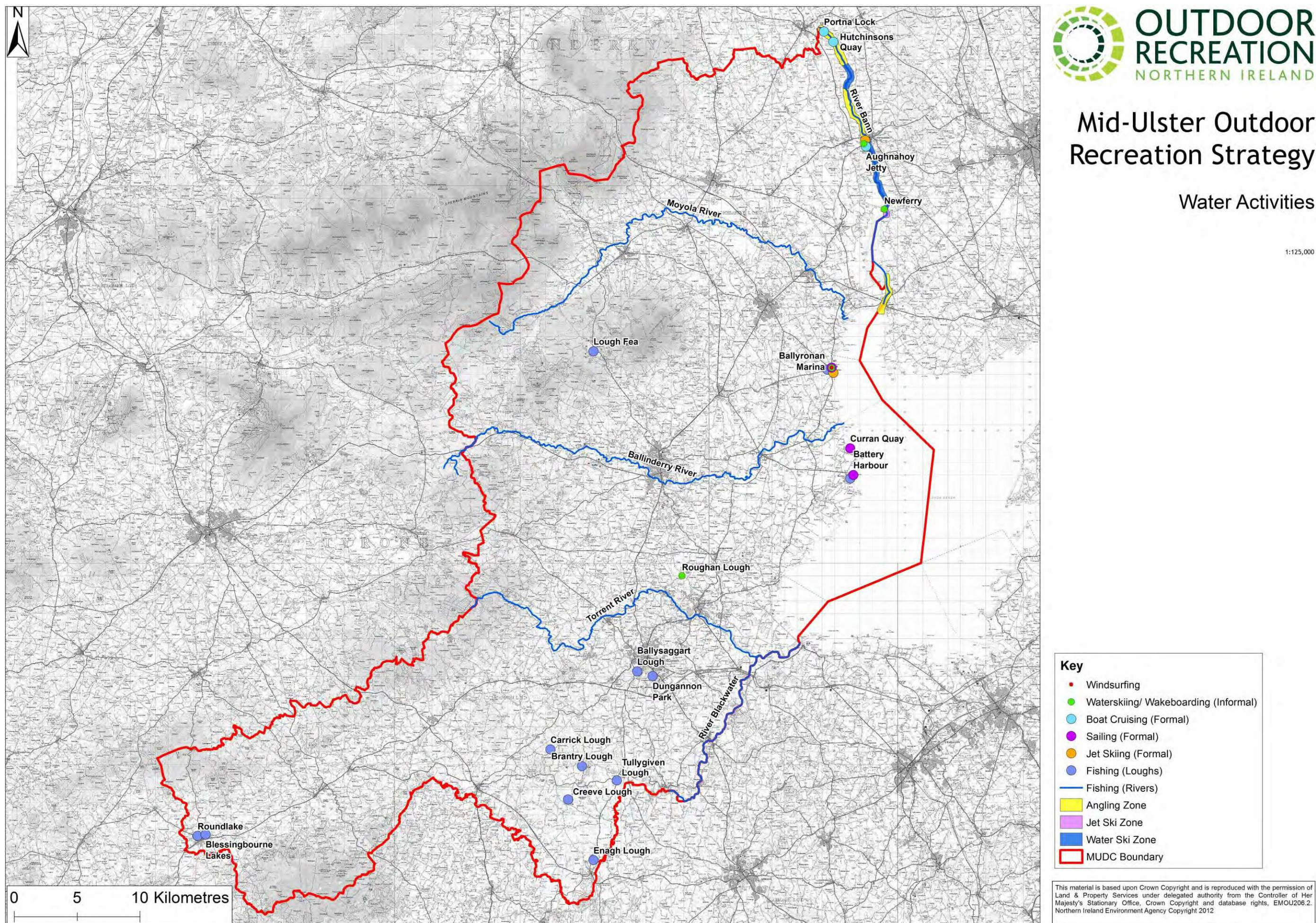


Figure 11. Water Activities Opportunities within MUDC



### 5.4.5 Canoeing / Kayaking

Like walking and cycling, canoeing and kayaking are also very popular outdoor activities taking place in Mid Ulster. This is directly related to the quality of paddling available. The MUDC area encompasses three of Northern Ireland's five inland Canoe Trails namely, the River Blackwater, Lough Neagh and the Lower Bann (Fig.12).

#### 5.4.5.1 Blackwater Canoe Trail

The River Blackwater flows from the slopes of Murley Mountain above Fivemiletown along the Clogher Valley. Between Augher, Aughnacloy and Caledon the river forms the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The River provides a 20km canoeing trail for canoeing enthusiasts of all abilities. 1.6km upstream from Bond's Bridge the Callan River joins the River Blackwater of which both the upper and lower stretches are paddled by canoeists. Beginning from the river jetty at Moy, 'Paddle the Blackwater' is one of several events hosted by the Blackwater Regional Partnership that encourages people to get out and enjoy the outdoors of the Blackwater Region.

#### 5.4.5.2 Lower Bann

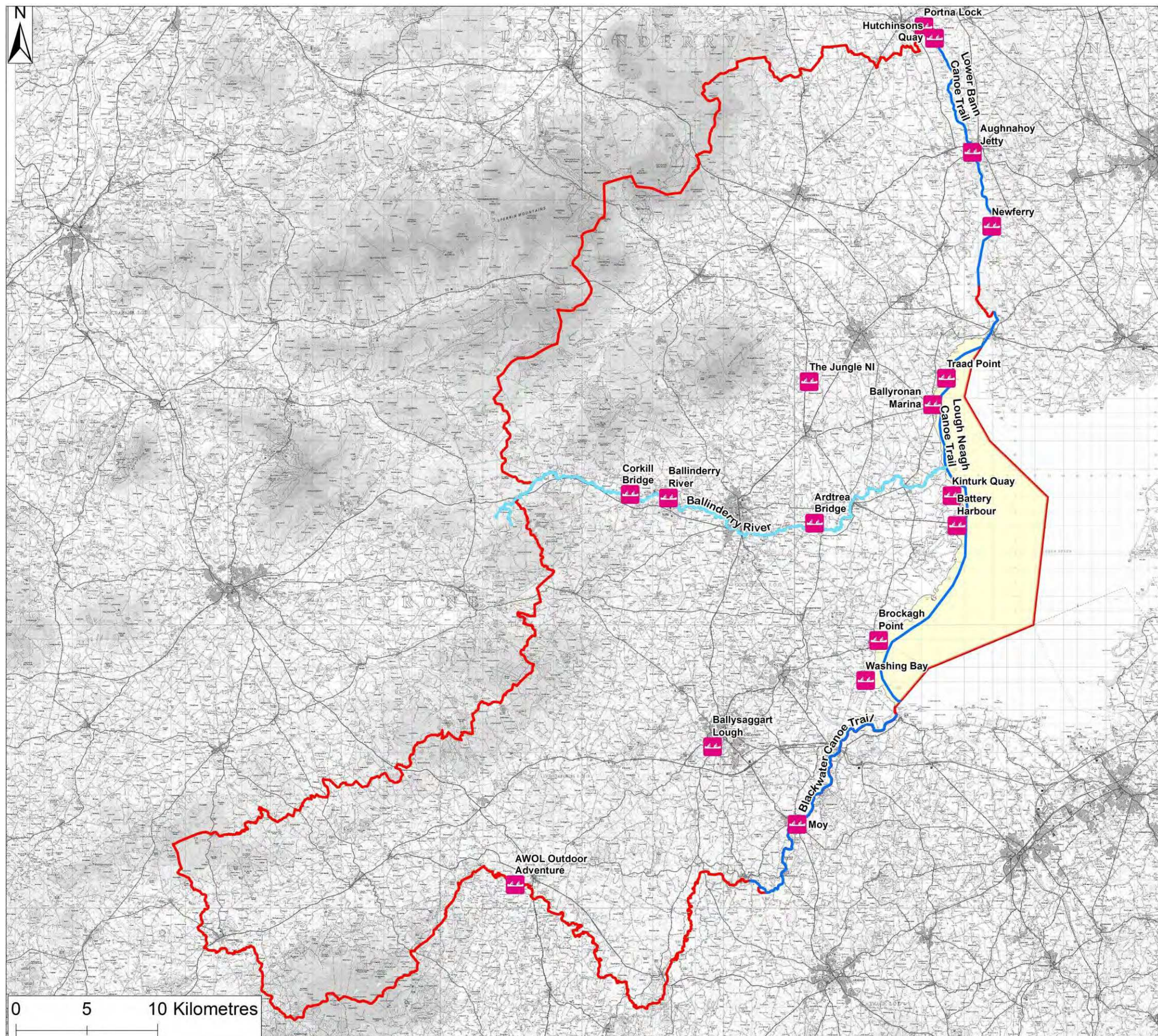
Developed in 2008, the 58km Lower Bann Canoe Trail starts at Lough Neagh and finishes at the Atlantic Ocean. With access points at Portna Lock, Hutchinson's Quay, Aughnahoy Jetty and Newferry, the Trail offers canoeists both tranquil waters and some faster flowing sections.

#### 5.4.5.3 Lough Neagh Canoe Trail

Lough Neagh is the United Kingdom's largest inland lake with a shoreline of over 150km. Paddlers can explore the numerous bays and inlets around the Lough or the vast expanse of open water whilst observing a diversity of wildlife and historical sites. Mid Ulster access points to the Canoe Trail include Traad Point, Ballyronan Marina, Kinturk Quay, Battery Harbour, Brockagh Point and Washing Bay.

In addition to the River Blackwater and the Lower Bann River being used for canoeing, the Ballinderry River is also a popular canoeing venue for white water enthusiasts. Accessing from Ardtrea, the Ballinderry River provides an 8km informal stretch of grade II water from Corkhill Bridge to Cookstown with weirs at regular intervals.





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Canoeing

1:125,000

Key	
	Canoeing
	Canoe Trails
	Lough Neagh
	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 12. Canoeing Provision within MUDC



## 5.5 Air-based Activities

### 5.5.1 Hang Gliding/Paragliding

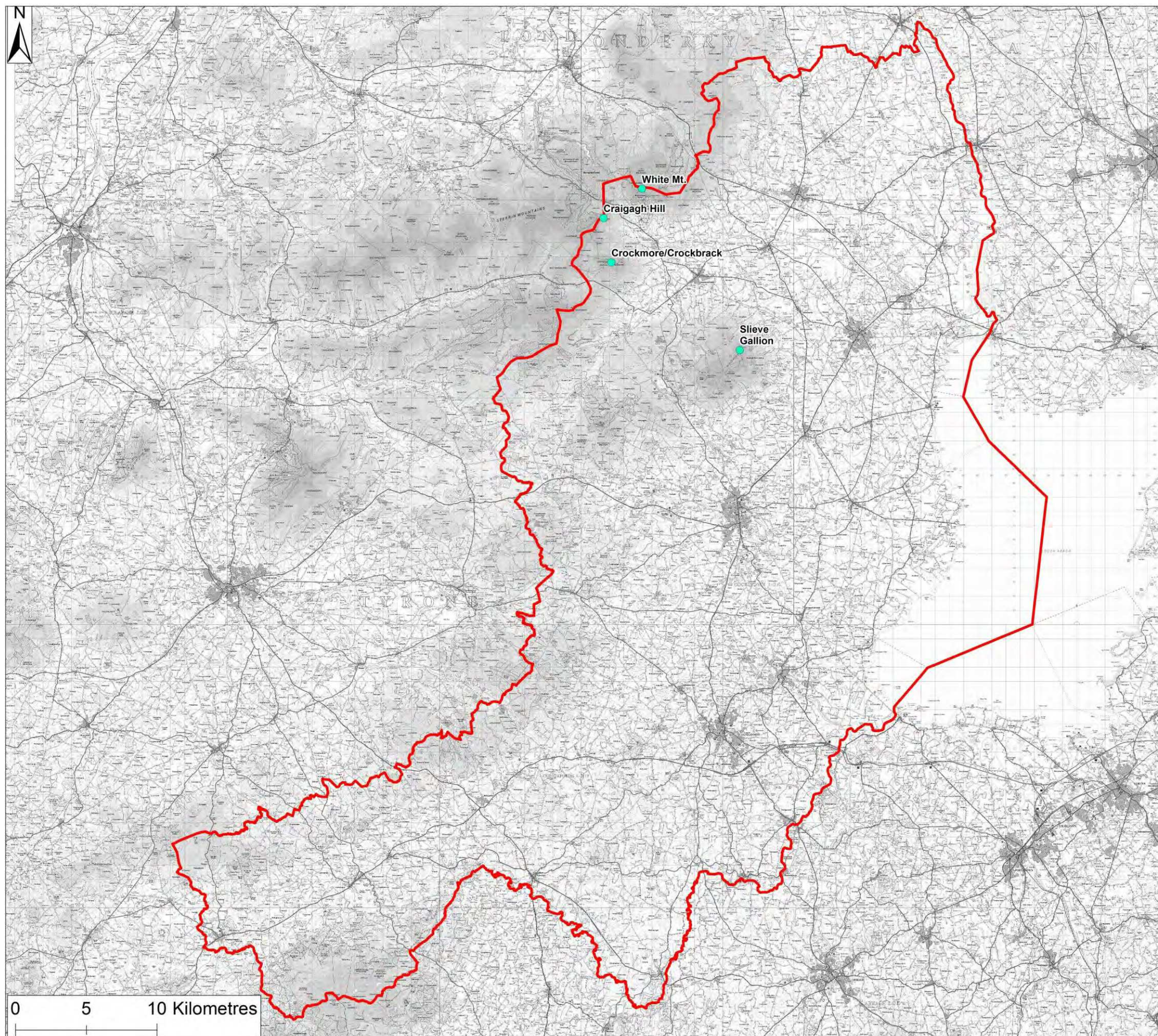
The only air-based sport that takes place in the MUDC area is hang gliding/paragliding (Fig.13).

Hang gliding is the non-motorised activity of flying or soaring through the air suspended in a harness from a single, fixed wing aircraft overhead whilst paragliding is where a glider sits in a harness suspended from a fabric 'parachute-type' kite above his/her head.

Except for experienced individuals gliding solo, the Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club is the primary provider of hang gliding and paragliding in Northern Ireland. In Mid Ulster the club launch from the following sites, with prior agreement with the landowner:

- Slieve Gallion
- White Mountain
- Craigagh Hill
- Crockmore/Crockbrack (to the south of Craigagh Hill)





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Air Activities

1:125,000

**Key**  
● Hang Gliding/ Paragliding (Formal)  
 MUDC Boundary

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Figure 13. Air Based Activities in MUDC



## 6. CONSULTATION RESULTS – KEY FINDINGS (DEAs)

An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, public and private landowners, outdoor activity providers, community associations and groups, clubs, SORF members and the general public.

Appendix H includes for individual sites within each DEA the detailed responses from the consultation process merged with the findings from recent Council documents that include outdoor recreation provision and opportunities e.g. Village Plans. For each site the 'status quo' and 'future opportunities' are detailed.

This section includes a general synopsis of some of the key findings from the consultation followed by a SWOT analysis which details the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the current provision and future development of outdoor recreation at a local level in the Mid Ulster area. The key findings are divided into;

- Management - refers to both the resources and structures that are required to ensure a high quality and a consistent experience for all outdoor recreation users to the area.
- Development - refers to both the outdoor recreation infrastructure required to do an activity e.g. trails, canoe steps etc and the supporting visitor services and facilities which enhance the product and tourism offering.
- Promotion - refers to the wide range of media required to heighten the awareness of the local population and visitors to the area of the opportunities that exist for taking part in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

### 6.1 Key findings -Management

From the consultation process several issues regarding the current and future management of outdoor recreation in Mid Ulster were identified including:

- there is some provision within the MUDC's new staff structure for posts related to the development, management and promotion of outdoor recreation.
- few mechanisms exist within MUDC to encourage collaboration between the different organisations and interest groups involved in outdoor recreation across the area. These include landowners/land managers, NGBs, private sector activity providers and service providers.
- there is disparity between the number and quality of outdoor recreation sites that currently exists based on the boundaries of the former three legacy Councils.
- monitoring and consequently understanding the level of use being made of sites across MUDC is limited with only a few key sites having counters in place to record user numbers.

#### 6.1.1 Staff resourcing

The area has suffered in the past from none of the three legacy Councils having a dedicated Outdoor Recreation Officer in post.

In 2018, the Council recruited a Parks and Countryside Development Officer who is responsible for overseeing the management and delivery of the new Strategy, securing funding for development projects, working in partnership with other organisations in the delivery of projects and for all legal documentation associated with any new access initiatives and SLAs with community groups etc.



Resourcing the Strategy with appropriate staff is fundamental to its future delivery and ultimate success. The current staffing structure should therefore be monitored and reviewed throughout the lifetime of the Strategy.

### **6.1.2 Co-ordination of user groups, private activity providers etc**

There are currently few opportunities to allow those involved directly or indirectly in outdoor recreation participation and business across the Council area to come together to share experiences, knowledge and look at opportunities for improved collaboration on a wide range of outdoor recreation issues.

In other areas across Northern Ireland the mechanism to do this is through a Local Outdoor Recreation Forum which includes governing bodies of sport, local clubs, activity tourism providers, community groups and those involved in the outdoor recreation service industry e.g. accommodation providers. Given that within the Council, a Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group already exists, it is recommended that this Group is expanded to include a larger representation from the outdoor recreation sector per se rather than a new Outdoor Recreation Forum being set up.

In addition, it is essential that the Council works in partnership with its neighbouring Councils on projects such as the Lower Bann Blueway, Ulster Canal Greenway, developing walking trails in the Sperrins and developing long-distance mountain biking and horse-riding trails in the Clogher Valley.

### **6.1.3 Maintaining the product**

MUDC is still emerging from a time whereby the three legacy Councils had very different agendas, priorities and budgets with regards to outdoor recreation development, management and promotion.

Consequently, the Council area shows disparity between the number and quality of outdoor recreation sites that currently exists based on the boundaries of the former three legacy Councils. Issues regarding the level of maintenance at sites was raised at all 7 public consultation events. An adequately resourced rolling maintenance programme is therefore required to redress the current situation and maintain any future sites developed. This will require a co-ordinated approach between Property Services and Parks and Countryside.

Consideration should be given to:

- having a dedicated maintenance resource for the combined Parks and Countryside/Outdoor Service to allow for greater effectiveness and efficiency and encourage a proactive maintenance approach as opposed to the current reactive approach.
- making greater use of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with Community Groups. Currently the Council has six SLAs with local community groups, at a cost of £35,450 for the upkeep of outdoor recreation facilities namely;
  - Pomeroy Community Association - check the play park in Pomeroy Forest daily and the walking trails weekly
  - TABBDA - provide the visitor amenity facilities at Ballyronan
  - Kildress Community Association - maintain the Dunnamore Riverside Trail
  - Muintir na Mointeach - maintain the visitor amenity site at Washing Bay
  - Battery Harbour Management Company - carry out amenity maintenance and inspection at The Battery

- Broughderg Community Association – maintain the visitor servicing facilities at Davagh Forest.

Entering SLAs with Community Groups will not only empower communities through volunteering but is more likely to result in greater appreciation and respect for the outdoor recreation resource in their area.

All existing SLAs were reviewed and updated in 2017-2018. These should continue to be monitored going forward.

#### 6.1.4 Counters

Having the evidence base that highlights the use made of the area's outdoor recreation sites is vital moving forward.

Currently counters are located at the Round Lake - Fivemiletown, Ballyronan, Dungannon Park, Lough Fea, Blessingbourne Estate, Davagh Forest, Knockmany Forest, Brantry Forest, Portglenone Blueway, Coalisland Canal, Augher Riverside Path, Iniscarn Forest, Pomeroy Forest.

Moving forward any new outdoor recreation developments should automatically include the positioning of counters to help justify and prioritise any current and future expenditure on the site.

### 6.2 Key findings- Development

From the consultation process it became evident that:

- current provision is concentrated in several geographic areas and these are particularly important in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition namely; the Lower Bann, western shores of Lough Neagh, the Clogher Valley corridor, the area that falls within the Sperrins AONB and the Blackwater /Ulster Canal Corridor.
- there are several key activity sites across the area that are important and will continue to remain so in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition.
- whilst all Forests across the area provide local recreation opportunities, some forests have the potential if developed appropriately, to attract visitors from outside the MUDC area.
- in terms of specific activities, the area already offers good walking, mountain biking, canoeing, orienteering and angling opportunities but there is still significant opportunity to develop specific products further to increase the outdoor recreation product.
- several initiatives currently being developed have the potential to create 'stand out' recreation products namely; the Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenway, the Lower Bann Blueway, the Heaney Trails, Davagh Forest and the western shores of Lough Neagh (Ballyronan/Traad).
- whilst the area already has several informal walking trails around villages and along river corridors, an overwhelming demand exists for a formal network of Community Trails to be developed across the area.
- specific bodies/initiatives have and will continue to play a significant role in the development of local outdoor recreation initiatives e.g. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, local community groups and private sector activity providers.

### 6.2.1 Specific Product Development

Opportunities exist in the area to improve both the existing outdoor recreation infrastructure and supporting visitor services and facilities. The activities which have the greatest potential for future development are walking, off-road family cycling, mountain biking, and horse riding.

The area is still merging from a time whereby the three legacy Councils took a very different approach to developing access, particularly on private land. Consequently, much of the area's outdoor recreation potential has not been fully capitalised upon. The upland area in the north west of the Council area could be significantly developed, including that area which falls within the Sperrins AONB. Steeped in history, culture and rich in natural and built heritage the area could be developed as a key component to the overall walking product in the wider Sperrins area. Creating medium-distance multi-day walking trails in this area would be a welcome addition to the outdoor recreation proposition. Examples include linking Lough Fea to Davagh Forest.

Developing a Community Trail network across the area featured significantly throughout the consultation exercise as well as being highlighted in many of the Council's Village Plans. Community Trails, either link communities to surrounding green space via a safe off-road route, or one community to another, for example, along a river corridor. These trails providing 'doorstep' safe off-road walking/cycling trails at community level will require significant investment particularly in terms of staff time to negotiate access. This correlates with the wider Northern Ireland picture. As a first step MUDC should prepare a Community Trail Plan for each of the DEAs to allow for any future network to be developed in a more strategic way.

Although the National and Regional Mountain Bike Trail Centres at Davagh Forest and Blessingbourne Estate respectively are already two of the area's strongest products, there is still an opportunity to develop mountain biking further for both the local community and activity tourists to the area. There is a desire to see the mountain bike product enhanced at Davagh through extending the trail network as well as the delivery of a long-distance off-road mountain biking trail in the Clogher Valley, parts of which could also be developed as a long-distance off-road horse-riding trail.

Currently the provision for family off-road cycling within the area is weak and consequently opportunities to create safe off-road family cycling trails should be considered at all sites which are highlighted for potential development.

Although the orienteering product is relatively strong in the area, recent developments by the NIOA Active Clubs Officer has shown the ability of orienteering as a powerful tool for community cohesion and social inclusion and therefore this work should be supported moving forward.

The potential to develop a canoe trail on the Ballinderry River requires more consideration, but undoubtedly the development of the Lower Bann Blueway (see section 6.2.5) will help increase the profile of this activity in the area.

Across the Mid Ulster area outdoor recreation provision is also characterised by activity-based 'hubs' defined as multi-use sites which offer a variety of both outdoor activities and support visitor services (accommodation, community services, cafe/restaurant, toilets, changing facilities, parking, etc.) in the one place. Many of these hubs are associated with community associations and there is a willingness by many of the community groups e.g. Broughderg Community Association, Carntogher Community Association, Pomeroy Community Association, Portglenone Community Association and Muintir na Mointeach etc to work with the Council and others to develop these further to enhance the outdoor recreation product.



### 6.2.2 Forest Development

Without doubt one of the area's strongest propositions for the future development of outdoor recreation in the Mid Ulster area lies in the resource afforded by the area's 22 forests. Whilst some of these forests will never be more than a valuable local recreation resource, others have the potential to attract visitors from outside the area if appropriately developed as activity hubs.

MUDC already has in place with FSNI an MOU and licences for certain activities in specific forests e.g. play and trails in Pomeroy Forest, mountain biking and play in Davagh Forest, trails and toilet block in Knockmany Forest and trails in Brantry, Derrynoid, Iniscarn and Moydamlaght Forests. A commitment from MUDC to enter into similar agreements in the future is a key component of the future success of developing the recreation offer in the forests.

Work is already at an advanced stage in Davagh Forest to develop the recreational offering and create a strong tourism proposition through the Dark Skies project which is due to open in 2020. Several other Forests namely, Drum Manor and Parkanaur have been identified as key outdoor recreation development sites moving forward. Both these forests will require detailed Masterplans in order to make best use of the site and best use of Council's scarce resources.

Priorities for the other forests include; working in partnership with pro-active local community groups at Altmore and Pomeroy, delivering the long-distance Mountain Bike ride through Crocknagrally, Mullaghfad, Fardross and Favour Royal Forests, developing a long-distance horse riding trail through the Clogher Valley forests, linking Iniscarn Forest to the surrounding villages and Slieve Gallion, expanding the outdoor recreation offer at Drumcairne and Moydamlaght forests and linking up Davagh Forest to Broughderg Forest and the surrounding uplands using the former network of green lanes previously used by children walking to school across the mountains.

The fundamental issue identified within all the area's 22 forests relates to the lack of basic infrastructure and lack of customer-focus. All were found to require significant improvements in the visitor welcome, interpretation and waymarking. The development of an overall 'identity' for the forests in MUDC in order to provide a cohesive experience for users of the forests, as well as instilling a sense of place will be important moving forward and could be rolled out over the lifetime of the Strategy.

See Appendix I for a Case Study on Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire.

### 6.2.3 Greenway Development

Within Northern Ireland's new Greenways Strategy, the aim of which is to 'encourage a substantial increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway network', the Primary Greenway Network proposed includes a 97 km greenway from Dungannon to Coleraine and a 51 km greenway in the Secondary Network from Caledon to Maguiresbridge via the Clogher Valley. Also, part of the proposed greenway from Doagh to Draperstown via Antrim and Magherafelt and Craigavon to Derry-Londonderry via Omagh falls within the Mid Ulster Area as does the Ulster Canal Greenway section from Moy to Caledon (Fig.5).

Funding of £16,000 was secured in 2017/2018 by the Council from DFI to carry out feasibility studies for two of the area's potential greenways namely, the Ulster Canal Greenway and the Clogher Valley Greenway. Considerable work has already taken place on the Ulster Canal Greenway by Waterways Ireland and its partners, of which the Blackwater Regional Partnership is one. The Ulster Canal Greenway would link Castle Saunderson in Co.Cavan to Charlemont in Co.Armagh mainly along the route of the disused Ulster Canal and using sections of disused railway infrastructure. The Ulster Canal Greenway section within the Mid Ulster Council runs from Moy to Caledon and is approximately 20 miles in length.

It is recognised however that the success of the area's proposed Greenways is largely out of the Council's hands as development is totally dependent on whether individual landowners along the route are willing to co-operate and enter into access negotiations and ultimately agreements with the Council. As with any access project when working with a corridor of landowners, ultimately the project will either fail or succeed based purely on securing access. This is a time-consuming process and one that requires building up trust with the landowners.

Developing any of the above Greenways in the Mid Ulster area would realise significant benefits to the area both within the immediate vicinity of the Greenway and the wider MUDC area in terms of health and well-being, social inclusion, community cohesion and economic prosperity. Neither of these Greenways are expected to bring a significant increase in the number of visitors to the area, but rather act as a significant community resource like the Waterford to Dungarvan Greenway (see Appendix I for Case Study). However council should consider further developmental studies to progress.

The Greenways Strategy also suggests that plans in the future may provide for a third level network of 'Community Paths' that would provide doorstep opportunities to connect local communities to their local green space and neighbouring communities. This suggestion directly reinforces the consultation responses referred to in section 6.2.1.

#### 6.2.4 Lough Neagh

The recreational offer around the western shores of Lough Neagh currently shows great disparity between the quality and provision of outdoor recreation facilities at individual sites. Whilst some sites have seen significant developments and modernisation of facilities e.g. jetties, visitor centre, marinas, play parks, picnic tables, viewing points etc others have been neglected resulting in their decline. These sites are now in need of significant development to bring their recreation provision up to a standard that makes it inviting to the user.

Ballyronan /Traad Point has been identified as having the potential to become a significant 'multi-activity hub' i.e. it has the potential to attract day visitors from outside the Mid Ulster area and consequently future development around western shores of Lough Neagh will concentrate on this site. The development of a Masterplan for this site is an essential first step.

Most sites around the western shores of Lough Neagh are however defined as a 'local hubs', i.e. providing a valuable resource for the local community. These include Castlebay, Washing Bay and The Battery. Irrespective of whether the site is a regional or local hub, as a minimum, all sites should be modern and inviting to the user.

With the drop in the Lough's water level and subsequent increase in private land ownership along the Lough's shoreline resulting in a significant reduction of access to the shore, the development of Community Trails is an important consideration in improving access to the shoreline and recreation hubs around the Lough for local residents moving forward.

Given the range of environmental designations on and around the Lough, any future development must be carried out sensitively in order to minimise any impact it may have on this designated environment.

Although it is likely that the complexities relating to the administration and management of Lough Neagh have significantly impacted development of outdoor recreation opportunities in the past due to a lack of co-operation amongst those bodies responsible, recent initiatives such as the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership Scheme is seeking to redress this situation. A £2.49 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will see the delivery of 27 integrated projects around the lough shore over the next five years.

Several of these are directly related to the provision of outdoor recreation. Much of the work is being delivered in partnership with organisations such as the RSPB and the Council.

#### 6.2.5 Lower Bann Blueway

The Lower Bann River which stretches for 60km from Toome to the Atlantic is rich in wildlife, history and built and natural heritage as evidenced by the wide range of environmental designations attributed to it. Although considerable development has taken place along the River in recent years, for the River to maximise its full outdoor recreation potential moving forward, several key issues have been identified that require urgent addressing namely;

- the River is currently a hidden asset, not readily identifiable as a destination and therefore it cannot capitalise on its role in social and economic development
- currently access on the water allows full length navigation but the riverbanks only allow fragmented riverbank routes for walkers and cyclists
- given that the Lower Bann drains Lough Neagh, Rivers Agency is obligated to manage the water levels in Lough Neagh releasing excess into the Lower Bann with consequent impacts on water levels and flows which then impacts water and riverbank-based recreation e.g. sailing and angling.
- water skiing and jet skiing zones are not always being adhered to by the user groups thereby causing damage to the biodiversity and habitats of the area.

In order to address these issues, Waterways Ireland is working to create a 'Blueway' along the Lower Bann which will significantly enhance the recreational opportunities in this part of Mid Ulster.

A Lower Bann Blueway would result in the development of a multi-use trail running alongside the already fully navigational water course linking walking, cycling, canoeing and paddle boarding with local towns and villages, leading to the creation of recreational hubs (clusters of activity), which then can be marketed as a 'Blueway', making the Lower Bann become more visible and recognised as a valuable recreational asset in the MUDC area.

Within the confines of the MUDC boundary along the Lower Bann, Toome and Portglenone have been identified as 'recreational hubs' i.e. sites that provides quality leisure facilities and amenities. Extensive work has taken place recently at Portglenone to develop the angling and walking product.

Four other sites that fall within the MUDC boundary along the River have been identified as 'significant sites' namely; Lough Beg and Church Island, Newferry West, Hutchinson's Quay and Portna. These are locations along the River that are integral to the overall Lower Bann visitor experience but avoid overprovision of amenities, necessitates lower levels of investment as well as acknowledging potential environmental sensitivities.

It is important that Mid Ulster Council 'buys' into the concept of the Blueway along the Lower Bann both investing in the development of the 'hub' and 'significant' sites as well as the 'Blueway' marketing brand.

See Appendix I for a Case Study of the Shannon Blueway

In addition to the work being led by Waterways Ireland, other major contributors to the development of the outdoor recreation proposition on the Lower Bann include the RSPB and proactive community groups.

The RSBP is currently working with Forest Service NI to acquire a licence for approximately 100 hectares of peatland north of Newferry which it hopes to restore into a publicly accessible nature reserve whilst the Bann Valley Development Association is involved in developing a network of Community Trails near

Clady and Inishrush, Portglenone Community Association is involved in developing angling and the Fisherman's Walk at Portglenone whilst TIDAL is involved in development around Toome.

#### **6.2.6 Seamus Heaney**

One of Mid Ulster's Tourism Strategy's three strategic tourism strands, the Seamus Heaney project, is already well developed with the opening of the Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy in 2016.

Work is currently on-going to develop a trail linking Seamus Heaney's poetry and literature to places and landscapes close to the Lower Bann. The project includes developing recreational opportunities through developing new trails along the Moyola River at Castledawson and Long Point on the Strand at Lough Beg. It is anticipated that this walking product will form a significant element of any marketing/promotion of outdoor recreation in the area moving forward. These sites will also form part of a Heritage Trail which is currently being developed along the full length of the River Bann and down the western shores of Lough Neagh.

The Heaney walking trails' project currently falls under the Culture and Arts function of MUDC. It is recommended that once the individual trails are delivered on the ground, they should be transferred to the Parks and Countryside Service function of the Council given they will require on-going management, maintenance and monitoring.

#### **6.2.7 The Heart of Ancient Ulster - Landscape Partnership Scheme**

Although the area covered by the proposed Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership within the Mid Ulster area is relatively small, the contribution the Partnership is expected to make to outdoor recreation within the wider area is significant. In particular, the project will involve working with local landowners and communities on the ground to secure access to allow the delivery of heritage trails to the area's Neolithic features including chambers and Bronze Age circles. This will be complemented by visitor services e.g. car parking, interpretation etc where appropriate.

### **6.3 Key findings –Promotion**

From the consultation process on the current and future promotion of outdoor recreation in Mid Ulster several key findings were identified:

- there is an absence of a strategic approach to the communication and marketing of information on outdoor recreation.
- there is currently limited information available on the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Mid Ulster particularly through the existing MUDC channels such as the Council website.
- the experience to date with MountainbikeNI.com and WalkNI.com has shown there are other highly effective mechanisms, external to the Council's core channels, to promote the opportunities available.
- some of the more niche customers such as camping and caravans are provided with good levels of information, but the more 'mass' offering to local people or visitors on outdoor recreation and parks is insufficient.
- there is a discrepancy between the sites of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area in the provision and quality of onsite visitor information and signage particularly within the area's forests. In addition, partly due to the legacy of each Council, there is a lack of identity in the visitor information and signage.
- there is an expressed desire by the local people in the MUDC area to have better access to information on the outdoor recreation opportunities available across MUDC.



- the integration between key areas of the Council, including Leisure and Tourism, to collate, disseminate and promote information on outdoor recreation in a meaningful way to local people and visitors is limited.
- the Marketing and Communication Team at MUDC are currently reviewing their plans for key platforms. There is a clear direction to simplify and integrate the approach under the Council brand:
  - o a cull of sub-brands is underway, and it is advised that the development of further branding should be avoided

### 6.3.1 Marketing Strategy

It was expressed during the consultation that outdoor recreation does not appear to enjoy the same marketing effort and promotion to residents as other areas within MUDC such as leisure centres and the arts. Whilst the value of leisure centres and the arts is not in question, there is an opportunity to increase the profile and marketing of outdoor recreation given the strong demand and evidence regarding participation and visitor levels for these. The most appropriate and effective way to do this is to develop a Marketing Strategy in partnership with the Marketing and Communications Team.

In terms of marketing, the objectives that outdoor recreation is required to deliver is referenced in the MUDC Corporate Plan, Community Plan and Tourism Strategy:

- increase customer numbers (Corporate Plan)
- encourage physical activity within the community (Corporate Plan)
- promote shared space across the area (Community Plan)
- optimise the tourism potential (Corporate Plan)
- increase Mid Ulster's image and reputation for visitors (Tourism Strategy)

It is recommended that a simple segmentation is undertaken for participants of outdoor recreation and visitors to places of outdoor recreation in MUDC for two reasons. Firstly, the tactics and platforms to market to the segments is somewhat limited and there will be little opportunity to target highly defined segments. Also, the marketing of outdoor recreation in the area is still in its infancy.

The segmentation should recognise that:

- Segments who regularly participate in 'Afternoons Out' will be key
- Given the objectives outlined above, some segments will reside outside MUDC area
- Outdoor Recreation enthusiasts are an important but small segment

### 6.3.2 Marketing Action Plan

The development of the Marketing Strategy in partnership with the Marketing and Communication team will drive the development of a tactical 5-year Marketing Action Plan. The Marketing Action Plan should cover all areas of marketing outdoor recreation and parks including promotional tactics and platforms, working with partners, events and participation programmes.

This report does not seek to pre-empt the outputs of the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan but outlines the recommended approach:

#### 6.3.2.1 Integrated Marketing Approach

Given the rich and extensive nature of the product and potential range of programmes, activities and events, developing platforms dedicated to outdoor recreation and parks in MUDC such as a website and Facebook page is a route that could be taken. However, this is not recommended, but rather a coordinated and integrated approach within Council because;

- MUDC already has several powerful communication platforms in place. This includes several Facebook pages (Visit Magherafelt has 3945 likes; Visit Cookstown has 5485 likes), its website and a magazine that is delivered to 55,000 homes twice per year
- if a website and/or Facebook page was developed for outdoor recreation for MUDC area, it would be difficult to drive sufficient visitors to merit the initial development and ongoing maintenance costs
- the development of independent platforms would weaken MUDC branding and reputation and potentially disassociate the product from MUDC

This integrated approach has implications for the tactics and platforms employed to promote outdoor recreation.

#### 6.3.2.2 Websites

It is recommended that outdoor recreation information is hosted within the newly created MUDC website. Currently there is an opportunity to add to the information on the website and the navigation within 'Things To Do' to make it easier for browsers to find information. It is recommended that the navigation is reviewed to link in with Council's new website.

In terms of website content, Outdoor Recreation NI already has a significant proportion of MUDC's key outdoor recreation information hosted on its web platforms. There is potential to feed through the content from ORNI's platforms to the MUDC website. This would ease the burden on MUDC's staff to create and maintain high quality and up to date content on the website.

In addition, ORNI launched in 2018, an online mapping facility called OutmoreNI which helps local people find out what outdoor recreation opportunities are available on their doorstep and in their local area. There is potential that this technology could be hosted for the MUDC area within the MUDC website and would directly support the development of the proposed Community Trail Network.

The website events calendar is dominated by major events such as arts events. When major events are held in outdoor recreation sites, such as 'Picnic in the Park' at Dungannon Park, then these should continue to feature prominently in the calendar also. There is a gap for smaller events and activities that take place on a more frequent basis, for example a walking group that meets regularly to walk around Lough Fea or the Park Run that takes place weekly in Cookstown. Within the Marketing Action Plan, an online solution should be sought to communicate the events that are taking place so that local people are encouraged to take part. This is particularly critical to meet the MUDC objectives of encouraging physical activity within the community (Corporate Plan objective) and increasing customer numbers (Corporate Plan).

#### 6.3.2.3 Social Media

It is recommended that outdoor recreation is promoted on the existing Facebook pages hosted by MUDC and no new pages are created. There is a strong engaged base on the current council Facebook pages. A process and content plan should be created for outdoor recreation and parks on these Facebook pages. It will be the responsibility of the Parks Division to develop and feed content to the marketing team.

Whilst there are no current plans to integrate the numerous leisure centre pages, it is strongly recommended that as part of the Marketing Action Plan the Marketing and Communication team consider how best to promote outdoor recreation and parks on social media. Given the huge participation levels in outdoor recreation and the importance of parks to tourism, as well as the crossover into leisure, it is critical that this is resolved.

#### 6.3.2.4 Other Platforms, Campaigns & Partnerships

The use of other promotional platforms and the development of marketing campaigns will be determined by the objectives in the Marketing Strategy and detailed as part of the Marketing Action Plan. However, there are several key channels that should be specifically recognised.

The MUDC residents' magazine is delivered to 55,000 residents twice per year. As part of the Marketing Action Plan, it is recommended that outdoor recreation and parks are included in each edition and the content focused on raising awareness of the offering as well as specific campaigns or events.

MUDC already has bought into the consortium with Outdoor Recreation NI for MountainbikeNI and WalkNI Marketing. It is recommended that given the enormous web visitors (almost 750,000 visitors to WalkNI.com) and the benefits that MUDC enjoy from ORNI's marketing expertise in this area, that this agreement is maintained.

It is recommended that the marketing for the proposed development of the Blueway would be developed in partnership with Waterways Ireland who already have a successful brand and blueprint in place for promoting Blueways in Ireland.

There are several products in MUDC that attract niche outdoor enthusiasts such as paddlers and campers and caravanners. It is recommended that, as well as including these products as part of the wider outdoor recreation offering, MUDC targets these niche segments through the channels they consume such as camping websites, canoeing websites (CanoeNI.com) and associations.

### 6.3.3 Branding

MUDC's outdoor recreation sites lack a consistent identity. Given the high participation levels in outdoor recreation activities such as walking and the attraction of parks and forests for visitors, it is important that outdoor recreation and parks have a strong identity to provide a cohesive experience for visitors and local people.

Although MUDC are in a period of consolidating a plethora of existing sub brands, given the significance of the area's 22 forests in providing outdoor recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors, it is recommended that a simple graphic device is developed for all forest recreation sites. The graphic device should be simple in design and colour so that it can be employed across a whole variety of platforms such as websites, signage and waymarking.

(see Appendix I for Case Study of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council's new brand identity for forest recreation sites).

### 6.3.4 Signage & Waymarking

Within an outdoor recreation site such as a park or forest, it is essential to erect visitor information signage and where appropriate, trail waymarking. This is very important from a marketing perspective and of critical importance in terms of visitor enjoyment and risk management.

Visitor information signage will include welcome signage, information and interpretation, visitor safety, visitor orientation etc. Trail waymarking refers to signage relating to or located directly on trails and it includes trailhead signage, waymarker posts and disks, interpretation panels and safety signage.

As previously identified, there is a discrepancy in the provision and quality of onsite visitor information and signage between the sites of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area. It is therefore recommended that 'Visitor Information and Signage Guidelines' are developed for MUDC. These would consider the significant differences in type and size of the outdoor recreation sites which range from local to regional multi-activity sites as well as the customer journey. Following the development of the guidelines, it is recommended that a review of the current portfolio of outdoor recreation sites is undertaken and the visitor information and signage rolled out as appropriate.

The graphic device developed for the area's forests should be fully incorporated into all aspects of the visitor information signage and waymarking within forests. This will help build customer recognition and ultimately improve the customer experience.

### 6.3.5 Events and Participation programme

A key mechanism to attract people to take part in outdoor recreation and visit sites of outdoor recreation and parks is to host events and participation programmes. Whilst there are some events and participation programmes that take place already, a more extensive and coordinated event and participation programme is recommended. This should form a key part of the Marketing Action Plan and the detail will be determined by the key segments targeted.

A small number of large events to attract local people and visitors from outside the MUDC area should be held in the two regional sites, namely Dungannon Park and Davagh Forest. These events could be an integral part of the tourism and outdoor recreation marketing plans. In addition, an events programme for the Regional Multi-Activity Hubs should be developed as these sites are developed.

In addition, it was recognised from the consultation process that one of MUDC's greatest assets moving forward is the enthusiasm and competencies of local community groups, local clubs and the private



sector, all of them having the potential to promote and market the outdoor recreation offer. It is recommended that MUDC supports community outdoor recreation events and club participation programmes as much as possible.

In addition, there may be an opportunity to capitalise on the success of the two major private sector activity providers, The Jungle NI and Todd's Leap. Exploratory meetings with these businesses should be conducted to determine the possibility of developing a strategic partnership at regional parks or multi-activity hubs, whereby they would develop a seasonal base at these sites and provide outdoor activities on a commercial basis. Full analysis of the commercial opportunity would be required to determine if any support, financial or otherwise, would be required by MUDC to entice these businesses to consider this opportunity.

There are other significant opportunities to further encourage participation in outdoor recreation in the sites, trails and parks in MUDC. These opportunities could include:

- development of led-walking groups who meet in outdoor recreation sites and parks
- increase in the number of Park Runs that take place in the MUDC area
- development of 'sports' programmes taking place in places of outdoor recreation and parks

A key partner to develop these participation programmes is the MUDC Sports Development team whose programmes and staff are part funded by Sport NI's Everybody Active Programme. Specifically, in Everybody Active, SportNI have asked Councils to focus on walking and cycling as two key activities as SportNI recognise their mass appeal and ease of access to all residents. It is recommended therefore that an Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan is created in partnership with the Leisure team to encourage participation in outdoor recreation at sites and parks throughout MUDC.

### **6.3.6 Marketing Resource and Expertise**

Currently within the Parks and Countryside team, no dedicated marketing resource exists to lead the marketing effort and liaise with the Marketing and Communications team. The following duties will have to be subsumed by the Parks and Countryside Development Officer namely;

- assist the Marketing and Communication Team in MUDC to develop a Marketing Strategy and Marketing Action Plan
- lead on the implementation of the Action Plan, including:
- develop content for parks and outdoor recreation for MUDC website and other MUDC platforms
- develop campaign plans for events and other activities
- liaise with other partners such as Waterways Ireland, ORNI to promote MUDC offering
- assist in the design the visitor information and waymarking signage guidelines for outdoor recreation sites.

## 6.4 SWOT Analysis

The following SWOT analysis details the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the current provision and future development of outdoor recreation at a local level in the Mid Ulster Council area. The information contained in the SWOT analysis summarises the feedback gained through consultation and secondary research.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central location in NI i.e. 1 hour's drive from large population</li> <li>- Scenic landscape and diverse variety of habitats used for outdoor recreation e.g. mountain, valleys, canals, loughs, rivers, forests, parks etc.</li> <li>- Rich in heritage and archaeological sites</li> <li>- MUDC Tourism Strategy has recognised outdoor recreation as one of its three strategic tourism strands</li> <li>- Area includes Davagh Forest - NI's first proposed Dark Skies Reserve</li> <li>- Area includes Seamus Heaney Home place and proposed heritage walking trails</li> <li>- Area includes part of the Lower Bann - one of only two proposed 'Blueways' in NI</li> <li>- Area includes part of the largest freshwater lake in the UK and Ireland in Lough Neagh</li> <li>- Abundant wealth of forests (22) for recreation development</li> <li>- Area includes two of NI's proposed primary Greenways</li> <li>- Area includes one of NI's three national mountain bike trail centres and one of NI's two regional mountain bike trail centres</li> <li>- Three of NI's five inland canoe trails flow through the area</li> <li>- Abundance of rivers for angling e.g. Ballinderry, Torrent, Moyola</li> <li>- Current 'niche' activity provision through outdoor activity providers, e.g. Jungle NI, Todd's Leap and AWOL</li> <li>- Unique 'adventurous' activity products currently on offer, e.g. high ropes (Go Ape), paintballing, zorbing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sperrins AONB - part of which falls within MUDC has no Management Plan or Management Body in place.</li> <li>- Silo approach taken to developing, managing and promoting outdoor recreation across the area</li> <li>- Family off-road cycling product weak in general across the area</li> <li>- Poor access to heritage and archaeological sites</li> <li>- Reactive approach to PROW</li> <li>- Fragmented bank access to the Lower Bann river corridor for walking and cycling as much of the land is privately owned</li> <li>- Land along the proposed Greenways predominantly privately owned</li> <li>- Conflict between users and conservation in areas e.g. water skiers and jet skiers not adhering to zones on Lower Bann</li> <li>- Difficulty retaining visitors in the area for longer than a single trip</li> <li>- Poor connectivity between some communities and green space</li> <li>- Lack of formal campsites, glamping and air de service etc. for recreational users</li> <li>- Lack of visitor welcome in Forests</li> <li>- No on-going rolling maintenance programme in place</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development already delivered by proactive Community Associations</li> <li>- SLAs already in place with 6 Community Associations for maintenance of sites</li> <li>- Community Trail buy-in already happening across the area</li> <li>- LNLPS in place – remit includes funding and delivering outdoor recreation development in Lough Neagh, Lough Beg and beyond</li> <li>- MoU in place with FSNI and proactive MUDC stance on taking on licence agreement for outdoor recreation on FSNI land</li> <li>- Number of successful events and participation programmes in place</li> <li>- Recognition of the importance of marketing to the success of participating in the outdoors</li> <li>- MUDC already a member of the NI marketing consortiums WalkNI.com and MountainbikeNI.com</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor information available on MUDC promotional channels (e.g. website) on outdoor recreation and parks</li> <li>- There is a proliferation of Facebook pages, none of which lend themselves to the promotion of outdoor recreation</li> <li>- Not a recognised tourist destination for outdoor recreation</li> <li>- Tourist market is dominated by day visitors (including educational market) with limited spend to the area</li> <li>- CanoeNI.com the main marketing website to market the three Canoe trails has lost its funding</li> <li>- Lack of partnership and collaboration across the outdoor recreation industry per se in the region</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve collaboration between all interested parties in outdoor recreation by expanding the membership of the Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</li> <li>- Improve and increase partnership working between the Council and community organisations particularly through maintenance SLAs</li> <li>- Capitalise on outdoor recreation development around NI's first proposed Dark Skies Reserve at Davagh</li> <li>- Capitalise on Seamus Heaney Home place and proposed heritage walking trails</li> <li>- Capitalise on the Lower Bann becoming one of only two 'Blueways' in NI by 2018</li> <li>- Capitalise on the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway (cross border) and the Clogher Valley Greenway</li> <li>- Capitalise on the proposed development on the western shores of Lough Neagh at Ballyronan and Traad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inadequate resources put in place</li> <li>- Availability and sources and priority of outdoor recreation within the Council's overall funding priorities</li> <li>- Raising awareness, identification of sources, availability, securing match funding</li> <li>- Competing agendas of multiple stakeholders and silo approach (vertical flow of information) – lack of partnership working</li> <li>- No one 'destination' brand for marketing and promotion</li> <li>- Lack of partnership working across Council departments and with external partners</li> <li>- Poor community buy-in for tourism (leisure/activity/heritage)</li> <li>- Poor industry buy-in for outdoor recreation development</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking: develop opportunities in the uplands and foothills, low level walks, riverside walks, pathways linking communities and green space and linking existing walks, focus on agreed routes and potential permissive paths</li> <li>- Proactive PROW investigation</li> <li>- Mountain biking: extend Davagh Forest trail and deliver the Clogher Valley long-distance ride.</li> <li>- Horseriding: facilitate the delivery of a long-distance horse-riding trail in the Clogher Valley</li> <li>- Strengthen existing activity hubs and develop new regional and local activity hubs.</li> <li>- Develop a Community Trail Plan for each DEA and deliver in each a Community Trail network</li> <li>- Deliver and coordinate event's/participation programme across the area working with local clubs, communities, NGOS and the private sector</li> <li>- Consolidate and enhance the existing product as a basis for increasing provision and participation</li> <li>- Improve disabled access through the area where possible</li> <li>- Improve the visitor welcome and basic visitor servicing at all forests</li> <li>- Increase accommodation offer at sites e.g. pods, glamping</li> <li>- Develop a strategic approach to marketing outdoor recreation and parks</li> <li>- Develop an integrated approach to marketing outdoor recreation across MUDC to enhance the visibility, appeal and promotion of the area for outdoor activities</li> <li>- Organisations with expertise in marketing outdoor recreation such as ORNI and Waterways Ireland are available to support</li> <li>- Get involved more with national web sites including WalkNI, CycleNI, MountainbikeNI and OutmoreNI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding: raising awareness, identification of sources, availability, securing match funding</li> </ul>
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## 7. ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan should be read in conjunction with Section 6 and Appendix H. It does not include Actions detailed in Appendix H which are already being led, delivered or funded by another organisation within the Council area e.g. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The cost is the total cost over the lifetime of the Strategy. For a more detailed breakdown of the costs see Appendix J and Appendix M which details an annual costed Action Plan.

Code	Site/Trail/ Area	Action	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Cost over 5 years	
					Existing Budget	New Budget

A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)						
A1.	Council wide	<b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer.</b> Review staff structure throughout lifetime of the Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> </ul>	On-going	£213,297	
A2.	Council wide	<b>Expansion of the existing Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b> - to include all those involved directly/indirectly with outdoor recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Community Association</li> <li>Governing Bodies of Sport</li> <li>Private Activity Providers</li> <li>Accommodation Providers</li> <li>Lough Neagh Partnership</li> </ul>	Year 1 On-going	Staff time	
A3.	Council wide	Co-ordinate and deliver through Property Services an adequately resourced <b>rolling maintenance programme</b> to include all current and future outdoor recreation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Community Association</li> </ul>	On-going	£675,000	
A4.	Council wide	Maintain and monitor existing SLAs with Community Groups. Develop new Partnership SLA's Community Forest Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Community Association</li> <li>Private Estates</li> </ul>	On-going	£177,250	£90,000

		Develop where appropriate new <b>SLAs with Community Groups</b> for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community e.g. Blessingbourne Estate. Provide the appropriate training on what is expected in terms of visitor experience and facility maintenance checks.				
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	Monitor existing locations of <b>counters</b> and install at all new outdoor recreation sites across the Council area moving forward.  Collection contracted out twice a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> </ul>	On-going	£15,000	
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>						
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b>  <b>Regional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ballyronan Marina and Wood/Traad Point (Year 1-2)</li> <li>Pomeroy Forest (Year2-3)</li> <li>Davagh Forest Park (Year 3-4)</li> </ul> <b>Local</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Round Lake, Fivemiletown (Year 1)</li> <li>Moydamlaght Forest (Year2)</li> <li>Altmore/Cappagh (Year 3)</li> <li>Windmill &amp; Cabin Wood (Year 3)</li> <li>Drumcairne Forest (Year 4)</li> <li>Iniscarn Forest (Year5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Private Sector</li> <li>FSNI</li> <li>DEARA</li> <li>DfC</li> <li>DFI</li> </ul>	Year 1-5		£135,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for each of the 9 DEAs  Will involve extensive community consultation, GIS mapping, prioritisation of trails to be developed and scoping of prioritised routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Individual communities</li> </ul>	Year 1-5	Staff time	
<b>C: PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>						

C.PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – MULTI ACTIVITY (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)					
C1	Lower Bann (multi trails – both on and off the water)	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Waterways Ireland</li> <li>• Mid and East Antrim Council</li> <li>• Causeway Coast and Glens Council</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• DFC</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> </ul>	Years 1-2	Staff time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway (family cycling and walking)	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the project by developing brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• DFI</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Omagh and Fermanagh Council</li> </ul>	Years 3-4	Staff time    £25,000
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway (family cycling and walking)	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the project by developing brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Waterways Ireland</li> <li>• Monaghan County Council</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> </ul>	Years 2-3	Staff time    £25,000
C4 (see Appendix K for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davagh Forest (see C7 – Year 4-5)</li> <li>• Ballyronan/Traad Point (Year 2 -5)</li> <li>• Pomeroy Forest (Year 3-5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• DEARA</li> <li>• DfC</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Private sector</li> </ul>	Years 2-5	Staff time    £1,850,000

C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round Lake, Fivemiletown (Year 1-2)</li> <li>• Portglenone (Year 1-2)</li> <li>• Windmill Park (Year2-3)</li> <li>• Moydamlaght Forest (Year2-3)</li> <li>• Altmore/Cappagh (Year 3-4)</li> <li>• Drumcairne Forest (Year 3-4)</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough (Year4-5)</li> <li>• Cabin Wood (Year4-5)</li> <li>• Iniscarn Forest (Year5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Ulster Council</li> <li>• Private sector</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• DEARA</li> <li>• DfC</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Woodland Trust</li> <li>• NI Water</li> </ul>	Years 1-5	£1,000,000
<b>C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – CANOEING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>					
C6	Lower Ballinderry River	<b>Canoe Trails</b> – assess the feasibility of establishing a canoe trail on the Lower Ballinderry River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• CANI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> </ul>	Years 1 - 3	£5,000
<b>C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT - MOUNTAIN BIKING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>					
C7	Davagh Forest	<b>National Mountain Bike Centre</b> —develop the existing Trails Centre through the extension of the current trail network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• FSNI</li> </ul>	Years 1-2	£500,000
C8	Clogher Valley	<b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> - facilitate NI first long-distance mountain biking trails using the forests of the Clogher Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Fermanagh and Omagh District Council</li> <li>• Forest Service NI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> </ul>	Years 1	£2,500



C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – HORSE RIDING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)					
C9	Clogher Valley	<b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> – support the development of off-road horse-riding trails in conjunction with FSNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Forest Service NI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• Private landowners</li> <li>• ILDRA</li> <li>• URRRA</li> </ul>	Year 2-5	Staff time £5,000
C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – WALKING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)					
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. Map out walking routes and trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Community association</li> <li>• Strabane and Derry Council</li> <li>• Causeway Coast and Glens Council</li> <li>• Local Walking Clubs</li> <li>• Community Associations</li> </ul>	Years 2-5	Staff time £25,000
C11	Council Wide	<p><b>Community Trails</b> – assist in the development of a network of Community Trails across the area. The following will need further detailed investigation and physical assessment as part of the wider Community Trail Plan as per recommendation B2 in order to prioritise projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altmore – Altmore Reservoir</li> <li>• Ballinderry River – Ardrea to Drapersfield River</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough – Dungannon Town</li> <li>• Desertmartin – to Iniscarn Forest</li> <li>• Draperstown – Tobermore along the Moyola River</li> <li>• Draperstown – Moneyneany along the Douglas River</li> <li>• Drumullan to Springhill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Community Associations</li> <li>• Private landowners</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• National Trust</li> <li>• DfC</li> <li>• NI Water</li> <li>• Waterways Ireland</li> </ul>	Years 1-5	Staff time (£) TBC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenvale Cookstown – Ballinderry River</li> <li>• Gortmoss/Gort Lane</li> <li>• Moneymore – Springhill Wood</li> <li>• Portglenone – Newferry</li> <li>• Portglenone – Hutchinson's Key – Portna – Kilrea</li> <li>• Parkanaur to Castlecaulfield – Donaghmore</li> <li>• Pomeroy Forest – Pomeroy Village</li> <li>• Sandholes along the Tullylagan River</li> <li>• Straw – along the former railway line</li> <li>• Stewartstown – Crieve Lough</li> <li>• Tullaghoge – Loughry</li> <li>• Tullaghoge Fort – Tullyhogue village</li> </ul>			
<b>D: PROMOTION/MARKETING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>					
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Strategy &amp; Plan</b> – develop a 5-year Marketing Strategy for outdoor recreation and parks and a tactical Marketing Action Plan	• MUDC	Year 1	Staff time
D2	Council Wide	<b>Identity</b> – develop a graphic device within the MUDC brand for forest outdoor recreation sites	• MUDC	Year 1	£5,000
D3	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Guidelines</b> – develop brand guidelines for all outdoor recreation sites	• MUDC	Year 1	£15,000
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Review and Implementation</b> – undertake a review of signage, visitor information and waymarking at the current portfolio of outdoor recreation sites and parks in order to recommend the action required to meet the guidelines. Implement across sites	• MUDC	Year 2-5	Staff time
D5	Council Wide	<b>Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan</b> – develop a plan in collaboration with Leisure to encourage people to take part in physical activity at sites of outdoor recreation with a focus on walking and cycling	• MUDC	Year 1	Staff time

D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Private sector</li> </ul>	Year 1-5	Staff time
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>					<div>Existing                      New</div> <div><b>£1,080,547    £3,682,500</b></div>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					<b>£4,763,047</b>

## 8. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There are several funding programmes which would support outdoor recreation development. (See Appendix M for details)

Fund / Programme	Grants Available	Applicant	Timeframe
The National Lottery Community Fund – People and Communities	Upto£100,000at 100%	Voluntary or community groups	Open all year round
The National Lottery Community Fund – Awards for All	Upto£10,000at 100%	Voluntary or community organisations, schools and statutory bodies	Open all year round
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£3,000 to £10,000 at 100%	Not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships	Open all year round
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£10,000 to £100,000 at 100%	Not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships	Open all year round
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£100,000to£250,000 at 95%	Not-for-profit organisations and partnerships ledby not-for-profit organisations	Set application windows each year
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£250,000 to £5 million at 90%	Not-for-profit organisations and partnerships ledby not-for-profit organisations	Open all year round
Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland - Community Grants Programme	Theaveragegrantis currentlybetween £3,000 - 4,000.	Registered charities with an income of lessthan £1 million	Open all year round
Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme	£500 to £5,000	Voluntary, community organisations, schools & third level education organisations, youth groups & sports clubs Housing Association and Housing Executive residents	Next phase launching 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2019.



## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A - List of natural heritage sites in Mid Ulster Council Area

Natural Heritage Type	Name	Natural Heritage Type	Name
AONB	Sperrin	ASSI	Ballymacombs More
ASSI	Wolf Island Bog	ASSI	Rehaghy Wood
ASSI	Dead Island Bog	ASSI	Round Lough and Lough Fadda
ASSI	Ballyknock	ASSI	Tanderagee
ASSI	Carn/Glenshane Pass	ASSI	Lough na blaney bane
ASSI	Ballynahone Bog	ASSI	Lough McCall
ASSI	Curran Bog	ASSI	Lurgylea
ASSI	Toome	ASSI	Knocknacloy
ASSI	Lough Beg	ASSI	Moneystaghan Bog
ASSI	Crockaghole Wood	ASSI	Sruhanleanantawey Burn
ASSI	Teal Lough Part II	ASSI	Brookend
ASSI	Teal Lough and Slaghtfreeden Bogs	ASSI	Caledon and Tynan
ASSI	Owenkillew River	ASSI	Drumbally Hill
ASSI	Black Bog	ASSI	Drummond Quarry
ASSI	Upper Ballinderry River	ASSI	Benburb - Milltown
ASSI	Ballysudden	ASSI	Roeveagh
ASSI	Limehill Farm	ASSI	Cavan
ASSI	Bardahessiagh	ASSI	Cloghcor Lough
ASSI	Little River	ASSI	Knockadoo Wood
ASSI	Lough Neagh	ASSI	Lough Doo
ASSI	Glenmore Wood	ASSI	Black Lough (Tyrone)
ASSI	Benburb	ASSI	Derrycloony Lough
ASSI	Fymore Lough	ASSI	Drumcrow
ASSI	Fardross Stream	ASSI	Slieve Beagh
ASSI	Cullentra Lough		
LCA	South Sperrin	LCA	Sperrin Mountains
LCA	Brougher Mountain	LCA	Clogher Valley Lowlands
LCA	Beaghmore Moors and Marsh	LCA	Binevenagh

LCA	Glenshane Slopes	LCA	Slieve Gallion
LCA	Slievemore	LCA	Upper Moyola Valley
LCA	Cookstown Farmlands	LCA	Dungannon Drumlins and Hills
LCA	Carrickmore Hills	LCA	Blackwater Valley
LCA	Loughgall Orchard Belt	LCA	Garvagh Farmland
LCA	West Lough Neagh Shores	LCA	Lower Bann Valley
LCA	Magherafelt Farmland	LCA	Lough Neagh Peatlands
LCA	Moyola Floodplain	LCA	Armagh Drumlins
LCA	Slieve Beagh		

NNR/NR	Ballynahone Bog	NNR/NR	Lough Neagh Islands
NNR/NR	Lough Beg		

SAC	Wolf Island Bog	SAC	Black Bog
SAC	Carn – Glenshane Pass	SAC	Upper Ballinderry River
SAC	Ballynahone Bog	SAC	Slieve Beagh
SAC	Teal Lough	SAC	Dead Island Bog
SAC	Owenkillew River	SAC	Curran Bog

SPA	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	SPA	Slieve Beagh - Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea
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RAMSAR	Ballynahone Bog	RAMSAR	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg
RAMSAR	Black Bog RAMSAR Site	RAMSAR	Slieve Beagh RAMSAR Site

## APPENDIX B– List of scheduled areas in Mid Ulster Area

TOWNLAND	EDITED TYPE	TOWNLAND	EDITED TYPE
Ballyronan Beg	Counterscarp rath	Annagh More	Crannog
Moneymore	Rath	Ballygawley	Castle
Mullanahoe	Souterrain	Beagh (Temporall)	Mound
Grange	Standing Stones (2) (area surrounding the state care monument)	Lisgorgan Glebe	Rath
Grange	Standingstone(areasurrounding the state care monument)	Knockoneill (Tamnybrack)	Rath
Carrydarragh	Rath	Dreenan	Rath
Castle Farm	Castle and Village: Stewartstown	Corick	Stone alignments and circle
Beaghmore	Cairn	Tamnadeese	Rath
Beaghmore	Cairn	Aghagaskin	Rath
Broughderg	Stone Circle and alignment	Tullybrick	Wedge tomb
Beaghmore	Cairn and alignment	Upperland	Rath
Davagh Lower	Ring cairn, stone circle and alignments	Drumderg	Portal tomb: Dergmore's Grave
Broughderg	Megalithis Tomb	Tintagh	Promontory fort
Dunmore	Mound: moat (lough Fea)	Annagh and Moneysterlin	Crannog at loughinsholin
Slaghtfreedan	Megalithic tomb: Giant's grave and 'cairns'	Coolsaragh	Rath: Drumbally Fort
Killucan	Wedge tomb: Carnanbane (area surrounding the state care monument)	Coolnasillagh	Stone circle and alignment
Killucan	Long Cairn (area surrounding the state care monument)	Tirnony	Church: Killelagh
Muntober	Rath: the black fort	Moneyneany	Rath
Feegarran	Trackway	Granaghan	Rath
Moymore	Stone circles (9) and alignments	Craigmore	Rath
Lissan	Rath: birch Hill	Gulladuff	Rath
Loughry	Wedge Tomb: Giant's Grave	Moygall	Barrow
Killymoon Demesne	Court Tomb	Tullynagee	Rath
Donaghenny	Standing Stone	Tullynagee	Bivallate Rath
Gortnagarn	Court tomb	Slaghtneill	Wedge Tomb: Giant's Grave
Tattykeel	Standingstone(areasurrounding the state care monument)	Ballymully	Wedge Tomb
Broughderg	Cist burial and associated features	Moneyguiggy	Rath: White Fort
Ballymultrea	Plantation castle, bawn and village site: Salterstown	Lismoyle	Bivallate Rath

Gortatray	Trivallate Enclosure	Dunglady	Multivallate Rath: Dunglady Rath
Belagherty	Bivallate Rath	Cabragh	Windmill: Knockcloghrim
Mawillian	Rath: The Fort	Tobermore	Rath
Magheraglass	Church and enclosure (area surrounding the state care monument)	Doon	Rath
Moymore	Barrow	Dernabane	Large Enclosure
Ballybriest	Stone Circle Complex	Culnagrew	Standing stone and burials
Ballindrum	Rath	Lisnagleer	Standing Stone 'Clogh Corr'
Doorless	Rath	Mobuy	Standing stone and site of stone circle 'Druid's Circle'
Terressan	Rath	Reloagh	Crannogs
Drumard	Rath	Beleevna-beg	Concentric stone circles
Ballyneill More	Rath	Golan	Henge
Feegarron	Wedge Tomb	Intake	Church, graveyard and bullaun: Church Island
Feegarron	Wedge Tomb	Broughderg	Court Tomb: Carnanagarranbane
Davagh Lower	Wedge tomb: Big Man's Grave	Clogher Demesne	Large Hilltop Enclosure
Cloghog	Rectangular enclosure - artillery fort?	Ballybriest	Wedge Tomb (area surrounding the state care monument)
Carr	Platform rath	Ballybriest	Dual court tomb, 'Carnanbane' (area surrounding the state care monument)
Sess Kilgreen	Passage tomb: standing stones (2)	Ballywholan	Court tomb, 'carnagat' (area surrounding the state care monument)
Rousky	Aghaloo Church	Sess Killgreen	Passage Tomb
Shantavny Irish	Passage tomb	Murnells	Portal tomb and long cairn 'Dermot and Grania's Bed' and round cairn
Cullamore	Court tomb: Giant's Grave	Crannogue	Fortified mound
Derrydrummond	Court tomb: Giant's Graves	Mulnagore	Hut platform
Lislane	Wedge tomb	Glege (Ballyclog)	Church: Ballyclog Old Church
Stakernagh	Crannog in Lough Aughlish	Broughderg	Stone circles, alignments and cairn
Carnteel	Church	Mormeal	Ecclesiastical site - 'Kilcronaghan Church'
Roughan and Tullagh Beg	Crannog	Mullaghwothragh	Windmill
Clogherny/Crossteely/Cadian	Crannog	Tamlaght	Standing Stone 'The Honeymug Stone'



Lismore	Rath	Innishrush	Crannog in Green Lough (area surrounding the state care monument)
Sessia	Rath	Ballymulderg Beg	Mound
Lungs	Earthwork: oval platform with terrace	Broughderg	Two stone circles and a standing stone
Aughnacarney	Rath	Castletown	Ring Barrow
Lisdoart	Platform rath	Dungororan	Rath (area surrounding the state care monument)
Tullydowey	Artillery Fort: Mulland Fort	Lisgobban	Bivallate Rath 'Ligobban Fort'
Knockaginny	Rath	Clogher Demesne	Clogher Hillfort (area surrounding the state care monument)
Corick	Rath and tree - ring	Moymore	Rath
Mullans	Rath	Roughan	Castle
Favour Royal Demesne	Bivallate Rath	Farsnagh and Sessia	Ecclesiastical site: environs of Ardboe cross and abbey
Durless White	Rath	Drumcoo	Castle and house (site of) 'Dungannon Castle'
Findermore	Cross-carved standing stone: Abbey Stone	Tullybrick	Prehistoric field and cairn complex
Creevelough	Rath	Dunnamore	Wedge Tomb
Branny	Hilltop Enclosure	Loughry	Rath
Mallabeney	Hillfort	Tamlaght	Portal tomb 'Cloghtogle'
Shantavny Scotch	Wedge tomb	Glencull	Cross-head built into wall of farm outbuilding
Corboe	Rath	Aghintain	17th-Century fortified house and bawn. 'Aghintain Castle'
Ballyness	Standing Stone	Beaghmore	Area of archaeological potential north of Beaghmore Stone Circles
Favour Royal Demesne	Bivallate Rath	Sess Kilgreen	Megalithic Tomb
Altmore alias Barracktown	Court Tomb	Clogher Demesne	Ecclesiastical site. 'Clochar Mac nDaimeni'
Sess Kilgreen	Mound	Beagh More	Round cairn and standing stones, 'Mickey Bradley's Cairn'
Demesne	Caledon Cross	Ballymully	Ecclesiastical site and enclosure. 'Destertlyn Old Church'
Cadian	Sweat House	Gortmerron	Fragment of Romanesque arch
Tullydowey	Clonfeacle Cross	Ballymully Glebe	Inauguration Site: Tullaghoge Fort
Kilnagrew	Crannog	Charlemont/Moy	Charlemont Fort

Mullaghmore	Rath	Caledon	19th-century Beam engine with engine house and chimney base
Altmore alias Barricktown	Megalith	Lislane	Wedge tomb
Sess Kilgreen	Passage tomb: decorated standing stone	Tattykeel	Megalithic Tomb
Glenchuil	Passage tomb: (sometimes known as Glenchuil fort)	Castletown	Eelweir and associated features
Tycanny	Large hilltop enclosure	Gortalowry	Rath (rescheduled area)
Killyliss	Rath: Killyliss fort (area surrounding the state care monument)	Brackaville; Annagher	Chimneys (4)
Lismore	Favor Royal Bawn	Annagher	Chimney
Crew	Platform Rath	Strawmore	Standing stone; poss. Megalithic tomb
Errigal	Rath	Magherafelt Town Parks	Multiperiod church and graveyard
Bloomhill	Rath	Drumgormal	Bivallate Rath
Glasdrummond	Court Tomb	Brackaville; Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, eastern portion of canal basin (IHR 5141)
Keady	Platform Rath	Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, Reach 1 (IHR 5141)
Edenageeragh	Rath: Lismaloe Fort	Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, Reach 2 (IHR 5141)
Sessiamagaroll	Rath and motte: Sessiamagaroll fort	Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, Reach 3 (IHR 5141)
Tullygiven	Crannog	Gortgonis; Annaghmore	Coalisland Canal, Reach 4 (IHR 5141)
Shanmaghry	Wedge Tomb	Annaghmore; Derrytresk	Coalisland Canal, Reach 5 (IHR 5141)
Martray	Rath: Martray Fort	Derrytresk	Coalisland Canal, Reach 6 (IHR 5141)
Glenkeen	Platform Rath	Derrytresk	Coalisland Canal, Reach 7 (IHR 5141)
Glenoo	Church, graveyard and bullaun: Killycawna	Loughry	Prehistoric Enclosure
Annagh More	Crannog	Ballywholan	State Care Portal Tomb 'Carnfadrig'

## APPENDIX C – Land owners / Land Managers in Mid Ulster.

SITE	LANDOWNER/MANAGER
Coalisland Canal, Ballysaggart Lough, Glenmore, Ardtrea Bridge, Windmill Park, Dungannon Park, Ballyronan Marina/Traad Point	Mid Ulster Council
Altmore	Forest Service NI
Bann Woods South	Forest Service NI
Caledon	Forest Service NI
Clabby	Forest Service NI
Cookstown	Forest Service NI
Creggan	Forest Service NI
Crocknagrally	Forest Service NI
Davagh	Forest Service NI
Derrynoyd	Forest Service NI
Drum Manor	Forest Service NI
Dunmoyle	Forest Service NI
Fardross	Forest Service NI
Favour Royal	Forest Service NI
Glenshane	Forest Service NI
Iniscarn	Forest Service NI
Knockmany	Forest Service NI
Moydamlaght	Forest Service NI
Moyola	Forest Service NI
Mullaghfad	Forest Service NI
Parkanaur	Forest Service NI
Pomeroy	Forest Service NI
Portglenone	Forest Service NI
Springhill and Wellbrook Beetling Mill	National Trust
Lough Beg NNR	DEARA
Brookend NNR	DEARA
Loughry	DEARA
Tullaghoge SCM	Department for Communities
Beaghmore SCM	Department for Communities
Castlecaulfield Castle SCM	Department for Communities
Clogher Hill Fort SCM	Department for Communities
Altmore (Low) and Lough Fea	NI Water
Lough Beg	RSPB
Moyola Waterfoot	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Blessingbourne	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Portna Lock	Waterways Ireland
Hutchinson's Quay	Waterways Ireland
Portglenone Wood Jetty	Waterways Ireland
Aughnahoy Jetty	Waterways Ireland
Cabin Wood	Woodland Trust
Drumlamph Woodland	Woodland Trust
Gortgonis Wood	Woodland Trust

## APPENDIX D – Strategic Context.

### Our Passion, Our Place NIEA Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022

Under the 'People and Places' priority, a strategic goal of NIEA is to create the opportunity for everyone to appreciate and enjoy the natural environment, with success being defined as more of the natural and built heritage becoming available for the public to enjoy.

Another goal under this priority is to ensure NIEA's natural environment and built heritage assets meet the needs of society and local communities. Success in achieving this goal is defined as their portfolio of historic properties, nature reserves and country parks being managed to provide best value for the people of Northern Ireland.

Under the strategic priority of creating 'A Healthy Natural Environment' the need to protect and conserve the historic environment is highlighted, along with creating sustainable, diverse landscapes with rich biodiversity that are resilient to change.

The final relevant strategic priority is 'Sustainable Economic Growth', the aim of which is to create a green economy that reflects the value of the environment and builds prosperity. This strategic goal aims to work towards the value of Northern Ireland's natural and built assets to the economy being fully realised. This will be achieved through encouraging the use of the natural and built environment, resulting in enhanced access to and information on 50 significant properties, as well as increased awareness on the contribution of the natural and built environment to contribute to economic growth.

### Regional Development Strategy for N. Ireland 2035

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) for Northern Ireland to 2035, published in 2010 by the Department of Regional Development, is the spatial strategy for the Northern Ireland Executive and takes account of key driving forces such as population growth, the increasing number of households, transportation needs, economic changes and the spatial implications of a divided society. It seeks to inform and guide the whole community in the drive to create a dynamic, prosperous and progressive Northern Ireland in the third millennium.

Several key aims of the RDS are applicable to this study. One of the aims of the RDS is to 'Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential', rural areas including towns and villages have a key role in supporting economic growth. They offer opportunities in terms of their potential for growth in new sectors, the provision of rural recreation and tourism, their attractiveness as places to invest, live and work, and their role as a reservoir of natural resources and highly valued landscapes.

Another aim is to 'promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities'. A healthy community is better able to take advantage of the economic, social and environmental opportunities which are open to it. Improved health and well-being is derived not only from easy access to appropriate services and facilities, although this is important, but also from the creation of a strong economy set within a safe and attractive environment.

The Spatial Framework for Northern Ireland identified within the RDS, states that Enniskillen should be a gateway and a main hub within the region.

The development of recreation activities and access opportunities within the study area responds to the Spatial Development strategies within the RDS on the following:

RG7: Support urban and rural renaissance through:



- Developing innovative ways to bring forward under-utilised land and buildings

RG11: Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment through:

- Sustaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Protecting and managing important geological and geomorphological features
- Protecting, enhancing and restoring the quality of inland water bodies
- Recognising and promoting the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character

SFG11: Promote economic development opportunities at Hubs

- Promote and exploit the potential for economic development.

SFG13: Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside

- Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations – recreation opportunities contribute to local communities.

### **Northern Ireland Changing Gear – A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland**

The main vision of this Strategy published by DRD in 2015 is ‘a community where people have the freedom and confidence to travel by bicycle for everyday journeys. A main objective is to ‘improve opportunities for social interaction – 22% of households in Northern Ireland do not have access to a car/van. Improved cycling infrastructure enhances the travel opportunities for those who don’t have access to a car/van’.

Implementation of the Bicycle Strategy will support participation in sporting activities and improve access to and development of recreational facilities.

The Strategy recognises that there are differences in cycling between urban and rural environments, and that DRD will continue to invest in enhancing the physical infrastructure in rural areas.

In seeking to increase opportunities to use the bicycle in rural areas, DRD recognises that many rural roads are spaces to be shared by a range of users including people walking, people using the bicycle and people in motorised vehicles. It is important that all of these users feel safe when using rural routes, particularly vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists. This can be done through investment in infrastructure in combination with improved respect and understanding between all road users. It also recognises that Greenways in rural areas can be valuable recreational assets as well as providing a link to local facilities i.e. community trails.

### **A Fitter Future For All - Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022.**

This Framework published by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety aims to “empower the population of Northern Ireland to make healthy choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet”.

It identifies that prevention is taken forward through action to address two main areas – improving diet and nutrition and increasing participation in physical activity. Acknowledging this, two overarching objectives for the Framework have been set: to increase the percentage of people eating a healthy, nutritionally balanced diet; and to increase the percentage of the population meeting the CMO guidelines on physical activity.

Greater access to public and privately-owned land is articulated as one of the outcomes to achieve this.

### **Assessment of the Existing and Potential Tourism Development Opportunities Available from NI Forests.**

Completed for NITB and Forest Service NI in 2012, by KPMG, in association with Oxford Economics and Louise Browne Associates, this report sets out a forward vision for forest related tourism in Northern Ireland as:

‘ to use the forest estate to deliver an exceptional visitor and short break experience for all which will increase the economic impact of forest related tourism in Northern Ireland’

In progressing the vision and objectives seven development principles will underpin all activity that will be implemented. The most relevant to the development of an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Mid Ulster include:

- Forest related tourism will need to be developed and marketed as an integral and key component of a wider geographical tourism product. However, in exceptional circumstances, strategically significant opportunities for individual forests may play an important role in overall forest and tourism development
- Development opportunities progressed in relation to forest related tourism will reflect environmental considerations – in terms of additional employment, prosperity and quality of life.
- Development will recognise the benefits that will accrue to local rural communities as well as potential revenue growth on a regional scale
- Effective partnerships will be put in place including partnership agreements with public sector organisations

In addition, the report highlighted the importance of providing ‘quality’ information, services, orientation facilities, activities and accommodation.

### **Tourism Strategy for NI to 2020**

As indicated in the draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020, while much has been achieved there is still much to do to create a successful, high quality and competitive destination for tourists. The development of an exceptional visitor experience in relation to forest related tourism has a key role to play in this context. Partnership working is required at strategic and operational level and needs to involve a variety of public, private and community sector partnerships. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development providing support and facilitating others in the provision of recreational activities was highlighted as a key area in the report. In the Action Plan, a priority of introducing high quality recreation products within forest was proposed.

### **Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)**

PPS 8 sets out the Department’s planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It embodies the Government’s commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthier lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.

Open Space is defined in PPS8, Open Space, Sport and outdoor Recreation as

‘all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canal, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity’.

Open space, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life providing many health, cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban regeneration. The use being made of the countryside for a range of sporting and outdoor recreational activities, particularly where these are associated with farm diversification, can contribute to the process of rural regeneration and help promote natural resource tourism.

Consequently, retaining open space, creating new open space and promoting more opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation in the future is important.

### **Planning Policy Statement 16 (PPS16) – Tourism (2013)**

PPS 16 sets out the ‘the Department’s planning policy for tourism development and also for the safeguarding of tourism assets. It seeks to facilitate economic growth and social well-being through tourism in ways which are sustainable and compatible with environmental welfare and the conservation of important environmental assets.

It recognises the important contribution of tourism to the NI economy in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides and the potential it creates for economic growth.

It also recognises the importance of ‘sustainable tourism development’, that is, tourism that meets the needs of present tourist and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunity for the future. Sustainable tourism development is brought about by balancing the needs of tourists and the tourism industry with those of the destination.

PPS16 provides a framework for identifying appropriate sustainable development opportunities and safeguarding tourism assets which are acknowledged public value, such as the natural environment from harmful development and on which tourism itself may depend.

### **Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins (ORNI on behalf of SportNI, 2013)**

Carried out on behalf of SportNI by ORNI in partnership with the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum, the Plan considered existing outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities in the Sperrins, identified the gaps in provision and recommended priorities for development over the next 5-10 years which would accommodate both the needs of the local community and visitors to the area. The Plan highlighted that because of several issues at a local and national level, the area has witnessed a lack of development in terms of the outdoor recreation product delivered on the ground. Two Action Plans were produced:

- A Strategic Action Plan with 21 overarching principles to act as a strategic framework for the integrated development of outdoor recreation in the Sperrins and informed by condensing and generalising the actions which make up the second plan namely;
- A Working Action Plan which contains 72 site and activity-specific actions which will guide the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum over the next 5-10 years and other organisations with a mutual interest in outdoor recreation in the Sperrins area.

Several of the key recommendations include increased provision for walking, mountain biking, orienteering, angling etc. within the Mid Ulster area.

### **Dungannon and South Tyrone Forests – Tourism and Recreation Scoping Study**

Commissioned by the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, an audit of the tourism and recreation potential of 9 forests within the Council area namely Parkanaur, Brantry, Fardross, Favour Royal, Knockmany, Dunmoyle, Mullaghfad, Crocknagrally and Caledon was carried out by ORNI. The Study recognised that whilst some of the forests in the area provide a range of outdoor recreation and activity tourism opportunities, the potential of the forests in terms of providing for the local population and visitors alike, had not yet been realised. The Study assessed the current tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities available within the Forests and then made recommendations for future development, investment and management arrangements, taking account of what is happening at a national level in forests and in the wider areas in terms of tourism.

### **Lough Neagh – Assessing the Current and Potential Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities.**

Commissioned by Inland Waterways of DCAL, ORNI completed in 2014 a study to assess the recreation opportunities and provision of recreation facilities that exist around Lough Neagh. Sites were separated into 'regional' and 'local recreational nodes, a regional node defined as one which has the potential to attract day visitors from the surrounding area and further afield whilst a local recreational node is one that provides recreational opportunities mainly for local communities.

Within the Mid Ulster area, Ballyronan and the Battery were identified as regional nodes, with Washing Bay was identified as a local recreational node. It also identified that whilst some nodes have had significant development and modernisation of facilities, other smaller nodes have been neglected and now require significant development.

The report also highlighted that:

- Any future development of recreation on and around the Lough should be carried out sensitively
- The success of outdoor recreation development on or around the Lough was dependent on joined up thinking amongst those tasked with its administration
- The development of Community trails would improve access to the shoreline and recreation nodes around the Lough for residents and visitors alike
- A consistent branding, signage and interpretation and way marking strategy is needed to ensure the successful promotion of the Lough and its amenities.

### **Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan (Lough Neagh Partnership)**

In 2013, Lough Neagh Partnership carried out a co-operation project for Lough Neagh one element of which included completing an audit / gap analysis and action plan for improving built, cultural and natural heritage and visitor activities around the Lough. This required a comprehensive audit of existing visitor infrastructure and identifying opportunities for the provision of improved and/or new facilities.

The detailed audit and stakeholder consultation identified a number of gaps and needs relating to recreation and related activities on and around the Lough:

- No recreational angling provision on the Lough – need for developing fishing stand and permit infrastructure
- Existing beach facilities are underutilised and there is a potential to develop wild swimming bases on the Lough



- Existing caravan caravanning and camping facilities are of good quality. However, more innovative facilities are needed, particularly those which tie in with existing recreation products such as cycle and canoe trails
- Tradd Point underutilised for recreation
- Provision of marina facilities on the east side of the Lough is poor – particularly for providing safe havens between Sandy Bay and Antrim
- Lack of innovative products, such as mountain biking and pump tracks and underutilisation of existing cycle and canoe trails
- Navigation and safety issues (including markers and dredging) still exist on the Lough, hindering access to rivers and facilities
- Forest Service Northern Ireland facilities around the Lough are underutilised and would require developments such as outdoor gyms, play trails, nature walks, mountain biking etc.
- No significant heritage trail around the whole of the Lough

The Lough Neagh Gap analysis and Action Plan called for the development of a Lough Neagh Development Plan for 2013 – 2018 as informed by the Gap and SWOT analysis and informed by strategic documents from other government departments local councils in order to reflect strategy priorities.

The plan created a vision: *'In 2019 Lough Neagh, will have an unrivalled reputation as a different place to live, work and visit, building on its unique natural, built and cultural heritage'*. Suggests that any future development of the Lough is dependent on a number of important actions, linked to a number of relevant common themes:

**Theme 1:** Sustainable product development of the built, natural and cultural tourism products

**Theme 2:** Promote and brand the Lough's unique image and destination focusing on the day visitor and domestic market and making use of technology and events

**Theme 3:** Develop the tourism and cultural tourism skill base of local tourism providers and communities

**Theme 4:** Develop strong partnerships and networks

### **Draft 2014 – 2019 Lough Neagh Destination Management Plan (Lough Neagh Partnership)**

The draft Destination Management Plan was developed to maximise the benefits of increased tourism to Lough Neagh. In tandem with the Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan, the Destination Management Plan identified the gaps and issues relating to current provision for tourism on and around the Lough.

It set strategic priorities, outputs and actions as per the four themes outlined in the Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan. Outdoor Recreation relevant to the Mid Ulster area was considered under

**Theme 1: Sustainable Product Development of the Built, Natural and Cultural Heritage of Lough Neagh:**

1. Develop Pump Cycle Centres at 4 Lough shore sites
2. Provide Quality camping and pod-based provision at 4 shore sites
3. Establish 3 swimming beaches on Lough with water / wild swimming activities

**Theme 3: Develop the tourism and cultural tourism skill base of local providers and communities:**

1. Establish 3 swimming beaches on Lough with trained swimming instructors on Lough with waster / wild swimming activities

#### Theme 4: Develop Strong Partnerships and Networks:

1. Develop integrated rural development programme for shores of Lough Neagh around the themes of activity tourism

The Management Plan has outlined the following key performance indicators in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme for outdoor recreation. These are:

- 4 pod and camping provisions at Lough Neagh shore sites
- Provision of 4 pump cycle products
- New Lough Neagh Heritage Trail
- Develop Lough Neagh angling programme
- Pilgrimage trail from Moortown to Ardboe Cross
- 3 new beaches developed

## APPENDIX E – Village Plan Recommendations related to outdoor recreation opportunities.

45 villages in the Mid Ulster area have had Village Community Plans completed. The table below provides an overview of those Village Plans only which have identified future opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Village Plan	Current status	Future potential
<b>Annaghmore (Clonoe)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient range of activities to help older people stay fit and healthy</li> <li>• Insufficient recreational facilities for women and families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of off-road cycle tracks, walkways.</li> </ul>
<b>Ardboe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of provision for the elderly</li> <li>• Ardboe Cross no toilets, car parking, security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish older person's group that will run activities including a walking group</li> <li>• Develop a Lough Shore mini guide to support the wider tourism development of water and land-based recreation – charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling, wildlife, birdwatching trails.</li> <li>• Develop toilets and car parking at Abbey.</li> </ul>
<b>Augher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade sections of walkway along the River</li> <li>• Basic facilities at Knockmany need improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct survey on the walkway along the River Blackwater and identify areas where work is needed</li> <li>• Investment needed at Knockmany to bring facility up to standard for local people and visitors</li> </ul>
<b>Ballinascreen (Ballinascreen, Moneyneany, Straw and Sixtowns)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Park for Moneyneena had been earlier identified</li> <li>• No safe place to go off road walking or running in Straw and the 'Big bridges'</li> <li>• Development of Derrynoyd Forest and Rural College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate further</li> <li>• Provision of safe off-road walking and cycling track – Old railway line considered a possibility.</li> <li>• Develop a playpark in the area</li> <li>• Look at options to revive the facility and its surroundings</li> </ul>
<b>Ballinderry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Ballinderry River and Cott Lane (fishing, walking, etc)</li> <li>• Angling facilities inadequate</li> <li>• Canoeing facilities inadequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Cott Lane and Gortmoss Walkway and better signage at Cott Lane</li> <li>• Information boards at key sites</li> <li>• Develop a walkway along the Ballinderry River</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angling infrastructure needs improved.</li> <li>• Develop a canoe trail along the Ballinderry River</li> </ul>
<b>Ballygawley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting around walkway at playing field is not enough</li> <li>• Walkway is prone to flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erect floodlights around the walkway</li> <li>• Install proper drainage along pathway</li> </ul>
<b>Ballymaguigan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of footpaths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and wellbeing activities – sports activities and walks cross country.</li> </ul>
<b>Ballyronan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism potential of Lough and marina need to be maximised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism strategy and Marketing Plan needed for the area</li> </ul>
<b>Bellaghy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate access from Bawn to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• Inadequate signage</li> <li>• No heritage trail linking Seamus Heaney landmarks noted in his poetry</li> <li>• More health and well-being projects required</li> <li>• Wetlands underused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and link Bawn by path to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• New signage of heritage sites e. Lough Beg, Toners Bog</li> <li>• Develop Seamus Heaney Trail</li> <li>• Develop cross country walks and walking group</li> <li>• Development of famous wetlands</li> </ul>
<b>Benburb</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family walking and cycling trails needed</li> <li>• Need to develop community facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walking and cycling routes in Benburb Valley Park along Ulster Canal Greenway.</li> <li>• Develop a Park Ranger Service to manage the eco system in Benburb Valley and River Blackwater</li> <li>• Develop a community fishing hub at River Blackwater</li> </ul>
<b>Brocagh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boats cannot access the quay because of sandbars</li> <li>• Need to develop permissive paths and greenway</li> <li>• Exploit heritage sites</li> <li>• Little opportunity for older people to stay healthy and active as well as no recreational facilities for women and families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract to dredge channel into the quay and maintain on an annual basis</li> <li>• Develop off-road cycle tracks to allow young people and families to walk and cycle safely between shops, school and Brocagh Community Centre</li> <li>• Develop tours, walks and events for visitors to the area</li> <li>• Develop range of events and activities in Brocagh Community Centre to encourage active lifestyle</li> </ul>
<b>Broughderg</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximization of use of Davagh Forest and increased visitor services and experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of:</li> <li>• Bird watching facilities</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Forest Garden / Nature Trail (link schools)</li> <li>• More walking trails, geared towards families, challenging and non-challenging</li> <li>• Angling Facilities, stock river, salmon spawn/sea trout</li> <li>• Incorporate disability access where possible</li> <li>• Showers /changing area</li> <li>• Camping facility / glamping pods</li> <li>• Brick built BBQ facilities (Island in middle of carpark suggested for picnic are /tables)</li> <li>• Activities/Equipment for older children outside of playpark, e.g. Zip lines</li> <li>• Seating in/near playpark</li> <li>• Cycle rental / repair (consistent times)</li> <li>• GPS App of Forest developed (dependent on broadband)</li> </ul>
<b>Bush</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant development in village for necessary footpaths. Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian/cycle paths around the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath link to Dungannon/Tamnamore/Clairefields required</li> </ul>
<b>Caledon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caledon has a wealth of natural resources which could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool. The Blackwater River, and Ulster Canal, represent a vital part of Caledon's fabric and are a valuable resource to the village and its heritage – Glaslough/Caledon walkway and famine wall project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to promote natural resource tourism – potential for Greenway/Riverside/Outdoor Gym/Cross Border walk-way project – needs ongoing maintenance needed to check over-growth on riverbank – picnic area spruce-up, - dog fouling provision of scoop-bag and waste bin</li> </ul>
<b>Churchtown/Lissan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lissan House and grounds is a key asset – yet little evidence of buy in from the local community</li> <li>• Limited disability access for anglers and ramblers at Lough Fea</li> <li>• Valuable local assets are under-developed, under-promoted and under-utilised due to access and wider knowledge</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructure support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Working Group with reps from Lissan House Trust and Community. Local needs analysis to be undertaken.</li> <li>• Learning journey to other successful community/heritage projects</li> <li>• Increase accessibility at Lough Fea</li> <li>• Project development and feasibility associated with Lissan House, Lough Fea and Slieve Gallion</li> <li>• Accommodation provision within the area to be further investigated (including B&amp;B, bunk barns, bothys glamping etc)</li> </ul>
<b>Clady</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of footpath from Fisherman's Walk to Portglenone. Lacking facilities also.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of river walkways and Bann (walk from Bann Bridge to Molloy's Ford)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for walkways/greeway circuit from Clady-Innisrush-Glenone-Clady.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkway to be investigated</li> </ul>
<b>Clogher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic facilities at Fardross Forest need improved</li> <li>• Caravan Park needs to be promoted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment needed at Fardross to bring facility up to standard for locals and visitors</li> <li>• Encourage maintenance of the caravan park and encourage greater use through MUDC tourism information</li> </ul>
<b>Coagh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximisation of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy</li> <li>• Inadequate angling facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walks including Hanover House to the old mill, linking up with Ballinderry along the River and creating a circuit from Hanover House to the football club and back into Coagh along the Ballinderry Road (CP)</li> <li>• Improve existing infrastructure</li> <li>• Identification of potential routes and liaison with local landowners</li> <li>• Develop names and signage for walks</li> <li>• Liaise with Rivers Agency re provision of angling facilities in Ballinderry River</li> <li>• Liaise with local angling club to confirm requirements regarding use of anglers' huts</li> </ul>
<b>Culnady, Innisrush and Tamlaght</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stone bridge linking Innisrush to Clade needs maintained and enhanced as part of a walking trail</li> <li>• River walk along Clady River consistently floods</li> <li>• Lack of opportunities for activities within the three villages and limited provision of space for development of activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop points of interest board for users of the walk</li> <li>• Walk needs better protected to allow users full access</li> <li>• Develop green space for recreational walking and cycling. Potential for creation of allotments. Dedicated space for Mother and Toddler provision</li> </ul>
<b>Desertmartin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iniscarn Forest has minimal development but has high potential for tourism.</li> <li>• There are few health and well-being projects outside mainstream sports</li> <li>• Elderly isolated</li> <li>• Loss of tourism potential from Slieve Gallion and surrounding Sperrins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Iniscarn Forest.</li> <li>• Establish community allotments, walkway circuit (CP)</li> <li>• Establish walking group</li> <li>• Develop a walking trail from Lough Fea to Slieve Gallion</li> </ul>
<b>Drummullan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise potential of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walking routes identifying local beauty spots/historical places of interest e.g. Ballinderry River/St Patrick's Well/The Drummullan Giant – link to Springhill</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing interest in walking and cycling in the area -need for safe routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism signage and interpretation developed</li> <li>Development of footpath to link up two rural roads providing a safe walk (CP)</li> <li>Support plans for Greenway Development and connect Drummullan</li> </ul>
<b>Edendork</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cullion Lake under-developed in terms of local wetland/heritage/ecosystem resource</li> <li>No footpath provision off the Coalisland Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential development as local amenity/educational resource with access pathways and signage</li> <li>Lobby DfI for provision of adequate foot paving off the main Coalisland Road</li> </ul>
<b>Eglilsh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very few areas for open recreation in the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify potential Greenways and walking routes in the area</li> </ul>
<b>Fivemiletown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Round Lake is a major asset</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Round Lake is maintained on a regular basis</li> <li>Additional equipment would be welcomed</li> </ul>
<b>Galbally and Cappagh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reservoir should be enhanced and developed</li> <li>The area has many natural resources which should be enhanced as potential tourism products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out feasibility study on potential development at Cappagh Reservoir in relation to environmental and tourism potential</li> <li>Carry out scoping exercise of local natural resources with tourism potential</li> </ul>
<b>Gulladuff / Termoneeny</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of developed walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk and others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The creation of a cycle lane network, specifically from the Termoneeny centre to Gulladuff village.</li> <li>Look at the potential for developing off road cycling.</li> <li>Developing walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk, Dreenan Road and others</li> </ul>
<b>Killyman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian /cycle path around the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a dropped kerb at Cavanagh Road</li> </ul>
<b>Moortown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLF Landscape Partnership produced a three-part report including cross country walking and heritage trails with key points within the village</li> <li>No secure outdoor recreational space for young people</li> <li>Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Airfield, The Battery Harbour and the Old Cross</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sharing with key agencies and Council Tourism Strategy. Join up all initiatives to ensure a strategic approach to planning</li> <li>Create secure outdoor recreation space at the Youth centre</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of water-based recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploit the area's water and land base outdoor recreation, charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling wildlife, birdwatching trails – links to Kinturk centre</li> <li>Progress ORNI report on water-based recreation at the Battery Harbour</li> </ul>
<b>Moygashel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrance to Dungannon Park at Moygashel end isn't aesthetically pleasing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tidy up entrance and ensure it is maintained. Need to maintain and enhance the area at Bleach Field that links the village to Dungannon Park</li> </ul>
<b>Newmills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunity for local people to walk and cycle safely on an off-road path. Develop permissive paths and Greenway to aqueduct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop off-road cycle tracks</li> </ul>
<b>Pomeroy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximising the use of Pomeroy Forest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension and development of pathways, signage and information boards, picnic tables</li> <li>Install toilet facilities with open access for playpark use</li> <li>Additional bins installed</li> <li>Car parking needed beside playpark</li> <li>Develop access path and lighting linking the forest entrance at front and rear back to the village</li> <li>Suitable area for various outdoor activities</li> <li>Develop campsite facilities / glamping</li> <li>Safe access route between Queen Elizabeth II Primary school and the Forest (CP)</li> <li>Re-develop old forestry school building and out-building as a multi-use shared asset of the community</li> <li>Re-develop old forestry school building and out-buildings as a multi-use shared asset of the community e.g. toilets and accommodation for forest users</li> </ul>
<b>Sandholes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local recreation assets under-developed, promoted and under utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop river walkways along the Tullylagan River</li> <li>Develop access to Tullylagan House and gardens</li> </ul>
<b>Stewartstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost ¼ of population have a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop walking routes at Drumcaine Forest</li> <li>Map walking and cycling routes around the Village</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few opportunities for walking and cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCN route at Drumcairne</li> <li>Walking routes at Drumcairne</li> <li>Link both areas together and create a shared space 'village green'</li> <li>Develop access trail to Crieve Lough and erect interpretation panels, signage etc</li> <li>Explore feasibility of improving Stuart Hall</li> <li>Develop walking, cycling and play infrastructure at Drumcairne Forest</li> </ul>
<b>Swatragh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River walkway cycle route/nature walk along the river.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop informal walkway between Swatragh and Upperlands</li> </ul>
<b>The Rock &amp; Slatequarry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is demand for access and improvement to The Church Moss as a safe walking route</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and extension of walkway at Church Moss (problem with Japanese Knotweed) needs removed</li> </ul>
<b>Tullyhogue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valuable local assets under promoted and underutilised eg Fort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop footpaths to Fort</li> </ul>
<b>Upperlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural resources in the area that are not being used could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redevelopment of the amphitheatre area as a park and recreational space for the village with links to the pathways along the river and redevelopment of the civic space entrance area</li> <li>Identify accessible routes for walk/cycle paths. Develop waymarked walking routes, allotments, walking clubs – possible linkages with Dams project</li> <li>Develop a scheme for the development of the Beetling Dams as a natural asset providing green accessible space, water-based activities, walking and fishing</li> <li>Phased project required. Phase 1 involved the completion of a feasibility study and development plan, phase 2 – securing the necessary funding and phase 3 – implementation of the Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Washing Bay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to develop small scale infrastructure to retain and attract visitors</li> <li>Lack of accessible and usable walkways</li> <li>Wetlands should be enhanced and developed</li> <li>Bogland areas need to be preserved</li> <li>Nature walk needs to be kept clear and clean for visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camping site redevelopment, cycle store, hire of boats, quayside and beach development</li> <li>Create a full accessible and safe walkway for residents which will link pitch at Derrylaughan with nature walk and canal/river and Greenways</li> <li>Investigate better ways to enhance the wetland features including better access to the Lough</li> <li>Initiate a scheme to preserve the existing bogland</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach area in need of development and linking in with pathway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear shrubbery and tidy nature walk area and develop an appropriate management plan for same</li> <li>• Develop sandy beach and open link in with existing pathway</li> </ul>
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## APPENDIX F – Consultation.

### Consultation methods used during the preparation of the Strategy.

<b>Consultee Category</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>
Council Officers	Face-to-face meeting Invited to DEA public consultations
Council Elected Member	Invited to DEA public consultations
Governing Bodies of Sport	Face-to-face meeting or telephone interviews (depending on convenience)
Public/Statutory Agencies	Face-to-face meeting (where relevant) Follow-up phone call to discuss (where relevant)
Activity Providers	Face-to-face meeting Telephone interviews
Community Groups	Invited to DEA public consultations Face-to-face meetings (where appropriate)
Activity Clubs	Invited to DEA public consultations
SORF members	Face-to-face consultation and follow up with individuals where appropriate through face to face consultation
Private landowners	Direct email and telephone call
General Public	Invited to DEA public consultations

### Details of Public Consultation Events

Event dates and venues were as follows:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| - 23 <sup>rd</sup> January, Cookstown Leisure Centre          | Cookstown DEA      |
| - 31 <sup>st</sup> January, Maghera Leisure Centre            | Carntogher DEA     |
| - 31 <sup>st</sup> January, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy | Moyola DEA         |
| - 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, Dungannon Park                    | Dungannon DEA      |
| - 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, Cornmill Centre, Coalisland       | Torrent DEA        |
| - 6 <sup>th</sup> February, Ballygawley BADA Community Hall,  | Clogher Valley DEA |
| - 8 <sup>th</sup> February, Meadowbank Sports Arena           | Magherafelt DEA    |

Each consultation event was promoted widely through the following channels:

- direct emails to all community groups within the area through Council Community Development Service
- editorial in local newspapers including Derry Post, Mid Ulster Mail, Mid Ulster Observer, Tyrone Courier, Tyrone Herald and Tyrone Times
- websites including Outdoor Recreation NI.com, OutdoorNI.com, WalkNI.com, Rural CommunityNetwork.com, CommunityNI.com and Mid Ulster Council consultation page
- direct emails through in-house mailing lists, Rural Community Network and various governing bodies
- Facebook pages including WalkNI and social media channels across Council
- wide circulation of consultation poster which advertised dates, venues and purpose of the events to community groups and youth organisations
- consultation posters printed on corriboard located at public parks and play parks across Mid Ulster



## APPENDIX G- Formal and Informal Walks in MUDC

### Formal Walking Routes in Mid Ulster

Name	Landowner	Cross referenced to Fig.7
Ballyronan Marina	MUDC	62
Battery Harbour	MUDC	63
Beaghmore SCM	DfC	64
Branny Trail	MUDC	65
Brockagh	MUDC	66
Castlecaulfield Pavilion	MUDC	67
Cookstown Forest	FSNI	68
Derrynoyd Forest	FSNI	69
Drum Manor Forest Park	FSNI	70
Dungannon Park	MUDC	71
Dunnamore Riverside Walk	MUDC	72
Fardross Forest	FSNI	73
Favour Royal Forest	FSNI	74
Glenmore	DCAL	75
Hutchinson's Quay	WI	76
Knockmany Forest	FSNI	77
Lough Beg NNR	NIEA/DEARA	78
Lough Fea	NI Water	79
Loughry	DARD	80
Manor Path	MUDC	81
Moyola Forest	FSNI	82
Moyola Water Foot	UWT	83
Parkanaur Forest Park	FSNI	84
Portglenone Forest	FSNI	86
Roundlake	MUDC	87
Toome Canal	MUDC	88
Tullahoge SCM	DfC	90
Washing Bay	MUDC	91
Windmill Wood	MUDC	92

## Informal Walking Sites in Mid Ulster

Name	Land Owner	Cross referenced to Fig.7
Altmore Low and High	NI Water	93
Ardtrea Bridge		94
Ballysaggart Lough	MUDC	95
Brookend NNR	NIEA/DEARA	96
Caledon Forest	FSNI	99
Castlecaulfield Castle SCM	DfC	100
Clogher Hill Fort SCM	DfC	101
Iniscarn Forest	FSNI	106
Lough Fea	NI Water	107
Moydamlaght Forest	FSNI	113
Newferry	MUDC	114
Pomeroy Forest	FSNI	115
Wellbrook Beetling Mill	National Trust	116

## APPENDIX H – Consultation responses for each DEA

### CARNTOGHER DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Straw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No safe place to go off-road walking or running in Straw and the 'Big bridges'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the former railway line as a potential Community Trail</li> </ul>
Derrynoyd Forest and Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>102 ha broadleaved forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Derrynoyd Centre currently vacant – leased to Workspace Enterprises Ltd.</li> <li>Forest used for walking, orienteering, informal mountain biking, shooting</li> <li>Access to the Moyola River for angling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Community Trail along the Moyola River to Tobermore and along the Douglas River to Moneyneany using the existing access for angling</li> <li>Adventure play hub</li> <li>Camping</li> <li>Family off-road cycling and pump track</li> </ul>
Drumnaph Community Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enthusiastic community group (Carntogher Community Association)</li> <li>Currently maintain 29km of trails</li> <li>Site mapped for orienteering</li> <li>Smart phone app developed for the Reserve</li> <li>Currently developing natural play area</li> <li>Offer family events e.g. lantern walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain additional outdoor recreation sites nearby with Council support through a SLA</li> <li>Develop more family focused events with Council support</li> <li>Consider opportunities for family off-road cycling in the area</li> </ul>
Hutchinson's Key and Moneygran Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amenity area immediately adjacent to Moneygran Wood is owned and managed by Waterways Ireland</li> <li>Jetty</li> <li>Slipway – currently unusable – no plans to do up.</li> <li>Parking, picnic tables and litter bins</li> <li>Coarse angling – no purpose-built fishing stands</li> <li>c. 16,000 users from Feb 2016 – September 2016</li> <li>Walking path (1.4km) leads between Hutchinson's Quay and Portna.</li> <li>Access and egress point on the Lower Bann Canoe Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named as a 'significant site' on the proposed Lower Bann Blueway</li> <li>Create viewpoints to the River within Moneygran Wood</li> <li>Develop a Community Trail linking Kilrea, Portna and Hutchinson's Quay</li> <li>Erect angling stands in Moneygran Wood</li> <li>Develop a multi-use walking and cycling trail within Moneygran Wood</li> </ul>
Moneystaghan Wood to view	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FSNi has a right of access to the Wood for business purposes only e.g. harvesting.</li> <li>No formal public access to the site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council to enter into a licence agreement with FSNi to develop a walking trail in the Wood.</li> </ul>

Toner's Bog (Bellaghy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal car parking for 3-4 cars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiate access along a 300m laneway leading off the A54 to the Wood with private landowners.</li> <li>• Formalise and increase the car park to accommodate 10 cars</li> <li>• Develop a 1km trail through Moneystaghan Wood leading to a raised viewing platform of Toner's Bog - referred to in Seamus Heaney's most widely renowned poem 'Digging'.</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>
Portglenone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marina/mooring/fresh water</li> <li>• Motorhome stations</li> <li>• River walkway</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Children's playground</li> <li>• Events e.g. Gig n the Bann</li> <li>• Private jetty</li> <li>• Café/Shops/ Public Houses</li> <li>• Coarse fishing stands – there are currently 89 fishing stands on the west bank of the river, south of the bridge. A car park and path lead to the fishing stands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a proposed 'hub' on the Lower Bann Blueway to unlock the Lower Bann corridor as a leisure and tourism resource</li> <li>• Support Mid and East Antrim Council and Portglenone Enterprise Group in the development of facilities in Portglenone including development of recreational opportunities in the Portglenone Forest, additional motorhome stations, moorings, changing facilities, accommodation,</li> <li>• Develop the Fisherman's Walk Community Trail south along-side the River to Newferry incorporating Glenone Wood</li> <li>• Work with WI to host the 2019 European Coarse Fishing Championships by providing a minimum of 130 fishing stands</li> <li>• Increase number of fishing events from local to international level</li> <li>• Interpretation, orientation and public art</li> </ul>
Upperlands Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate currently site of Clarke's Linen Mill – active mill</li> <li>• Used by the local community for informal recreation e.g. walking, family cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant green space opportunity</li> <li>• Fully costed Masterplan required for the site</li> </ul>
Carntogher, Glenshane and Moneyneany, Davagh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No long-distance walking trail in the north west part of Mid Ulster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to develop a multi-day walk in the north west of Mid Ulster that could be marketed as a viable walking product offer to both local and visitors to the area.</li> </ul>



## CLOGHER VALLEY DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Tullyvar Landfill site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site is in Council ownership</li> <li>70-80 acres landfill site between Ballygawley and Aughnacloy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the potential to develop the site as an outdoor recreation site – long-term ambition.</li> </ul>
Altmore Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Altmore Reservoir located adjacent to the forest and owned by NI Water</li> <li>Community passionate about the development of the Forest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a quality, waymarked looped trail within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>Develop a car parking facility and basic visitor infrastructure to include picnic table and seating along any trails developed</li> <li>Develop signage in the form of a visitor welcome, plus interpretation and waymarking.</li> <li>Link the village of Cappagh through a Community Trail to Forest</li> <li>Develop angling on Altmore reservoir</li> </ul>
Brantry Lough and Forest (part of Caledon Forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both well used by local community</li> <li>Walking, running, dog walking, angling</li> <li>Brantry Lodge recently refurbished beside forest</li> <li>Strong community support for development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site recognised as a key local recreational site for development</li> <li>Develop a quality off-road family cycling trail in Brantry Forest</li> <li>Link Forest to Brantry Lough</li> <li>New natural play</li> <li>Improved waymarking</li> <li>Create a trail head</li> </ul>
Clogher Valley Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently no Greenways in Mid Ulster</li> <li>Feasibility study currently on-going</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the Clogher Valley Greenway concept further using the former railway line of Clogher valley. This will involve extensive landownership negotiation.</li> <li>Continue to work towards securing further funding from DFI towards more detailed feasibility study</li> </ul>
Ulster Canal Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently no Greenways in Mid Ulster</li> <li>Feasibility study currently on-going</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the Ulster Canal Greenway in partnership with Waterways Ireland, ABC Council and Monaghan County Council</li> <li>Continue to work towards securing further funding from DFI towards more detailed feasibility study.</li> </ul>

Clogher Valley Long distance off-road cycling trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently no formal long-distance off-road mountain biking trails in Mid Ulster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete on the ground the 40km long-distance off-road mountain biking trail in the Clogher Valley starting at Fivemiletown and taking in Crocknagrally, Fardross, and Mullaghfad Forests</li> <li>Erect panels</li> <li>Promote on MountainbikeNI.com</li> </ul>
Clogher Valley long-distance off-road horse riding trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently no formal off-road horse-riding trail in Mid Ulster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a scoping exercise to consider the potential of developing a waymarked long-distance off-road horse-riding trail in the Clogher Valley using the extensive forest network.</li> </ul>
Crocknagrally Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well used community resource but little to attract the visitor to the forest</li> <li>Minimal infrastructure in place.</li> <li>Walking and horse-riding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a quality, waymarked looped trail within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>Develop a car parking facility and basic visitor infrastructure to include picnic table and seating along any trails developed</li> <li>Enhance existing signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panel and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Fardross Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large forest</li> <li>Formal walking and cycling trails</li> <li>Carleton Trail passes through the forest</li> <li>Car parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance existing waymarked looped trails within the forest.</li> <li>Develop new waymarked looped trails within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>Enhance existing signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panel and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Favour Royal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>500ha forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Formal walk leading to historic St Patrick's Chair and Well site</li> <li>Sliabh Beagh Way and Carleton trail passes through the forest</li> <li>Wild-flower meadow and deer lawn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance existing waymarked looped trails within the forest.</li> <li>Develop new waymarked looped trails within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>Develop the Sliabh Beagh Way to include more of Favour Royal Forest, increasing the percentage of the route that is off road.</li> <li>Enhance existing signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panels and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Knockmany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>390ha forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Forest is extensively used by runners, walkers, horse riders and mtb</li> <li>3 looped formal walks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site recognised as a key local recreational site for development</li> </ul>

and Lumford's Glen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carleton Trail passes through the Forest</li> <li>• FSNi meeting room and toilets closed</li> <li>• Historic Anya's Tomb on-site</li> <li>• 4 car parking areas servicing the site</li> <li>• Beside Lumford's Glen – currently closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires a Masterplan to be drawn up for the forest in full consultation with all the user groups. Decisions for future development and investment to be based on outcomes of this Plan.</li> <li>• Short term – establish basic services e.g. toilets</li> <li>• Short term – establish all-ability/multi-use trail around Lake</li> </ul>
Mullaghfad Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>• Formal walking trails</li> <li>• Sliabh Beagh Way and Carleton trail passes through the forest</li> <li>• Informal cycling</li> <li>• Shooting</li> <li>• No facilities or services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a quality, waymarked looped trail within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads, linking with Crocknagrally where appropriate.</li> <li>• Develop a car parking facility and basic visitor infrastructure to include picnic table and seating along any trails developed</li> <li>• Develop signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panel and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Parkanaur Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 ha mixed coniferous and broadleaved woodland</li> <li>• Mostly owned by Forest Service NI and is managed as a commercial plantation and woodland.</li> <li>• FSNi own and manage the White Deer enclosure, which is open for members of the public to walk through</li> <li>• Manor House privately owned and occupied by Parkanaur College, a further education facility for young adults with learning difficulties.</li> <li>• Speedwell Trust, a cross community educational charity has leased some buildings on-site</li> <li>• Walled Garden is operated as a plant nursery by the private sector.</li> <li>• Forest has 3 short distance formal looped walks suitable for leisure walkers.</li> <li>• Ecotrail present on site.</li> <li>• Shooting also takes place within the boundary of the forest, throughout the year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site recognised as a key regional site for development</li> <li>• Requires a detailed Masterplan which will consider the full development of the site including trails, play, signage, interpretation, visitor services including the caravanning and camping offer. This Study will include a detailed business case.</li> <li>• Decisions for future development and investment to be based on outcomes of this Plan.</li> <li>• Develop a Community Trail from the Forest along the Torrent River to Donaghmore via Castlecaulfield</li> </ul>
Round Lake, Fivemiletown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tired resource</li> <li>• Caravan area</li> <li>• Slip way</li> <li>• Carleton trail passes through the site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site recognised as a key local recreation site for development – needs repositioned in terms of new development</li> <li>• Develop the fishing offer – boat fishing</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider use of Lake for other water-based activities e.g. canoeing, sailing etc.</li> <li>• Work with the private sector to consider viability of running participation programmes based at the Lake</li> <li>• Consider alternative accommodation offer e.g. pods, glamping</li> <li>• Relaunch the site as part of a combined recreation offer with Blessingbourne Estate</li> </ul>
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## COOKSTOWN DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Ballinderry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Ballinderry River and Cott Lane (fishing, walking, etc.)</li> <li>• Angling facilities inadequate</li> <li>• Canoeing facilities inadequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Cot Lane and Gortmoss Walkway including improved signage at both</li> <li>• Information boards at key sites</li> <li>• Develop a Community Trail from Ardtrea to Drapersfield</li> <li>• Improve angling infrastructure</li> <li>• Carry out a feasibility study to see if the Ballinderry River could be developed into a canoe trail.</li> </ul>
Birchwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small regenerating native woodland established in 2002 backing directly unto the Ballinderry River and located between two local communities at Coagh and Derrychrin</li> <li>• Car parking space for 6 cars</li> <li>• Currently used for walking (informal), angling and shooting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve angling infrastructure</li> </ul>
Cabin Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.5ha wood managed by the Woodland Trust and the Council</li> <li>• 1km from the edge of Cookstown</li> <li>• Walks include a short 30min all-ability circular walk around the wood and a 1.2km riverside walk giving access to a further 21ha of wood</li> <li>• Picnic area and seating</li> <li>• Interpretation throughout</li> <li>• No toilet facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site recognised as a key local recreational site for development</li> <li>• Develop walking trails, family cycling trails, adventure play etc.</li> <li>• Develop toilets facilities</li> <li>• Create better linkages to Cookstown.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceived as a neutral space</li> </ul>	
Coagh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area's natural resources not being utilised</li> <li>Inadequate angling facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Community Trail along the Ballinderry River</li> <li>Investigate angling opportunities</li> </ul>
Davagh Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of NI's only three National Trail Centre for mountain biking</li> <li>Formal walking trails</li> <li>Children's Play area</li> <li>Small toilets and changing area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create NI's first Dark Sky Park</li> <li>Visitor centre incorporating toilets and changing facilities for the recreational user</li> <li>Introduce alternative accommodation offer</li> <li>Increase the length of the mountain bike trails and walking trails</li> <li>Develop play more in keeping with the Forest environment</li> </ul>
Drumullan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area's natural resources not utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Community Trail e.g. Ballinderry River/St Patrick's Well/The Drumullan Giant – link to Springhill</li> </ul>
Drum Manor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>227 acres forest situated close to Cookstown</li> <li>Owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Large car park with toilets, play area, gardens, lawn areas, waymarked trails</li> <li>31 caravan and camping stands with modern facilities</li> <li>Walking product no longer fit for purpose (2015)</li> <li>Permanent Orienteering Course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified as a key regional outdoor site for development</li> <li>Undertake a Masterplan for the Forest, set against ambitions to develop other Forests in Mid Ulster as regional sites e.g. Parkanaur, Davagh</li> </ul>
Pomeroy Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Children's play area managed by Council under license from FSNi (2015)</li> <li>Walking, running, camping and shooting</li> <li>Fitness trail, Sculpture trail, Natural Play</li> <li>Enthusiastic and motivated Community Group</li> <li>Hosts large scale event e.g. Santa's Trail (7000+)</li> <li>Range of building on site (former Forestry School)</li> <li>Car park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified as a key local outdoor site for development</li> <li>Community Group already working to develop the Forest</li> <li>Maintain existing SLA with Community Group for on-going maintenance of play and walking trails</li> <li>Extend and develop pathways, signage and information boards, picnic tables</li> <li>Install toilet facilities with open access for playpark use</li> <li>Additional car parking needed</li> <li>Develop campsite facilities /glamping</li> <li>Develop a Community Trail linking the Forest to the village of Pomeroy</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-develop old forestry school building and out-buildings as a multi-use shared assets of the community e.g. toilets and accommodation for forest users</li> </ul>
Sandholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local recreation assets under-developed, promoted and under utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Community Trail along the Tullylagan River</li> </ul>
Tullaghoge Fort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently developed by HED (DfC)</li> <li>New car parking, walking trails and interpretation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link site to the village of Tullaghoge by creating a Community Trail.</li> <li>Link site to Loughrey, Mid Ulster Sports Arena and back into Cookstown</li> </ul>

#### DUNGANNON DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Ballysaggart Lough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path only goes around 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Lough</li> <li>Car parking for 15 cars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate looped walk opportunities around the Lough</li> <li>Link the Lough to Dungannon town using a safe off-road alternative</li> <li>Provide toilet facilities</li> <li>Provide play appropriate to the setting</li> </ul>
Railway Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant green space in the centre of Dungannon</li> <li>Earl's Trail passes through the Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the options for linking Railway Park to Dungannon Park off-road.</li> <li>Develop land Council has recently acquired for outdoor recreation</li> <li>Consider family off-road cycling/walking trails</li> <li>Adventure type play facility</li> <li>Pump track and skills park</li> </ul>
Benburb Priory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant green space in Benburb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with the Servite Trust to deliver the network of fully costed and designed multi use trail network within the Priory grounds and incorporate this into the wider Blackwater outdoor recreation product</li> </ul>

Dungannon Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant green space for the whole Mid Ulster area</li> <li>Formal walks</li> <li>Caravan Park</li> <li>Play facility</li> <li>Café</li> <li>Car park</li> <li>Toilets and changing area</li> <li>Angling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the options for linking Railway Park to Dungannon Park off-road.</li> <li>Consider site for all-inclusive play park for the Mid Ulster area – designed to be appropriate to the Park's setting.</li> </ul>
Windmill Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large green open space</li> <li>Network of tarmacked trails – inappropriate for woodland setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put in a permanent cycle cross facility</li> <li>Deliver the fully costed and designed multi use trail network (walking and off-road family cycling)</li> </ul>

#### MAGHERAFELT DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Ballyronan Marina and Ballyronan Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the most popular access points on the western shores of Lough Neagh and one of only two blue flag marinas in NI</li> <li>Council managed facility</li> <li>Car Parking, picnic tables, abundant greenspace</li> <li>Café and toilets available within the on-site community facility</li> <li>Caravan and camp site – 22 caravans and 5 tents – includes own toilets and shower block, electivity and water hook up</li> <li>Berthing facilities for 88 boats - pontoons moorings and mast hoist.</li> <li>Slipway – 300 recorded slipway launches in 2013</li> <li>Secure boat park</li> <li>Marina amenities (changing) open to the public at a charge</li> <li>Small beach</li> <li>Access/egress point on the Lough Neagh Canoe trail - has canoe polo area</li> <li>Two small play areas and football pitch</li> <li>1.5km signed walk to Ballyronan Wood – also used informally for cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified as a key regional outdoor site for development</li> <li>New alternative accommodation e.g. pods</li> <li>Develop shoreline walks and linkages to local communities</li> <li>Including linkage to Tradd point</li> <li>Orienteering/ecotrail development within Ballyronan Wood, Marina and Tradd point</li> <li>Develop angling infrastructure</li> <li>Develop a small pump track at the Marina</li> <li>Develop the beach at Ballyronan marina for wild swimming</li> <li>Develop and promote existing walking trails for family and leisure cycling</li> <li>Develop the play offering – rationalise to one area.</li> <li>Events calendar (including sailing, canoe and canoe polo events)</li> <li>Develop a Tourist Information Point/reception area within the Centre</li> <li>Provide catering facilities</li> <li>Improve marina infrastructure</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destination on the 180km circular Loughshore Cycling Trail</li> <li>• Ballyronan Wood served by car park, picnic tables</li> <li>• Bird hide at the northern edge of the breakwater</li> <li>• Home to the passenger vessel 'Maid of Antrim' – trips of Lough Neagh</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development with private sector providers activity programmes e.g. sailing/canoeing to make use of marina, caravan and camping.</li> </ul>
Iniscarn Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well used community resource</li> <li>• No parking (lay by provides for 6 cars)</li> <li>• Formal walking trails</li> <li>• Trail running</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link Forest to summit of Slieve Gallion</li> <li>• Car parking improvements</li> </ul>
Lissan Forest and Lissan House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42ha forest located immediately adjacent to Lissan House Estate.</li> <li>• Forest managed under license with FSNi by the Lissan Estate</li> <li>• Estate managed by the Lissan House Trust. Little evidence of buy-in from the local community</li> <li>• Car park for 20+ cars in Estate</li> <li>• 7 waymarked walking trails and waymarked horse-riding trail</li> <li>• Toilets, picnic areas, guided house tours of Estate</li> <li>• Signage and interpretation throughout Lissan Estate</li> <li>• Sense of neglect to Estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider how the Council could work better in partnership with the Lissan House Trust to develop the site more fully for recreation.</li> <li>• Learning journey to other successful community/heritage projects</li> </ul>
Lough Fea and Lough Fea Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal walking, running, angling</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Play</li> <li>• Car parking</li> <li>• Landscaped garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a key local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Significant site for recreation</li> <li>• Upgrade the toilets</li> <li>• Create play for older children</li> <li>• Animate the walking trail for children</li> <li>• Improved facilities for disabled access (anglers and walkers)</li> <li>• Rationalise signage on-site</li> <li>• Extend the walking trail</li> <li>• Consider option for linking Lough Fea Wood to Davagh Forest off-road</li> </ul>
Moorside - Desertmartin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal short Community Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Community Trail along the River where possible to link to Iniscarn Forest</li> </ul>



Springhill Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small strip of broadleaved forest (13 ha), located adjacent to the National Trust owned property of 'Springhill House currently used for walking and shooting</li> <li>• Layby accommodating 2 cars at entrance</li> <li>• Unsustainable trails</li> <li>• Unwelcoming feel for visitors and evidence of anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• No formal car parking, visitor services &amp; facilities</li> <li>• No signage (includes information, interpretation, waymarking and signage)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a small car park to service the forest</li> <li>• Develop a sustainable walking trail</li> <li>• Create a Community Path between the village of Moneymore, Springhill Wood and Springhill House</li> <li>• Installation of appropriate waymarking and interpretation</li> </ul>
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## MOYOLA DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Bellaghy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate access from Bawn to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• Inadequate signage</li> <li>• No heritage trail linking Seamus Heaney landmarks noted in his poetry</li> <li>• More health and well-being projects required</li> <li>• Wetlands underused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and link Bawn by path to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• New signage of heritage sites e. Lough Beg, Toners Bog</li> <li>• Develop Seamus Heaney Trail (on-going)</li> <li>• Develop cross country walks and walking group</li> <li>• Development of famous wetlands</li> </ul>
Long Point Wood to view Church Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no public access to Long Point Wood</li> <li>• RSPB in negotiations with the NIEA (landowner) regarding securing a lease for the site</li> <li>• No formal car parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a 700m walking trail through Long Point Wood leading to a raised viewing platform overlooking Church Island – referred to in the poems 'Stepping-Stones', 'The Strand at Lough Beg'</li> <li>• Create a car park for up to 11 cars</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>
Castledawson Moyola River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarmacked riverside walk developed by NIHE adjacent to the Riverside Housing Estate in Castledawson. Walking trail informally extended to the former railway bridge</li> <li>• Informal parking available nearby</li> <li>• Small parking space available in Riverside Estate</li> <li>• Several informal fishing stands exist – not constructed to recognised standard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade existing informal walking trail to create a formal walking trail from the Estate to the former railway bridge</li> <li>• Develop a small car park within the Riverside Estate for 7 cars</li> <li>• Create a landscaped greenspace at the beginning of the trail</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> <li>• Build new fishing stands along the length of the riverside walk</li> </ul>

Newferry (West)	<p>Mid Ulster own and manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car park</li> <li>• canoe steps, jetty and pontoons, slipway</li> <li>• Management and maintenance issues at the site – not very well maintained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a 'significant site' in the Lower Bann Blueway.</li> <li>• Support and Mid and East Antrim's development of Newferry East</li> <li>• Upgrade toilet facilities</li> <li>• Develop small play area</li> <li>• Interpretation and orientation</li> <li>• Develop a trail along the River to Portglenone</li> </ul>
Newferry Peatlands, Lough Beg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no access to Newferry Peatlands, Lough Beg. Site owned by FSNi and was used as a commercial peat extraction site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain licence from FSNi for 100 ha (check this with Seamus)</li> <li>• Develop a new Nature /Wetlands Reserve</li> <li>• Create a series of walking trail around the Reserve</li> <li>• Create a small car park</li> <li>• Consider options for linking the site to Newferry Est on the Lower Bann River</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>
Traad Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Nature Reserve historically used by UU as a research facility</li> <li>• Owned and managed by MUDC</li> <li>• Site is in a poor state of repair and not open to the public for access</li> <li>• No recreational facilities</li> <li>• Slipway</li> <li>• Traad Ponds site is privately owned</li> <li>• Local conservation and wildfowl group currently use the site for wildfowling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a key regional outdoor site for development but only when combined with Ballyronan Marina and Wood</li> <li>• Develop a network of walking and off-road family cycling trails and associated facilities including toilets</li> <li>• Develop an off-road walking trail to connect Traad Point and Ballyronan complex</li> <li>• Develop an ecotrail (orienteering based) alongside any potential development</li> <li>• Explore the option of developing 'Natural Play' at Traad Point.</li> <li>• Investigate the viability of boat tours from Traad to Ballyronan (private sector)</li> </ul>
Toome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derelict Lockkeepers Cottage – Waterways Ireland have leased this asset to TIDAL</li> <li>• Old Sand Quay poorly maintained</li> <li>• River walkway</li> <li>• Lock</li> <li>• Slipway</li> <li>• Canoe steps</li> <li>• Jetty/pontoon</li> <li>• Community centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a 'gateway hub' in the proposed Lower Bann Blueway</li> <li>• Support East and Mid Antrim and TIDAL to develop the Lockkeepers Cottage as Waterways Heritage Centre with café and toilets. Project to be complete by June 2017, upgrading of Old Sand Quay for amenity space and new car parking facility.</li> <li>• Support TIDAL to carry out a feasibility study into the viability of developing a marina.</li> <li>• Market the area more as a Game of Thrones location and consider sculptures/art associated with the programme</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking, restaurant, public house, toilets (100yds)</li> <li>• Game of Thrones film location</li> <li>• c. 36,000 users from Feb 2016 – Sept 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the potential to create a facility for freestyle canoeing (standing wave) to European level and slalom course in partnership with CANI, WI and Mid and East Antrim Council</li> <li>• Review the potential to develop an artificial canoe slalom site in partnership with CANI, WI and Mid and East Antrim Council</li> </ul>
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## TORRENT DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Ardboe Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no formal access from Ardboe Cross to Battery Harbour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a 3km shoreline walking path from Ardboe Cross to Moortown, Battery.</li> <li>• Provide car parking area at the Church</li> <li>• Market the walking trail as a Pilgrimage Walk</li> </ul>
Castlebay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently limited access around Castlebay for the local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to the Castlebay Quay</li> <li>• Develop a biodiversity trail</li> <li>• Develop a Wetlands Park which will provide increased access for the local community</li> </ul>
Coalisland Canal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited walking along the Canal Towpath</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide safe road crossing</li> <li>• Provide toilet facilities and car parking</li> </ul>
Derryloughan Bog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently limited access to Derryloughan Bog. Site owned by Department of Education and Learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council and local community group to obtain licence from Dept Education and Learning for 150ha</li> <li>• Develop a new Nature /Wetlands Reserve</li> <li>• Create a series of walking trails using ramparts.</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>
Donaghmore – Castlecaulfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No walking trail currently linking the two villages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Community Trail along the River Torrent to connect Donaghmore and Castlecaulfield</li> </ul>

Drumcaine Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 78ha forest owned and managed by FSNi.</li> <li>• Attractive features e.g. late 19<sup>th</sup> century terraces and ponds that used to be part of a Japanese Garden</li> <li>• Car park for 30+ cars closed due to anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Currently used for walking, mountain biking (informal), horse riding (informal) and shooting (leased to Mid Ulster Gundog Association)</li> <li>• Walking routes poorly signposted</li> <li>• Poor basic infrastructure, no signage, no interpretation.</li> <li>• Unsustainable and unauthorised trails have been built and are in use</li> <li>• Perceived to have been left to deteriorate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a key local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Re-open the car park to service users of the forest</li> <li>• Create a 'welcome' for visitors to the forest</li> <li>• Develop walking and off-road family cycling trails</li> <li>• Create visitor attraction by landscaping the overgrown terraces and ponds</li> <li>• Create a nature's play facility.</li> <li>• Install appropriate waymarking, signage and interpretation</li> </ul>
Stewartstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local recreation assets under-developed, promoted and under utilised</li> <li>• Few opportunities for walking and cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Community Trail to Crieve Lough and erect interpretation panels, signage etc</li> </ul>
The Battery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprises a small harbour offering sheltered mooring and jetties for 12 boats. Mast hoist</li> <li>• Council managed facility</li> <li>• Home to Lough Neagh Rescue service housed in large, imposing an industrial looking structure on the shoreline</li> <li>• Poorly signed from main access road</li> <li>• Uninviting poorly maintained car park and open space area</li> <li>• Old picnic tables and barbeque pits</li> <li>• Small beach</li> <li>• No toilets</li> <li>• Signage outdated and poorly maintained</li> <li>• Small, old, and uninviting play park</li> <li>• Informal walking towards Ardboe Cross</li> <li>• No cycling provision</li> <li>• No angling facilities</li> <li>• Access point on the Lough Neagh Canoe Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Redevelopment and modernisation of node including landscaping, improved signage and visitor facilities e.g. picnic tables, seating, barbeque pits</li> <li>• Harbour infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Develop formal linkages to Ardboe Cross, nearby communities and other shoreline walks</li> <li>• Develop the beach for wild swimming</li> <li>• Consider developing a pump track</li> <li>• Redevelop existing play facilities</li> <li>• Develop angling infrastructure</li> <li>• Revisit current SLA with local Community Group for the maintenance of the facility</li> </ul>
Washing Bay/Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council managed facility, poorly signed from main access routes</li> <li>• Includes 4ha Local Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Car parking and toilet and café facilities (within on-site Healthy Living Centre) opened by request.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Develop the play facilities and consider a pump track</li> <li>• Create a walking trail along the shoreline of the Washing Bay Wetlands to access small beach.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well maintained landscaping</li> <li>• Rough camping available</li> <li>• Short shoreline walks through the wetlands</li> <li>• Access points on the Lough Neagh canoe trail</li> <li>• Two small play areas and small beach</li> <li>• Interpretation /signage vandalised and outdated</li> <li>• No formal walking trail along the shoreline of the Washing Bay Wetlands Park to access the beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration of beach facility and hold 2 swimming events a year</li> </ul>
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## APPENDIX I

### Case Study 1: Dalby Forest Park, North Yorkshire

Dalby Forest is an 8000acre forest in North Yorkshire owned and managed by the Forestry Commission.

Its key target market is families and activity visitors. The profile of visitors to Dalby Forest consist of 48% families, 22% young independents (those aged 16-34 with no children), 18% aged 45-65 with no children and 11% to other groups.

Between 2005-2007 it implemented a structured 'Master Planning' approach to the development of its visitor/outdoor recreation attractions. The aim of the redevelopment project (which was implemented across the following three phases) was to refurbish, convert and reuse the existing assets on site in order to enhance the overall visitor experience.

Phase 1 included the redevelopment of the old Forestry Commission offices, estate yard and village hall to create a courtyard complex including craft workshops, a community resource centre, cycle hire and cycle wash facilities, a courtyard café and new toilets. This phase costed £1.1m and was funded by Yorkshire Forward (£375k), ERDF (£250k), Ryedale District Council (£50k) and the Forestry Commission (£425k).



Phase 2 consisted of the design and build of a high-specification visitor centre including an information desk, shop, restaurant, exhibition area, meeting room, toilets and Dalby Astronomical Centre. The building incorporated environmental and sustainable features and has won several awards for its design. Phase 2 cost of £2.6m and was funded by Yorkshire Forward (£1m), ERDF (£820k), North York Moors National Park (£25k) and the Forestry Commission (£755k).



Phase 3 of the redevelopment included the replacement of old worn-out and unsustainable cycle trails and construction of a cycle skills area. In total the cycle trail development cost £461k and was funded by ERDF and Forestry Commission. Since then a new play area has also been installed in the Forest Park.



In the context of the above redevelopment project, consultation with the Forestry Commission highlighted that the three phases of work were addressing identified needs within the Forest Park and were in line with the overall ethos and strategic direction of Dalby Forest. However, further consultation with the Forestry Commission indicated that the individual phases of the project were developed and taken forward in order to meet the criteria of certain funding streams that were available during period (e.g. ERDF).

Today the Park today receives 450,000 visitors and generates income from car parking, leases with private operators and through holding events. The annual income for the Forest Park is £800,000 of which half is direct income from visitors. Individual visitors and groups to Dalby Forest are known to spend between £21-£30 in the local area during their visit.

Dalby Forest is one of seven forest parks in England which hosts Forest Live. Forest Live is the Forestry Commission's concert series that takes place throughout England each year (with up to 24 events across various summer weekends). Launched in 2001 it is an independent programme organised by the Forestry Commission bringing music to new audiences without commercial branding or sponsorship. It is understood that there are between 5,000 and 9,500 spectators at each venue. The Forestry Commission acts as the promoter in relation to Forest Live and is responsible for organising and managing the events, and for procuring key services for all seven sites including artist programming, power and lighting, staging, bars and catering, tent/marquees etc.

The Park employs both 'direct' staff (i.e. those directly involved with the day-to-day management and operations within the Forest) as well as an 'indirect' staffing complement (i.e. a proportion of the time of individuals at a regional or national level required for the management and operations of the Forest) as follows:

- Forest Management Director - Oversight of all forests within the Yorkshire Forest District (10% in Dalby)
- Area Land Agent - Oversight of all legal contracts, disputes, advice etc. (10% in Dalby)
- Civil Engineer - Responsible for maintenance of roads, bridges, car parks etc. relating to recreation (10% in Dalby)
- Building Surveyor - Responsible for building conditions surveys and managing contractors (10% in Dalby)
- Civil Engineer - Supporting with maintenance of roads, bridges, car parks etc. relating to recreation (10% in Dalby)
- Senior Manager - Responsible for managing recreational estate across Yorkshire (30% in Dalby)
- Visitor Centre Manager - Responsible for managing staff, budgets, the visitor centre, trails and visitor servicing, primarily at Dalby (80%).
- Forest Recreation Rangers - Coordinating of contracts, events and day-to-day management/operation of Dalby (3 x 100%).

It has a staffing budget of £216-£240K per annum, a marketing budget of £20k and an operational budget of £530,00.

In addition to the paid staff, Dalby strongly support the contribution of volunteers within the Forest. The 'Friends of Dalby Forest' has been established as a registered charity consisting of volunteers who meet regularly to enhance the facilities and product offering for visitors within Dalby Forest. The group has approximately 30 members and those that regularly volunteer can earn a free annual pass to Dalby Forest as recognition for their work. Examples projects for the volunteers across the benchmark facilities include:

- Tie and cutting back overgrown vegetation and overhanging trees;
- Repainting bird hides;
- Relaying woodchip;
- Nature and wildlife projects
- Visitor 'meet and greet' activities;
- Maintenance of walking and mountain biking trails;
- Maintenance of accommodation products



## Case Study 2: Shannon Blueway

A Blueway is a network of approved and branded multi-activity recreational trails and sites, based on or closely linked with the water, together with providers facilitating access to activities and experiences. Blueways can be used by all ages and abilities - with something for everyone, the slogan “Blueway, do it your way” has been adopted to reflect their accessibility and diversity. The essential aim of a Blueway is to increase the recreational use of the inland waterways and thereby to generate economic, health, social and community benefits.

Launched in October 2014, the Shannon Blueway covers the four Counties of Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford and Cavan and is the first of its kind in Ireland where a myriad of recreational activities have been developed and bundled together as a single or multiple visitor experience and tourism proposition. It is an innovative, safe and easy to use series of on-water and land-based trails. It allows guided and unguided paddling and walking along the Lough Allen Canal and River Shannon from Drumshanbo to Leitrim Village, as well as paddling on a looped trail on the Camlin and Shannon Rivers, starting from picturesque Richmond Harbour. As well as providing access to experiences on the waterways for visitors, The Shannon Blueway also connects villages and communities in a predominantly rural setting.



The Shannon Blueway comprises:

- 26.5km of canoeing trails - Camlin River Loop (10km), Drumshanbo to Carrick-on-Shannon (16.5km)
- 26km of walking trails - Battlebridge Lock to Drumhauver Bridge (10km), Cloondara to Longford Town Walking Trail (16km))
- 23.5km of cycling trails - Cloondara to Longford Town Cycling Trail (16km) and Drumleague Lock Looped Cycling Trail (7.5km)

A number of partners were involved with the lead agency, Waterways Ireland, in developing the Shannon Blueway. These included Canoeing Ireland, The National Trails Office of the Irish Sports Council, Fáilte Ireland, Local Authorities and Tourism Offices. Much work has been carried out with local communities and businesses around the Blueway, to develop packages combining activity with places to stay, eat and go. The initiative is rooted in local engagement and partnership working. Funding for the product was provided by the Rural Economic Development Zone Pilot Programme

## Project Stages

### Stage 1: Product Development

The project saw the creation of a network of defined trails, built to agreed technical standards upon existing infrastructure within a natural waterway environment with a consistent look and feel. A partnership approach was taken for both applying for funding and in the delivery of the product.

A feasibility study was conducted to assess existing provision and trail product. The paddling trail was created using existing waterways with work completed to provide more access points etc. The Irish Sports Council trail standards (inspection procedures, grading systems etc) for inland trails were used in the development of the trails including for the paddling trails.

Waterways Ireland worked with the councils on the land-based product to upgrade existing trails. Both regional signage directing people from the road and signage on the trails was designed and installed. This included directional signage to the existing provisions e.g. service block and toilets for people using the trails



### Stage 2: Activation

The Blueway has been activated by:

- Service Providers (making access easy) - Cycle Hire, Canoe Trips, SUP instructors, Walking Guides
- Inspiration and Creativity - authentic and immersive experiences and stories
- Cohesively presenting all that the region offers - a collaborative approach between businesses to create packages

Emphasis was placed on local businesses collaborating to provide the Blueway experience for the customer. The success of the Blueway required collaboration on a regional rather than County level. Through rural tourism funding Waterways Ireland facilitated network events to engage with local businesses and encourage them to collaborate and cross sell their products. The Blueways website provides the platform to promote the offers with the aim of creating a one stop shop for the consumer,

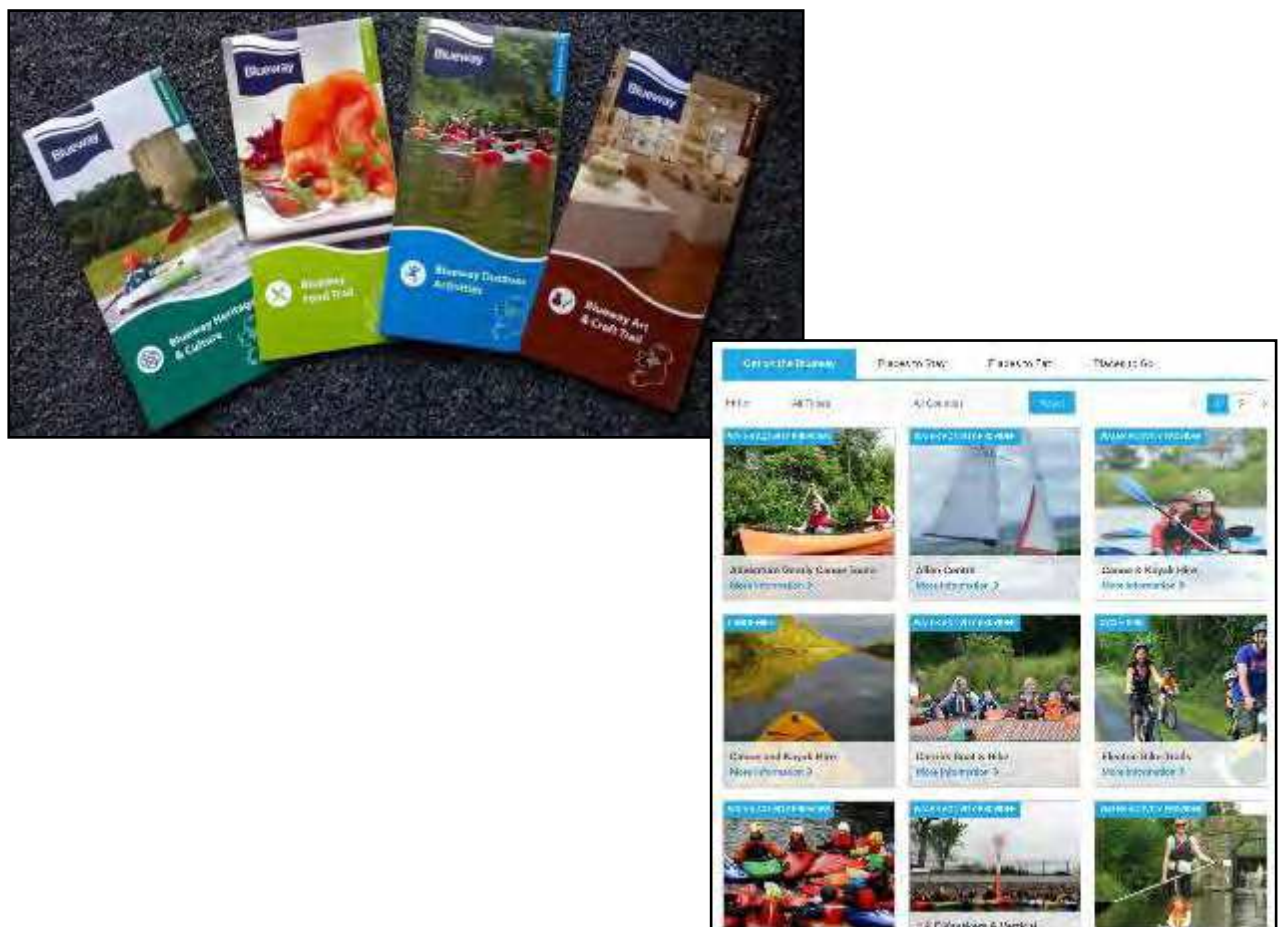
making access to the Blueway easy and encouraging greater visitor spend in the area. Since the launch of the Blueway existing businesses have expanded and new start-ups have emerged.

Over 100,000 visitors were recorded on the navigations in the Shannon Blueway area during the April to October 2015 period, with many recreational businesses established to service the demand from Blueway visitors. The Shannon Blueway won the Lakelands & Inland Waterways 'Sport Tourism Innovation Award' at the Local Authority Members Association awards and was nominated for 'Best Outdoor Escape' by Outsider magazine.

Support has been given for events to encourage use of the Blueway by local communities and sports groups. The Shannon Blueway Adventure Festival <https://www.bluewayadventure.ie/> is an annual event that takes place April / May. Under the guidance and support of the Waterways Ireland sponsorship programme, the event encourages outdoor fun on the Shannon Blueway, bringing communities together through a community tourism initiative supported in partnership with Leitrim County Council, Fáilte Ireland and IPB Insurance. The weekend incorporates walking, paddling and cycling along or on the Shannon Blueway, with participants enjoying historical talks and the chance to participate in the Shannon Blueway Adventure Race.

## Promotion

A bespoke website was developed [www.bluewaysireland.org](http://www.bluewaysireland.org) providing information on trails, experiences, visitor services, events and news.

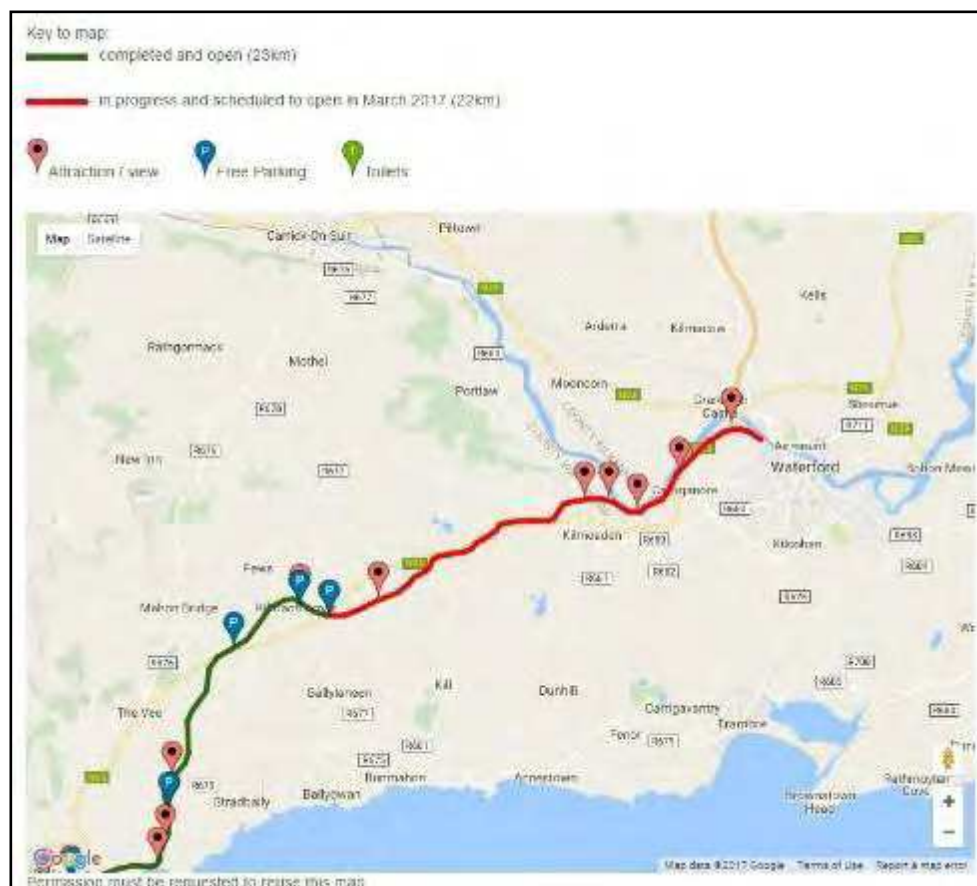




### Case Study 3: Waterford – Dungarvan Community Greenway



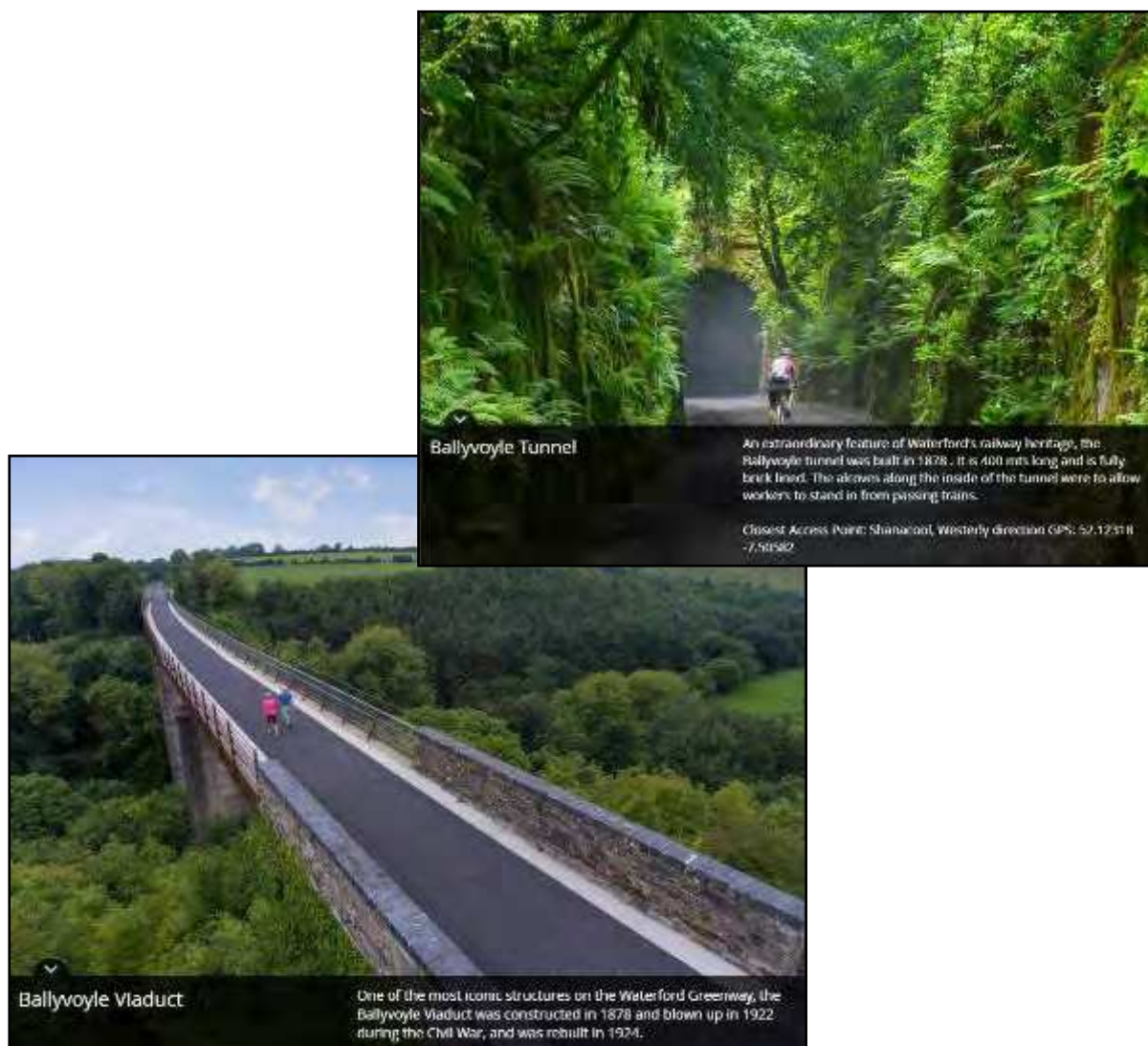
The Waterford Greenway is a spectacular 46 km off-road cycling and walking trail along an old railway line from the quays of Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, to Dungarvan. It passes across three viaducts and along an atmospheric tunnel with the route passing a Viking settlement, Norman Castles, medieval ruins, an old workhouse, deserted railway stations and a heritage railway train that still runs along part of the track. Work on the Greenway began at the start of the century when Waterford City and County Council obtained a licence from Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ), Ireland's national public transport provider. The first section, a 4km stretch from Dungarvan to Ballinroad was officially opened in 2013 with the Ballinroad to Kilmacthomas stretch opened three years later in September 2016. The remaining 22kms from Kilmacthomas to Waterford City opened in March 2017.





There are 11 points of interest along the greenway

<http://waterfordcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=2a724abe1b72494d9f87e65db5edf6b6#> . The most iconic sections of the route include:



The Greenway has been developed by Waterford City and County Council with the co-operation of local property owners, the support of communities along the route and with supporting funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The total budget for the project was €7.4 million.

Key to the development of the greenway was the input of Deise Greenway, a group of Co Waterford residents, whose aim was to get the Railway Line developed as a community amenity for the people of Waterford with the potential of tourism accruing because of its existence. They recognised the importance of preserving and developing the railway line for present and future generations and have played a proactive part in championing the Greenway and promoting it ([www.deisegreenway.com](http://www.deisegreenway.com)).

Significant community involvement in the project was welcomed by the Council who engaged with the communities to form a Steering Committee for the overall project. Where communities could bring significant benefit or value for money the Council worked with them to make available financial aid to support works being completed.

The Greenway was developed for several reasons namely;

- *rural transport and connecting communities*: The trail provides suburban pedestrians and cyclists with the opportunity of accessing services in both Dungarvan and Waterford City as it already passes through a number of suburban estates in Dungarvan and recent developments in the City lie just to the South of the line and can be accessed from it.
- *to create walking trails for the local community*: Dungarvan, Kilmacthomas and Waterford City have all got the key services which walkers and cyclists need. One of the key objectives of the development was to provide Community Loops of varying difficulty in these three places. Along the route there are various safe locations for car parking, which provide a range of options for users of the trail.
- *to provide access for walkers to the Comeragh Mountains*: The town of Kilmacthomas is strategically placed directly in the centre almost equidistant from Waterford and Dungarvan and approx. 22 km from both. For many walkers, this is an ideal stopover point while also operating as a vantage point for access to walking in the Comeragh Mountains.
- *existing Infrastructure could be used*: Many of the viaducts and bridges were in working condition meaning only remedial work was needed in many cases. As a direct linear route, there was limited need to provide and maintain signage with most of the signage concentrating on points of access and egress, re-assurance, community loops, and relevant services near the trail.
- *tourism potential*: The Greeway is Ireland's longest, 4km longer than the Great Western Greenway which is 42km. It is expected to attract large numbers of domestic and international visitors now that it is complete and open.

Source: *Step by Step; A Walking Strategy for County Waterford*

Waterford Council is now actively encouraging people to contact them with business ideas for services along the Greenway; accommodation, cafes/restaurants, bike hire etc. As there are occupied Railway Cottages at most of the level crossings, these or others near the trail, could see the potential of developing accommodation or food services. There are currently 5 bike hire providers situated in Waterford, with several of the companies supplying delivery and collection to accommodation providers on request.

The Greenway currently has a 5 star rating on Tripadvisor:

[https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction\\_Review-g186638-d10166976-Reviews-Waterford\\_Greenway-Waterford\\_County\\_Waterford.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186638-d10166976-Reviews-Waterford_Greenway-Waterford_County_Waterford.html)

And is promoted through:

- Website: <http://www.visitwaterford.com>
- Interactive map: <http://waterfordcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9dc02c1380b649da96d0a7032cababe1>
- Leaflet: <http://www.deisegreenway.com/WaterfordGreenwayBrochure.pdf>

#### Case Study 4: Brand identity for Forest Recreation sites in Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Borough Council area.

In 2016 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council commissioned ORNI to develop a Spatial Masterplan for Gosford Forest Park. A key element of the project was to work with Mc Cadden Design to produce a new brand for the Forest Park that could be used on all visitor signage in the Park including, entrance panels, entrance banners, waymarking, trailhead panels, safety signage etc. Given the success of the brand, this has now been rolled out on all forest recreation sites in the ABC Council area.



**APPENDIX J: Costed 5-year Action Plan** (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
<b>MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>							
A1	Existing Park and Outdoor Recreation Officer	40,940	41,783	42,642	43,519	44,413	213,297
A3	Maintenance Programme	100,000	125,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	675,000
A4	SLAs with Community Assoc Existing 6 @ £35,450	35,450	35,450	35,450	35,450	35,450	177,250
	New SLAs - 3 @ £10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	90,000
A5	Counter Maintenance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000
<b>MASTER PLANNING</b>							
B1	Masterplans / Feasibility Studies for 3 Regional and 6 Local Sites	40,000	40,000	40,000	15,000		135,000
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>							
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway			25,000			25,000
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway		25,000				25,000
C4	Regional Hub Development		350,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,850,000
C5	Local Hub Development	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,000,000
C6	Feasibility study for Canoe Trail	5,000					5,000
C7	Davagh MTB trails		500,000				500,000
C8	Clogher Valley Long Distance Ride	2,500					2,500
C9	Long-distance horse-riding trail		5,000				5,000
C10	Walking Trails (short /medium)		10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
C11	Community Trails		TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>PROMOTION / MARKETING</b>							
D2	Brand Identity for forest recreation sites	5,000					5,000
D3	Visitor Information and Signage Guidelines	15,000					15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£893,648</b>	<b>£1,009,991</b>	<b>£1,203,856</b>	<b>£1,172,117</b>	<b>£1,155,442</b>	<b>£4,763,047</b>



## APPENDIX K Regional Activity Hubs – rationale for inclusion and prioritisation (£1,850,000)

KEY CRITERIA THAT HELPED INFORM SITE INCLUSION	Davagh Forest	Ballyronan/Traad	Pomeroy Forest
1. Owned or managed by Council or FSNi (i.e. public body)	Y	Y	Y
2. Previous investment already made by Council or FSNi	Y	Y	Y
3. Basic existing services/infrastructure already in place e.g. car parking	Y	Y	Y
4. Site capacity allows for new/enhanced facilities	Y	Y	Y
5. Have already a legacy of being a popular outdoor recreation base	Y	Y	Y
6. Feasibility/Master Plans already in place	Y	N	N
7. Feasibility/Master Plans identified for immediate preparation	N/A	Y	Y
8. Funding applications already being prepared/submitted to a variety of funders	Y	N	Y

**Sites in order of priority:** Davagh Forest, Ballyronan/Traad, Pomeroy Forest. This allows those sites already started to be completed, gives a good geographical spread across the Council area and includes both land and water-based activities to be included.

## APPENDIX L: Local Multi-Activity Hubs – rationale for inclusion and prioritisation (£1,000,000)

KEY CRITERIA THAT HELPED INFORM SITE INCLUSION AND PRIORITISATION	Round Lake	Portglenone	Windmill Park	Moydamlaght Forest	Altmore/Cappagh	Drumcairne Forest	Iniscarn	Ballysaggart Lough	Cabin Wood
1. Owned or managed by Council or other public body/eNGO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Previous investment already made by Council or others e.g. Government Dept	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Minimal
3. Existing services/infrastructure already in place e.g. car parking	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Minimal
4. Site capacity allows for new/enhanced facilities	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Have already a legacy of being a popular outdoor recreation site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Active community group/club supportive of project	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
7. Active support/finances for project from another Government agency/part of a much wider project	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
8. Feasibility/Master Plans already in place/being planned	N	Fishing Stands	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
9. Funding applications already being prepared/submitted	N	Y	N	N	N	y	N	N	N
10. Overwhelmingly support at public consultation for the site to be enhanced/developed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Prioritisation of sites:** Round Lake, Portglenone, Windmill Wood, Moydamlaght Forest, Altmore/Cappagh, Drumcairne Forest, Iniscarn Forest, Ballysaggart Lough and Cabin Wood present significant opportunities to develop across a geographical region at the centre of local communities. Development at the Round Lake will add value to the development at Blessingbourne Estate which is already completed. Portglenone is part of a much wider Waterways Ireland Blueway initiative that should be supported.

Windmill Wood was considered in the past as an excellent venue and whilst some design/construction work was completed, this site was never developed to its full potential and should be re looked at to accomplish this.

Moydamlaght, Altmore/Cappagh, Drumcairne and Iniscarn have strong community buy-in and offer important opportunities to develop local door step forest access in rural areas.

Cabin Wood and Ballysaggart Lough are well used sites on the edge of large populated areas that require additional investment to bring the make the visitor experience more enjoyable.

## APPENDIX M: Action Plan split up into years

### YEAR 1 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of <b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer</b> for the Council area.	£40,940
A2.	Council wide	<b>Expansion of the existing Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b> - to include all those involved directly/indirectly with outdoor recreation.	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£100,000
A4	Council wide	Monitor existing <b>SLAs with Community Groups</b> for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community.  Provide training to these Community Groups on what is expected in terms of visitor experience and facility maintenance checks.  New SLA's 1 @£10,000	£35,450   £10,000
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	Maintain existing <b>counters</b> across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b>  <b>Regional</b> – Ballyronan Marina and Traad Point  <b>Local</b> – Round Lake, Fivemiletown/Drumcaine Forest	£40,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 1 DEA  Will involve extensive community consultation, GIS mapping, landowners' negotiation	Staff time

C: DEVELOPMENT			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time
C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Portglenone</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£200,000
C6	Lower Ballinderry River	<b>Canoe Trails</b> – assess the feasibility of establishing a canoe trail on the Lower Ballinderry River	£5,000
C8	Clogher Valley	<b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> - deliver NI first long-distance mountain biking trails using the forests of the Clogher Valley	£2,500
D: MARKETING and PROMOTION			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – Preparation of Marketing Strategy and Action Plan	Staff Time
D2	Council Wide	<b>Identity</b> – develop a graphic device within the MUDC brand for forest outdoor sites	£5,000
D3	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Guidelines</b> – develop guidelines for all sites of outdoor recreation and parks	£15,000



D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Review</b> – undertake a review of signage, visitor information and waymarking at the current portfolio of outdoor recreation sites and parks in order to recommend the action required to meet the guidelines. Implement as time allows	Staff time
D5	Council Wide	<b>Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan</b> – develop a plan in collaboration with Leisure to encourage people to take part in physical activity at sites of outdoor recreation with a focus on walking and cycling	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

## YEAR 2 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
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A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer</b> for the Council area.	£41,783
A2.	Council wide	On-going - <b>Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b>	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£125,000
A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups and develop 1 new <b>SLAs</b> New SLA's 1 @£10,000	£45,450 £10,000
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters at major outdoor recreation sites across the Council area	£3,000

<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b> <b>Regional</b> – Pomeroy Forest <b>Local</b> – Moydamlaght Forest/Windmill Wood	£40,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 2 DEAs	Staff Time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway Development of brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process	Staff time £25,000
C4 (see Appendix K for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballyronan</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£350,000

C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<p><b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round Lake</li> </ul> <p>(this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)</p>	£200,000
C7	Davagh Forest	<p><b>National Mountain Bike Centre</b> – develop the existing Trails Centre through the extension of the current trail network</p> <p>(includes capital costs of the trails, waymarking etc)</p>	£500,000
C9	Clogher Valley	<p><b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> - facilitate NI's first long distance off-road horse-riding trail using the forests of the Clogher Valley (signage/waymarking)</p>	Staff time + £5,000
C10	Council Wide	<p><b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. (signage/waymarking)</p>	Staff time + £10,000
C11	Council Wide	<p><b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. The following will need further detailed investigation and physical assessment as part of the wider Community Trail Plan as per recommendation B2 in order to prioritise projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altmore – Altmore Reservoir</li> <li>• Ballinderry River – Ardtrea to Drapersfield River</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough – Dungannon Town</li> <li>• Desertmartin – to Iniscarn Forest</li> <li>• Draperstown – Tobermore along the Moyola River</li> <li>• Draperstown – Moneyneany along the Douglas River</li> <li>• Drumullan to Springhill</li> <li>• Greenvale Cookstown – Ballinderry River</li> <li>• Moneymore – Springhill Wood</li> <li>• Portglenone – Newferry</li> <li>• Portglenone – Hutchinson's Key – Portna – Kilrea</li> </ul>	Staff time + £TBC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkanaur to Castlecaulfield – Donaghmore</li> <li>• Pomeroy Forest – Pomeroy Village</li> <li>• Sandholes along the Tullylagan River</li> <li>• Straw – along the former railway line</li> <li>• Stewartstown – Crieve Lough</li> <li>• Tullaghoge – Loughry</li> <li>• Tullaghoge Fort – Tullyhogue village</li> </ul>	
<b>D: MARKETING and PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D9	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

### YEAR 3 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
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<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer</b>	£42,642
A2.	Council wide	On-going - <b>Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b>	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£150,000



A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups and one new SAL for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community.	£55,450
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b>  <b>Regional</b> – Davagh Forest Park <b>Local</b> – Ballysaggart Lough/Cabin Wood	£40,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 2 DEAs	Staff Time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway  Development of brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process	Staff time  £25,000
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time
C4 L for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pomeroy Forest Park</li></ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£500,000
C5 (see Appendix M for rationale and inclusion	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Windmill Wood/Moydamlaght forest</li></ul>	£200,000

and prioritisation)		(this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. (signage/waymarking)	Staff time + £5,000
C11	Council Wide	<b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. See year 2 for full list	Staff time + £TBC
<b>D: MARKETING AND PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

**YEAR 4 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)**

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Park and Outdoor Recreation Officer</b> and <b>two Assistant Park and Outdoor Recreation Officers</b> for the Council area.	£43,413
A2.	Council wide	On-going - <b>Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b>	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£150,000
A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups	£55,450
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters at major outdoor recreation sites across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b> <b>Local – Iniscarn</b>	£15,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 1 DEA	Staff Time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time

C4 (see Appendix K for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davagh Forest Park</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£500,000
C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabin Wood</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£200,000
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area (signage/waymarking)	Staff time + £5,000
C11	Council Wide	<b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. See year 2 for full list	Staff time + £TBC
<b>D: MARKETING AND PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time



**YEAR 5 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)**

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Park and Outdoor Recreation Officer</b> for the Council area.	£44,413
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£150,000
A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups and develop 5 new <b>SLAs with Community Groups</b> for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community. New SLA 1 @ £10,000	£55,450 £10,000
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters at major outdoor recreation sites across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 1 DEA	Staff time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time
C4 (see Appendix 12 for rationale for inclusion)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traad</li></ul>	£500,000

and prioritisation)		(this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	
C5 (see Appendix 13 for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iniscarn</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£200,000
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. (signage/waymarking)	Staff time + £5,000
C12	Council Wide	<b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. See Year 1 for full list	Staff time + £TBC
<b>D: MARKETING AND PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

## APPENDIX N: Funding Opportunities

### The National Lottery Community Fund

#### People and Communities

The 'People and Communities' programme is designed to support projects that work with local people to bring about positive changes in a community. Projects must meet the three key themes of:

- **People-led:** local people are meaningfully involved in development, design and delivery
- **Strengths-based:** supports people and communities to build on knowledge, skills and experience they already have to make the changes they want
- **Connected:** projects demonstrate a good understanding of other activities and services in the community and how the project complements these.

Grants range from £10,000 to £500,000 for projects lasting 1-5 years. Grants for small scale capital projects is capped at £100,000 but up to 100% of costs.

Eligible applicants are voluntary or community groups such as a charity, co-operative, social enterprise or community interest company. Partnerships are also eligible where the lead partner is one of the above.

The programme is open for applications all year round.

For more information see - [nlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/people-and-communities](https://nlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/people-and-communities)

#### Awards for All Northern Ireland

Awards for All is an open programme, therefore **there are no closing dates** for applications.

Awards for All provides funding to support work with local people to bring about positive changes in communities.

The programme is open to:

- voluntary or community organisations
- schools
- statutory bodies

The aim is to improve people's lives and strengthen community activity by helping:

- people to participate in their communities
- people to develop their skills and broaden their experience
- people to work towards better and safer communities
- improve people's physical and mental health and well-being.

Eligible projects can apply for grants of between **£500 and £10,000**.

For more information see: [nlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-northern-ireland](https://nlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-northern-ireland)

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £3,000 – £10,000**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- private owners of heritage

**Project length:** up to one year.

**Deadlines:** None

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £10,000 - £100,000**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- private owners of heritage and partnerships

**Deadlines:** None.

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £100,000-£250,000**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations

**Deadlines:** 2019/20 Deadlines are quarterly and can be found below:

- March 2019 for a decision in June 2019
- 28 May 2019 for a decision in September 2019
- 20 August 2019 for a decision in November 2019
- 19 November 2019 for decision in March 2020

**Assessment process:** Assessment of applications take 12 weeks and following assessment, is assigned to a quarterly committee meeting. Applicant contribution: At least 5% of the project costs.

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £250,000 - £5 million**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations

Before applying: Submit an expression of interest form and The National Lottery will let the applicant know if they are invited to apply.

**Project length:**

- development phase up to two years



- delivery phase up to five years

**Deadlines are quarterly and can be found below:**

- March 2019 for a decision in June 2019
- 28 May 2019 for a decision in September 2019
- 20 August 2019 for a decision in November 2019
- 19 November 2019 for decision in March 2020

Assessment process: Assessment of applications will take 12 weeks and following assessment, it will be assigned to a quarterly committee meeting.

Contribution: Contribute of at least 5% of project costs for grants up to £1 million and at least 10% for grants of £1m or more.

For more information: [heritagefund.org.uk/funding/national-lottery-grant-heritage](https://heritagefund.org.uk/funding/national-lottery-grant-heritage)

### **Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland**

Lloyds Bank Foundation for Northern Ireland which has contributed £34.8m to the Voluntary and Community sector over the past 31 years has been re-named the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland.

The Community Grants Programme supports charitable organisations within Northern Ireland to enable people, who are disadvantaged or with special needs, to participate actively in their communities

The programme is open to registered charities with an income of less than £1 million. The Average Grant is currently between £3,000-£4,000.

**For more information see** [halifaxfoundationni.org/programmes/community-grant-programme](https://halifaxfoundationni.org/programmes/community-grant-programme)

### **Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme**

Live Here Love Here is an annual Small Grants Scheme delivered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful in partnership with Local Councils, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Choice Housing, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and McDonald's.

The small grants scheme provides support to volunteer projects that:

- Use innovative ways to reduce littering and dog fouling
- Improve how a local environment is looked after, whether urban, rural or coastal
- Contribute to the development of civic pride within a community with a focus on environmental improvements
- Enhance or attract tourism to a community through environmental improvements

Grants are available from £500 to £5,000 and are open to volunteer and community groups, all school and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs undertaking civic pride projects in supporting Council areas.

The Small Grants Scheme is also open to all Housing Association and Housing Executive residents with support from Choice Housing, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and McDonald's throughout all council areas in Northern Ireland.

Local Councils and businesses have the option to partner with Live Here Love Here as a commitment to enable people to secure tangible benefits and build stronger community spirit. Their support to Live Here Love Here will help amplify the campaign's efforts to revitalise and reenergise neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland.

The scheme forms part of the wider Live Here Love Here programme, which includes an innovative media campaign and exciting volunteering opportunities to encourage participation all year round.

**The next round of the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme will be launching on 16th April 2019. For more information see [www.livehereandlovehere.org](http://www.livehereandlovehere.org).**

<b>Report on</b>	Solar Walk, Davagh, Landowner Lease Agreements
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Nigel Hill, Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Anne Reid

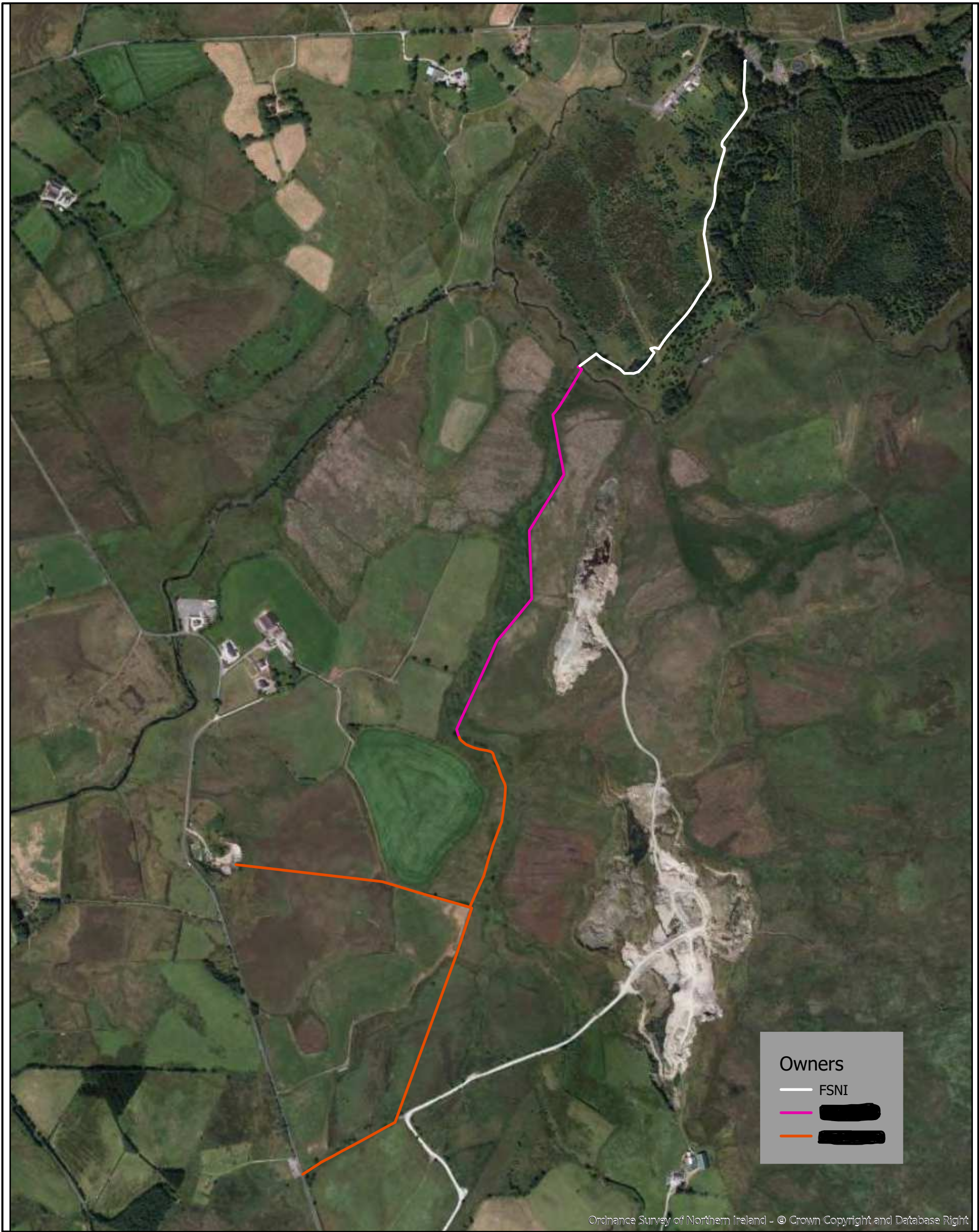
<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To formalise a lease agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and two individual landowners in respect of the Solar Walk at Davagh Forest.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Solar Walk is proposed as part of the Davagh Forest Dark Skies development, subject to funding. The new public access trail will connect both the natural heritage of Davagh with the built heritage of Beaghmore, creating a significant asset for the wider engagement of the public with landscape in the area.
2.2	The walk will start in Davagh Forest and follow an existing forest path heading south. From here the walk will traverse the slope to the flood plain of the Broughderg River, crossing the river using a bridge, from the river the walk continues south. The route then splits with one section heading west to connect with the glamping pods. The other section continues south to meet with an existing farm laneway and out onto the Blackrock Road, continuing to a destination at the carpark and entrance to Beaghmore Stone Circles.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Council Officers have been working with the relevant landowners south of Davagh Forest in order to establish agreed routes for the creation of public paths. Designated routes have been agreed. Council will be required to formalise these agreements through Lease Agreements with the individual landowners. Land and Property Services will be required to value the land take and provide an annual rental valuation for Council consideration. Council's legal services will be engaged to establish the Lease Agreements.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>

	Financial: Annual rent for the associated land take will be determined by Land and Property Services
	Human: Council staff time
	Risk Management: In line with council policy and procedures
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In line with council policy and procedures
	Rural Needs Implications: In line with council policy and procedures
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Approval is sought to seek the establishment of two individual Lease Agreements with the relevant landowners in respect of lands crossed by the Solar Walk as part of the Davagh Forest Dark Skies development project.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix Solar Walk route map.



# Solar Walk Land Owners



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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Author: Nicky Doris

Date: 05/09/2019

Dept: ICT

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<b>Report on</b>	Sandford Awards Ceremony 2019
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Tony McCance
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Peter Lant

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To advise Members that the Education Programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre been awarded a Sandford Award 2019 and seeks approval for two representatives from Council (one officer and Chair or Deputy Chair) to attend the Sandford Awards Ceremony in London on Monday 18 November 2019.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Sandford Award is an independently judged, quality assured assessment of education programmes in museums, historic houses, galleries, archives and collections, places of worship, natural heritage sites and wildlife parks across the UK and Ireland. The Award celebrates and promotes heritage learning and is named after its founder, Lord Sandford.
2.2	The Education Programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House received its first Sandford Award in 2014. This award has a duration of five years.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	In December 2018 the Education Officer at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre applied to the Sandford Awards for a reassessment of the Education Programme.
3.2	Judging took place on 24 May 2019 by Mr Robin Clutterbuck, a heritage consultant from Devon who was representing the Sandford Awards. On 21 July this centre was delighted to find out that the Education Programme had received its second Sandford Award.
3.3	In the citation in the Sandford Award Judge's Report Mr Clutterbuck says:  "Once the capital of Ulster, the Hill of The O'Neill is a very important site and has been linked with significant events up to the present day. The education service rises to the challenge of interpreting the site through an impressive range of learning activities using the arts, historical enquiry and environmental study. The

	well-equipped facilities of Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre are used by school groups as well as wider audiences and the enthusiastic feedback from teachers and students indicate that the centre is well deserving of a Sandford Award”.
3.4	<p>As Mid Ulster District Council/Hill of The O'Neill &amp; Ranfurly House Arts &amp; Visitor Centre is to receive a Sandford Award Certificate, the event organisers have offered Council two complimentary tickets to attend the Sandford Awards Ceremony on:-</p> <p>Date: Monday 18 November 2019  Time: 2.00pm – 5.00pm  Location: V &amp; A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PA</p>
3.5	Whilst entry to the awards ceremony is free, there will be travel and subsistence costs incurred, should Council decide to send two representatives to attend.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:  Financial: Tickets to the Award Ceremony are complimentary and free of charge. Travel and subsistence costs will be incurred for two people.</p>
	<p>Human:  Human: Member/Education Officer time to attend the events.</p>
	Risk Management: N/a
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:  N/a</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:  N/a</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended to Members that two representatives (one officer and Chair or Deputy Chair) attend the Sandford Awards Ceremony taking place at the Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PA on 18 November 2019, in line with Council's established practice and protocol regarding representation of elected members at events.



<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None



<b>Report on</b>	Enhanced Accessibility and Proposed Tree Works at Tullaghoge Fort
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform Council of essential tree works at Tullaghoge Fort to be undertaken by Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities
1.2	To seek approval from Council to progress a tree planting scheme and a tree sculpture project at Tullaghoge Fort to be led by Culture and Arts Services and funded by Historic Environment Division.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Officials from the Department for Communities Historic Environment Division have been closely monitoring the condition of the mature trees at the site over a number of years, and it is now evident that a significant intervention is required with regards to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the removal of dead or diseased trees, and</li> <li>b) to top the over-extended canopies of several that overhang the road and other locations at the site.</li> </ul>
2.2	Up to 25No trees require felling, including a small number in and around the fort itself, and up to 75No trees require significant crown thinning. The Department for Communities Historic Environment Division are in the process of arranging for these works to be undertaken, which are necessary in terms of maintaining public safety, maintaining the integrity of the monument, and to avoid further damage to adjoining trees in and around the site.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	As part of the 2016 project which enhanced the visitor access to the site, a determined effort was made to ensure that where tree cover was lost it would be extended elsewhere on the lands managed by the Historic Environment Division.

3.2	The project at that time included the planting of a substantial number of new trees, primarily oak, and this included some larger saplings. These have become very well established at the site, and over the years to come will increase in stature.
3.3	As part of the work required at this stage the Historic Environment Division is proposing additional planting around the northern aspect of their lands, in an area where there will be minimal impact on any buried archaeological remains but also an area where new trees will be expected to thrive.
3.4	In addition, it is intended that the trees that need to be felled are cut to no less than 3m from the ground surface, where this can be achieved (i.e. for trees that have died but are not badly decayed, a significant portion of the tree trunk could be kept on the site). Following from this is an opportunity to provide enhanced interpretation and interest in the site by way of carving the standing – or fallen – timbers. Examples elsewhere include the representation of the flora, fauna and history of a site. It makes use of the resources on site and draws together the natural and cultural heritage through art and stakeholder engagement.
3.5	As part of the additional planting works, it is proposed that local people, and in particular local schools, will be involved as part of the landscape management of the site.
3.6	It is proposed that Arts & Cultural Services take the lead in engagement locally, especially with schools, in the tree planting project, and to take the lead in arranging for a wood sculptor to carve the timber or trunks from the tree felling and tree maintenance operations.
3.7	A further enhancement of the site is also planned by way of making good the ground surface between the path constructed in 2016 and the fort itself. This area formerly had a narrow path leading to the monument, which was difficult to maintain. While the wider area of approach works well in dry periods, It has been found to become saturated after modest periods of rainfall. The Historic Environment are currently looking at a system of enhancement that makes for a firmer ground surface, but without impacting either on the buried archaeology of the site or the overall character of the existing approach to the monument.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial: The main tree felling and surgery works, along with enhancing the ground surface between the end of the path developed in 2016 and the Fort itself, will be conducted directly by the Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division.</p> <p>Subject to Council approval, It is proposed that the local engagement, including engagement with schools, and the commissioning of a wood sculptor is taken forward by Culture &amp; Arts Services of Council. Expenditure in this regard will be met by Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division through a letter of offer, paid on receipt of invoices from the Council. The final costs remain to be</p>



	<p>determined, but it is anticipated that the costs to be covered in this letter of offer from the Historic Environment Division are likely to be in the order of £15,000-£25,000.</p>
	<p>Human: Staff time and commitment to the delivery of the project can be met from within existing budgets and staffing resources</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Failure to address the diseased and decaying trees will have a significant impact on maintaining public safety, maintaining the integrity of the monument, and the ability to avoid further damage to adjoining trees in and around the site.</p> <p>Tullaghoge Fort is instantly recognisable for its inner and outer border of trees that circle the Fort therefore there is also significant engagement with key stakeholders required in order to inform the wider community of the need to carry out the works proposed and the visual impact that this could have on the Fort. The visual impact of the required tree felling should be mitigated with the introduction of wood sculptures on site which will further enhance the visitor experience.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: Engagement with key stakeholders including representatives of local community groups, schools and local history groups will be undertaken to provide information on the proposed works at the site</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Rural needs implications are considered as part of the proposed implementation of the works proposed</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Council to note the essential tree works required at Tullaghoge Fort and which will be undertaken by Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities
5.2	To seek approval from Council to progress a tree planting scheme and a tree sculpture project at Tullaghoge Fort to be led by Culture and Arts Services and funded by Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/a



**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 12 September 2019 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

**Members Present**

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton (7.20 pm), Clarke (7.10 pm), Corry, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Hughes, Kearney, Kerr, McNamee, Milne and Monteith

**Officers in Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Mr Brown, Head of Tourism  
Mr Hill, Head of Parks  
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts  
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development  
Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure  
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Deputation: Lissan House Trust  
Sharon Loughrin (Chair Lissan House Trust)  
Mark Conway (Lissan House Trust)  
Ryan O'Neill (Treasurer Lissan House Trust)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**D136/19 Apologies**

None.

**D137/19 Declaration of Interests**

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

*Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Community Development Report – Decade of Anniversaries – Cookstown INF.*

**D138/19 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Wilson raised concern regarding the official opening of the new Fire College at Desertcreat on Tuesday. He said that none of the elected representatives from Mid Ulster District Council including the Council Chair had received an invite which was an outright snub to this Council and especially when the Council had acquired the land for the Fire Service in the first instance and worked extremely hard to encourage neighbouring properties to agree to the proposal. He said that the issue was raised at the Environment Committee on Tuesday night where

it was suggested that the Council write to the Fire Service to raising concerns, but firstly bring to the attention of the Development committee for their final recommendation.

Councillor McNamee agreed with the Chair's sentiments and stated that no MLA's or MP's from the area were invited and was disappointed as the Deputy First Minister, Michelle O'Neill signed the project off.

Councillor Kearney said that he raised the issue with the Communications Department and agreed that it was an insult to Councillors and especially Cookstown DEA's and stated that he was invited to the official opening to part of the new A6 where he was regally treated.

The Chair proposed to write to the Fire Service expressing this Council's dissatisfaction at being snubbed and felt although they may come back to say it was an oversight on their part and issue an invite for a later date that this would be too little too late and a downright snub to Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to write to the Fire Service expressing the Council's dissatisfaction regarding no representation from the Council being invited to attend the official opening of the new Fire Training College.

#### **D139/19 Deputation: Lissan House Trust**

The Chair, welcomed representatives from Lissan House Trust and invited them to make their presentation to the committee.

Ms Loughrin thanked members for the opportunity and advised that Lissan House had an impressive 4 centuries behind it but wanted to update members on what lies ahead.

Mr Conway stated that the house dated back to 1610, which had a unique story and a continuity within Mid Ulster for over 400 years and was one of the most historically significant and stunning landed estates in Ireland. The lands boast a 300-acre site with 12,500 cars visiting pa and 4,000/6,000 people. Following extensive restoration Lissan House opened its doors in the Spring of 2012 to reveal original interiors which boasted one of Mid Ulster's premier tourist destinations.

*Councillor Clarke entered the meeting at 7.10 pm.*

He stated that to break even they would require £60,000-£70,000 per annum and that presently their only income was coming from conacre, admissions, tea-room and events. Totally dependent on a tired/worn out volunteer group and minimal support from beyond the Lissan House Trust and with further disappointment from the planned LHT/Private Partnership now not proceeding.



Mr Conway concluded by saying that Lissan House was a sustainable base for the project with a meaningful local and civic ownership commitment and asked that the Council support the venture in any way they could.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and asked for any comments.

Councillor Kearney thanked the representatives for their presentation and said that he had visited Lissan House a few times and was an eye-opener to see first hand the potential t and also the difficulties faced.

Councillor McNamee advised that he visited Lissan House as Chair of Cookstown Council and met Ms Hazel Dolling, the last member of the Staples. He said that she lived in one room upstairs and that the house was very badly dilapidated and that shortly after that the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development at the time Michelle Gildernew provided funding to restore the House. He enquired about the outbuildings and what condition they were in.

Ms Loughrin stated that the outbuildings are in a dire state of repair but that the main priority at the moment was to concentrate on the main building.

Mr Conway advised that when the house was opened up to the public it was absolutely freezing and couldn't do anything in the winter resulting in the Lissan House Trust securing a loan of £40k for a heating system with a repayment plan. He said that it is a catch 22 situation because if the house isn't warm enough people will not come and generate income that is so badly needed and if the heating was used this was costing money but there was a need to have the footfall to pay back the loan.

*Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.20 pm.*

Mr Conway stated that the roof was in a dreadful state and when potential heritage funding was secured and ready to proceed to fix outbuildings it was withdrawn at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour which was very disappointing and a danger that the outbuildings would collapse.

Councillor Milne enquired whether the Trust would consider leasing out the buildings.

Mr Conway said that the buildings were fenced off due to health and safety concerns and would cost a fortune to get them in a reasonable state of repair.

Ms Loughrin said that the main house is now used for mostly photographic purposes.

Councillor Corry enquired what kind of funding commitment would be required if the venture was to proceed.

Ms Loughrin stated that the financial requirement would be roughly £70k per annum, as the insurance alone was £900 per month. She said that insurance was expensive, and a lot of the public do not realise this as locals use the estate greatly and they have to be reminded of the potential dangers.

Mr O'Neill said that there were huge overheads and not enough money being generated to keep the project afloat. He said that there was a lack of resources for marketing and depend greatly on social media as it was a free advertising tool and would plead with the Council to help in any way they possibly can.

Ms Loughrin advised that they were in a fortunate position until last year as they were lucky enough to employ a Manager but there was no funding in the budget to continue with the employment and this is having an impact as there is no-one to answer phones and take bookings etc.

Mr Conway stated that money had been borrowed and had to be paid back resulting in a piece of land being sold to overcome this, but this resulted in payment for con-acreage decreasing.

Councillor Ashton enquired what the Lissan House Trust were requesting from the Council, i.e. revenue and capital funding or were they looking the Council to step in and take over the running of the venue.

Ms Loughrin said that the Trust would be looking for both really and were here tonight seeking for mercy from the Council looking financial funding at the top end or any help with promotion and diverting of phones to Council switchboards to help with the running of activities at Lissan House.

Mr Conway said that he was aware that the Council had huge financial commitments and also knows if funding was issued to them that everybody else would be looking the same thing but said that Lissan House was a precious commodity and there was a dire need for volunteers and hard cash to keep it going.

Councillor Cuddy enquired if the group had approached the National Trust as they supported the Argory.

Mr O'Neill advised that the group had approached them, but they have so many commitments to other places like Springhill and other places in the north west that at the moment they can not commit to anything else but may be interested in the land.

The Chair enquired what would happen the House if this project folds and where would it go to.

Mr Conway said that in 2006, Hazel Dolling, the last of the Staples of Lissan, left the house and estate to the Lissan House Trust, an independent charity tasked with the restoration and preservation of the property and if it folded then the charity would take it back it into their remit again.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Lissan House Trust for their presentation and at which they left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

The Chair, stated that Hazel Dolling, was very passionate about Lissan House and lived upstairs in the property. He said that it was a brilliant venue and that the Trust had to be commended for their work and felt that if the Council support this venture,

this could open up fantastic opportunities and would suggest the Officers take this away and investigate options to see if anything can be done to support the project.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D140/19      Economic Development Report**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the following:

- **Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Budget up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding Vat) to be granted from Council's Economic Development budget over a period of 3 years (2020-2022) to develop and deliver a new Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme; and
- (ii) Officers to proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme (2020-2022).

- **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges – Dungannon & Magherafelt**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Council to approve the temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay & Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (6-week period) at a cost of £23,400.

Councillor Kerr referred to the provision of car parking in Donaghmore to ease congestion and asked if an update could be provided.

The Head of Economic Development said an update would be provided at a future meeting.

Councillor Monteith said that 12 to 18 months ago the issue of carparking charges in town centres was discussed and the negative impact that this was having on the retail sector with this only getting worse as time goes on. He said that when traders were asked after their business ceased trading why they thought the cause of this was, they said that footfall had decreased due to car parking charges and that customers were going to areas where there was free car parking facilities.

He said that this wasn't just relative to the Mid Ulster District area but right across the board and felt that this needed revisited again and proposed it be investigated by Officers.

Councillor Ashton said that when free carparking was trialled at Castlehill, Dungannon, traders were up in arms complaining that people abused the system by parking all day in the centre of the town.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that the issue of carparking charges in town centres be investigated by Officers.

- **Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the request for financial support received from CRAIC Theatre Company in Coalisland to the value of £4,200 to deliver the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event, subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.

- **Business in the Community Proposal**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the funding proposal received from Business in the Community for 'Transformational Level Support' in relation to delivering a range of activities during the intense 6-month pilot period from October 2019 – March 2020, at a cost of £3,300 + Vat.

- **Town Centre Visitor Information Points**

Councillor Monteith advised that he had no difficulty with the concept, but that there was static information which was out of date at tourist information points and the town centre had not the footfall. He said that the Council had sold off some of the bus shelters and should consider the option of taking them back into its ownership again, adding the use of adshels would provide visual information where the public tend to congregate, and not solely in town centres.

Councillor Monteith requested the locations of the visitor information points be provided and agreed at the next meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and



**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- (i) Budget of up to £29,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the existing Economic Development and Tourism budgets during 2019/20 for the purchase of 3 number visitor information kiosks to be located in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt town centres, subject to the locations being agreed at the next Development Committee meeting.
- (ii) Officers proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to provide the 3 number visitor information kiosks, once the locations are agreed at the next Development Committee Meeting.

- **Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags**

Councillor Burton raised the issue of providing branded jute bags to other towns and villages and advised that Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce and Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society were also keen to avail of the bags and enquired if this could be accommodated.

The Head of Economic Development said that the jute bags were focused on the three main towns who had their own town brands. She added that Council couldn't select one or two villages at random and provide bags to them, as all the other villages would want to avail of them too and there was no funding in the budget to provide such. In response to Councillor Burton's query on whether Council could purchase bags on behalf of the groups in Fivemiletown and Castlecaulfield if the groups agreed to provide the budget themselves, the Head of Economic Development added that she would liaise with Council's procurement team on the matter and seek advice. The Director of Business and Communities added that the Council could not purchase the bags on behalf of third parties, we could provide the groups with the contact details of where the bags can be procured.

Councillor Burton suggested that going forward that this could be considered for next year and felt that every village should have opportunity to avail of this scheme and not just the three main towns.

Councillor Monteith referred to the Branded Jute Shopping bags and Branded Town Centre Merchandise and proposed that Dungannon funding element be put on hold until the proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership was resolved.

The Director of Business and Communities advised members that there was a limited budget within economic development and the focus of the town centre funding was concentrated on the 'retail core' to help develop the a retail core to develop with three large towns which in turn supports hundreds of retail jobs in local businesses.

He said that there was only money in the budget for the 3 main towns, and if this scheme was opened up to other smaller towns and villages we wouldn't have the resources to do so. He stated that if members wished, Officers could look at their budget next year to see if resources were available but added this would mean reducing funding to other town centre projects where Council is not 'formally

contracted to deliver', or alternatively members would have to make provision for additional funds in next year's estimates.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to proceed with the purchase of Branded Jute Shopping bags for Cookstown and Magherafelt and put on hold the budget for Dungannon Branded Shopping Bags until the proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership was resolved.

- **Branded Town Centre Merchandise**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to proceed with the purchase of Branded Town Centre Merchandise for Cookstown and Magherafelt and put on hold the budget for the Dungannon Town Centre Merchandise until the proposal from Dungannon was resolved.

- **PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to note the PLATO Final Report and to approve the release of the final payment of £2,500.

- **Town Centre Enhancement Works**

Councillor Kerr referred to other areas and felt that villages should also be included in the scheme and suggested that this be investigated.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that options be investigated to include villages in the scheme.

Councillor Monteith referred to Moy residents raising concerns about the larger towns availing of enhancement schemes and felt that equality wasn't being shown towards smaller villages. He said there was a need to look towards a funding initiative for smaller villages and settlements as there was more to this Council than the 5 main towns. He further requested that Members be provided with a list of proposed locations for enhancement works in each town.

Councillor Burton said that she was aware an earlier Village Spruce Up Scheme was oversubscribed but felt that it was important to keep all villages and premises looking decent to encourage people to shop local.

Councillor Ashton said that there was a need to see what was coming back from the Villages Schemes and work on that.

Councillor Clarke said that the Village Renewal Scheme generates more funding into villages than any other scheme within the North of Ireland.

The Chair advised that this can be looked at when the time comes to set the budget.

The Director of Business and Communities said that currently there is not sufficient funds to undertake the proposed Town Centre Enhancement Works across all towns and villages this year, but if it was the will of members to undertake a much larger district wide scheme next year, then they would have to consider making provision for such in next year's budget estimates.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve:

- (i) Budget for town centre enhancement works of up to £100,000 across the towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Coalisland from the existing Economic Development budget, subject to Members being provided with the locations of the proposed works in each town at a future meeting.
- (ii) From within the budget of £100,000, to seek tenders for the production and erection of hoarding around unsightly derelict/gap sites and/or replace some existing hoarding which is now in a poor state of repair, subject to Members being provided with the locations of the proposed works in each town at a future meeting.

- **Management and Leadership Network Event**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve that Management and Leadership Network's request for a contribution towards sponsorship costs (venue hire and catering) of their MLN Mid Ulster event on 24 September 2019 with costs up to £1,040 excluding Vat, subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and there being no charge to local businesses to attend the event.

- **NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the NI Chamber of Commerce's request for a contribution towards the costs (venue hire and catering) to their Mid Ulster Business Networking event on 9 October 2019 in the region of £850 (excluding vat), subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and the business fee waived for Mid Ulster businesses.

- **Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event**

The Head of Economic Development advised that the launch scheduled to take place on 20 September 2019 was now postponed until a later date.

Noted.

- **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve that the two complementary tickets be allocated to the Council Chair and one Officer to attend the Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 to be held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7pm in Corick House Hotel & Spa.

- **Women in Business Conference and Awards Request**

Councillor Doris stated that it would be useful for members to be kept up to date on events and asked for more events to be brought to the Mid Ulster area.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the contribution of up to £375 towards the 'Best New Start Up Category' at the Women in Business Awards and allocation of Council's complementary ticket to the Council Chair or his nominated representative to attend the Awards Evening on Thursday 7 November 2019 at 7pm in the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast.

- **Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve a contribution of up to £280 towards the 'Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 and Conference 2020' and the attendance of the Chair, if he or his nominated representative, wishes to attend the Awards (subject to the availability of tickets) on Friday 11 October 2019 at 7pm at the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast.

- **Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week**

Members noted proposal to deliver a Programme of events to mark Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week taking place during 18-22 November 2019.

- **Coalisland Town Centre Forum**

Members noted Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes (5 June 2019).

- **Business Improvement District Feasibility Study**

Councillor Monteith raised concern about the study findings and said that this did not reflect the views of the Dungannon Traders or Regeneration Partnership and asked to hold off on making a decision on this until the Dungannon Regeneration Partnership proposal is resolved.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith



Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to put this on hold until the Dungannon Regeneration Partnership proposal is resolved.

Councillor McNamee agreed there was no appetite for BIDS in Cookstown either.

- **Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019**

Members noted Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2019.

- **Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme**

Members noted progress regarding Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme.

Councillor Kerr said that he had been approached by Traders in Coalisland regarding some areas of the town being excluded from the scheme and requested that the boundaries be looked at again as some Traders were struggling and may have to make staff redundant before Christmas. He said that it was necessary to include all the other areas on a point of equality.

Councillor Ashton said that she would support Councillor Kerr's comments and that some Traders were in the same position outside Dungannon but added that it was unlikely the scheme boundaries could be changed at this stage.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the scheme is currently open to applications and that the boundaries cannot be moved at this stage.

The Chair advised that the deadline to apply to the scheme was next Wednesday and indicated if the scheme was delivered again in the future, boundaries could be reviewed then.

- **5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition**

The Director of Business & Communities advised that it would be beneficial for Mid Ulster District Council to work with colleagues from other Council areas as a collective for a strong voice across the region.

Councillor Ashton stated that she attended a very direct broadband meeting with the Department of the Economy last Monday night and said that it would be unwise to spend our resources before seeing where this goes and working as a collective for a better deal.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton

Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve:

- (i) That Officers explore the possibility of submitting a bid to the 5G Rural Connected Communities grant completion through the Full Fibre NI Network.
- (ii) To procure any specialist technical expertise deemed necessary to assist with the bid preparation.

- **Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme**

Members noted update on Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme.

- **DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve Mid Ulster District Council's draft recommendations to DAERA on their Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions.

- **Mid South and West Region Growth Deal**

Councillor Monteith raised concern regarding no engagement with the wider bodies and for Councillors there has been no invitation to any update meetings for those members which are not on the Governance Working Group. He said as Independent Councillors, Councillor Kerr and himself were being excluded and would not be supporting any proposals being brought forward.

Councillor Kerr said that as Independent Councillors they have a mandate and this mandate was being excluded from this and would also not be supporting the project.

The Director of Business and Communities said that four elected members had been appointed to the Governance Working Growth Group and next week there was a meeting being held in Craigavon with information being fed back to members.

Councillor Monteith reiterated that Councillors were being excluded and were not being made aware of what rate-payers money was being spent on and would not be part of it.

Councillor Cuddy said that he depended on his Party Leader to keep them up date and that Members all agreed to this and although nothing was perfect, we wouldn't want to be missing out on this through squabbling as there was a need to move forward on this.

Councillor Monteith said that he wasn't arguing that the Committee couldn't work through this but felt that there should be regular work-shops organised to keep all members up to date.

Councillor Ashton agreed with Councillor Monteith and advised that she hadn't received any invitations either to any update meetings.

Councillor Kearney said that there was an excellent meeting held at the Hill of The O'Neill and would be looking forward to the one next week and stated that it would be important to let all members know what was happening and said that any updates would be reported back.

Councillor McNamee said that a meeting was held last year with Mr Philip Orr, who owns the Market Rights in Cookstown. He said that it would be beneficial to move this forward as Cookstown on a Saturday was like the Wild West with everyone parking everywhere. He asked if there was any update and if not could the Head of Development touch base with him to progress the matter.

The Head of Development said she would seek clarification from Mr Orr and provide an update at a future meeting.

Councillor Burton referred to Aughnacloy Market and said that it was dying on its feet and said that other Councils like Coleraine do fantastic work in working with Market Traders and felt that this should be the case for our Council also. She said that very little assistance was being provided by this Council to Aughnacloy and Dungannon Farmers Market and that 30 years ago Aughnacloy was thriving every second Wednesday with a fair day on one side and car-boot sale on the other side which encouraged people to recycle their items. She said that there was still lots of interest in this type of market trade. She stressed that Dungannon Farmers Market was struggling and felt that this Council should be looking at supporting small businesses to encourage new crafts, fresh food and produce.

The Chair said that Aughnacloy was a designated area and should be looked at.

## **D141/19      Community Development Report**

The Director of Business and Communities presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

Councillor Monteith said that it would be important to have a review on grants before they go through in January.

In response to Councillor Black's query regarding the budget and where things sat, the Director of Business and Communities advised that the Community Development budget was in the region of £1.6m and although an expenditure profile is determined, it never runs exactly how you profile as groups sometimes cannot deliver their project when they anticipate. He said that there were no concerns at the moment and that all funding is generally allocated to over the different grant funds with no shortage of uptake. He advised that Officers were doing their best to ensure the budget is maximised across Mid Ulster.

- **Rolling Grants Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals as per grant recommendations in Appendix 1 of the report to a value of £17,606 and Decade of Anniversaries Grant Awards.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

**D142/19 Proposal to Name the Sensory Garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace**

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report and sought approval to name the sensory garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace ‘The Back Yard Sensory Garden’

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the naming of the garden area to the rear of Seamus Heaney HomePlace at Moyola Hall, currently The Sensory Garden, to ‘The Back Yard Sensory Garden’.

**D143/19 Forest Service NI Consultation Forestry Planning in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Area**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the consultation response being carried out by Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) – Scoping a new forestry plan for forests in East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.

Councillor Kerr asked that Altmore be included in this and requested that consideration be given to inviting Cappagh Village Regeneration Group to a future meeting to make a presentation.

Councillor Burton referred to Lumford’s Glen and said that it was important to try and bring it back to what it was as it had become very dilapidated and dangerous after recent bad weather which caused landslides.

Councillor Doris enquired why Drumcaine Forest wasn’t included in the study.

The Head of Parks referred to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service and advised that although Drumcaine wasn’t on the list it still was included the Council’s improvement scheme as there was a generative response in our outdoor recreation strategy which will be in the scope.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended



- (i) That Altmore Forest be included in the consultation as per Appendix 1 and to confirm that the Council will continue partnership working arrangements to expand opportunities for the development of Forest Recreation in East Fermanagh and East Tyrone. This continued development will be managed under the scope of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service NI and delivered through the creation of new Licence and Lease Agreements for identified properties within the catchment of scoping area;
- (ii) That Cappagh Village Regeneration Group be invited to make a presentation to Council

The Chair raised concern regarding admission charges by the Forestry Service and Council having no justification in the matter and felt that it would be beneficial to issue an invite for representatives to attend a future meeting on the criteria for charges.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to issue an invite to representatives from the Forest Service to attend a future meeting to get clarification on admission charging for Forestry Parks.

#### **D144/19 Mid Ulster District Council and DAERA (RDP/TRPSI) Capital Works Programme**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for Council to take forward Capital Projects under the MUDC/DAERA/Rural Development and TRPSI Programme. The Council to act as lead partner for Rural Development Projects, with Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (the LAG) as co-applicant regarding to the following:

Councillor Ashton referred to issue of capital funding and advised it had been brought to Policy & Resources Committee seeking the release of additional funding and enquired where we are with the capital fund and the timeframe as the Council has made a significant contribution for maintenance programme at the last Policy and Resources meeting and whether this was ringfenced within the budget.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that work has being ongoing with the Officer team identifying significant match funding and requirements would be uncertain as projects needed to be further developed. She said that this was DAERA's funding but there was a need for investment from Council to meet the overall budget requirements. This would be brought to Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

Councillor Ashton stated that there was a need for an officer collective across all departments as there was a significant request brought for approval to P&R Committee by the Environment & Properties department last week and felt that members on the P&R should be furnished with the full picture as this was a regular occurrence.

Councillor Doris enquired if Officers could investigate for the next committee meeting the potential for 24-hour toilet facilities at Washingbay.

Councillor Monteith referred to the major project for Railway Park and advised that this scheme was due to commence in October or November but unfortunately there has been an issue with the landowner and suggested that a Dungannon DEA meeting be arranged to discuss.

- Ballyronan Marina – Refurbishment Works
- Washingbay Wetlands Park
- Portglenone Angling Stands
- Davagh Forest Mountain Bike Trails – Extension
- Maghera Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- Fivemiletown Round Lake
- Moydamlaght

Proposed by Councillor Corry

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Progress with the identified Capital Works Programme as detailed in the report.
- (ii) Engage, tender and procure the necessary IST Capital Works contractors, where necessary, in order to deliver the programme of Capital Works as proposed, subject to confirmed funding confirmation (LoO).
- (iii) Endorsement to present listed projects and Capital Funding request to P&R Committee for approval.
- (iv) Dungannon DEA meeting to be arranged to discuss Railway Park Scheme as a matter of urgency.

#### **D145/19 Sports Representative Grants**

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report and sought approval for grant allocations for the Sports Representative Grant – Team and Individuals.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to agree the Sport Grant Allocation in relation to the Individual and Team Representative Grant and to approve the transfer of £6,000 from the Sports Capital Grant Programme.

#### **D146/19 Schools Sports Facilities Grant**

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the Schools Sports Facilities Grant 2019/20.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

In response to Councillor McNamee's query, the Acting Head of Leisure advised that there has been no update on expansion of Mid Ulster Sports Arena.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to roll out the Schools Sports Grant programme as in previous years with funding from an underspend in the current Grant programmes.

#### **D147/19 Update on Capital Projects – DAERA Funding**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to update members on the progress of the Capital Projects funded by DAERA at Davagh Forest and Ballyronan Marina.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to relocate the on-water glamping pods project from The Round Lake in Fivemiletown to Ballyronan Marina. To work up the full application to be submitted to DAERA on or before 31 December 2019, for the Ballyronan Marina site.

#### **D148/19 Darina Allen Visit**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which outlined the planned visit to the region in October by Darina Allen, Ballymaloe and Caroline Hennessy, Head of the Irish Food Bloggers Association and member of the Irish Food Writers Guild. The Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme and the Seamus Heaney cluster members to coordinate this visit.

Proposed by Councillor Milne

Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to proceed with the event to promote and showcase the Seamus Heaney Cluster and Food Producer across Mid Ulster. Darina Allen to also take part in book signing in Seamus Heaney HomePlace as part of her visit.

#### **D149/19 Corporate Events 2019**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide an update on the change of date for the Dungannon Annual Christmas Lights Switch On from Saturday 23 November 2019 to Friday 22 November 2019 to allow a local community group to participate in an event.

Councillor Doris asked if Officers could investigate for next year the option of Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch On being changed to a Friday evening instead of a Sunday.

*Councillor Monteith declared an interest in the Dungannon Switch on as a member of the Thomas Clarke GAC.*

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to change the date of the Christmas Lights Switch On in Dungannon to Friday 22 November 2019.

#### **D150/19 Stone Mountain Highland Games**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report and sought permission to attend Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, Georgia, promoting the Presidential Trail that includes US Grants Homestead.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for one member of staff to attend Stone Mountain Highland Games with Tourism Ireland in October 2019.

#### **Matters for Information**

#### **D151/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019.

The Chair referred to issue which was raised at last month's Development Committee regarding VE Day commemorations in the District and advised that a report would now be brought to October meeting.

Councillor Cuddy enquired if contact had been made with representatives from Killeeshil and it was anticipated that there would be a lot of visitors coming over and there was a need to develop this.

The Director of Business & Communities said that there was work underway and that a full report would be brought to committee in October.

#### **D152/19 2019 Summer Activities**

Members noted update on 2019 Summer Programme of Activities.

#### **D153/19 US Ulster Scots Familiarisation Trip**

Members noted update on US Ulster Scots Familiarisation Trip to Northern Ireland (3-day trip 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (visiting US Grant Ancestral Homestead as part of the 3-day trip).



Councillor Ashton said that it would be worthwhile issuing an invitation to the US Consulate General Belfast, Ms Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau, to coincide with the visit.

### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of 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 D154/19 to D157/19.

#### Matters for Decision

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| D154/19 | Tender Report for the Appointment of a Contractor to Deliver the Mid Ulster Transform Programme  |
| D155/19 | Review of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre Education Programme Charges |
| D156/19 | Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2019/20                                |

#### Matters for Information

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| D157/19 | Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019 |
|---------|---|

### **D158/19      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



<b>Report on</b>	Dungannon Halloween Event
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	October Development Committee
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Sharon Arbuthnot

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	✓

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide the members with an update on the change of format for the Halloween Event, Ranfurly House and Hill of The O'Neill, Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2019.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The purpose of the report is to inform the members of the change of format to the Halloween Event scheduled to be held at Ranfurly House and Hill of O'Neill on Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2019.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Previous years the Halloween celebrations in Dungannon were held up on the Hill, with the crowds enjoying various different themed activities on the Hill and in the event space. This concluded with a 10 minute fireworks display, which has been fired from a grass area on the Hill. Over the last three years this format has proved to be very popular, with the event enjoying record numbers last year. The rationale for holding the event on the Hill, was to increase local awareness of the site.
3.2	Considering the high numbers last year the officers now feel that to accommodate the current and future growth of this event and to ensure public safety, we now need to look at an alternative viewing area for the audience. This year the audience will be positioned in the square in front of Ranfurly House, with the firing point up on the hill, just behind Ranfurly House.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Delivered within departmental budget allocation.
	Human: Delivered within Council

	Risk Management:
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	For information.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	



<b>Report on</b>	Heritage Outputs 2019
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	October
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Genevieve Bell

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform council on the Heritage Outputs 2019
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	4 Hidden heritage tours are organised annually across the District to encourage locals and visitors to explore heritage sites on their doorstep which often go unnoticed. 3 tours departed from The Burnavon and 1 from Dungannon Park. The cost to attend the tours was £10 per person which included the coach, tour guide, entry into the attraction (if applicable) and refreshments.
2.2	A group of US Tour Operators visited Northern Ireland and the Republic from 23-26 <sup>th</sup> September. The objective of this trip was to expose Tour Operators, who specialize in the North American markets (USA & Canada) to locations and the history of the Scots-Irish and to enable them to develop tours to sell. As part of the itinerary the group visited US Grant Ancestral Homestead on Tuesday 24th September.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	This year the 2019 Hidden Heritage tours included:
3.2	<b>The 3 Sisters Tour: Killymoon Castle, Lissan House and Springhill</b> , Friday 14th May. 40 people took part in this tour. Visitors learned of 'the three sisters' and their connection to the three big houses of Killymoon Castle, Lissan House and Springhill. The group enjoyed exploring the historic homes and special dramatisations really brought them back to life.
3.3	<b>Summer Solstice, Beaghmore Stone Circles</b> , Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June. Beaghmore Stone Circles was the setting for this year's Summer Solstice event in Mid Ulster, over 100 people attended the event. The group was entertained by Druids from Craic Theatre who worshiped the sun and watched it set on the longest evening of the year. Terry Mosely from the Irish Astronomy Association spoke to group describing its links with the stars and planets. Maybelline Gormley

	<p>from the Department for Communities discussed the archaeology of the site. Refreshments were served on site whilst students from Armagh Observatory set up telescopes for the group to look at the Sun setting in the Darkest Sky in Northern Ireland.</p>
3.4	<p><b>The Georgian Village of Caledon and US Grant Homestead</b>, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July. 37 people took part in this tour.</p> <p>The group visited the Georgian village of Caledon which took in the Courthouse and the Beam Engine on Mill Street, an impressive example of Ireland's industrial archaeology and the last housed Beam Engine in Ireland.</p> <p>The group then went on to visit the ancestral homestead of Ulysses S Grant, the commanding general of the victorious Union Armies in the American Civil War and then 18<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (1869-77). A tour guide and living history brought the site to life, which as thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance.</p>
3.5	<p><b>The Eel Fishery in Toome and Seamus Heaney HomePlace</b>, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 34 people took part in this tour.</p> <p>The group visited the Eel Fishery in Toome where they experienced the intake and grading of live eel and even had an opportunity to hold one! They learned of the different methods of eel fishing on the Lough and got to sample Lough Neagh eel on wheaten bread.</p> <p>The group then moved to Seamus Heaney HomePlace where they immersed themselves in the extraordinary world of the famous poet. The visit included access to the interactive exhibition over two floors, filled with personal stories, images and the voice of the poet himself.</p> <p>Overall feedback on the 4 tours for 2019 was excellent from all participants. These hidden heritage trips continue to prove very successful year on year. Officers will now begin working on itineraries for 2020.</p>
3.6	<p><b>US Tour Operators Visit</b>, A group of US Tour Operators who specialize in the North American markets (USA &amp; Canada) visited US Grant Homestead on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. The operators included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Value Connections</li> <li>• Crystal Travel &amp; Tours</li> <li>• Cara Group Travel</li> <li>• Authentic Vacations</li> <li>• Recess 4 Grownups Travel</li> <li>• Brack Travel</li> <li>• Connection Tours</li> <li>• Great Canadian Travel</li> </ul> <p>The operators were welcomed on site by MUDC Chairperson. Ted Sharkey guided the group around the Homestead and living history provided by Craic Theatre brought the site to life.</p> <p>The fam trip proved to be very successful amongst the operators and as of 25/9/19 2 potential operators are interested in booking US Grant Ancestral Homestead on their tour series. This would be a huge boost for the site and MUDC.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	For information.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Photos of the Hidden Heritage tours Photos of US Fam trip at US Grant Ancestral Homestead























<b>Report on</b>	Dungannon Park Parkrun
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Nigel Hill, Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Anne Reid

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the success of Dungannon Park parkrun, on the first anniversary since its launch in 2018.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Dungannon Park parkrun was set up in 2018, with the first run taking place on 18 August 2018.
2.2	Dungannon Park parkruns take place every Saturday morning at 9.30am, as is the same as the rest of NI. The parkrun is wholly organised by a group of volunteers.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The following gives a breakdown of statistics for Dungannon Park parkrun, (as of 23 September 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dungannon Park has hosted 57 parkruns.</li> <li>• There have been 1,557 different runners take part</li> <li>• There are on average 99 runners per week</li> <li>• The highest no of runners in 1 week was 205. This was on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019 when the team celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.</li> <li>• The runners have totalled a distance of 28,330km</li> </ul>
3.2	The parkrun takes place every week due to the hard work and commitment of a team of dedicated volunteers.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial:
	Human:

	Risk Management:
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Council note the success of Dungannon Park parkrun and the work put into making it such a success by council staff the dedicated volunteers.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>



<b>Report on</b>	Leisure Services Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Oliver McShane
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Oliver McShane

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members of the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlighting a number of key events/activities.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that leisure plays in today's society and that the equitable availability of accessible, high quality sport and leisure provision can enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation in sport and leisure activities from all sections of the community and provide pathways that enable every resident within the Mid Ulster area to maximise their health, sporting abilities, aspirations and potential.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Full details of key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last quarter are included in Appendix 1. A summary of key highlights are provided below:</p> <p><b>Cookstown Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>Following the completion of the new spin studios in both Cookstown LC and Greenvale LC a series of classes and events were held to mark the opening of both studios. The feedback from customers and staff alike has been very positive, the combination of the new bikes, audio system, lighting and the additional bonus of have air conditioning fitted in Cookstown has made the room much more exciting and comfortable to use.</p> <p>In addition, the centre also offered summer intensive lessons July /August 2019. Enrolment took place on Wednesday 10th June, with lessons taking place for 6 weeks (Monday – Friday intensive format). Lessons commenced on Monday 1st July and concluded on the 16th August 2019. Lessons were available from 9.00am to 11am Classes ranged from level 1 – Level 8 over the 6 weeks. This programme saw an additional 432 children attend in addition RLSS NPLQ and rookie lifeguard courses were also offered.</p>

3.2	<p><b>Mid Ulster Sports Arena</b></p> <p>Mid Ulster Sports Arena hosted the annual Street League competition. There was 2 sections with some great football on show, matches attracted a good crowd of spectators. The winners of the two cups were Caledon Rovers who won the Super Cup and Millwheel Bar who won the MUDC Recreational Cup. Next year the Street League Committee hope to revamp the competition to attract more interest from bigger clubs and also run a junior Street League at the end of May 2020.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Greenvale Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>The Mid Ulster Swim Academy continued its third block 15<sup>th</sup> July with a total of 1181 swimmers registered on the scheme. With the scheme running for 12 weeks we hope to see all participants' progress and pass the level they are currently at and transitioning into the next level.</p> <p>Recently Lisa Richardson (Fitness Supervisor) as part of a Schools education programme instructed students from the local area with GCSE work taking them through theory and practical sessions in order for them to achieve the level required for their examination.</p> <p>Ross Steele (Fitness Instructor) delivered sessions to Magherafelt High School in the education and safe use of fitness equipment.</p> <p>Greenvale Studio programme - The autumn 19 studio programme has recommenced with some new classes including, Olympic Warrior @ 7pm on Monday and Friday @ 10am. Kids Functional Dance on Friday from 3.30 - 4.15 pm Step Classes, Aqua, Pilates and Body Sculpt make up some of 41 classes on throughout the week.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Meadowbank Sports Arena</b></p> <p>During the summer months of June and July Meadowbank due to the seasonal trends, got busier during the day and quieter in the evenings. The summer scheme and various camps ensured plenty of daytime activity. There were a number of events which took place over the summer months, the main one being the So-low Automotive Car Show. This was a first for Meadowbank and is likely to return again next year.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Maghera Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>With the introduction of the new Spin Bikes and new class programmes July/August &amp; September we have seen an increase in numbers with some spin classes being full to capacity. Feedback from our users has been very positive.</p> <p>Following our successful June/July Shred programme, we also added another Shred program in August/September. Comprising of 3 x weekly small- group fitness classes (Mon, Wed &amp; Fri 6.30am), together with regular weigh-ins and nutritional advice, the Shredding programme is perfect for anyone who wants to boost their training programme.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note activities being undertaken in Leisure Services in the last quarter and the events that will be occurring in the future.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last quarter.





## Every Body Active 2020

The Summer of 2019 was again an action packed few months for the Every Body Active 2020 team.

This included a Multi Sports Summer Camp, Inclusive Cycling Camp, Ladies Fitness Week, Dodgeball Camp, Ladies GAA Camp and Insight Outdoor Bowls. Activities took place all across the Council area in places such as Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Fairhill Bowling Green, Moneymore Recreation Centre and Backrow Recreation Centre, Draperstown.

The aim of the camps was to introduce children and adults of all abilities to an activity programme and to improve their general fitness levels as well as introducing them to new sports and activities.

The Summer programme included a great variety of different sports and activities such as dodgeball, cycling, bowls, gaelic, soccer, basketball, hockey, multi skills, fitness etc.. The Summer Programme was a great success and the participants really embraced it and enjoyed themselves at each Camp and activity. Below are photos of some of the participants in action throughout the various activities:

Below are photos of some of the participants in action:



## Summer Get Active 2019

Our summer programme ran during July and August. Participants registered across the range of camps and schemes. Page 489 of 502

Which created nearly 14000 active participatory sessions.

Sessions took place right across the District

Activity / Camps	Summer Schemes, Canoeing, Tennis, Bowling, Gymnastics, Football, Disability, Gaelic, Hockey, Multisport, Dance, Athletics and Golf
Locations	Ballyronan, Fairhill, Cookstown LC, Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown HS, Dungannon Park, Royal School Dungannon, Greenvale LC, Maghera LC, Moneymore RC, Meadowbank Sports Arena, Tobermore Golf Centre

### **MUDC Disability Hub**

The Disability Hub recommenced activities in August with a Junior Paralympic Club, it is hoped to introduce an inclusive cycling club later this year.

### **School Cross Country**

Primary School heats are planned to take place across the District at Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Dungannon Park and Tobermore Golf Centre with the Finals event including post primary schools taking place at M.U.S.A. in October.

### **Coach Education Programme**

Planning has begun for the 2019 /20 Coach Development Program.

Coach education will be available from November 2019 – March 2020. A variety of safeguarding, first aid and sports science course will be hosted across the District ideal for volunteer and coach development.

### **Macmillan Move More**

The Macmillan Move More Co-ordinator for Mid Ulster District Council has been appointed. Their role will be to get people living with cancer back into physical activity and improve the health and wellbeing of people living with cancer.

The service is for all people who have had a cancer diagnosis at any stage of their cancer journey, from diagnosis, in treatment, palliative, end of life or now cancer free.

Individuals can self-refer on to the scheme or be referred from Health Care Professional.

### **Cookstown Leisure Centre**

Cookstown Leisure Centre Drop-In Classes are offered to the general public and also as part of the total “Evolve Membership”. We have seen an increase in the number of these classes to now total 23 classes as part of our membership packages being offered, In addition to these we run two “Mums-Tums and Tots” classes weekly which have replaced the Buggy Fit classes and our popular 60+ Zumba class has returned on Monday mornings in line with the 60+ club recommencing after the summer break which are not part of the membership packages.

We have enjoyed a successful launch of our revamped Spinning Studio, the feedback from customers and staff alike has been very positive, the combination of the new bikes, audio system, lighting and the additional bonus of have air conditioning fitted has made the room much more exciting and comfortable to use.

This was a “Movie music icon fancy dress” theme and will raise funds for “Breast Cancer” and “Mental Health Awareness”; both these charities have been selected by the instructors, as there are regular members who are currently receiving treatment due to the illnesses. The event saw over 40 people attend the two hours charity spin raising £1000.00, between both charities. The Studio also facilitates a virtual experience called “Wexer” offering exercise and spinning class and a programme is currently being developed to offer these at times were the pre-programmed exercise classes are not active. This will be advertised as part of centre full membership.







Cookstown Leisure Centre Mid Ulster Academy completed its Summer Enrolment on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, offering 1046 places to the public with 77% uptake. Youth swimming lessons took place for 12 weeks, commencing on Monday 15th July.

Cookstown Leisure Centre received a funded “Poolpod” which has been launched to the public domain to assist with access to Cookstown Leisure Centre minor pool. All staff are trained in its functionality, and Marketing are going to assist in the promotion over the coming months. The unit was funded by “DFI” and Disability NI. Unit cost £30k.





## MUSA

Facilities at MUSA were busy with bookings from soccer and GAA clubs. We had to accommodate teams with 2 grass pitches closed for maintenance from the beginning of July to the middle of August. The facility was kept very busy during this time period with summer camps, one off events and summer schemes. There also remains a high demand for soccer matches and training facilities with most if not all pitches booked each Saturday and the majority of pitches being used for training each evening.

The new block bookings for this period showed that there was a high demand to use the outdoor and indoor facilities at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena. Bookings had to be closely monitored as two pitches were closed for 6 weeks due to maintenance. All bookings were accommodated, with the exception of a few clubs having to use a facility that may not have been their first choice.

Tesco's Cookstown held a charity fun day here on the grounds of MUSA on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July. This fun day had a host of different activities for children and adults to enjoy. The event was very popular with the local community and over 500 people attended the event.



The Mid Ulster Sports Arena hosted 2 Nutty Krust Soccer Camps this summer ran by the IFA. With very high numbers for both camps it was two of the best supported camps ever hosted here at MUSA.



IFA ran a very successful coaching award to get local people qualified to coach grassroots football here at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena for local clubs in September 2019.



Mid Ulster Sports Arena hosted the annual Street League competition. There was good interest across both sections of the competition with a total of 9 entries into the competition. With some great football on show, matches attracted a good crowd of spectators. The winners of the two cups were Caledon Rovers who won the Super Cup and Millwheel Bar who won the MUDC Recreational Cup. Next year the Street Committee hope to revamp the competition to attract more interest from bigger clubs and also run a junior Street League at the end of May 2020.



Jump NI returned to the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in August after running a very successful course in June. This activity teaches kids the ability of moving rapidly through an area negotiating obstacles by running, jumping, and climbing. It was a very popular and well supported course once again with children from the local area.

Mid Ulster Sports Arena played host to the ladies Mid Ulster Cup Final on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Lurgan Town v Mid Ulster Ladies were the two teams involved. This show piece event attracted a very large support for both teams. Mid Ulster Ladies triumphed over Lurgan Town after extra time.



## **Greenvale Leisure Centre**

### **WETSIDE ACTIVITIES JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**

#### **Pool Summer Timetable**

The summer pool timetable commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 31<sup>st</sup> August. This provided the public with 1 extra day of the 50m pool and showcased what great facilities we have to offer.

The Family fun sessions on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, slide and floats were very popular with the children.

#### **September Timetable**

The autumn 19 new pool timetable commenced on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The centre has reverted back to running 3 days @ 25m pool (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) and 50m on a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

#### **Mid Ulster Swim Academy**

The Mid Ulster Swim Academy continued its third block 15<sup>th</sup> July with a total of 1181 swimmers registered on the scheme. With the scheme running for 12 weeks we hope to see all participants' progress and pass the level they are currently at and transitioning into the next level.

The parents received feedback on week 6 of the programme as well as week 12. The kids all received their certificates and enjoyed a fun week on week 13 just to show that the scheme is not all about swimming but fun as well.

### **DRYSIDE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Improve performance by Training at Greenvale Leisure Centre.**

Tri Limits held a fantastic training day at GLC 03<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 incorporating a pool session, a dry training including a sprint session on the turbo trainer in the main hall complimented with a nutritional advice session from specialised staff in the conference room.

The Triathlon Club are based in Mid Ulster with members from Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt areas.





### Schools Education at Greenvale Leisure Centre

Recently Lisa Richardson (Fitness Supervisor) nurtured Students from the local schools with GCSE work by taking them through theory and practical sessions in order for them to achieve the level required for their examination.

Ross Steele (Fitness Instructor) delivered sessions to Magherafelt High School in the education of safe use of fitness equipment.





## Greenvale Aqua Aerobics

During the months of June, July and August our Active Aqua swells in numbers to become one of the busiest classes in the hot weather. The customers maintain it is refreshing to do a water based class in the hot climate and they are really well energised afterwards.

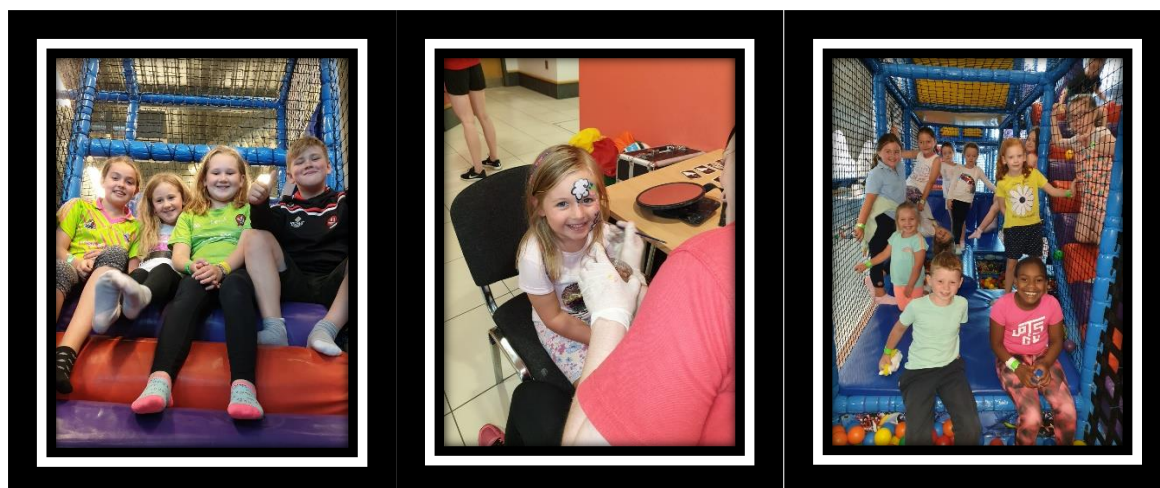


## Summer at Greenvale Leisure Centre

### Summer scheme.

The summer scheme delivered at Greenvale had a daily attendance of almost 100 kids per day, over a 4 week period, 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. offering a variety of activities including swimming/ water polo, sports, play kingdom, bouncy castle, party games and face painting. External activities to include although not exhaustive tennis, hockey, athletics, basketball and football skills are delivered at Magherafelt High School. The scheme was a resounding success with positive feedback from the parents.

*“My boys had a fantastic time, thanks to all involved. Highly recommend”.*



### **Kids Summer Gymnastics Camp**

The 5 day summer camp aimed at ages 5years to 10+ delivered by Coach Jenifer Jordan had 23 gymnasts involved.



### **Greenvale New Studio Timetable**

The autumn 19 studio programme is back with all the old favourites and some new classes including, Olympic Warrior @ 7pm on Monday and Friday @ 10am. Kids Functional Dance on Friday from 3.30 - 4.15 pm  
Step Classes, Aqua, Pilates and Body Sculpt make up some of 41 classes on throughout the week

### **Virtual Spin Studio**

The new and exciting virtual class system went live to the public on the 2nd September with virtual classes for all abilities and levels of fitness introduced. The new studio is state of the art with in-studio graphics and design schemes, enhanced lighting and improved sound systems. across both sites as well as the introduction of virtual spinning!

Offering 45 sessions for customers who want to do a live class followed by a virtual session or the busy parent who drops the kids off at school and fancies a morning session @ 9.15am.

Also on the Taster Programme was Teen Spin, Family spin and Over 50s.

After the second week we had a total of 200 customers who had already attended the session with excellent feedback coming from them.

### **HAVE YOUR SAY IN GREENVALE LEISURE CENTRE!**

#### **Public consultation & satisfaction**

Prior to the release of the September Studio Fitness Class Programme Ricky Denison – Duty manager held a public consultation/ feedback this proves invaluable not only in the design of the programme but also increase customer satisfaction as it is important to ensure the value of the customers.

The consultation period was from Monday 26th August to 02nd September 2019 feedback was requested face to face, social media and email. Inviting the customer to make recommendations, improvements and proposals in the following areas leading to a more tailored customer focused programme.

1. Studio class programing (what's working and what's not).
2. If you have any new initiatives (courses, shred programmes, kids activities etc) you wish to be delivered at Greenvale from September 2019.
3. Industry trends and what Fitness classes you would like to see more off at Greenvale.

### **Pilates at Greenvale**

Just over 6 months ago Greenvale launched the Pilates programme with our very own instructor Steven Kennedy who kindly offered Pilates performance T Shirts for customers that completed the First 7 Pilates movements correctly.....a big congratulations to our first 4 winners who excelled in all 7 movements, well done everyone!

The Pilates classes are offered every Tuesday 17.30 (beginners) 18.30 (intermediate).



## **Maghera Leisure Centre**

### **New Spin Bikes**

With the introduction of our new Spin Bikes and new class programmes July/August & September we have seen an increase in numbers with some spin classes being full to capacity. Feedback from our users has been very positive indeed.



### **Maghera Shredding Programs**

Following our successful June/July Shred programme, we also added another Shred program in August/September.

Comprising of 3 x weekly small- group fitness classes (Mon, Wed & Fri 6.30am), together with regular weigh-ins and nutritional advice, the Shredding programme is perfect for anyone who wants to boost their training programme!

The programme cost just £120 per user and was booked up quickly.

### **New Activity Program Released for August/September**

Maghera Leisure Centre released the biggest activity program so far with over 30 Classes (not including gymnastics). After purchasing new class equipment such as slides, barbells & steps customers are now enjoying new class variations. We also provide more opportunities the less active customers by continuing to push people to attend our over 50s club and Pilates classes.

### **Summer Scheme**

As with the seasonal nature of Maghera Leisure Centre there has been the usual change in usage of the facility – It has seen a lot more throughput during the day than at night. The Summer Scheme and various Summer Camps have increased the daily usage over the summer months.

### **Outdoor Pitches**

Our Gaelic pitch at Cahore Road was extremely busy over July, August and September. Maintenance to our 11 a side Soccer pitches is now completed and are in super condition heading into the new season.





## Meadowbank Sports Arena

During the summer months of June and July Meadowbank again, due to the seasonal trends, got busier during the day and quieter in the evenings. The summer scheme and various camps ensured plenty of daytime activity. There were a number of events which took place over the summer months as well, the main one being the Solow Automotive Car Show. This was a first for Meadowbank and is likely to return again next year. Coming into September the evenings are getting busier again with the usual demand from local clubs and groups to get a slot.

