



09 July 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Magherafelt and by virtual means Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN on Thursday, 09 July 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

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

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

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

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
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Matters for Information

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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

Matters for Information

20. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 June 2020
21. Economic Development Report - CBF
22. Community Planning – Poverty Paper – ‘Towards Alleviating Poverty in Mid Ulster’

Report on	Autumn Corporate Events 2020
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

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

1.0	Purpose of Report																														
1.1	To provide an update and recommendations on the autumn corporate events 2020.																														
2.0	Background																														
2.1	The Covid-19 pandemic has prompted Council to re-assess the delivery of the autumn corporate events programme due to Government Guidelines and Social Distancing Safety Measures. It is evident that the way in which Council would have previously celebrated these events has to change for the foreseeable future.																														
2.2	<p>The table below details the corporate events programme, planned prior to the COVID-19 epidemic. .</p> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Event</th><th>Location</th></tr><tr><td>29 October 2020</td><td>Dungannon Halloween</td><td>Dungannon</td></tr><tr><td>30 October 2020</td><td>Maghera Halloween Hooley</td><td>Maghera Leisure Centre</td></tr><tr><td>30 October 2020</td><td>Maghera Fireworks</td><td>Maghera</td></tr><tr><td>31 October 2020</td><td>MUSA Halloween</td><td>MUSA</td></tr><tr><td>31 October 2020</td><td>Coalisland Halloween</td><td>Coalisland</td></tr><tr><td>27 November 2020</td><td>Cookstown Switch On</td><td>Cookstown</td></tr><tr><td>28 November 2020</td><td>Dungannon Switch On</td><td>Dungannon</td></tr><tr><td>28/29 November 2020</td><td>Dungannon Magical Kingdom</td><td>Hill of The O'Neill</td></tr><tr><td>28 November 2020</td><td>Magherafelt Christmas Lights Switch On</td><td>Magherafelt</td></tr></table>	Date	Event	Location	29 October 2020	Dungannon Halloween	Dungannon	30 October 2020	Maghera Halloween Hooley	Maghera Leisure Centre	30 October 2020	Maghera Fireworks	Maghera	31 October 2020	MUSA Halloween	MUSA	31 October 2020	Coalisland Halloween	Coalisland	27 November 2020	Cookstown Switch On	Cookstown	28 November 2020	Dungannon Switch On	Dungannon	28/29 November 2020	Dungannon Magical Kingdom	Hill of The O'Neill	28 November 2020	Magherafelt Christmas Lights Switch On	Magherafelt
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	28-29 November 2020	Magherafelt Market	Magherafelt
	04 December 2020 (under review)	Coalisland Christmas Lights	Coalisland
3.0	Main Report		
3.1	As part of Council's Recovery plan, it will be essential that consultation with the Town Centre Forums, Town centre businesses and local Community Organisations takes place early in the planning process in order to generate further discussions/ideas amongst these stakeholders, thus ensuring that business and community are fully engaged.		
3.2	Safety is paramount in addition to rebuilding the confidence of our community, whilst supporting the health and wellbeing of our local residents within the district. Internal team discussions have taken place to consider celebrating Halloween and Christmas, in a new creative format which could also help to rebuild civic pride and confidence and not require mass gatherings of people, given the current restrictions relating to COVID-19.		
3.3	<p>The proposed new formats would also take into consideration each of the sites individually and may result in a reduction of events, change in dates and/or maybe a longer duration of a celebration, ensuring the event is appropriate for the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dungannon Halloween The main concept includes Virtual Halloween Stories. An initiative run in partnership between five local primary schools and town centre businesses. Two stories from each school; ten in total would be read/recorded and published online. The Ten stories could also be published in a book, which could be sold with the proceeds to donated back into the participating schools, supporting the local communities. Coalisland Halloween As with previous Halloween celebration events; a strong community involvement should continue consulting and working with local community groups to ensure community engagement and the delivery of community planned activities. It is recommended that Council link with OGRAS and develop a virtual ghost trail using local folklore stories. Maghera Halloween Utilising the local Largantogher Walk in Maghera, create an outdoor Halloween trail. The trail could run over a number of days, to enable local residents to visit whilst adhering to Social Distancing Guidelines. Local residents could get involved in decorating the pathway. MUSA Halloween Mid Ulster Sports Arena site lends itself well for the creation of a Halloween 		

3.4	<p>Trail. The area is large enough to manage the social distancing. Partnerships could be developed with local theatrical groups to develop the walk, either inside or outside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magherafelt Christmas Investigate Projection lighting on the Bridewell or lighting display on Broad Street which links with the town Centre brands and existing lighting features and public art. Invite Local artists to participate in recording a Christmas song, bringing together people from within the town. This song could be recorded and uploaded onto Spotify or similar with all proceeds donated to a local charity. A Virtual Christmas Lights switch on, could launch the lighting display which could remain in place for a number of weeks. Cookstown Christmas The concept would be developed around the Twelve days of Christmas. The virtual switch on would launch the celebration, enhancing the atmosphere within the town. For 12 days local pre-recorded messages will be aired 12 gifts would be distributed daily for the 12 days. Selection boxes distributed via the primary schools in the town. Dungannon Christmas A Virtual switch on with a difference. Investigations to be made regarding having this virtual event assessed for a Guinness World Record for the most amount of people turning on the Christmas Lights at the same time. Festive Themed Laser light Show in Market Square. Coalisland Christmas Christmas Lights could be turned on 'Virtually' at the same time by the children from Coalisland and surrounding areas. Build upon the existing storytelling theme currently being carried out by local primary schools with the theme of Christmas stories. Maghera Christmas Work with local businesses and the Town Centre Forum in the town regarding rolling out an initiative to encourage people to visit local shops. This would also link with small business Saturday. A virtual switch on could take place in the evening as the finale to the day. <p>All of the above concepts will be developed in full and will be enhanced with supplementary activities. Ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek support from an innovative and experienced professional company with concepts. - Livestream the Christmas Switch On to Council's Instagram/Facebook/Twitter pages so families can watch the display online. - Drive by Santa's in residential areas within our town centres. - Online or ticketed workshops based on social distancing measures. - Local town centre walks themed and promotions.
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3.5	To adhere to Government advice and social distancing measures, the officers would recommend that we keep firework displays and mass gatherings under review and plan and prepare Halloween and Christmas events in line with current government advice.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Within existing budget.
	Human: Internal officers.
	Risk Management: n/a
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To approve the new creative formats of the corporate events for Halloween and Christmas 2020.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	1. TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) 2. Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan
Date of Meeting	9 July 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) Further to agreement at the June 2020 Committee Meeting to permit Council to participate in the TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (funded by DAERA) during 2020/21, a further update is provided to Members seeking approval to grant delegated authority to senior Council officials as outlined in Section 5.1 (a), (b) and (c).</p>
1.2	<p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan To seek approval from Members for the Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan and associated delegated authority approvals sought to progress the scheme as outlined in Section 5.2 (a), (b), (c) and (d).</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) TRPSI (Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation) is a DAERA funding initiative aimed and reducing poverty in rural areas across NI. In 2019/20 a pilot micro business development scheme was rolled out across NI administered by Local Authorities offering up to £4,999 in grant aid for rural micro businesses. DAERA has indicated that this scheme will be repeated in 2020/21.</p> <p>Members approved Council participation in the 2020/21 roll out of this Scheme at the June Committee meeting. This report now sets out the timescales envisaged for a condensed roll out of the 2020/21 Scheme to ensure grant aid becomes available to the micro business sector as quickly as is physically possible factoring in the application and assessment process.</p>
2.2	<p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan The unprecedented effects of COVID-19 has greatly impacted Mid Ulster's town centres and the businesses located within them.</p>

	<p>Following widespread consultation and validation by traders and other town centre stakeholders, through our Town Centre Forums and Traders Associations, in Mid Ulster's 5 main Towns and numerous other businesses throughout our town centres, a Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan has been developed to address a number of short/medium term measures to support town centre businesses and encourage customer confidence to return to their local high street.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative)</p> <p>For the 2020/21 phase of the Micro Business Development Scheme, all 11 Council areas will be participating. The overall project budget available to all 11 Council areas is in the region of £577,500. The methodology for dividing the overall funding allocation between participating Councils will reflect the concentration of rural micro businesses in each area. Mid Ulster will receive approx. £62,000 plus a 15% project administration fund. This will come to Council in the form of a formal contract from DAERA similar to that used for the 2019/20 scheme and is currently being drafted by DAERA staff. The grant level remains at 50% of eligible expenditure up to a maximum of £4,999. Payment of grant aid to successful applicants will be made direct from DAERA and not from Council.</p> <p>The opening of this scheme will happen simultaneously across all Council areas participating once individual contracts with DAERA have been accepted. Contracts have to be signed by the Chief Executive and a Director.</p> <p>It is envisaged the contract will be issued to participating Councils w/c 29th June 2020 so will not be available for inclusion in the July committee papers. The opening date for this scheme is not yet finalised but envisaged for the first week of August 2020. It is envisaged the call for applications will remain open for a 4-6 week period followed by assessment by Council officers.</p> <p>Advertising and promotion of this scheme needs to commence as soon as possible following contract acceptance to allow interested businesses to plan for the call opening date in early August 2020.</p> <p>Letters of offer can be issued as soon as successful promoters participate in a funding workshop by virtual means. In the interests of getting letters of offer out to successful businesses as quickly as possible following assessment, it may be necessary for the Director of Business and Communities to approve letters of offer for issue notification of such to Committee, depending on when project assessments complete relative to the date of the next Committee meeting.</p>
3.2	<p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan</p> <p>As lockdown restrictions ease in our towns, the economic development team have been engaging now for several months with town centre stakeholders, including representatives from our Town Centre Forums, Traders Associations, town centre businesses, and public bodies to devise a co-ordinated approach towards town centre recovery. To this end we have collated the findings both from our town centre stakeholders and from research conducted across Ireland, Great Britain and beyond to prepare a Towns Recovery Plan to support our businesses recover from</p>

	<p>the pandemic. The Recovery Plan has attained the buy-in from Town Centre Forums and Traders Associations and is contained in Appendix 1 for Members attention. Whilst a range of actions can be taken forward in the short term, it should be noted that not all schemes may be able to be progressed in the current year (2020/21) due to budget limitations, unless further external funding is obtained.</p> <p>The focus of the Towns Recovery Plan will be centred on the 5 main towns (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera), if Council is awarded funding from Department for Communities to progress a number of these proposed initiatives.</p> <p>If additional funding is obtained from DAERA, then some of these schemes, such as the proposed Covid19 business grants scheme, could also be rolled out to assist businesses in rural areas.</p> <p>It should be noted however, that much greater strategic support from Government in the months and years ahead to regenerate our town centres is urgently needed. Our town businesses require significant capital funding interventions to rejuvenate, revitalise and remodel their existing infrastructure/buildings, many of which are vacant whilst others are not fit for purpose in the 21st century. Other parts of the UK have been afforded funding through a Future High Streets Fund but with no similar funding available in NI, our towns continue to suffer through a lack of investment. An injection of funding in the form of a Future High Street Fund is urgently needed to aid Mid Ulster towns and businesses redesign and redevelop their properties to enable high streets to be more appealing and attractive to the modern day shopper. The scope of this work is not contained in the Towns Recovery Plan in Appendix 1, as currently no funding is available to take these much needed plans forward.</p>
	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) An administration budget will be built into the TRPSI Micro Business Scheme for staff costs. All grant aid will be paid to successful project promoters by DAERA.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan A funding allocation from Department for Communities is expected to be made available to Council to deliver a few actions contained within the Towns Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) Officers Time</p> <p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan Officers Time</p>

	<p>Risk Management: TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) Urgency of delivery – to be mitigated by governance and approval processes as set out in recommendation section below.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan Urgency of delivery – conditions of governance on grant element of funding.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) N/A</p> <p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan Equality Screening will take place of the Towns Recovery Plan</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative) This scheme is aimed at supporting rural micro businesses across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan This project is focused on Mid Ulster's 5 largest towns (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera). Funding has been sought from DAERA to support rural businesses with Covid19 recovery actions.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA funded initiative)</p> <p>(a) Approve delegated authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Business and Communities to sign and accept the contract for 2020/21 TRPSI micro business scheme, subject to review by Council's solicitor.</p> <p>(b) Approve promotion and marketing of this scheme to commence immediately following acceptance of the contract and before the full Council on 23rd July in light of the anticipated call opening of the first week of August 2020.</p> <p>(c) Approve delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business and Communities to sign off on letters offer to successful participants up to a maximum grant of £4,999 with a full list of approved projects to be brought to Committee for noting.</p>

5.2	<p>Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan</p> <p>(a) Approve the Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan (on Appendix 1).</p> <p>(b) Approve delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive and/or Director of Business and Communities to sign and accept any letters of offer/contracts received by Council offering funding for Covid19 Towns Recovery Plan actions, in response to funding bids made by Council, subject to review by Council's solicitor.</p> <p>(c) Approve delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business and Communities to develop and roll out a business grants scheme to urban and rural businesses, <u>if funding is made available to Council</u> by the Department for Communities (for urban businesses) and DAERA (for rural businesses). Also to approve authority be granted to the Director of Business and Communities to sign off on letters of offer to successful participants on a business grants scheme, with the list of approved projects to be brought to Committee for noting.</p> <p>(d) Approve existing budgets in economic development (which weren't required due to activities not happening as a result of the pandemic), be reassigned to assist with other Covid19 business supports as identified in the Towns Recovery Plan (on Appendix 1), and undertake appropriate procurement of schemes, as far as budgets extend. It should be noted that not all schemes may be able to be progressed in the current year (2020/21) due to budget limitations, unless further external funding is obtained.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 - Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan

Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



MID ULSTER Covid-19 TOWNS Recovery Plan

June 2020

Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan

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1. Context

In the context of helping our towns recover from the pandemic, Council's Economic Development staff have undertaken widespread discussions with businesses across our district and more specifically within our town centres.

We have thoroughly researched what other areas across Ireland, Great Britain and Europe are doing to aid the recovery of their towns and cities, in order to produce an informed Mid Ulster Covid19 Towns Recovery Plan.

This plan focuses primarily on Mid Ulster's 5 large towns; Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera, but could be extended to assist our villages, where Council is able to attract funding to do so.

There are a few key points to be mindful of: -

- The Plan for Recovery published by the NI Executive uses a phased approach for the reopening of businesses.
- Town centres may look different in future, and it is not yet known how they will evolve after the pandemic, being cognizant of potential increases in vacancy levels, more businesses extending their online reach and wanting to build on it, etc.
- Points of learning from other countries are;
 - Customer confidence is low; resulting in low footfall.
 - Businesses are vocal on the lack of government guidance/support.
 - Different sectors are entering the *Recovery Stage* at different times.
 - Need to promote the '*Support Local*', '*Spend Local*' message.

This document will need to be reviewed on a continual basis as Government guidance evolves.

2. Introduction

The unprecedented effects of Covid-19 have altered the face of our town centres. What was once unimaginable is now the 'new norm'. We are only too aware some businesses will not re-open, while some may re-open operating on reduced hours, having to adapt to new ways of working to take into account social distancing. These are challenging times for independent retailers and some customers, accustomed to e-retailing and e-socialising, may not return to town centres to pre-pandemic levels.

The NI Economy Minister on 7 May 2020 said "We have lived through downturns before but this is different. The usual remedy of encouraging people to go out and spend money to boost the economy is not possible or, indeed appropriate, right now."

The NI Executive published "Coronavirus: Executive Approach to Decision-Making" on 12 May 2020. This document sets out a 5 stage plan for decision making which will be led by science and not by calendar. It sets out a pathway to recovery based on sectors of work, retail, education, travel, family and community, sport, cultural and leisure activities.

The gradual easing of lockdown restrictions from 12 June 2020 allows the majority of town centre retailers to reopen however some sectors have not yet been given the 'green light' to return which means our towns are very different spaces to those we remember before the pandemic.

Nonetheless, we are now reclaiming our town centres, and Council seeks to support our businesses, wherever possible, and help them transit towards recovery.

The Town Centre Recovery Plan strives to put in place short term measures to support businesses and encourage customers to return to their local high street. The 'new normal' we face will be evidenced by closer linkages between family, friends and local businesses and as such we will have to adapt to this new ethos. Within our towns, it seems likely that open spaces will become more valued for the health benefits they bring, along with local access to fresh air and affordable exercise.

It is more important now more than ever, that our towns embrace the potential afforded by the 'digital high street' as online shopping continues to grow. In our town centres, some retailers understand the value and importance of embracing new technologies and providing an online offering, however many do not share these views and lack understanding and awareness of the benefits it can provide as a business tool.

Recently a study by the Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) reported that Mid Ulster will endure the greatest economic impact of Covid-19 in Northern Ireland. Indeed, the report highlighted Mid Ulster as the only area locally to feature in the top 10 worst-impacted places within the UK's 382 local authority regions. The think tank estimates that GVA could temporarily fall by a staggering 45% in the short term, which presents an immense challenge for local companies and jobs. The extent of the anticipated decline is largely as a result of Mid Ulster's position as the centre of

manufacturing and engineering, where it accounts for 21% of the local economy, compared to 9% in the rest of Northern Ireland.

Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC)^[1] have recently revised their initial estimates on the economic impacts of Covid-19 in Northern Ireland.

In Mid Ulster the estimated % decline in GVA in 2020 is -16.3% which is the highest of all the 11 Council areas. This figure exceeds the huge fall in GVA seen in Mid Ulster (-15.6%) at the height of the last recession in 2008-09.

In Mid Ulster, the estimated number of employees furloughed & laid off is 22,900 which represents a percentage change of -38.5% on the total employees in Q4 2019. This makes Mid Ulster the most impacted by job furloughs and layoffs as a result of the lockdown.

This Plan instead looks at what short-term measures could be introduced to support our town centres and the businesses therein, subject to the availability of Government funding, to allow these urgent actions to be introduced with immediate effect.

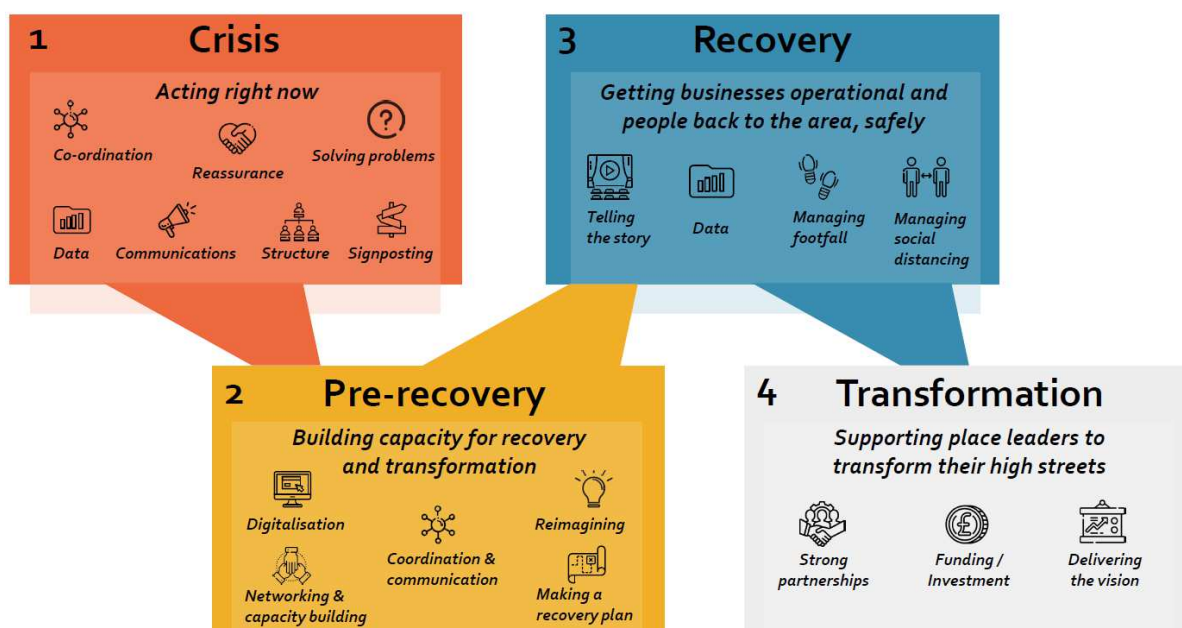
3. Using Research and Knowledge to Build a Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Action Plan

In preparation of this report, much research was carried out across Ireland, Great Britain and beyond to inform this paper from the learnings in other areas. The Best Practice Research is summarized in Section 4 and further elaborated upon within the Appendices at the end.

One excellent piece of work was published on 1 May 2020, by The Institute of Place Management, entitled “Covid-19 Recovery Framework”. The High Street Task Force has adopted it as their model for assisting towns and cities to support their transformation through the Coronavirus pandemic.

The framework is designed to help place leaders take the most effective action now in the immediate crisis, and to build the capacity for recovery and longer-term transformation.

The framework sets out a series of systematic preparedness, response and recovery measures, across four stages: Crisis, Pre- Recovery, Recovery and Transformation as highlighted in the graphic below. This framework is being widely used in the UK to assist towns to plan their recovery from the current pandemic.



This previous model has been used to shape the Town Centre Recovery Plan for Mid Ulster. At this time (June 2020), we are in the Recovery Phase, however, we have taken stock of how we have progressed to this stage and what other actions are needed to reach Transformation Phase.

3.1 Crisis Phase Actions

Acting Right Now: Co-ordination – Reassurance - Solving Problems – Data – Communications – Structure - Signposting

During crisis stage, Council has supported town centre businesses in the following ways:

- Repurposing Meadowbank Arena to support a local business make/supply visors to assist the health sector.
- Holding meetings with our Town Centre Forums and businesses to find out what help they needed
- Managing hundreds of phone calls from businesses across Mid Ulster.
- Gathering evidence and collating data from businesses to inform the production of a Mid Ulster Covid-19 Business Recovery Plan
- Signposting to a variety of supports through a dedicated page on Council's website
- Weekly e-zines to businesses on Council's Business Directory to make them aware of all supports available to them.
- Communicating information relevant to town centre businesses through the town centre forums / partnerships and town centre databases
- Assisting Dept for the Economy conduct validity checks for their £10k business grants scheme.
- Providing information through webinars and a digital programme
- Sharing positive stories of business resilience through social media.
- Creating a sense of Civic Pride through lighting up civic buildings and feature lights.

3.2 Pre-Recovery Phase Actions

Building capacity for recovery and transformation: Digitalisation – Co-ordination and Communication – Reimagining – Networking and Capacity Building – Making a Recovery Plan

Many of Mid Ulster businesses are now emerging from Pre-Recovery Stage and moving into a Recovery Phase. This phased process over a period of time allowed different sectors to reopen at different stages, as set out within the “Coronavirus Executive Approach to Decision-Making” published on 12 May 2020 and updated through recent Executive decisions. As there has been a sequence of decisions regarding the exit from lockdown, so will there be a sequence of recoveries and it will be critical that recovery planning reflects this.

Retailers must ensure safe trading within their premises to ensure that their employees and their customers feel safe within the property.

Communication - People will be nervous about returning to the high street and indeed some may not be able to return for a considerable time i.e. older people, people with underlying health conditions. David Fitzsimmons, Retail Excellence Ireland stated *‘They expect pent up demand to be initially good but have concern that consumer spending will drop by up to 40% as seen in parts of Europe and Asia’*. Businesses must strive to attract and keep their customer base in the initial phases of reopening to ensure customer confidence and loyalty. ‘Shopping local’ has become the new norm and we need to build on this customer loyalty and seek to secure it in the future.

Outdoor Spaces - Council must ensure a co-ordinated approach with various stakeholders, including Department for Infrastructure Roads Division, to develop interventions for pedestrian space and movement, where appropriate, subject to legislation.

Town Centre Marketing - As each town emerges from the pandemic and enters recovery stage, the messaging for each of the town centres will be similar but the stories will be unique. The story will be built around local narratives using existing branding and will focus on local people connecting with local businesses. “Telling the human stories of our places will be key to bring people together.” Bill Addy, High Street Expert.

Digitisation of Our High Street - How people conduct their business has changed and we have to support retailers and the general public to this new normal and accept digital is going to play an even bigger part in our lives than ever before. This pandemic has forced more people down the digital route to obtain necessities during this pandemic.

3.3 Recovery Phase Actions

Getting businesses operational and people back to the area, safely. Telling the Story – Data – Managing Footfall – Managing Social Distancing

Mid Ulster Towns Recovery Team – With a volume of work underway to support our town centres at this critical time, Council has established a multi-disciplinary officer team which meets regularly to discuss and progress a range of issues pertinent to our towns centres.

This team is spearheaded by the Director of Business and Communities and the Head of Economic Development and contains membership as follows;

- Regeneration Managers supported by Project Officers who have extensive experience of delivering town centre regeneration projects including grant schemes.
- Technical Services Team who are responsible for delivery of Capital Schemes on Council's behalf.
- Planning and Building Control who provide advice and information about statutory requirements.
- Environmental Health Team who are dealing with "*The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020*", and *Pavement Café Legislation etc.*

In addition to Council's multi-disciplinary team, the economic development team works alongside the Town Centre Forums/Partnerships operating in each of our 5 main towns which contain a wide variety of stakeholders, including the public and private sectors.

This Recovery Phase focuses on getting businesses reopened after the lockdown measures are lifted and we start to see what the new normal is for our town centres. There won't be a one size fits all solution however a number of options are outlined below, some of which are subject to the availability of funding.

Repurposing Public Realm Spaces / Pavement Café Areas – There is a need to consider interventions to better utilize the public realm space in our town centres, working with our partners in the Department for Infrastructure and other town stakeholders.

Businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector require additional space to house their customers at their cafés, restaurants, bars, hotels, etc, in order to adhere to social distancing protocols. The Council is committed to supporting the hospitality sector move towards recovery and recognises the challenges that exist whilst acknowledging the opportunities which on-street seating areas could offer to help meet these requirements, as well as to create the kind of café culture which other towns, cities and villages enjoy. Council will work alongside local traders as flexibly as possible, both in terms of planning and the licensing requirements for pavement cafes. We will turnaround applications for a licence promptly and at no cost to the applicant. However, we are acutely aware that the 28 day period for representations which is stipulated in the legislation for the licensing of pavement cafés is restrictive and will adversely impact on the ability of the sector to respond agilely in the current circumstances. In addition, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations currently prohibit the creation of a pavement café. Mid Ulster District Council is now lobbying the Department for Health and the Department for Communities to relax the restrictive aspects of the legislation.

Additional Cleansing and Planting within our Towns – As our high streets emerge from the pandemic, Council continue to undertake a rigorous cleansing programme within our towns and villages. We would wish to explore if any additional external sources of funding is available to visually enrich the look and feel of our town centres, making them more inviting spaces to visit. This will create civic pride and develop public confidence, encouraging customers to return to our high streets and support their local traders.

Covid-19 Business Grant Scheme – Social distancing is likely to be in place for a considerable time and businesses need support to adapt their premises and protocols. Council has made applications to Department for Communities (DfC) and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) seeking urgent financial assistance to be made available to Council to deliver a Business Grant Scheme to support urban and rural businesses to reopen and make adjustments to their premises and welcome customers back to a safe trading environment. Some examples of the types of initiatives we have sought funding for from Government Dept's are;

- Modifying the internal layout of the business premises to ensure compliance with Covid19 social distancing protocols (eg, flexi-panels at counters, building/remodelling works, etc).
- Internal/external Covid19 signage to promote awareness of social distancing measures in place.
- Professional cleansing of business premises.

- Purchase of Covid19 items of equipment to allow the business to operate safely and provide reassurance to customers, eg, PPE (hand sanitisers, masks, gloves, visors, high-visibility vests for staff, etc), free-standing hand sanitiser stations, etc.
- External modifications such as awnings to protect customers who may have to queue to enter business premises, covered tables and chairs, outdoor heaters, etc.
- Internal/external shopper collection points to avoid customers having to fully enter the business premises.
- Equipment to allow widening of footpaths to support social distancing and the safe movement of people through our town centres such as pedestrian safety barriers.
- Professional expertise for the business eg, health & safety audits/assessments, drawings/plans required to modify the business to ensure Covid19 compliance etc.

Town Centre Marketing – It is important to remind the public why the Retail Sector is important and that bricks and mortar really do matter. We need to weave stories of the people who own the shops; the customer service they provide, staff expertise, customer care to create feelings of belonging and reinforcing that our Town Centres are absolutely central to community and economic recovery. Expectations should be managed against the expected low footfall in the first few weeks – perhaps months – as lockdown measures are gradually relaxed. A number of short-term actions are being developed;

- **Open For Business Video Messages** – As traders return to the high streets, Council is inviting any business in Mid Ulster who wants to promote they're 'open for business' again to send us a 30 second video clip, telling us why they're glad to be back and any key message they want to communicate to their customers. For the video shy, we will also accept a photo of the business owner within their shop, along with a quote saying why they're glad to be back. The economic development team is happy to collate these messages and forward to Comms for onward publication on Council's social media channels. A free service offered to businesses during the 'Reopening Period'.
- **'Confidence Mark' Window Stickers** – Another initiative underway by the economic development team is geared towards boosting customer confidence to return to our towns and villages in the knowledge that businesses are taking positive steps to keep their customers safe. Examples of this could be businesses putting in place practices such as additional cleaning, hand sanitization stations, flexi plastic screens, in-store signage on social distancing etc. Any business with evidence of this will be awarded a #ReconnectWithConfidence window sticker. This is a simple, low cost but effective way to communicate the message to the Mid Ulster public to return to our towns and villages and support local traders.

- **Video to Promote the Reopening of Mid Ulster Towns and Businesses -**
The economic development team is working alongside the communications section to commission a professional short video to promote the 'Reopening of Mid Ulster Towns and Businesses' and encourage the public to support their local traders and shop local. The video will be pushed out on social media in early July to tie in with the next phase of businesses reopening.
- **Business Storytelling** – Building interest stories about local businesses/owners and why their town is important to them. The aim is to encourage public support/engagement with local traders through this professional video storytelling initiative. It is anticipated the public will respond positively to seeing well-known traders tell their story and thus serve to strengthen the message to 'shop local' to support local businesses.
- **Mid Ulster Online Retail Pack (Guidance and Posters Available)** – The economic development team has developed a useful online retail pack containing Government guidance for the retail sector as they return to work. The pack will also contain a range of social distancing posters which we've had specially designed for businesses to use. Businesses can either print off the posters themselves or send to a local printer to have made into signage boards. The online packs will be available on Council's website from 29 June 2020.

Online Retail Platform – Businesses have told us they would like a mechanism developed whereby they can promote their individual towns and the retail offer therein. The economic development team are exploring this initiative to determine if we can provide an 'online shop window' for our 5 main towns but also have an avenue to include our rural businesses. This platform would be able to support businesses wanting to promote key messages about their business such as when they are planning sales, putting on special offers or discounts, etc. We would like the platform to also provide the capability of providing links straight through to the individual business websites which would in essence drive virtual traffic to their door to generate more sales.

Digital Retail Programme - It is becoming increasingly apparent that our retailers require support to assist in the digitization of their business, whether that be the commencement or enhancement of digital platforms. The Covid-19 crisis has prompted a greater need and priority being given to digital activity. Online presence is needed for growth and there is an increasing need to adapt digital platforms, as this is a powerful way of communicating with people. There has been a step-change in the proportion of retail spending over the internet – estimated by McKinsey to be up from 25% to 35% in the last week of March 2020.

The temporary closure of the high street has “shaken people’s reality”, says retail analyst Richard Lim, adding that the situation has forced consumers to reassess how and what they buy: “Most people have no experience of this kind of disruption so it’s shaping their perception of what’s possible.”

Retailers must “redefine business models” and integrate more technology into their operations if they are to survive the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Global Data. The data and analytics company has warned that the crisis has accelerated the shift away from the already “outdated” bricks and mortar model, and that retailers must embrace new retail technology.

With no date in sight for when retail might return to ‘normal’, Global Data’s retail analyst Hrishabh Kashyap warned that we “will witness a large number of retail failures in the coming years, if retailers fail to accommodate new technologies in their businesses”.

It is recommended Council investigate and if possible, introduce a Mid Ulster Digital Retail Programme, to help traders embrace and develop their online presence.

Mid Ulster Gift Card –The development of a Mid Ulster Gift Card would provide the opportunity for businesses across the District to sign up to the gift card. The gift card is designed to ‘lock in’ spend for participating businesses, drive footfall, encourage advocacy and stimulate additional economic activity within Mid Ulster. It would be a useful mechanism especially at key retail periods, where the public would be encouraged to purchase the card (which has different £ values) as a gift for friends and family, or where large businesses could buy the gift card to provide to their employees at Christmas as a token of thanks for their work throughout the year, etc. The card encourages the public to spend local, and circulate monies in the local economy.

Improving Town Centre Aesthetics - As consumer confidence returns to our town centres, it is imperative we continue to improve their aesthetics to enhance civic pride. This could be done through renewal of marketing materials such as banners etc.

3.4 Transformation Phase Actions

Supporting place leaders to transform their high streets.

Strong Partnerships – Funding and Investment – Delivering the Vision

The Transformation phase should focus on supporting place leaders within our town centres to assist in transforming their high streets. The use of existing Town Centre Forums/Regeneration Partnerships that have been strengthened and reinforced through the previous phases are key to helping deliver the vision.

However, with household incomes being severely impacted by Covid-19, this will undoubtedly have a knock-on effect in terms of the availability of household spend in our town centres. The retail sector in general was struggling to survive before Covid-19 hit our high streets, and the titanic pressures the pandemic has placed on the sector is incalculable. It does not take a mathematician to work out that our towns are in need of huge support from Government, similar in nature to what has been provided in other parts of the UK. Our towns are in need of revitalization, renewal, and made befitting for the 21st century shopper. Instead, due to lack of funds, we continue to put 'sticking plasters' on old buildings to try and make them more attractive, whilst all the while we know, a root and branch review of these 'assets' (ie, our town centres), is long overdue, given the 'jewels' they could become, had they been afforded the proper investment to develop their full potential.

This short-term Mid Ulster Towns Recovery Plan will not address these huge strategic capital investment issues, but nonetheless, Members will be cognizant of the need to keep these issues to the forefront of their minds and lobby at every opportunity, for capital investment to support the redevelopment of our towns.

The wider revitalisation of our towns should consider the development of **Town Regeneration Masterplans** to strategically map out the regeneration our town centres. These should be ambitious, with strategic intervention to look at innovative and creative ways our town centres can be used in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and how they can be enjoyed by future generations.

The move from Recovery to Transformation stages, should also consider the development of a sustained **Town Centre Marketing Campaign** to support our 3 largest towns that have a strong brand identity already developed (ie, Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt). Such a campaign could be developed and rolled out over a 2 - 3 year period. This will require the appointment of a creative marketing agency to work alongside Council's economic development and communications teams.

4. Best Practice

Table 1 below highlights best practice from Ireland, Great Britain and beyond. Further details of the case studies are referenced in the appendices.

Table 1

Appendix	Location	Details
1	Loughborough	Love Loughborough have produced guidance for retailers to ensure traders are trading safely during the COVID-19 outbreak.
2	Denmark	Signage and demarcation has been utilized in Denmark on the footpaths to encourage social distancing.
3	Solihull	Blueprint for Resilience has been published and a Plan Ahead Team (PAT) has been formed to develop a plan for the town centre.
4	Liverpool	Liverpool BID Company, Liverpool Chamber, Professional Liverpool and Liverpool City Council Public Health have worked together to devise advice to help get your businesses, venues and workforces ready. The one-page guide focusses on the following 4 themes – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review staff policies 2. Checking the venue/premises 3. Introduce physical distancing 4. Review surfaces & point of sale
5	Cork	Cork City Council Recovery Plan has been developed in two phases: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 1 was launched on the 18th May 2020, which entailed a deep clean undertaken in the city centre with the Marina area pedestrianised. - Phase 2 will see further pedestrianisation of city centre streets, provision of additional cycling facilities, the creation of 'cycle and walk' facilities and 'click and collect' set down areas and increased priority at pedestrian crossings are amongst a range of proposals

		being suggested. When agreed, these changes will be implemented in the short and medium term and aim to mirror the timing of the Government's roadmap for lifting COVID-19 restrictions:
6	Glasgow	Glasgow are leading the field in investigating on how best to recover economically from the Covid 19 pandemic utilising the expertise of local universities. In Glasgow the council are working with its partners to develop expert advice on how best the economy of Glasgow and the surrounding city-region can be renewed and rebuilt once it moves into the recovery phase.
7	Monster Hero Safari	MonsterHero Safari works by utilising contactless NFC technology and QR codes, without the need for players to download or sign up to anything. The safari consists of 10 vinyl window characters, monster superheroes this time, with embedded NFC tags that mostly independent and charity retailers, as well as cultural and public venues, will host.
8	Malmesbury Town Team	Malmesbury Town Team have prepared a "Time to Market Initiative" to support retailers with marketing their business during the pandemic.
9	Oxford City Council	Creating pedestrian free zones - increasing eco-friendly credentials whilst also developing outdoor spaces where social distancing is easier such as the outdoor markets or plazas.
10	Cambridge Western Australia	As part of their buy local campaign a town centre database has been created where each business details what it is currently offering - opened/ partially opened/ delivery or carry out/ allowing limited numbers in shop etc.
11	USA	Buy online, pick up kerbside options - especially for smaller shops - like a 'click and collect' for small independents
13	Sudbury	A page has been set up on Sudbury town council's website highlighting details of the businesses that are operating.

5. Funding for Delivery

Prior to the Covid-19 emergency, town centres were already experiencing an unprecedented period of decline and retrenchment. Since the beginning of this crisis, footfall and trade in town centres has all but collapsed causing huge damage to the economy. Town centres have been extensively impacted and the need for action is critical.

Many of the projects outlined in this report in Sections 3.3 (Recovery) and 3.4 (Transformation) will require funding beyond Council's resources, to allow them to progress. This reinforces the need for Government to provide direct intervention to support town centres and the retail sector during the Recovery and Transformation Stages, if we are to prevent their further demise.

Members should also be mindful of the recommendations within "Mid Ulster Covid-19 Business Recovery Plan", approved by Council in May 2020, which was informed by extensive consultation and engagement with local businesses. Within this Recovery Plan, it too identified a range of **urgent strategic and significant funding needed for high streets and town centres** or they will struggle to recover and survive from the global pandemic. The Plan called upon Government to provide funding for the following key high-level interventions to support the retail sector:-

Reopening High Streets Safely Fund

A specific regional version of the above fund (similar to England) which is providing £50 million to councils to support the safe reopening of high streets and other commercial areas. Councils will also be able to use this money to develop local marketing campaigns to explain the changes to the public and reassure them that their high streets and other commercial areas are safe.

Such a fund would enable councils to deliver a range of practical measures aimed at achieving a safe, accessible, yet socially distant environment on our high streets for all users.

Future High Streets Fund

A regional version of the above fund (similar to England) to provide funding for Councils to transform and rejuvenate cities and towns through a range of capital infrastructure measures. These include investment in physical infrastructure, including improving public and other transport access, improving flow and circulation within a town / city centre, congestion-relieving infrastructure, and investment in land assembly and reconfiguring/redeveloping properties to unlock regeneration opportunities.

Moreover, in discussions with local town centre businesses, a number of other specific interventions were identified as necessary in supporting businesses through the recovery stage:-

- **Rates Holiday Extension**

We welcome the Executive's decision that retail, hospitality, tourism, leisure and childcare businesses will not have to pay rates this year.

- **Gaps in government support provision**

Provide support to retail businesses falling through the 'gaps' of current support e.g. commercial premises with a Total NAV > £51,000 and retailers with multiple premises.

- **Fixed costs**

Provide short-term financial support to businesses to assist with ongoing fixed costs during closure such as insurance and utility bills e.g. internet, electric, phones.

- **Rent Support**

Introduce a Rental Support Scheme for commercial rent premises by which government funds a percentage of the rental costs incurred.

- **Obsolete stock**

Provide capital funding support to address the issue of obsolete and time sensitive stock to enable payment to suppliers.

- **Implementing social distancing measures**

Provide funding assistance to support businesses with repurposing and modifying their premises post-crisis in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines (this is the focus of the DfC and DAERA applications)

- **Marketing Recovery Plan**

This document is a direct response to the need identified for a Marketing Recovery Plan aimed at reclaiming our Town Centres after the pandemic. Again, government support will be required to successfully implement the Plan.

It is imperative that the NI Executive is lobbied to provide a specific funding package to support the economic recovery and long term rejuvenation of our town centres and high streets. As we move from recovery stage into transformation stage, a new level of partnership between the NI Executive, Central Government and Councils will be required.

6. Conclusions

As lockdown restrictions ease in the retail sector, it is important we work in a co-ordinated fashion with our key stakeholders for implementation of the Town Centre Recovery Plan.

This Plan was written with input from our retail businesses and has been endorsed by town centre stakeholders, including our Town Centre Forums and Traders Associations. Where appropriate, we have drawn on best practice from other areas within Ireland, Great Britain and beyond.

6.1 Short-Term Recovery

The Short-Term Action Plan to assist the Recovery Phase, contained in Section 7 (overleaf), outlines a variety of priority projects under four thematic headings, as specified below;

- Capital Support
- Covid-19 Business Grant Programme
- Marketing and Communication
- Digitization

The actions identified are deliverable, provided Council is able to attract additional funding from the relevant Government Departments to support the delivery of such initiatives.

6.2 Medium/Long Term Transformation

Looking beyond the short-term and towards ‘transforming’ our towns and high streets to make them befitting for the 21st Century shopper, will require a significant funding package by Government, similar to the investment provided in England for example, through the Future High Streets Fund.

Only funding of this magnitude will make a difference in our towns and will help us move away from tinkering with minor schemes that provide a “sticking plaster approach” towards town centre development, when in fact properties need a major refit or in some cases raised to the ground and rebuilt as modern retail premises. Such sizable interventions would help breathe new life into our high streets by reconfiguring and re-imagining our town centre assets to make them attractive and fit for purpose today.

We can only do so, if Government provides a multi-million pound funding package to help us achieve this much desired aspiration for our towns in Mid Ulster, just like what was afforded to England.

It is incumbent upon us all to lobby Government, wherever possible, for such a strategic financial package to begin the process.

Aligned to this there is some preliminary work that could be done, if funding was available. This could start with work on a Town Centre Regeneration Masterplan along with a co-ordinated and ambitious marketing programme.

7. Short-Term Recovery Action Plan Recommendations

1. Capital Schemes

Actions

1.1 Repurposing Public Realm Spaces / Pavement Café Areas - Develop interventions in town centres focused on the Public Realm to enable better use of public spaces / pavement café areas.

1.2 Additional Cleansing and Planting within our Towns - Develop and seek new opportunities to secure funding for a cleansing and planting programme for Town Centres.

2. Covid-19 Business Grant Scheme

Actions

2.1 Covid-19 Business Grant Scheme - Develop a business support grant of up to £4,000 (*grant amount subject to change depending on funding received*) designed to support businesses to adapt to the new framework of Government guidelines in relation to Covid-19 which they must operate within. Outlined below are examples of works, where Council has sought funding from Government to assist businesses with;

- Modifying the internal layout of the business premises to ensure compliance with Covid19 social distancing protocols (eg, flexi-panels at counters, building/remodelling works, etc).
- Internal/external Covid19 signage to promote awareness of social distancing measures in place.
- Professional cleansing of business premises.

- Purchase of Covid19 items of equipment to allow the business to operate safely and provide reassurance to customers, eg, PPE (hand sanitisers, masks, gloves, visors, high-visibility vests for staff, etc), free-standing hand sanitiser stations, etc.
- External modifications such as awnings to protect customers who may have to queue to enter business premises, covered tables and chairs, outdoor heaters, etc.
- Internal/external shopper collection points to avoid customers having to fully enter the business premises.
- Equipment to allow widening of footpaths to support social distancing and the safe movement of people through our town centres such as pedestrian safety barriers.
- Professional expertise for the business eg, health & safety audits/assessments, drawings/plans required to modify the business to ensure Covid19 compliance etc.

3. Marketing and Communications

Actions

3.1 OpenForBusiness Video Messages – As traders return to the high streets, Council is inviting businesses to send us video messages to promote they're back in business and we will share these on our various social media channels – this is free service offered by Council during the 'Reopening Period' to encourage the public to 'shop local'.

3.2 'Confidence Mark' Window Stickers – Another initiative underway is providing a 'Confidence Mark' to businesses which have taken steps to keep their staff and customers safe. Businesses that show evidence of this (eg, erecting Covid-19 plastic screens, signage, hand sanitizing stations, etc) will be awarded a #ReconnectWithConfidence window sticker. This initiative is to build public confidence to return to our high streets to support local traders.

<p>3.3 Video to Promote the Reopening of Mid Ulster Towns and Businesses – A short professional video is being produced to promote the ‘Reopening of Mid Ulster Towns and Businesses’ and will be pushed out on social media in early July 2020 to tie in with the next phase of businesses reopening.</p>
<p>3.4 Business Storytelling – Through this professional video storytelling initiative, interest stories will be built around local businesses/owners and why their town is important to them to encourage the public to support them and ‘shop local’ as they return to the high street.</p>
<p>3.5 Mid Ulster Online Retail Pack - A useful online retail pack containing the latest government guidance for the retail sector and a suite of social distancing posters are available online for local traders to download and use.</p>
<p>3.6 Marketing Programme – As we progress through the Recovery Phase, there is a need to devise and develop a unique value marketing programme to position and support our town centres and produce updated collateral (eg, banners, promotional materials, etc).</p>
<p>4. Digitization</p>
<p>Actions</p>
<p>4.1 Online Retail Platform – Investigate and consider development of an online retail platform to provide a virtual ‘shop window’ for our 5 main towns and provide an avenue to promote rural businesses also.</p>
<p>4.2 Digital Retail Programme – Investigate and develop a support programme to enhance the digital skills for local retailers.</p>
<p>4.3 Mid Ulster Gift Card – Investigate the potential of designing and introducing a Mid Ulster District wide gift card to encourage the public to support local businesses by ‘spending local’ to keep money circulating within the district.</p>

8. Appendices

Best Practice Case Studies From Other Towns and Cities

Love Loughborough 6 Tips for Retailers for Safe Trading



LOVE Loughborough

6

TIPS for retailers for safe trading

Keep your customers safe while shopping in your store.

Here are some top tips from Love Loughborough to ensure you are trading safely during the COVID-19 outbreak.

- ### 1 Outside the Store

Limit the number of entry / exit points to the store and reduce number of customers allowed in the store at any one time. Consider whether temporary barriers should be available to help manage queues with clear 2m markings. Place clear signage outside explaining social distancing measures. Encourage customers to shop alone.



- ### 2 Inside the Store

Provide cleaning stations at the front of the store for customers to clean hands, trolleys and baskets. Identify regular clean key touch points e.g. fridge handles and disinfect regularly. Place signage inside the store to remind people about hygiene and social distancing.

Remember to regularly clean your point of sales systems in between employees.



- ### 3 Social Distancing

Use floor markings inside to facilitate compliance with the social distancing advice of 2 metres. Place clear signage throughout the store reminding customers of the social distancing measures and asking them to follow these rules.

Consider one-way systems using floor markings and signage to highlight system and direction.






Staff Social Distancing

Erect physical barriers at till points using flexiplastic to provide a barrier for those working on the tills. These should be included in store cleaning programmes. Where till points are close together, consider closing every other till point.



Employees and customers should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal.



Sickness

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in the business or workplace they should be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance.



PPE

Government advice is clear that PPE, including face-masks, is only necessary for those working in clinical situations. However some colleagues remain concerned and good practice is to supply masks or visors, and gloves to those who request them.



We can help you!

We can offer you:

- Social distancing floor vinyls on request
- Advice and support on trading safely
- Free promotion once able to trade
- Support managing outside space

Please email manager@loveloughborough.co.uk

For all official guidance on trading safely please go to [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Love loughborough BID will help and support its member businesses to ensure that customers can safely visit Loughborough Town centre, ensuring that Government Guidelines are adhered to.

Example of footpath signage and demarcation utilized in Denmark



Solihull Town Centre, England

Solihull Town Centre in England have released their blueprint for resilience for the “new” High street, utilising these very themes. A Plan Ahead Team (PAT) has been formed to develop the plan based on a series of questions - Where are we now? Where could we go? What is the preferred future? What will we do? When should we start and what are the latest government guidelines and what do they allow us to do? A visual has been created of what the new High street could look like –

THE NEW HIGH STREET 2020



Government policy towards social distancing in public places is creating the opportunity for a fresh look at the High Street.



More space for outdoor eating and pedestrians. Close parking on one side of the street and use the additional space to install outdoor seating with more planting. Green the old parking bays with artificial grass and bring back nature with temporary trees and planting.



Encourage walking and cycling

Install temporary cycle lanes using chalk road paint, sand filled cones and clear markings. Create walking trails with ground graphics showing time and distance (Leamington flowers).

Safe and welcoming

Install clear new signage with information towers. Install sanitisation points. Dress the streets to welcome people back. Use local designs to encourage social distancing. Create rainbow selfies to thank key workers and the NHS.



SAFE AND WELCOMING

Liverpool, England

Liverpool BID Company, Liverpool Chamber, Professional Liverpool and Liverpool City Council Public Health have worked together to devise advice to help get your businesses, venues and workforces ready. The one page guide focusses on the following 4 themes –

1. Review staff policies
2. Checking the venue/premises
3. Introduce physical distancing
4. Review surfaces & point of sale

The guide also highlights that communication is key for a smooth process in order to keep employees, customers and providers up to date with policies and measures in place to help provide reassurance, meet expectations, minimise anxiety and make a simple transition.

Getting your business ready

The essentials

Preparation is vital for a smooth transition from lockdown across the UK. Together, Liverpool BID Company, Liverpool Chamber, Professional Liverpool and Liverpool City Council Public Health have worked together to devise this advice to help you get your business, venues and workforce ready.

Key things to keep in mind:

The infection spreads by people and places
 Person to Person
 Person to Surface

3 elements to consider
 Physical distancing
 Surfaces
 Point of Sale

Communication is key for a smooth process in order to keep employees, customers and providers up to date with your policies and measures in place to help provide reassurance, meet expectations, minimise anxiety and make a simple transition.

Review your staff policies

*Staff and schedule plan
Risk assessments
Internal communications*

- Review safety processes and risk assessments in place for employees in line with national government guidance on COVID Secure business
- Create a staff plan to reflect working from home, return to work, fixed teams on shift patterns, flexible working and potential support to work from home
- Consider:
 - Prioritising working from home
 - Vulnerable staff
 - Safe commuting available
- Circulate new policies, health measures and timescales with staff and across the workplace
- Devise advice on safe commuting
- Order the necessary PPE for staff to undertake their work safely
- Check if your staff can apply to be tested. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Check your venue

*Policies review
SLA review
Facility inspections*

Review:

- Internal policies to meet with landlord, managing agency and/or head office policies and guidance
- Heating, ventilation, air conditioning and mechanicals ahead of re-opening
- Fire/Life Safety systems
- SLA cleansing services and frequency
- Security measures for your office

Introduce physical distancing

*Health and safety checks
Office traffic management
Access points*

- Identify and control access points for staff, customers and providers, consider one way systems to allow for distancing
- Work with your local authority, BID and/or managing agency/landlord regarding support managing potential issues with queuing or access
- Display health and safety policies in place across the workspace
- Provide PPE as required by the risk assessment
- Encourage increasing the frequency of hand washing
- Limit face to face meetings and use alternative technology
- Apply social distancing on:
 - Office space
 - Separation panels, alternate seating spaces
 - Communal areas
 - Reduce maximum capacity allowed and introduce flexible time slot usage
 - Customer facing areas
 - Display social distancing spaces
 - Consider protective measures for employees where necessary

Review surfaces & point of sale

*Cleansing plan
Sanitising availability
Minimising risks*

- Review cleansing plan including potential new areas, hot spots, services, frequency and appropriate products recommended by [Public Health England](#)
- Disable touchscreens, consider low-touch or no-touch switches, doors, drawers and other fittings
- Remove high-touch shared tools such as whiteboard markers and remote controls
- Consider restocking with food/beverage single-serving items
- Provide sanitizer and cleansing products
- Implement a clean desk policy
- Identify safe storage areas for personal items
- If possible, designate a specific enclosed room to isolate any person identifying themselves with symptoms

This document is produced by:

Please see current **UK Government's COVID-19 Secure Guidelines** available on [gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

[Shops](#)
[Restaurants](#)
[Offices](#)
[Working from vehicles](#)
[In other people's home](#)
[Factories](#)
[Construction and outdoor](#)
[Labs](#)

Cork City, Ireland

Cork City Council Recovery Plan has been developed in two phases: -

- Phase 1 was launched on the 18th May 2020, which entailed a deep clean undertaken in the city centre with the Marina area pedestrianised.
 - Phase 2 will see further pedestrianisation of city centre streets, provision of additional cycling facilities, the creation of 'cycle and walk' facilities and 'click and collect' set down areas and increased priority at pedestrian crossings are amongst a range of proposals being suggested. When agreed, these changes will be implemented in the short and medium term and aim to mirror the timing of the Government's roadmap for lifting Covid-19 restrictions:
- Consideration is being given to creating a one- way pedestrian movement on certain streets in the City Centre.
 - The option of implementing and encouraging pedestrians to move on the right side of pedestrian bridges is being considered.
 - Individual requests to assign road space on streets and place structures on the street will be considered on receipt of the details.
 - New bike stands are to be located at 43 new locations around the city to encourage people to consider cycling.
 - Key cycling routes into the city are being reviewed to identify any improvement measures to cycling infrastructure that could be implemented.
 - Opportunities to convert sites to 'Park & Walk' facilities are being investigated. Any sites identified and deemed suitable, will have to be regularised and funded.
 - Provision of set down or 'click and collect' areas to facilitate businesses are being considered on an area by area basis. Factors to be considered in the assessment include current availability of set down or parking spaces, availability of space to either provide new or reallocate existing parking to set down/click & collect, the demand for these type of spaces, other users' needs including loading, disabled drivers etc.
 - The timings at pedestrian crossings on the city centre island have been altered to give increased priority to pedestrian movements at these locations, thus reducing waiting times and limiting the potential for queues to form.

Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow is leading the field in investigating on how best to recover economically from the Covid 19 pandemic utilising the expertise of local universities. In Glasgow the Council is working with its partners to develop expert advice on how best the economy of Glasgow and the surrounding city-region can be renewed and rebuilt once it moves into the recovery phase.

The emergency COVID-19 Recovery Group is made up of members of the Glasgow Economic Leadership, the Glasgow Partnership for Economic Growth, the Glasgow Economic Commission, and some external advisors. Members include representatives from the public sector, academia, voluntary sector, tourism, retail, financial services and energy.

As part of the work for this recovery planning, the group will consider data on the potential economic impact of the pandemic; and what this impact will mean when taking action on issues such as investment, business support and employment.

At the end of this process, a report containing recommendations on the actions that will guide the economic recovery of the city and city region will be published.

MonsterHero Safari

MonsterHero Safari works by utilising contactless NFC technology and QR codes, without the need for players to download or sign up to anything. The safari consists of 10 vinyl window characters, monster superheroes this time, with embedded NFC tags that mostly independent and charity retailers, as well as cultural and public venues, will host. Families will be able to start the safari by tapping or scanning any of the characters and paying a nominal cost, with at least 50% of it going to NHS Charities Together.

For families on the safari they will be able engage with the experience by tapping each character's belly and learning their names, stories and powers. Younger children will delight in spotting the cute and colourful characters in window corners and older (and grown-up children) will engage by learning more about them. After spotting all 10 "MonsterHeroes", families will be rewarded with a free e-book about the characters first team-up adventure.

<https://monsterherosafari.com/>

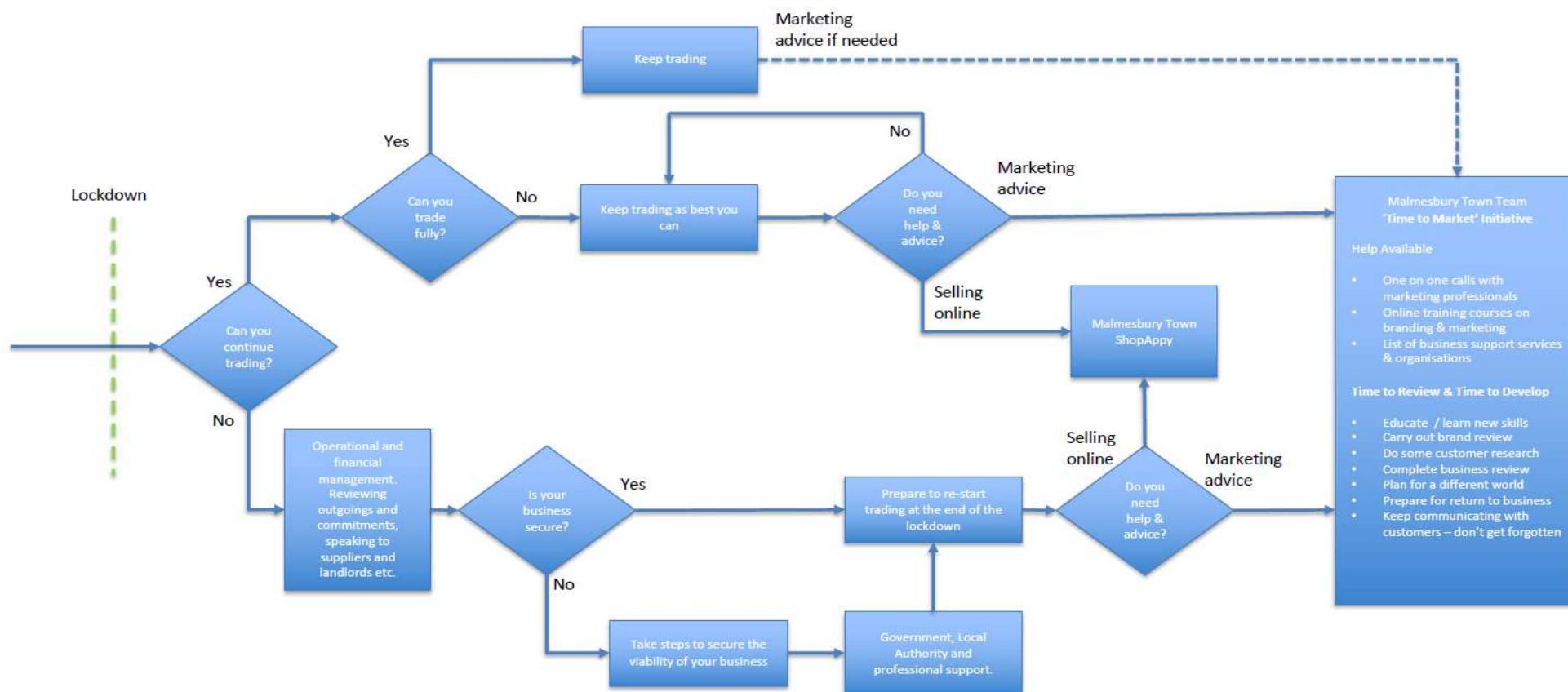


Appendix 8

Malmesbury, Wiltshire, England

Malmesbury Town Team

Time to Market Initiative



Oxford, England

Oxford City Council is considering a package of improvements to support social distancing. Roads could be closed, pavements widened, new one-way restrictions imposed and streets pedestrianised in a bold package of improvements.

The authority is exploring the opportunity to make what it calls “once in a generation” improvements to transport and public space in the city centre as part of measures to help Oxford recover from the **coronavirus** lockdown, and to better protect public health.

It hopes the measures will help kick start the city centre economy, encouraging people back in as the lockdown is progressively lifted. While some measures may be temporary, others could be retained, transforming the city centre, cutting traffic, improving air quality and making better use of public space.

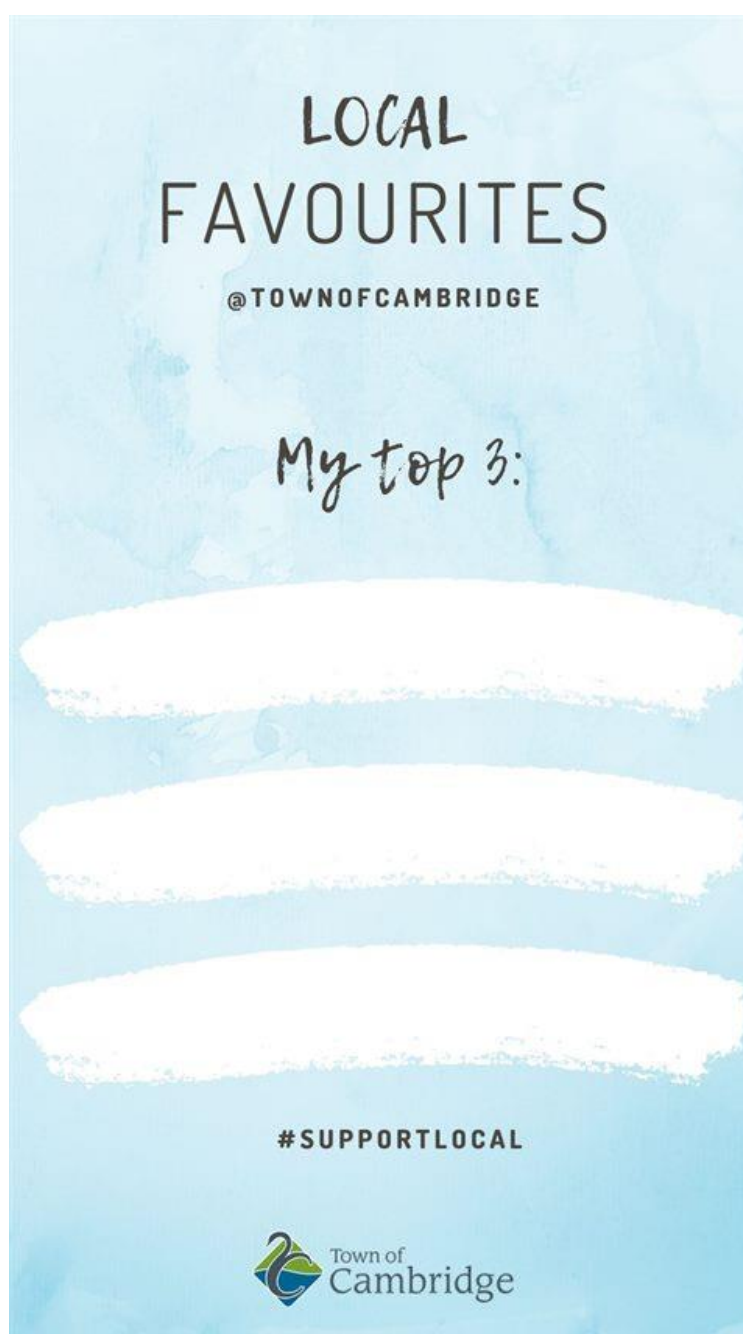
Ideas being explored include:

- Pedestrianising Broad Street with the removal of on-street parking bays, new seating and space for market stalls for displaced street traders and businesses limited by social distancing in their own shops.
- Plans for an outdoor café culture, with temporary tables and seating areas outside restaurants and takeaways to maintain capacity, while adhering to social distancing and more space for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Temporarily re-allocating road space through road closures, traffic light controlled one-way streets, and wider pavements, to allow people to walk and cycle safely into and around Oxford.
- Supporting and improving cycling for commuting and daily journeys through the creation of a segregated network of cycle routes, improved cycling infrastructure and more on-street cycle parking.
- Re-organising bus routes to create additional road space for pedestrians and cyclists
- Suspending all loading bays during business hours to increase space for pedestrians and cyclists.

Cambridge, Western Australia

Cambridge in Western Australia are encouraging people to **buy local first**.

A real-time local business directory has been developed to let everyone know what businesses are open in the Town to enable residents to support their local business community.



The need for contactless fulfillment is spurring retailers of all sizes and categories to pursue new pickup options that could last.



Permission granted by Roadie, Heather Hughes

By [Caroline Jansen @jansen_caroline](#) Published 14 May 2020

After temporarily shutting their doors for months, many nonessential retailers have devised plans mapping out how they'll reopen. For some, this means a phased approach, which includes reducing store hours, limiting store traffic, implementing additional cleaning procedures and utilizing fulfillment services like curbside pickup. Though the latter has been around for years, the pandemic has created a surge in demand, from both retailers and consumers alike.

In [a report from July 2019](#), Coresight Research said mass merchants were among the most popular retailers to offer buy online, pickup in-store services. Of the consumers surveyed that were already using BOPIS, about 50% said they did so at Walmart in the past year and 34% said Target. Consumers at the time said they used the service to avoid shipping costs (64%), get their goods faster (37%) or to access promotional offers or discounts (36%).

But with the onset of COVID-19, many consumers and retailers are using it to avoid contact within stores, or where mandates have forced nonessential businesses to temporarily shutter, to serve as a fulfillment option for online orders.

Bed Bath & Beyond has [accelerated the rollout of BOPIS](#) and contactless, curbside delivery. The home retailer said in April that it converted around 25% of its stores in the U.S. and Canada into regional fulfillment centers "almost doubling its digital fulfillment capacity" to support a rise in online sales, with plans to expand the service to at least 200 additional stores. Bed Bath & Beyond newly introduced curbside pickup at its Harmon banner during the pandemic.

Players like Dick's Sporting Goods and Hudson's Bay are also leaning into the service now more than ever, but retail giants aren't the only ones touting the option. Smaller companies like b8ta and Casper have launched curbside pickup this month as they transition to opening their stores gradually.

The integration of the service is answering a need from consumers. Adobe Analytics recently found that buy online, pickup in-store orders surged 208% in April from the year-ago period. A Commerce Hub report emailed to Retail Dive also found that 59% of consumers are more likely to use curbside pickup following the coronavirus outbreak. And even when the pandemic subsides, 75% of consumers that subscribed to multiple delivery services, like Amazon Prime, said they would likely continue to opt for curbside delivery.

The discussion forum on Retail Wire asked its Brain Trust panel of retail experts the following questions:

- Has curbside pickup become a bigger opportunity amid the pandemic or do you see it as a temporary solution for most retailers?
- What hurdles may the expansion of curbside pickup face?

Here are seven of the most insightful comments from the discussion. Comments have been edited by Retail Dive for length and clarity.

A win-win for retailers and consumers, alike

Neil Saunders, Managing Director, Global Data: This is undoubtedly one of the trends that will stick post-virus. It is a win-win for consumers and retailers. From the shopper point of view, it is convenient and quick; from the retailer point of view, it is more cost-effective than delivering to home.

Target already had great success with its drive-up proposition before the crisis hit. More retailers now see those same benefits and will develop their own permanent propositions.

There is a hurdle of managing the volume at peak times, something even Target sometimes struggles with. You also need to have a suitable area for pickup to happen – preferably not right in front of the store entrance where customers are going in and out. Walmart has created separate areas for pickup which works well.

Curbside creates a higher level of convenience for shoppers

Ken Morris, Industry Thought Leader: Buy online and pickup at curb (BOPAC) is something consumers have fully embraced and will expect in the future. The service provides a higher level of convenience to the customer, the transaction can remain contactless; adding a level of safety many customers will expect and require. Retailers need to streamline the process with the use of beacons or license plate recognition, the customer experience can be streamlined to improve efficiency and eliminate customer wait times for BOPIS and BOPAC. Perhaps the store of the future is really an automated pick, pack and pickup facility leveraging micro-fulfillment instead of traditional point of sale.

The service is now a 'must have'

Lee Peterson, EVP Thought Leadership, Marketing, WD Partners: We did a study five years ago on BOPIS and we were shocked at the strength of the results. You can just multiply that by 10 now. It's no longer a "nice to have." Pickup at store (where the retailer puts the goods in the trunk, by the way) is now a "must have."

The service is here to stay after COVID-19 subsidies

Camille Schuster, President, Global Collaborations, Inc.: Curbside pickup is much more convenient for the consumer than having to go into the store for pickup, especially if there are a number of bags. For those who like shopping online or are really short on time, curbside pickup is a very desirable option. It is not for everyone because some consumers still want to shop in the store and some will want delivery to their home. However, curbside pickup is even more desirable for those fearing theft of packages left at the door. I say the option of curbside pickup is here to stay.

The pandemic accelerated what was likely already going to happen

Gene Detroyer, Professor, International Business, Guizhou University of Finance & Economics; Executive Director, Global Commerce Education: Curbside pickup has always been a big opportunity. The difference is that the opportunity was going to evolve slowly. Perhaps maximizing in the next five to 10 years.

The pandemic situation has accelerated that quickly. While there will be a drop-off after the pandemic slows, the levels will stay very high. It will not surprise me if the post-pandemic levels are double that of the pre-pandemic levels.

As people are forced to try new things that they never imagined trying, they discover the positives in many of these new behaviors. In this case, the positives are large and focus on trends that customers value most these days — time and convenience.

Potential drop off in impulse purchases

Kevin Graff, President, Graff Retail: Retailers should be careful about "pushing" curbside pickup as an option. Some customers may like it, but the drop off in impulse sales makes this likely just another part of the race to the bottom. The brand experience, discovery, personal connection and more all disappear. Curbside pickup turns the store into just a warehouse. It may be a bedfellow retailers need to live with ... but don't cozy up to it too much

Sudbury, England

The COVID-19 crisis, and the measures implemented to protect us all, have had an unprecedented impact on our communities and businesses.

Sudbury Town Council have set up a dedicated page on their website encouraging people “to shop small and support our local independent businesses - which has never been more important.

From high teas in a box, 'isolation packs' delivered to your door, to live online sale rails, our independent shops are offering some brilliantly inventive ways to bring the high street to you.”

Report on	Play Park Annual Audit 2020-21
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of service
Contact Officer	P Bailie Parks Manager

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 seek approval for the commissioning of suitable qualified independent Play Inspectorate services to conduct annual play equipment inspection audit and report.
2.0	Background
2.1	Children's playgrounds should be inspected annually by an independent specialist to ensure the long term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items. This will also meet legal and insurance responsibilities as well as complying with the requirements of EN1176 (the European Playground Standard).
2.2	A written report is supplied covering site safety and condition, equipment, surfacing, and ancillary item safety and condition, and compliance with EN1176 where relevant. Recommendations for any remedial action required are given together with risk ratings for each item.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The safety of children on their playgrounds does not depend solely upon the initial design of the site and the selection of equipment. The continued management and the provision of high quality inspection and maintenance programmes are essential if safe opportunities for children to play creatively are to be preserved. The Parks Service will continue in its commitment to inspect, monitor and improve children's play provision within the district. The annual independent audit and Play Inspection Report is an important component that insures that our 102 play areas comply with BS/EN standards, DDA compliancy and play value.
3.2	The provision of an independent play inspection report will also assist council in defence of any potential legal claim for damages. This should be carried out by a specialist not connected with the playground operator or manager. Essentially it looks at vandalism, minor and major wear, long-term structural problems, changes in Standard compliance and design practice, risk assessment etc. Such

3.3	<p>inspections are offered by insurance companies, playground equipment manufacturers, commercial companies and safety organisations, such as RoSPA.</p> <p>The annual inspection will be conducted by a qualified RPII Inspector (Register of Play Inspectors International). The RPII Inspector has been tested and is competent to carry out the routine playground inspections. All RPII qualified inspectors appear on the Register of Play Inspectors.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Estimated cost £6,500 - £7,000. Expenditure is included within annual Parks Service Budget revenue budgets.</p>
	<p>Human: Council Staff time contribution.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: The Health and Safety Executive looks for a systems approach to safety and for playgrounds to meet relevant standards or guidance. The provision of annual inspections assists with ensuring that risk levels within play parks are maintained as low.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In line with council policies and procedures</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In line with council policies and procedures</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Approval is sought for the commission the services of suitable qualified independent Play Inspectorate to conduct an annual play equipment inspection audit and report.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Review of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2020/21
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Nigel Hill
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill / Kieran Gordon

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 view current Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the financial year 2020/21 impacted upon as a result of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council have current Service Level Agreement commitments with nine community based organisations in support of leisure and outdoor recreation services. The value of these service Level agreements range from £50,000 to £2,000 dependent on the scope of the services provided.
2.2	<p>Council have allocated £96,916 in this financial year for the payment of Service Level Agreements associated to Leisure and Outdoor Recreation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fivemiletown College Youth Annexe, Fivemiletown. £50,000 • Workspace, Draperstown £10,000 • Battery Harbour Management Company, Battery Harbour £9,925. • Pomeroy Community Projects, Pomeroy Forest, £6,500 • TABBDA, Ballyronan Marina £6,000. • Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA) £6,000 • Kildress Community Projects, Killucan Picnic Area, £3,365. • Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, Washingbay Wetlands Park £3,126 • Traad Wildlife & Conservation Club, Traad Point £2,000
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Fivemiletown College Youth and Community Department have not been in a position to meet their performance indicators, year to date in relation to the provision of leisure programmes including swimming, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Fivemiletown College Youth and Community Department have been unable to identify any savings that have been made to their costs since closure. Council therefore may consider an option to review the current £50,000 SLA payment on a pro rata basis, for the duration of the contract period.

3.2	Workspace Draperstown have not been in a position to meet their performance indicators, year to date in relation to the provision of leisure programmes associated to the Recreation Centre, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Council therefore may consider an option to review the current £10,000 SLA payment on a pro rata basis, for the duration of the contract period. Council consideration should also take into account that Workspace make an annual rental payment of £10,000 for the lease of land from Council on which the Backrow Recreation Centre is built on and options for reducing this against the SLA payment.
3.3	Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA) have not been in a position to meet their performance indicators, year to date in relation to the provision of inspection and maintenance requirements at Davagh Forest, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Council therefore may consider an option to review the current £6,000 SLA payment on a pro rata basis, for the duration of the contract period.
3.4	Battery Harbour Management Company have met the agreed performance indicators year to date in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Battery Harbour. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2020/21 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £9,925.
3.5	Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, have not been in a position to meet their performance indicators, year to date in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Washingbay Wetlands Park due to Covid-19 restrictions. Council therefore may consider an option to review the current £3,126 SLA payment on a pro rata basis, for the duration of the contract period.
3.6	Pomeroy Community Projects, have met the agreed performance indicators for year to date in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Pomeroy Forest. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2020/21 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £6,500.
3.7	Traad, Ballyronan and Ballyinderry Development Association, (TABBDA) have not been in a position meet their agreed performance indicators year to date in relation to the delivery of services required at Ballyronan Marina due to Covid-19 restrictions. TABBDA have indicated that on reopening additional costs will be incurred due to the increased level of staffing and cleansing required in relation to the provision of public ablution facilities. Council therefore may consider an option to review the current £6,000 SLA payment on a pro rata basis, for the duration of the contract period.
3.8	Kildress Community Projects, have met the agreed performance indicators for year to date in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Killucan Picnic Area. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2020/21 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £3,365.
3.9	Traad Wildlife & Conservation Club (TWCC) have met the agreed performance indicators for year to date in relation to the inspection and maintenance

	<p>requirements at Traad Point. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2020/21 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £2,000.</p> <p>Available Options</p>
3.10	<p>Option 1. Subject to Council approval, current Service Level Agreement payments can be adjusted on a pro rata basis to reflect the level of services provided. This approach will effect some identified service partners were services have not been possible due to the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions. Payments schedule for the period 1st April to 30th June (Qrt 1) would indicate a maximum reduction on SLA payments of £18,782 across the Leisure and Parks Service. This figure may be reduced due to evidenced claims associated to overheads and utility costs incurred by some partner organisations.</p>
3.11	<p>Option 2. Subject to Council approval, Service Level Agreements impacted upon by Covid-19 restrictions would be paid as per current terms and conditions, without pro rata reductions. This approach will reflect a nil saving to council for the period 1st April to 30th June.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Should Council decide to adjust SLA payments on a pro rata basis to reflect level of services provided, this will result in a calculated saving up to £18,782, to be determined.</p>
	Human: N/A
	<p>Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policy and procedures</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policy and procedures</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policy and procedures</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the content of the report in relation to the variation of services provided due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions. Members are asked to approve that Option 1 be implemented -</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1. Subject to Council approval, current Service Level Agreement payments can be adjusted on a pro rata basis to reflect the level of services provided. This approach will effect some identified service partners were services have not been possible due to the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions. Payments schedule for the period 1st April to 30th June (Qrt 1) would indicate a maximum reduction on SLA payments of £18,782 across the Leisure and Parks Service. This figure may be reduced due to claims associated to evidenced overheads and utility costs incurred by some partner organisations.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	None

Report on	Continuation of Northern Ireland Forest Schools within Council Area
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Anne Reid

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members of the growing success of the Forest Schools programme within the Mid Ulster District Council area and to confirm continuation of the programme from Sept 2020 to June 2021.
2.0	Background
2.1	Northern Ireland Forest School Awards (NIFSA) is an environmental awareness initiative, facilitated by personnel from NIFSA, which encourages pupils in Mid Ulster schools to visit and take on an ownership of a Council Park. It has been operating successfully at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park since April 2017 as part of the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House. The programme is funded - 50% from the Parks budget; 50% from the Ranfurly House budget.
2.2	As part of the NIFSA programme, pupils and teachers identify an area within Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park that they can develop as their own Forest School site. Here they undertake exciting and innovative activities to help them understand the importance of our natural environment and local heritage. Activities can include making a map of the Council Park using only natural resources, den building, as well as the use of trees to help children better understand maths.
2.3	The teachers involved undertake a Forest School Leader qualification (OCN Level 3). This gives them the confidence to continue visiting the Council Park year after year and developing more exciting outdoor activities to complement classroom-led lessons. This qualification also ensures sustainability as Forest School activities are continued within the school and environmental learning becomes embedded within the school curriculum.

2.4	<p>Three Mid Ulster schools have been participated in NIFSA at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park during the school year 2019-20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamnamore Learning Centre, Dungannon • Little Flower Nursery School, Clonoe • New Row Primary School, Castledawson
2.5	<p>In addition to this, four Parks staff have gained their qualifications as Forest School Leaders and have been working with six Mid Ulster Schools across two sites during the school year 2019 – 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Malachy's Primary School, Glencull – attending sessions at Ballygawley Allotments • St Mary's Primary School, Ballygawley - attending sessions at Ballygawley Allotments • St Mary's Primary School, Cabragh - attending sessions at Ballygawley Allotments • Richmond primary School, Ballygawley - attending sessions at Ballygawley Allotments • Holy Family Primary School, Aughamullan - attending sessions at Dungannon Park • Carnall Primary School, Clogher - attending sessions at Dungannon Park
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Interest has been shown in NIFSA by other schools, nurseries and community organisations in the Mid Ulster District Council area and thirty-five have registered an interest in NIFSA by posting on its website.
3.2	Northern Ireland Forest School Awards has proved to be a very popular addition to the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House and within Parks sites.
3.3	The continuation of this programme would maintain this connection of environmental awareness and citizenship skills within the Council Parks, while extending the learning of ecological and conservation skills to even more pupils and teachers in the Mid Ulster District Council area. Continuation would be subject to meeting requirements of COVID restrictions.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

	Financial: Total cost £6,000 £3,000 from Parks budget (50%) £3,000 from Ranfurly House budget (50%)
	Human: Staff time and commitment
	Risk Management: Risk Assessments are continually carried out as part of the activity preparations. Continuation would be subject to meeting requirements of COVID restrictions.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures
	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To commit to continuation with the Forest School programme within Mid Ulster for 2020-2021 subject to meeting requirements of COVID restrictions.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	For more information search Forest Schools Home Page: https://www.forestschoolawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi

Report on	Walk NI Consortium 2020-21
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Anne Reid Parks/Countryside Development Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Council approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2020-21
2.0	Background
2.1	WalkNI.com is delivered by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI). ORNI successfully established the WalkNI Marketing Consortium to ensure local authorities could continue to benefit from the success of WalkNI.com. By continuing to contribute to the WalkNI Consortium – local authorities can reap the following benefits:
2.2	<p>Solid Foundation: Significant investment has already been made to establish a website, e-marketing and social media channels</p> <p>Engaged Visitors: As indicated by 'WalkNI Key Stats' the website / brand has a strong engagement from the target market.</p> <p>Combined Resources: The small investments from a number of local authority partners can be combined to produce an outcome greater than the sum of its parts.</p> <p>Cross Sell: There will be opportunities to cross sell between destinations i.e. visitors to the Mourne Mountains will be able to learn about the Causeway Coast and Glens and vice versa.</p> <p>Redeveloped Website: A redeveloped WalkNI.com was launched in October 2019. The new look website provides an enhanced user experience, be responsive across platforms (mobile, tablet, desktop) and can avail of the latest interactive mapping.</p>
2.3	Within Mid Ulster District Council – WalkNI.com incorporates detailed information on 29 no walks, ranging from short walks of under 5 miles to longer walks over 20 miles.
2.4	A newly redesigned and mobile friendly WalkNI.com attracted 452,580 users, making 675,190 web visits in 2019/2020 confirming its position as the definitive guide to walking in Northern Ireland. With 53% of visits from Northern Ireland, 34%

	from Great Britain, 11% from Republic of Ireland it is clear the website is an important platform for locals and tourists alike.
2.5	<p>Walking brings significant tourism and local participation benefits:</p> <p>Local Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of all adults in Northern Ireland indicated that they participated in walking for recreation at least once within the last year, increasing from 36% in 2011/12¹. • 63% reported going outdoors for exercise everyday during COVID-19 lockdown, a much higher proportion than the 28% reported in the annual household survey (CHS 2017/18)² • 51% expect to spend more free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown³
2.6	<p>WalkNI.com Key Stats:</p> <p>The followings statistics clearly highlight the reach and engagement level of WalkNI.com:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 452,580 users (2019/2020) • 675,190 web visits (2019/2020) • 25,439 social media subscribers (across Facebook, Twitter & Instagram) • 19,000 e-newsletter subscribers • Key driver of walking product information and content to DiscoverNorthernIreland.com
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Partnership Approach:</p> <p>Funding from DAERA (NIEA's) Environment Fund ensures that all Councils receive free walk listings on WalkNI.com. Councils that wish to proactively promote their walking offer to the local population and tourist can avail of the activity of the WalkNI Marketing Consortium. The two available packages are outlined below:</p>
3.2	<p>Regional Partner</p> <p>An area which has a portfolio of walking product, access, infrastructure and supporting tourism services to meet the demands of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local walkers • Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is a key part of a wider itinerary <p>Partners in the past have included:</p> <p>Ards & North Down Borough Council Belfast City Council Fermanagh & Omagh District council Mid Ulster district Council</p>

3.3	<p>National Partner An area which has a portfolio of walking product, access, infrastructure and supporting tourism services to meet the demands of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local walkers • Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is key part of a wider itinerary • Visitors from Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland on either day trips or short breaks of which walking is the primary reason to visit • Walking Clubs from Republic of Ireland <p>Partners in the past have included: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p>						
3.4	<p>Delivery Costs for the WalkNI Marketing Consortium - 1st July 2020 – 31st March 2021: In order to continue the proactive marketing activity for Regional and National Partners, ORNI will dedicate staff time through a combination of ORNI's Marketing Manager and a Marketing Officer. The anticipated contributions are as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="223 952 917 1108"> <tr> <th>Partner Level</th><th>2020/21 COVID-19 Reduced Payment</th></tr> <tr> <td>National</td><td>£5167.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Regional</td><td>£2583.75</td></tr> </table>	Partner Level	2020/21 COVID-19 Reduced Payment	National	£5167.50	Regional	£2583.75
Partner Level	2020/21 COVID-19 Reduced Payment						
National	£5167.50						
Regional	£2583.75						
3.5	<p>Accountability: The WalkNI.com consortium will be managed by ORNI's Marketing Manager who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree an annual work programme including KPIs • Provide Quarterly progress reports • Hold two meetings per year to report on progress, discuss campaigns etc. 						
4.0	Other Considerations						
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Mid Ulster District Council will contribute £2,583.75 as a participating Regional Partner. This is included in Parks 20/21 revenue budgets.</p> <p>This is a 25% reduction in level of support required from Regional Partners to £2,583.75 (previously £3,445.00)</p> <p>Human: Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.</p> <p>Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>						

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Council approval is sought to participate as a Regional Partner with the Walking NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £2,583.75* to 2020-21 campaign.</p> <p>*This is a reduction of 25% from previous years; the campaign will run from July 2020 – March 2021.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 WalkNI Marketing Consortium Proposal 2020/2021</p> <p>Information from</p> <p>¹ Continuous Household Survey 2017/18</p> <p>² Engaging with the Outdoors during COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland 2020, ORNI</p> <p>³ Engaging with the Outdoors during COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland 2020, ORNI</p>

WALK NI

WALKING IN
NORTHERN IRELAND



03/06/2020

WalkNI Marketing Consortium Proposal 2020/2021

Introduction:

A newly redesigned and mobile friendly WalkNI.com attracted 452,580 users making 675,190 web visits in 2019/2020 confirming its position as the definitive guide to walking in Northern Ireland.

With 53% of visits from Northern Ireland, 34% from Great Britain, 11% from Republic of Ireland it is clear the website is an important platform for locals and tourists alike.

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

Local Participation:

- 50% of all adults in Northern Ireland indicated that they participated in walking for recreation at least once within the last year, increasing from 36% in 2011/12¹.
- 63% reported going outdoors for exercise everyday during COVID-19 lockdown, a much higher proportion than the 28% reported in the annual household survey (CHS 2017/18)²
- 51% expect to spend more free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown³

¹ Continuous Household Survey 2017/18

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

³ Engaging with the Outdoors during COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland 2020, ORNI

Tourism:

- Walking or rambling is the most popular activity (36%) undertaken by Northern Irish residents on domestic overnight trips⁴
- Hiking or cross-country walking was the most popular sporting activity (12%) undertaken by external overnight visitors whilst in Northern Ireland.⁵
- Intention by the Republic of Ireland market to take a short break post COVID-19 lockdown continues to increase – 48% intend to take a short break in Ireland / Abroad in the next 6 months⁶

WalkNI.com Key Stats:

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

- 452,580 users (2019/2020)
- 675,190 web visits (2019/2020)
- 25,439 social media subscribers (across Facebook, Twitter & Instagram)
- 19,000 e-newsletter subscribers
- Key driver of walking product information and content to DiscoverNorthernIreland.com

Rationale and Benefits:

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

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

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

⁴ Northern Ireland Domestic Tourism 2018, NISRA

⁵ External Overnight Trips to Northern Ireland 2016, NISRA

⁶ https://covid19.failteireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19_Consumer-Sentiment-and-Behaviour_18-May_FINAL.pdf

Why Outdoor Recreation NI?

The benefits of ORNI delivering the project are:

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

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

Partnership Approach:

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

Regional Partner

Definition:

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

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

National Partner

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

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

Marketing Activity

All Councils receive WalkNI.com Website Listings

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

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

Marketing Activity	Regional	National
Northern Ireland Promotional Campaigns including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature inclusion within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ WalkNI Blog http://walkni.com/blog/ ◦ WalkNI E-zines min 12 e-zines per year to 13,520+ NI contacts ◦ WalkNI Social Media Channels (Daily posts to 15,000+ NI followers) • PR in Regional and National Press via WalkNI Awards and other initiatives 	Y	Y
Republic of Ireland Visitors Promotional Campaigns including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature inclusion within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ WalkNI Blog http://walkni.com/blog/ ◦ WalkNI E-zines min 12 e-zines per year to 5,100+ ROI contacts ◦ WalkNI Social Media Channels (Daily posts to 5,000+ ROI followers) • PR in Regional and National Press 	Y	Y*
Walking Club Promotional Campaigns including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-marketing to 566 walking club contacts • Promotion via Mountaineering Ireland and Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs 	N	Y

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

Accountability:

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

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

Support Required:

Partner Level	2020/21	2020/21 COVID-19 Reduction*
National	£6890	£5167.50
Regional	£3445	£2583.75

*** COVID-19 Reduction Rationale:**

A reduced (25% less) contribution has been requested for 2020/21 as:

- Current social distancing measures are limiting the opportunities to engage with Northern Ireland's walking offer
- Key ORNI staff that deliver the day to day marketing activity for WalkNI are currently on Furlough Leave.

ORNI is working on an assumption that marketing activity will take place between **July 2020 – March 2021**.

June 2020

- Outdoor sports / activity amenities and tourism sites where people are 'non-stationary' and can maintain social distancing can open
- Government guidance will continue to encourage people to 'stay local' when exercising in the outdoors
- Widespread travel for holidays and leisure will not be taking place

Outcome: Walking trails are promoted for use by population in their immediate locality. Limitations around car parking may be in place. WalkNI can perform an important role of encouraging public to engage with walking trails responsibly and in line with social distancing measures.

Late July 2020

- Tourism accommodation providers will re-open (albeit with limited capacity)
- People will start travelling within Northern Ireland for holidays and leisure

Outcome: Walking can be promoted for use by NI wide population

Autumn 2020

- ROI walkers will begin to travel within Ireland

Outcome: Walking is promoted for use by Island of Ireland wide population

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

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

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan – Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Council Good Relations Plan – to note the update delivery of the plan
1.2	Grants – to agree the rolling good relations grants
1.3	Community Development – to note the community development update
2.0	Background
2.1	Council Good Relations Plan 2020 – 2021 was agreed in February 2020 and submitted to the NI Executive Office for funding. A total allocation of £310,000 was received to be match funded by 25%.
2.2	Community Grants – Council annually delivers two rolling community grants programmes; Good Relations and Local Community Festivals. Local Community Festivals is on hold due to Covid 19. Good Relations grants are proposed to continue where possible using innovative methods of delivery.
2.3	Community Development includes the following areas, Community Support, Good Relations, PCSP, Connecting Pomeroy and facilitation of Community Planning.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Good Relations Plan 2020 – 2021</p> <p>As part of the funding agreement the Executive Office is seeking an update on what elements of the plan, up to potentially 30 – 35%, could continue to be delivered in alternative formats during the current situation. Staff have been working to identify how part of the agreed plan could be delivered in an alternative format with the remainder to be reviewed by September.</p> <p>An update on projects that could commence now, in line with government guidance on social distancing, through online and other formats is presented in Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	Grants - Rolling Good Relations - 2 applications are recommended for awards totalling £2280 - one application did not meet the minimum score threshold and feedback engagement will take place. Please refer to Appendix 2.

3.3	<p>Community Development Update</p> <p>Community Support – The Good Relations and Community Support team continues to support the DFC community delivered food parcel to the end July 2020. It is also supporting groups, who have Council funding letters of offer, regarding flexible and alternative delivery or such as environmental community activity.</p> <p>The PCSP team continues to support with over 90 befriending calls to help reduce isolation at this time.</p> <p>The Teams are reviewing their 2020 – 2021 plans with funders to commence delivery in alternative formats.</p> <p>All of the partnership meetings have commenced through Zoom to accommodate members and external partners.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Good Relations awards £2280</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Good Relations – to note the alternative delivery for part of the agreed Good Relations Plan as per Appendix 1.
5.2	To agree the grant award recommendations for Good Relations
5.3	Community Development – to note the update report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 Good Relations Plan Delivery</p> <p>Appendix 2 Grant Award Recommendations</p>



**DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS
PROGRAMME
2020/21 ACTION PLAN
Revision**

Children and Young People

PROGRAMME NAME					
Children & Young People Diversity Programme			MUC01		
Total Budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£12,000				
Total target no. of participants	Direct	150	Indirect	150	
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the number of participants who have a greater understanding of diversity.				
	An increase in the number of wider school community who have a greater understanding of diversity.				
2.17 Programme summary information 2020/21	The following outcomes have been delivered upon within this programme in the year 2020/21:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The percentage of children who believe they have a greater understanding of diversity• The percentage of young people who have or would not have experienced other traditional cultures• The percentage of wider school community who have a greater understanding of diversity. <p>GR officers have been working with schools across the District for a number of years and in 2020/21 it is planned to deliver programmes specific for each of the school sectors post primary and primary.</p> <p>Project - £7,000 The aim will be to engage small primary schools to provide an insight into cultural diversity of the region. Target focus will be the year 10/11 looking at the transfer from individual primary schools to large post primary and the magnitude of diversity on range at large campuses. Facilitators will deliver workshops based on different cultures and complete with a showcase event engaging the smaller primary school participants to jointly engage in these celebration of culture events at larger diverse post primary venues.</p>				

	<p>GR officers will work with both primary and post primary schools to develop tailored diversity programmes to suit each school and partner schools.</p> <p>Up to 3 programmes will be delivered with schools across our main towns, focusing on post primary schools that have diverse migrant and ethnic cultures of students and then linking primary schools where possible. Schools will be mainly in the urban towns Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt. Other schools with growing number of migrant children will also be linked to the programme. A range of project action will be delivered within 6-8 schools to promote and support diversity, including:</p> <p>A number of sessions across the schools with a targeted number of children and young people including migrant children. A number of workshops delivered across the programmes (different number of workshops per programme depending upon need re numbers engaging).</p> <p>Activities delivered will include diversity around us, diversity of culture and expression, our changing environment.</p> <p>The targeted outcome for 20/21 would be to achieve a higher rate of positive outcomes in relation to raised awareness of the richness of cultural diversity across post primary and primary schools in the Mid Ulster district council area and deliver upon an increased number of children who believe would have a greater understanding of diversity within the Mid Ulster District Council area</p> <p>Project - £5,000 Linking with PTA's and other school bodies – pre-school, primary and post primary to host programmes that can break down historic perceptions of schools within communities and develop and foster a new relationship between schools and community associations on a cross community basis. Proposal to partner schools across the region through their PTA's and therefore link them into cross community work.</p>
Revision	<p>Children and Young People Diversity Programme</p> <p>To deliver the programme as above engaging a number of organisations (through procurement) who specialise in diversity activity</p>

	<p>Delivery organisations will be engaged (through procurement) as required for each programme Specialist Organisations - Beyond Skin, Artsekta, and Nerve Centre, Gathering Drum, All Set Cross Cultural, Gaslight Media.</p> <p>Targets will remain the same, however the process will amend slightly rather than schools coming together the diversity work will take place with each school through online engagement. The diversity engagement and greater understanding of culture will still be developed as an outcome of the project. The programme will be developed for interactive online to both groups and individuals. This can allow for worldwide global issues still to be explored by interactive seminars within online resources.</p> <p>Methods in place to deliver.</p>			
PROGRAMME NAME				
Children and Young People Youth Diversity and Engagement Programme			MUC02	
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£8,000			
Total target no. of participants	Direct	250	Indirect	416
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
T:BUC Outcome	Young people engaged in bringing the community together.			
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community			
Programme summary information 2020/21	Original programmes in 2019/20 delivered outcomes as noted below through programmes of activity that were developed as new initiatives:			

	<p>An increase in a number of people in our areas engaged in shared activity through arts, drama or sport.</p> <p>GR officers will work in communities to engage young people and bring them together through arts, drama, music, sports and civic leadership focused activities.</p> <p>Project –Engage the bespoke sports cross community engagement programme Budget £8,000 (Peace Players Executive Office tailored cross community programme). A project that will deliver across the region target 16 young people aged 16 – 24 yrs to participate in a training leadership course based on utilising sport to target segregation and sectarianism in detached and unattached youth across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>The programme will involve upskilling 16 young people to return to their areas and through voluntary sport sessions to reduce feelings of isolation and segregation. The programme will include a teacher training and capacity building component. The sessions will be designed to closely align with the academic curriculum for Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) and aim to support the schools in exploration of these themes.</p> <p>The young people will then delivery to 4 partnerships (5 week programme on integrated good relations through sport games, conversations and team building activities) between 8 classes (primary 6 & 7) in 8 primary schools (3/4 controlled and 3/4 maintained), 2 in each of the 3 main regional towns in the Mid-Ulster Council area: Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt plus 2 more. Based on an average class size of 25, this will mean the project will work with at least 200 Catholic and Protestant children. In addition the project will seek to build the capacity of 8 teachers, two from each of the partner schools/classes. Based on the assumption that each direct project beneficiary will have a positive influence on 2 other people, the project will have a positive impact on an additional 416 indirect beneficiaries.</p>
Revision	<p>MUC02 - Children and Young People Youth Diversity and Engagement Programme Engaging young people using sport. Teachers training upskilling young people. Targeting detached youth.</p> <p>16 young people complete a leadership course together</p>

	<p>8 schools engaged in coaching sessions – 8 coaching programmes delivered individually Delivery by Peace Players</p> <p>Peace Players programme can be tailored to deliver the main components of leadership in sports learning on line. The young people can learn together online.</p> <p>The delivery of the sessions with primary schools - 8 classes. These will continue to be delivered with schools, through online coaching sessions. The schools will not come together but will do sessions separately. The engagement will take place between the youth leaders who will receive training together and support one another throughout the process and this will be sustained in the future in their development.</p> <p>Method in place to deliver</p> <p>Sessions will remain as per target, the engagement will remain with the young people however the schools will receive coaching sessions to support wellbeing but this will be separate.</p>
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PROGRAMME NAME					
Children and Young People MU Post Primary Schools Cross Community Programme (quotation)			MUC03		
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£25,000				
Total target no. of participants	Direct	250	Indirect	400	
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community. An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.				

TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	
Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from a different background.
Programme summary information 2020/21	<p>Outcomes to improve upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of participants who feel more comfortable socialising or working with people from another community background • An increase in a number of people in our areas engaged in shared activity through arts, drama or sport. <p>Project - £20,000 - Delivery of a cross community engagement programme offering it to all post primary schools through a partnering approach. The medium for cross school partnership working will be youth development, mentoring and leadership skills. There will be 2 sessions per partner school which will allow young people to come together and develop engagement and friendships. Programme will lead to continued dialogue on agreed subjects affecting young people.</p> <p>Up to 16 schools participating in cross community programme (all schools offered the programme)</p> <p>Partnership schools</p> <p>2 workshops per school using interactive engagement with young people through development, mentoring, leadership skills as a common medium for engagement</p> <p>Minimum 10-15 young people participating per school (up to 150 young people)</p> <p>Year Group to be identified, proposed year 8/9</p> <p>Project - £5,000 School/Youth Resilience Development - A pilot project with a targeted approach to issues impacting young people in terms of resilience and overall wellbeing and mental health. The project will bring young people from across diverse schools together to explore some of the issues impacting on young people and approaches that can be used to address these; particularly as a legacy of the Troubles.</p>

	Minimum 50 young people participating across schools (total number of schools 5-6 and 10 young people per school)
Revision	<p>Post Primary Schools Cross Community Programme</p> <p>To amend delivery as below to maximise targeting and engagement of young people through on line delivery, targets and outcomes will remain the same.</p> <p>Both projects will be procured from agencies that can deliver in this area</p> <p>Element A - £10,000 for Youth Engagement (post primary level) - A project with a targeted approach to addressing issues impacting young people in terms of resilience and overall wellbeing and mental health. The project will target young people from across diverse schools together to explore some of the issues impacting on young people and approaches that can be used to address these. All delivery will be interactive online at present. Targeted through estates, probation boards, youth justice to engage hard to reach Young people and involve them in volunteering in their own areas. All post primary schools engaged with 150 young people</p> <p>Element B- £15,000 to seek to extend the Peace Programme engaging young people through interactive online activity focusing on being present and interacting online via blogging, social media etc. To work with delivery agent - Beam Creative Network on an extension to the Peace IV POD – Peace on Demand programme (Council tendered for this previously and BEAM secured the contract – delivery rates will remain as per the value for money contract). The project has been developed and trialled for maximum participation on line and the school partnerships are in place. The extension programme will engage new young people to the programme and develop their linkages via multi-media developing apps, podcasts etc. It will continue to target years 11 and 12 and will link pupils and schools through interactive forums. A total minimum 100 young people.</p> <p>Method in place to deliver</p>

PROGRAMME NAME			
Children and Young People MU Cross Community Youth Programme PARTNER PROJECT PROMOTER EA YOUTH		MUC04	
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£25,000		
Total target no. of participants	Direct	250 children aged 7-11yrs 30 young people aged 16-24yrs	Indirect 400
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?			
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community. An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.		
Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from an ethnic minority background.		
2.17 Programme summary information 2020/21	Project - £18,000 - The Program aims to support primary schools to come together on cross community basis to explore key topics of diversity and good relations. Also to allow teachers to meet exchange ideas and knowledge. This Programme will also look at developing a network between schools to deliver joint collaboration between teachers allowing sustainable future joint development. Programme will explore identities of the two main communities but also explore commonalities that can develop real and continuing relationships for the wider school perspective. Process There are 105 primary schools in the Mid Ulster District, 80 plus of these schools have been involved in various EA and Council run projects, the programme will endeavour to attract schools <i>that have not</i> been involved in previous programs.		

The process will take the form of an Expression of Interest (EOI), where we will gauge the interest of the schools and feed into our overall delivery, selection will have an agreed criteria.
The major outcome achieved to date within this programme which has been successful for a number of years is as follows:

Program

Phase 1	Recruit the schools through an EOI process linking with GRO's to target list of urban and rural PS that have not been involved in programs before. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 primary schools will participate, working in pairs (partnerships of 1 controlled / 1 maintained) 20 – 30 pupils on average per school (P6 & P7 together)
Phase 2	Partner/cluster PS and commence workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial planning workshop will be facilitated with schools
Phase 3	Continue delivery of workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will come together for up to 4 joint workshops (delivery in a shared space) looking at – understanding identity, understanding each other, prejudice, stereotyping, flags, emblems & symbols, relationship building Board of Governors and parent engagement initiatives will be facilitated, encouraging involvement in the programme Teacher engagement and capacity building 40 teachers and resource support pack for continuous delivery support
Phase 4	Post Evaluation with participants of Program in line with Good Relations guidelines. *Celebratory events involving the wider school community
List of Schools	The schools will be identified with the council's Good Relations Officers.

	<p>The aim of this project will be to see the following percentage responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Increase in school partnering diversity in schools – through joint activity programs • % Increase awareness of integration of young people. <p>Project - £7,000 - The Youth voice Forum works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations. In the current uncertain political and social context that affects young people, they can be powerful catalysts for positive change and contributors of innovative solutions.</p> <p>To overcome the challenges faced by young people, the project will create-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater youth participation 2. Stronger youth organisations 3. Increased youth autonomy and inclusion. <p>This specific project will create a Mid Ulster based regional youth forum. The forum will consist of 24 young persons aged 16 years to 21 years. The project will reflect the Mid Ulster region with youth representatives from across the Mid Ulster region. The project level outcome being an 'improvement in attitudes between children & young people from different backgrounds.'</p>
<p>Revision</p>	<p>Cross Community Youth Programme</p> <p>Project 1 - EA Youth is partnering with Council in the delivery of this model. They will engage schools once they open in September through interactive zoom provision, linking partner schools. They will continue to deliver their tailored school programme and good relations themes.</p> <p>Each partner school is being encouraged to use their local community centre. This will allow for a class group to engage in a zoom delivered engagement session with school social distancing.</p> <p>Method in place to deliver</p>

	<p>Sessions and engagement will remain as target but via online engagement.</p> <p>Programme 2 - EA Youth has developed an online social media process to engage the Youth Council (elected 2019 - 2020) and support the young people lobby and respond to key policy discussions. This will be delivered and supported through the online forum.</p> <p>Method in place to deliver</p> <p>EA Youth Forum sessions will remain as target.</p>
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Shared Community

PROGRAMME NAME				
Shared Community Good Relations Small Grant Programme		MUC05		
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£45,000 (up to £1200 per group with 30 approx. per group participating x 40-50 groups)			
Total target no. of participants	Direct	1,500	Indirect	3,000
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space & services			
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.			
Programme summary information 2020/21	The grant programme has been running consistently for a number of years and was redeveloped in 18/19 to increase the use of programmes that could further enhance more shared space within Mid Ulster District Council area through activities and outcomes as noted below:			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % increase in community attitudes and perception of using and accessing shared activities in spaces. • % increase in communities seeking funding and participation in good relations. <p>A small grants programme will be managed by Mid Ulster District Council Programme will encourage community groups to come together to deliver good relations activities and shared space development.</p> <p>Approx. 40 - 50 small grants will be awarded to community organisations for shared space activity delivered between April 2020 and March 2021 A maximum grant up to £1,200 will be available Contribution towards strategic events grants programme to support range of good relations criteria re. outreach for diversity and engagement of communities across the District see cultural expression.</p> <p>GR officers to continually engage with strategic partner projects and in partnership with the strategic community events grant with groups seeking to deliver events in partnership with good relations to develop diversity in cross community outreach and or migrant and new communities.</p>
<p>Revision</p>	<p>Small Grants Programme</p> <p>The small grants to reduce Sectarianism and Racism is through the grant application process – to support communities that coordinate and deliver activities in a shared space which engages partnerships of groups from differing communities to deliver joint activity to take place.</p> <p>It is proposed to continue to support small grant activity that takes account of social distancing, to allow groups to apply for funding in a creative manner that will still engage other community groups from different traditions in joint activity. Examples could include diverse groups; doing arts together online, compiling health and wellbeing resources together, befriending across their communities, and other topical talks of interest. £15,000</p> <p>The remainder of the grant funding to be held for review at a later stage pending social distancing guidance as provided by Government.</p>

PROGRAMME NAME					
Shared Community Shared History and Decade of Anniversaries Programme			MUC06		
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£25,000				
Total target no. of participants	Direct	360	Indirect	1000	
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.				
Programme summary information 2020/21	<p>The Decade of Anniversaries grant programme and series of lectures has been delivered for a number of years. The grant programme increased understanding of our shared history within Mid Ulster District Council area through activities and outcomes as noted below:</p> <p>% increase in the number of participants engaging in ethical commemorations around Decade of Anniversaries</p> <p>% increase in communities seeking funding and participation in good relations.</p> <p>GR Officers will work with local communities interested in acknowledging the Decade of Anniversaries through the Community Relations Council / Heritage Lottery Fund principles of shared understanding of our history in shared locations.</p> <p>A budget of £2,000 grant support will be available for programmes of activity up to £20,000 to be matched 50% by the delivery group. The 50/50 funding model works well and builds capacity within community groups that apply.</p> <p>A Decade of Anniversaries lecture series will be delivered across the District – 4-5 lectures across the District linking historians £5,000</p>				

	<p>15 community based activities delivered 4-5 lectures delivered across the District</p>
Revision	<p>Shared History and Decade of Anniversaries Programme grants programme for groups to deliver projects shared understanding of our history in shared locations. A Decade of Anniversaries lecture series will be delivered across the District.</p> <p>The majority of this programme will be delivered through Zoom.</p> <p>The targeted lecture series programme will continue to be developed with historians and then delivery will be arranged for set evenings. Community groups and people that have attended previously will continue to be targeted and schools. People will then register to link in and will be given an invite to hear the lecture on their own devices. A break will provide for questions to be phoned in to a mobile or email during this time and then these will be presented to the historian for answers to all. A total of 5 sessions will continue to be delivered. Current provision is available at ARTS centres for all communities to link into these interactive lectures and this will allow for wider participation and increased audiences</p> <p>The method will be developed by Council.</p> <p>The lectures will then be compiled into an online podcast with all and groups and schools.</p> <p>An update may be required to the project delivery via community groups, grants will be promoted and groups supported to deliver in alternative formats to support social distancing.</p> <p>Grants will be considered to groups similar to the lecture series were these can be delivered online in line with the original criteria as per the plan objectives above and Decade of Anniversaries CRC/HLF guidance.</p> <p>Pending above, the grants to groups may not spend the current allocation due to level of ICT required. If the demand is not forthcoming.</p>

	Council will lead on the development of a complete decade of anniversaries series of the last 10 years. Compiling all lectures that have taken place over the last 10 year period will be compiled, taking from 10 years ago and doing one overall decade podcast. This will be shared in different formats with all groups.
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PROGRAMME NAME					
Shared Community Shared Spaces		MUC07			
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£8,000				
Total target no. of participants	Direct	100	Indirect	200	
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live in as welcoming to all communities.				
Programme summary information 2020/21	<p>Outcomes to improve upon:</p> <p>An increase in the number of participants who feel more comfortable using shared spaces and services traditionally associated with people from another community background.</p> <p>GR officers will work with projects that have developed over recent years as strategic shared spaces to continue to encourage shared civic spaces across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Shared space project – a pilot project to increase access to all members of the community to participate in programmes that will open up venues and areas of MU historically known as single identity or areas of conflict</p>				

	<p>between communities. Utilisation of promotional items raising the awareness of Together Building a United Community and therefore engaging hard to reach communities</p> <p>GR Officers will work with Council Arts and Culture venues to seek to ensure they are open and shared for all the community, cultural expression theme</p> <p>This complements the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased number of shared spaces ○ Engagement in shared space programme of activity at key facilities.
Revision	<p>Shared Spaces Programme a pilot project to increase access to all members of the community to participate in programmes that will open up venues and areas of MU historically known as single identity or areas of conflict between communities.</p> <p>Council will support a number of films to encourage people back to social engagement through social distancing, delivered via drive in provision x 4 shows over the end of summer period (pending government guidelines on social distancing provision and what is allowed). The lead Group is Dungannon Film Club (not for profit) who has experience and licenses for delivery for showing films. They will take responsibility for delivery in the following areas: Dungannon and Moy (locations used by the Group previously) and for DFC explore a location in Cookstown (if applicable) £4000</p> <p>Good Relations will partner with the Seamus Heaney Homeplace & Burnavon to deliver online literary and arts engagement £4000</p> <p>Again a multiple option delivery may be able to take place as we can utilise ARTS centres to screen films which can then have communities linked into. This will work specifically for those communities restricted by access. It is proposed to allow for social history evenings and films of interest around culture to be explored</p> <p>Method in place to deliver all in place.</p>

PROGRAMME NAME					
Shared Community Clergy and Churches Leadership and Engagement		MUC08			
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£5,000				
Total target no. of participants	Direct	100	Indirect	300	
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.				
Programme summary information 2020/21	<p>The Clergy and Churches fora continue to deliver faith based activities and events across Mid Ulster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater level of church leadership and lay participation across the district on difficult issues for people in our society. <p>GR officers maintain close contact with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid Ulster Clergy Together Forum – in the development of a programme of activities addressing diversity, respect for culture, social inclusion and anti-poverty. Activities will involve Forum focused activities, engagement activities with local schools and engagement in wider community GR activities / events.• Cookstown Churches Forum – in the development of an annual programme of talks, visits and events that address enhanced understanding and collective awareness of local issues, between lay people from different Church traditions.• Dungannon Churches Area Forum - in the development of an annual programme of talks, visits and events that address enhanced understanding and collective awareness of local issues, between lay people from different Church traditions. <p>1. Mid Ulster Clergy Clusters - £1,000</p>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a programme of activities focused upon anti-poverty and related social issues • Minimum of 10 meetings / visits between Clergy over 12 months • Engagement of Clergy with a minimum of 6 other GR events – Mid Ulster in Harmony, International Peace Day, Christmas Choral events, Poverty based events annual programme of activity • Mid Ulster in Harmony & International Peace Day /Choral events) <p>2. Churches Forum Cookstown - £2,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a programme of activities over 12 months • Minimum of 10 meetings / events over 12 months engaging Church Forum members and the wider community. <p>3. Churches Forum Dungannon £2,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 10 meetings / events over 12 months engaging Church Forum members and the wider community. Engagement with Clergy Forum and engagement in wider community events
Revision	<p>Clergy and Churches Leadership and Engagement GRO work with Fora in the development of a programme of activities addressing diversity, respect for culture, social inclusion and anti-poverty.</p> <p>Clergy and Church forums will still meet under Zoom for their monthly updates. They will continue to develop their inspirational and faith based talks. These will again be delivered similar to the lecture series for Decade through social media.</p> <p>Method of Delivery will be supported by Council.</p>

Our Safe Community

PROGRAMME NAME	
Our Safe Community Responding to Local Community Issues	MUC09

Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	Zero – work with PCSP			
Total target no. of participants	Direct	50	Indirect	100
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
T:BUC Outcome	A community where places and spaces are safe for all.			
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.			
Programme summary information 2020/21	<p>Outcomes to improve upon:</p> <p>Increase in the number of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood and the wider area</p> <p>GR officers will support PCSP regarding issues identified in local communities along with our partners (recorded instances, members, PCSP, PSNI, NIHE, Probation Board, and Youth justice Agency etc.) to provide a multi-agency approach to keep spaces and communities safe and accessible and open to all.</p> <p>The activities will be both proactive and reactive in nature. Where there are known yearly issues arising then a proactive approach will be taken with local people to seek to avoid issues reoccurring. In some areas this has been ongoing for up to 3 years since a previous instance and this can be at key times of the year and others that arise throughout the year. PCSP will identify key areas and projects with GR support.</p> <p>GR officers will work alongside Council's sports development staff to support young people particularly during summer months and link diversionary programmes into areas and communities with Council sports development e.g. MUSA Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Maghera, Coalisland.</p> <p>6 reactionary support activities working in a multi-agency approach.</p> <p>6 proactive initiatives working within a multi-agency approach.</p>			

Revision	<p>Responding to Local Community Issues GR officers will support PCSP regarding issues identified in local communities along with our partners (recorded instances, members, PCSP, PSNI, NIHE, Probation Board, and Youth justice Agency etc.) to provide a multi-agency approach to keep spaces and communities safe and accessible and open to all.</p> <p>Continue to work with PCSP, & Council on issues that may arise; including bonfire engagement, ASB</p>
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PROGRAMME NAME			
Our Safe Community Enabling Good Relations and Safe Communities		MUC10	
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£12,000		
Total target no. of participants	Direct	500	Indirect 1000
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?			
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.		
Programme summary information 2020/21	<p>Outcomes to improve upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the number of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood and the wider area• Increase the number of people who can access anti-poverty charities across Mid Ulster <p>GR Officers will work collectively with local charities – St Vincent de Paul, Vineyard Church, Antioch Centre, Lighthouse, Maghera Foodbank, - coming together in a joint approach to address social issues including poverty and supporting people in isolated areas and estates. This joint working will build on the work that has been done to date with charities supporting people in crisis and need. The work of charities reaches out to all</p>		

	<p>communities and GR will support and help to break down perceptions that charities are single identity through supporting outward engagement.</p> <p>Support for 5 poverty related / capacity initiatives of local charities working together to address poverty and social needs in Mid Ulster – St Vincent de Paul across the Mid Ulster region including delivery partners in developing intervention strategies and programs to target urgent need x 3 £6,000, Vineyard Church £4,000 across the Mid Ulster region, Maghera Link £2,000</p> <p>Syrian refugee inclusion programme – In partnership with the charities and the voluntary sector GR officers will seek to engage & integrate Syrian refugees to Mid Ulster.</p>
Revision	<p>The work with the food banks (Council supported foodbanks) are ongoing to maximise partnership and engagement to address poverty through cross community process. There is development of a cross community foodbank network, where they all meet on line weekly to discuss key issues and the hardships that are impacting local communities. The network allows for sharing of valuable resources and to concentrate on how they can support people in the right manner through a sensitive approach and partnership delivery. They are working through a strategic approach with DFC and other key partners to respond to the Covid -19 crisis.</p>

Our Cultural Expression

PROGRAMME NAME					
Our Cultural Expression Celebrating Cultural Diversity of Ulster Scots and Irish			MUC11		
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£30,000				
Total target no. of participants	Direct	3,000	Indirect	2,000	
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
T:BUC Outcome	Cultural diversity is celebrated				

Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	<p>An increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Catholic Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>An increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Protestant Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland.</p>
Programme summary information 2020/21	<p>Outcomes to improve upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of people who believe they have a greater appreciation and increased understanding of their own culture and our shared traditions. • Increased belief that culture can play a vital part in continuing to support communities in collaborating together. <p>Reaching out to the wider community through engagement in cultural activities / events including the following (match and partner culture & arts in all activities below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £8,000 - budget and linking with cross border Heritage and cross border literary programme.. Linking Clans of O'Neill and SHHP respectively – engaging 100 people. • £5,000 - Ulster Scots cultural promotion as led by the Ulster Scots Network– 50% partnership with Arts and Culture including language classes, events, conference and Ulster Scots nights. • £3,000 - Irish (TUS, Seachtain Na Gaeilge) – engaging diversity in Irish language and links with diversity including Presbyterian Church and its origins -. • £5,000 - Pipe Band Championships (Cookstown) – engaging people from diverse communities and promoting piping tradition • £3,000 - International Cultural events showing the rich diversity of culture in Mid Ulster and infusing into traditional cultural events • £6000 – Cultural Music in Schools programme. Partnering Canavan School of Music has been working with primary schools in the Cookstown area since 2007 and more recently has extended into the Magherafelt and a smaller number of schools in the Dungannon area, teaching children traditional music skills (guitar, tin whistle, banjo, mandolin and flute). Irish and folk in schools programme (including the International Day of Peace & youth Initiative)

	<p>Multiple organisations linked to cultural events from the piping and comhaltas traditions have come together, facilitating collective performances at community and Council public events. Delivery of the following projects;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Neill projects x 2 linked to heritage weekends • Ulster Scots language and cultural expression programme in partnership with the Ulster Scots Network to include Burns Night/ Ulster Scots appreciation evenings • Irish (TUS/Seachtain Na Gaeilge) outreach programme across Mid Ulster and activities to engage more diverse groups • Annual Pipe Band Championships event in Cookstown, in partnership with RPBANI - 2,000 people attending • Global influences in residents now living across the mid ulster region has led to the promotion and development of a series of cultural events allowing for wider cultural diversity. • Traditional Music in Schools this programme will work with 30 schools teaching traditional music skills and will fund 2 Youth Cultural International day of Peace events. <p>Good Relations officers to engage with the Arts and Culture regarding delivery of the arts and culture strategy to seek to support cultural expression and diversity across the District.</p>
<p>Revision</p>	<p>£6000 – Traditional music sessions in schools continue with Canavan school of Music - The Culture music/language sessions for community are being delivered on line – the mix of Irish traditional and Ulster Scots music– the young people engaged previously continue to be linked in.</p> <p>£5000 – Pipe Band Championship - The piping celebration event may not take place for the next period and this will be reviewed again in December for early 2021. At this time a decision will be made to host a number of online tutorials on piping to expand the provision to young people and wider community.</p> <p>£5,000 Ulster Scots cultural promotion led by the Ulster Scots Network to be reviewed for innovative engagement.</p> <p>£3,000 Irish language promotion to be reviewed for innovative engagement.</p>

	<p>£6,000 International cultural events to be reviewed for innovative engagement. – Heritage and Literary events to be developed through social media platforms concepts being worked on.</p> <p>£5,000 Cultural Events - Comhaltas engaging with the Pipe Bands (based on the Peace IV programme of engagement). Online Outreach project offering tutoring of traditional music instruments engaging groups across Council district in a multitude of musical disciplines allowing for an awareness of cultural differences</p>
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PROGRAMME NAME					
Our Cultural Expression Supporting BME Communities			MUC12		
Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£33,000				
Total target no. of participants	Direct	500	Indirect	2000	
Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.				
Programme summary information 2020/21	Outcomes to improve upon: % increase in targeted work within Section 75 groupings allowing further engagement of marginalised groups within Mid Ulster Good relations Officers will build on the good work delivered to date through STEP, an Tearmann (Traveller Support Group) and the local migrant community groups (East Timorese Community Association, Lithuanian Folk Group, ant The Polish Association), working in partnership to support inclusion and integration of				

	<p>migrants, BME communities and travellers across Mid Ulster. Good Relations Officers continue to liaise with honorary consuls to develop actions and projects that can contribute to good integration at a local level.</p> <p>Project £10,000 BME support</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer will work with partners (STEP and An Tearmann) in the development of programmes and activities to assist in the support for migrants, BME communities and travellers across Mid Ulster to promote and encourage respect for diversity, culture and integration.</p> <p>Project £6,000 Engaging diverse and new communities</p> <p>Develop a series of support programmes that will provide direct support to a number of migrant groups and refugees and asylum seekers now situated within Mid Ulster. Engagement with Honorary Consuls and agencies to engage diverse communities.</p> <p>GR Officers will support the development of community associations / community groups engaging migrant communities within Mid Ulster, to include continuing to work with the Polish Group in Mid Ulster, Local Association of East Timorese, and Syrian refugees.</p> <p>Good relations will work with diverse migrant groups and children and young people to engage in a range of cultural events to bring a diverse element to these across our District throughout the year – engagement with Council and cultural development artists such as ArtsEkta, IGAGU, Gathering Drum, Beyond Skin.</p> <p>The project will include support to migrant groups including East Timorese to manage Brexit, including linkages to Embassies and develop linkages and capacity re advocacy (e.g. groups such as TAIS).</p> <p>Project - £17,000 Support Section 75 groups to participate in an active life within Mid Ulster GR officers will work with a series of marginalised groups including LGBT+, disability groups and Women's groups to encourage more inclusion and equality. Engage partner organisations within these sectors to deliver meaningful programmes that can change attitudes toward the more marginalised within our society.</p>
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	<p>Development of a programme of activities with STEP that engages migrants and BME communities and An Tearmann which will engage the travelling community. Good Relations working groups supporting diversity across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Engage young people in cultural diversity events to bring a new diverse culture experiences</p>
Revision	<p>Our Cultural Expression Supporting BME Communities</p> <p>Project 1 Migrant Support £10,000; STEP will continue with one to one online clinics to support people who require migrant support. They will also host zoom calls with honorary consuls and migrant community leaders which will allow for the sharing of information. Their premise in Coalisland and the Traveller support Belong programme will continue to be delivered, this will be based on appointment only to manage social distancing.</p> <p>Engaging diverse and new communities - to be reviewed for innovative engagement. GR Officers will continue to support migrant communities as required and through the covid 19 crisis.</p> <p>Project 2 £11,000 Support Section 75 groups to participate in an active life within Mid Ulster – GR officers will continue to engage all groups and will review further support in line with social distancing and government guidelines. LGBTQ+, Women's Groups, Disability</p> <p>Project 3 £6,000 Migrant Culture/ Advocacy Support - Engaging development of new Community Associations in the East Timorese/Portuguese population. Dealing with emerging situations.</p> <p>Project 4 £6,000 GR Officers will support the development of community associations/groups engaging migrant communities within Mid Ulster, to include continuing to work with the Polish Group in Mid Ulster, and Syrian refugees. Good relations will work with diverse migrant groups to ensure representation at Local democracy level and ensure connection with embassies is maintained.</p>

Appendix 2

Good Relations July 2020 (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	Ballinderry Shamrocks	Community	Drive in Cinema - Community social activity Covid 19 support	2	£ 3,468.00	£ 1,080.00
2	Desertcreatives	Community	Local Heroes (online workshops with musicians targeting cross communities)	1	£ 1,200.00	£ 1,200.00
						£2280.00

Unsuccessful

Burnvale Community Association	Connecting Our Youth In Crisis	Did not meet minimum threshold
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Bands	Score	%
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90+	100%

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 11 June 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road,
Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke (7.03 pm),
Corry*, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Kerr, Hughes, Kearney,
Milne*, Molloy, Monteith, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Browne**, Head of Tourism
Mr Gordon**, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill**, Head of Parks
Ms Linney**, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance**, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown**, Head of Economic Development
Mr Moffett**, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan**, Head of ICT
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillors Brown*, S McGuigan*, McLean*, S McPeake*

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

D069/20 Apologies

None.

D070/20 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and drew members' attention to Capital Discretionary Grant Award - item 3.1 and Community Development Report – Peace IV additional funding expenditure.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Community Development –

- *Arts Culture & Heritage Community Development Small Grants – 2020-2021 –
Item 36 - Cookstown Community Allotments
Item 131 - Stewartstown Amateur Dramatic Society*

- *Sports Capital Development – item 9 – Cookstown Boxing Club*
- *Small Grants – item 9 – Cookstown Fr Rock's GFC*

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in:

- *Economic Development – LAG*

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in:

- *Capital Discretionary Grant Awards – item 3.1 – Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club Dungannon*
- *Community Development – Sports Capital Development – item 11 – Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club*
- *Community Development – Small Sports Grant Awards – item 17 – Dungannon Thomas Clarke's GFC*
- *Community Development – Strategic Grants – item 8 - Dungannon Gaelic Forum*
- *Culture & Arts – item 3.3 – An Chraobh Rua de Chonradh na Gaeilge and Conradh na Gaeilge Charn Tóchair*

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in:

- *Community Development – Sports Capital Development – item 8 – Coalisland Na Fianna GFC*
- *Community Development – Small Sports Grants – item 7 – Coalisland Na Fianna*
- *Coalisland Community Response*

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in:

- *Community Development – Arts, Culture and Heritage Community Development Small Grants – 2020-21 – item 36 – Cookstown District Orange Lodge No. 3 – Encouraging Community Participation*

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in:

- *Economic Development - ICBAN and LAG.*

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in:

- *Economic Development - LAG and Village Renewal Scheme – Broughderg.*

Councillor Burton declared an interest in:

- *Economic Development – LAG*
- *Capital Discretionary Grant - Caledon Regeneration Partnership*
- *Fivemiletown Corona Virus Group*
- *Community Development – Arts, Culture & Heritage Community Development Small Grants 2020-21 – Bawn Silver Band*

Councillor Milne declared an interest in:

- *Bellaghy Village Regeneration Group*

D071/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Councillors Wilson and Monteith, past Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee for their tremendous work carried

out last year and stated that he looked forward to working with the Deputy Chair, Councillor Black.

He welcomed Mr Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure to his first meeting of the Development Committee and said that he would look forward to working with him.

He advised that Community Development report would now be presented in open business for decision following agenda item 7.

In response to a query regarding Cookstown bypass, the Director of Business and Communities advised that Officers have been in touch with the Department for Infrastructure in relation to arrange and confirm a meeting to progress the matter and when dates and times are made known, this would be reverted back to members.

Councillor Doris raised an issue of concern, which was affecting her area within Derrylaughan and Derrytresk. She referred to the burning of moss and the detrimental effects that this was having on wildlife and the environment. She stated that she had met with a number of locals who advised that in years gone by the burning of moss was carried out in a controlled way.

She proposed that Officers meet with stakeholders and locals to investigate a way that these moss fires can be carried out in a controlled way so protection of wildlife and environment are sustained.

Councillor Clarke said that moss fires were a huge issue within his area also, but were fortunate this year as there were very few outbreaks. He referred back to an evening in May 2010 within his area when a moss fire was started, it created large flumes of smoke throughout the whole countryside and resembled the eruption of the volcano in Iceland.

He said years ago his father would burn a little moss every year to keep it under control and not let it get out of hand, but felt that some of the burning could be related to arson. He suggested that DAERA be consulted on how to proceed in a controlled way as to protect wildlife and the environment.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council the Officers meet with stakeholders and locals of Derrylaughan and Derrytresk area to investigate a way that these moss fires can be carried out in a controlled way so as to protect wildlife and the environment.

Councillor Kerr proposed that the undernoted group be invited to make a presentation to the committee.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Lough Neagh Partnership be invited to a future meeting to provide a presentation on School Lands project in the Kingisland area.

The Chair advised that Lough Neagh Partnership's name would be put on the list to make their presentation to a future meeting.

The Director of Businesses and Communities referred to the moss fires and advised that Officers would investigate NIEA's Policy on Controlled fires and take it forward.

He advised that the Heads of Culture & Arts and Tourism were having a joint meeting with Lough Neagh Partnership and they would progress this forward.

Councillor Wilson raised concern regarding anti-social behaviour on the pathway leading to the Westland Road and Council Offices and stated that something needs to be done to try and discourage this. He said that the PSNI were out all weekend in relation to young people congregating, drinking, and leaving the place a mess with alcohol bottles being left behind.

He stated that residents of the area had been phoning him this evening with concerns as they were aware of him attending tonight's meeting and they want something done to try and prevent this kind of behaviour.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said he knew the area well as it backed onto St Jeans Cottages and that during the summer months there was a history of gatherings in the area and when there was good weather the larger the crowd would be.

The Director of Business and Communities said that he would investigate the matter.

Councillor McNamee advised that if any member wished to raise any issue in Chair's Business, could this done 48 hours in advance as to give him the opportunity make himself known with the topic in case of issues around sensitivity.

Matters for Decision

D072/20 Capital Discretionary Grant

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report and sought approval for Council Capital Discretionary Grant Awards.

Councillor Doris commended the Officers on their work, stating that this was a positive news story, and congratulated Derrylaughan GFC on their wonderful facility within the community.

Councillor Elattar concurred with previous member's comments and said that Ballinascreen were hoping to secure a community hub and was hopeful that this would help towards it.

Councillor Clarke stated that this was substantial support allocated to different areas and said that reading previously through the documents, that a 25 year lease for the Caledon Project was quite a short period of time and the group may not have use for the property after this and felt that a 99 year lease may be more appropriate.

The Head of Community Development advised that the funders criteria was met and also Council criteria and were content re the lease period.

Councillor Ashton said that the Council had only allocated funding of £50,000 to the overall project and that it was a major benefit for a rural village.

Councillor Clarke advised that he had no issue but felt that a longer lease may have been more appropriate.

Councillor Burton stated that Caledon Regeneration Partnership had done a massive amount of work in the past and that the much-needed childcare facility in the area was very welcome. She said that over the last 5 years there were housing developments emerging in the village and surrounding areas and looked forward to the delivery of the project.

Councillor Cuddy stated that a 25-year lease was always a minimum and felt that a 99-year lease was not really needed and said that the three major projects was a good news story and welcomed it.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council Capital Discretionary Grant – to agree the three projects for funding up to £150,000 based on approval of budget by the Policy and Resources Committee.

D073/20 Economic Development - OBFD

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report, which provided an update on key activities as detailed below:

- **TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme 2020**

Councillor Black referred to Village Renewal Scheme – Group 7 and enquired why Innishrush and Tamlaght were not being included when Culnady was.

The Director of Business and Communities said that this would be investigated.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the participation of Mid Ulster District Council in the second call for applications in the TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme 2020, funded by DAERA

- **ICBAN Funding Request (2020/21)**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Hughes and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the:

- (I) Funding request from ICBAN for up to £15,000 from Council's Economic Development Budget (2020/21), to be paid in two equal instalments, subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation (application form, confirmation of match funding, copies of accounts, insurances final report and Progress Updates).
- (II) Release of funding to ICBAN twice yearly in two equal instalments, once Council is in receipt of all documentation requested for each stage (as previously outlined). ICBAN Progress updates to be furnished to future Development Committee meetings.

- **Covid-19 Grant Scheme to Assist Town Centre Businesses**

Councillor Molloy said that he welcomed the opportunity to kick-start the villages and larger towns again and would like to see a central fund set up to support more rural villages. He stated that they are crying out for help in relation to the introduction of social distancing measures and would like to see this being progressed and

Proposed by Councillor Molloy

To accept the proposal with the same project for the urban areas being worked up by Economic Development and presented to DAERA for funding to roll out across the villages. This is to be done at the same time as the DFC proposal.

Councillor Kerr said that he would have concerns once again regarding the five main towns being chosen for the grant scheme and stated that all businesses were facing the same hardships as those in the larger towns. He said that Coalisland was in a fortunate position but felt sorry for those businesses that fell outside the remit and

Proposed by Councillor Kerr

That the Covid-19 recovery grant be made available to all businesses across the Mid Ulster Council area in every town, village and rural area as to protect workers and their jobs.

Councillor Ashton welcomed the development, said it was an opportunity to make good progress, and would support the recommendation in front of members tonight. She said that she would second Councillor Molloy's proposal that the same project for the urban areas is to be worked up by Economic Development and presented to DAERA for funding to roll out across the villages. This is to be done at the same time as the DFC proposal.

She said that this was not the time to object as there were 10 other Councils waiting to get our share, felt that we take this opportunity, and make a bid to DAERA for the rest afterwards.

Councillor Molloy said he was happy to agree to Councillor Ashton's proposal.

Councillor Monteith said that he would have a major issue with this Council making a difference between urban and rural businesses as Covid19 does not discriminate against a business park, rural or urban business and felt that it was not good for this Council to have a grant to exclude certain businesses simply because they fall outside the remit. He said that a considerable number of businesses have already put a substantial amount of expenditure into doing this on their own.

He said that he would second Councillor Kerr's proposal on the grounds that all businesses are included in the scheme so equality is shown.

Councillor Burton said that she concurred with the previous two speakers, that this pandemic has hit all the businesses really hard. She said that small businesses were feeling the threat as much as the larger ones and have put a considerable amount of money into installing Perspex screens and sanitising stations etc.

Councillor Burton enquired if Officers had been in contact with Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce and asked for an update on small retailers availing of the £10k grant, as they have not received any funding yet. She said that the residents and business owners of Fivemiletown felt that they are some way being excluded compared to other areas within Mid Ulster

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said that this has been the criteria set out by the Department for specifically targeted towns and said that he understood that villages should also be included but for now we have to follow the criteria set out.

The Director of Business and Communities said that it was important for members to note that the Council is not launching any programme, only asking for permission to work up towards the programme. He said that a recovery programme was agreed and that discussions would be taking place with Ministers and Departments, with Department of Communities coming forward to support a Town Centre Investment programme. He stated that Department for Communities have been asked to look at the boundaries and if we were successful, it would mean that there would be substantive funding being made available. He said that the additional proposals put before committee tonight made sense and that villages were supported through other means, but would try and devise an approach with DAERA tomorrow as Officers will do their utmost to continue to seek funding to try and help all effected within our community.

Councillor Wilson said that he welcomed the project, but felt that it may be a little too late, as a number of shops had already been revamped. He commended the Officers within Economic Development on their excellent work with groups and businesses, and said that the idea of liaising with DAERA was a first class idea which should be welcomed.

Councillor Doris said that it was good to see £10m being awarded from Department for Communities and asked if there was an opportunity of lobbying the Department for Economy for villages.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the Department for Communities do not have a remit for an area with 5,000 people or less, this falls into the remit of DAERA.

Councillor Molloy enquired about Dungannon Public Realm.

Councillor Cuddy enquired about the earliest date that the call can be made, as there was a need to proceed and not waste time.

The Director of Business and Communities said that there were early discussions with the Department over this last few days and there was a need to treat this in a similar manner to the food parcels.

He said that this was a problem in the town centre, which we had to work through.

Councillor Kearney said that there was a need to get towns and villages moving again as a matter of urgency as Maghera was dying on its feet.

Councillor Monteith stated that the proposal still stands, that this Council was sending a clear proposal and what was said tonight was not on the paper. He said that if a guarantee was given that no business was going to be excluded he would be content.

The Head of Economic Development in reply to Councillor Burton's query regarding Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce advised that contact was made with 100s of businesses throughout Mid Ulster since this pandemic started but couldn't confirm whether Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce was specifically spoken to or not, but reassured the member that if they weren't contacted already, staff would follow up.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that the spruce-up scheme was a disaster with all the paperwork and hoped that this would be a lot smoother.

Councillor Kerr's proposal to include all businesses within Mid Ulster in the grant scheme not just the five major ones was put to the vote:

For 2

Councillor Molloy's proposed to accept the recommendation, plus write to DAERA asking them to consider funding opportunities for other villages and towns not covered by this scheme.

Councillor Monteith referred to licensed premises and advised that at least two-thirds of these fall outside the boundary for the Covid-19 recovery grant.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said that members give Officers the direction and agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments that they should be all included, but we have to work with what is set out in front of us at present.

Councillor Molloy said that it was important that members all work together and felt that the 2 proposals presented should not fly in the face of each other and suggested that the town proposal be worked up with the rest of the businesses falling outside the remit being lobbied for.

Councillor Ashton said that it was important to take what we were being offered now and give Officers the chance of going away and working on a way forward with Officials to try and get secured funding for towns and villages.

The Director of Business and Communities said that it was important to take what was offered to us presently as Officers couldn't dictate to Department on the criteria they have set. He said that Officers would continue to lobby for those businesses, which fall through the loop.

Councillor Monteith said that members should be aware that they were elected representatives, representing their community, and stated that they would be the ones getting it in the neck, not DAERA or Department for Communities. He said that members should not be prepared to leave anyone behind and reminded them of the flack which they received regarding the Public Realm Scheme.

He said that it was paramount that town centre boundaries and villages are looked after also.

Councillor Molloy's proposal was put to the vote again to accept the recommendation with a project for the urban areas being worked up by Economic Development and presented to DAERA for funding to roll out across the villages. This is to be done at the same time as the DFC proposal.

For	12
Against	0

Councillor Molloy's proposal was carried.

Councillor Monteith disputed the resolution and stated that Councillor Kerr's vote was carried as 2 members voted in favour and none against.

The Chair, McNamee advised in his view he did not complete the vote as it was interrupted.

Councillor Molloy confirmed that he did not get the opportunity to finish what he was saying before being interrupted.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that proceedings were carried out accordingly but put Councillor Kerr's proposal to the vote again.

For	2
Against	6

Councillor Molloy's proposal was carried.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve that:

- (I) Council funding be made available from existing Business & Communities budgets for a Covid-19 Grant Scheme to assist Town

- Centre businesses, make internal/external adaptations to their premises to comply with Government's two metre social distancing procedures. Agreement to work up to the scheme, make any necessary funding applications and procure any required goods/services. Furthermore, when the scheme is ready, open the scheme to applications from eligible applicant businesses in Mid Ulster's 5 main towns (ie, Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera). If further funding becomes available, the scheme could be extended to include rural towns and villages.
- (II) A project for the rural areas be worked up by Economic Development and presented to DAERA for funding to roll out across the villages. This is to be done at the same time as the DFC proposal for town centre funding.

- **Economic Development Support to Businesses During Covid-19**

Councillor Kerr said he wanted to reflect what Councillor Burton said earlier regarding Fivemiletown and asked if Economic Development had been in contact with traders from Clonoe and Donaghmore.

Councillor Elattar advised if Economic Development had liaised with 100s of business owners both urban and rural and if anyone was left out this can be followed up.

In response to Councillor Molloy, the Director of Business and Communities advised that the relevant Director would clarify the snagging list for Dungannon in the morning.

In response to Councillor Doris' query, the Director of Business and Communities advised that a meeting with Coalisland Town Forum was being arranged for Monday where an update on Coalisland Public Realm would be provided.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve to note progress.

D074/20 Cot Lane Carpark Lease Agreement

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to formalise a lease agreement between Mid Ulster District and the landowner in respect of the carpark at Cot Lane. Previous agreement dates back to December 2001 between the landowner and Cookstown District Council.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

- (I) Council Officers liaising with the landowner and necessary bodies to formalise a lease agreement for the carpark area on Cot Lane.
- (II) Presenting Legal Agreements and associated LPS valuations, once received for Policy & Resources Committee approval.

D075/20 GOGA 2 Project Plan (2021 -2024)

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to update on the GOGA (Get Out Get Active) 2 Project Plan (2020 – 2024) and sought approval to formalise the partnership between MUDC and Live Active NI to host a funded full time GOGA staff member. This partnership is anticipated to commence on the approval to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will permit Live Active NI to fund and commence employment of the GOGA Officer.

Councillor Doris congratulated Mr Kieran Gordon on his appointment of Head of Leisure and said that she looked forward to working with him in the future. She said that this was a good news story especially for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Councillor Corry concurred with Councillor Doris and said it was encouraging to see this progressing as it showed a representation for the disabled and elderly.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to formalise the partnership between MUDC and Live Active NI via the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that will permit Live Active NI to fund and recruit a full time GOGA Officer.

D076/20 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

- **Council Grants Recommendations for Award and process**

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council Community Grants – funding awards as outlined in appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Elattar commended all the staff involved in the grants and wanted to pass on her congratulations.

Councillor Monteith said that these last 3 months has been really hard on local people, with a considerable number of people coming out and helping who didn't belong to any group or voluntary organisations and these people needed to be championed for putting themselves at risk, with most of them holding down full time employment. He stated that substantive funding had been made available in some areas, but there was little evidence where the money had manifested

He stated that before Covid-19 that an Anti-Poverty Strategy document was going forward and said that it was now vitally important that this be at the forefront of the

community. He said that the document was near completion and asked that this be progressed as people in the community had good ideas and asked that this be an item on the Agenda going forward.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that Officers progress the Anti-Poverty Strategy and this be an item on the Agenda going forward.

Councillor Molloy referring to Strategic Events enquired if cancelled or deferred events would still have secured funding to run their events later in the year.

The Head of Community Development advised that some groups have pulled their events completely and some have deferred until a later date.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee concurred with comments regarding voluntary workers and people on the ground and stated that they should be commended and championed as they were outstanding within their communities.

- **Mid Ulster Advice STEP DFC Funding Uplift Approval**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Hughes and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the issue of funding provided by DFC for specific advice provision, to be monitored direct by DFC.

- **Peace IV Shared Space Capital Project – Approval for Additional Expenditure**

Councillor Elattar said that this would be welcomed by the community within Draperstown is these were delivered.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the additional funding to the shared space capital projects based on agreed design.

- **Community Development**

Members noted update report.

Matters for Information

D077/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 March 2020

Councillor Doris raised the issue funding towards flowers for Stewartstown as they were previously awarded Ulster in Bloom's Most Improved Village last year. She said that this fantastic for good relations as it was a community project. She asked if Officers could investigate this and let her know of the outcome.

Councillor Monteith referred to agreement to sponsor the Mid Ulster Business Awards and stated that it was important if they went ahead that Council's name wasn't linked to this as previously happened with Dalradian.

Councillor Kerr sought an update on the following:

- Progress on Cappagh/Altmore and Drumcairne
- Coalisland Leisure Centre
- Gortgonis Running Track and soccer pitch anticipated re-opening

In response to Councillor Kerr's proposal it was

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that an onsite meeting with Council Officers be arranged for Washingbay Walkway entrance to discuss road safety issues.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation updated Councillor Kerr's queries as follows:

- Progress regarding Cappagh/Altmore had been delayed due to Covid19, but Council would re-engage with Forestry Service.
- Coalisland Leisure Centre – this is still being progressed.
- Gortgonis Running Track – due to re-open again from next Wednesday 17th June.

In response to the query regarding Washingbay Walkway, the Director stated that she would come back to members with a date for a meeting to progress this.

Councillor Doris said that she wanted reassurance that Altmore/Cappagh and Drumcairne projects would be given priority and couldn't understand why the Forestry Service Licences weren't being progressed.

Councillor Doris said she was disappointed that no response was received from Officers regarding Washingbay Walkway concerns.

She said that she welcomed the news of Gortgonis Running Track being re-opened again.

D078/20 Culture & Arts Update Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on activity delivered across Culture and Arts Services during the Covid-19 lock down period and to highlight key issues during this period. The report also highlighted specific events and activities within Culture & Arts Services that is currently being explored by the officer team in maintaining the contact between staff and officer team and customers, visitors, audiences and service users.

Councillor Corry commended Irish Language Officers within Culture and Arts for their magnificent work and online activity in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. She said that she hoped that it would encourage more activity online and considered for the future as to keep people up with the classes.

Councillor Ashton sought clarity in relation to item 3.5 of the report about the relaunch of the Facebook page, Development of Irish Language Site and also the page 55 – Irish in Schools – and enquired if this was mandatory for all schools to be included as some may not want to participate.

Councillor Black referred item 3.3 and said that he was not comfortable with the project name being in Irish as it was hard for him to understand what the project was. He said that in future it would be beneficial to have the project name translated into English. He reiterated that he didn't have an issue with the name being in Irish but would like it translated so that everyone was aware of what the project was.

Councillor Kearney said that it was disappointing for all the children intending to get to the Gaeltacht this year as it was something they were looking forward to.

The Head of Culture & Arts in response to Councillor Ashton's query advised that the development of the "site" referred to in the report was the existing Irish language Facebook page which was the only dedicated channel for the Language. He said that similar facebook pages were operated for the Burnavon and Ranfurly for a number of years now.

Councillor Ashton said that when you looked at it, it seemed like the Irish Language Facebook page and the Council website were like two different proposals coming together and that it was mandatory for all schools to participate in the Irish Language programme.

The Head of Culture & Arts stated that it wasn't a new website and the schools programme was open to those schools wishing to avail of the programme and was not a mandatory requirement.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that involvement in Irish Language activity was voluntary and not forced upon anyone.

The Head of Culture & Arts in response to Councillor Black's query regarding item 3.3 advised that he would take on board his suggestion to translate the project titles in English in addition to Irish.

D079/20 Tourism Department Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Tourism department's current work streams.

Councillor Molloy enquired if there was any update on the anticipated opening of the Dark Skies project.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that discussions were to take place next week. She said that the internal works were complete and at the snagging stage, but was on the radar to open as soon as possible.

Councillor Burton said that it would be remissive of her not to mention the magnificent work which was being carried out by Tourism staff within our community. She said that there was ongoing concern regarding businesses within the border areas like small cafes etc as they were keen to reopen and wanted to commend staff on their expertise

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query regarding five furloughed staff, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that a lot depended on when facilities reopened and direction from the Executive.

D080/20 Leisure and Outdoor Recreation – Covid-19 Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on response from the Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Team to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing engagement and contact with customers and users of Council Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Services.

D081/20 EBA 2020 End of Year Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the 19/20 EBA 2020 programme, in the form of an End of Year Report required by Sport NI so as to authorise the final payment to MUDC.

D082/20 Council Community Support – COVID-19

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the Council's Community Support – Covid-19 response.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised members that the 12 week food box scheme was coming to an end and other options were being looked at. She said that 1075 food boxes were delivered each week and that the Department for Communities would be looking at the continuation of these for people who would have been provided a letter from their GP for another 3 to 4 weeks.

She stated that there was concern around food poverty and this would be supported through Advice NI with benefits and supporting mechanisms being put in place by Department for Communities for the issuing of financial support towards food banks and distributors. Currently work is also being done on funding towards the implementation of a social supermarket.

She advised that the process for moving forward was that the Department for Communities would be issuing letters to those receiving a food box advising them of the end of the food box programme. Council would continue the 'befriending' service.

Councillor Ashton felt Day-care providers were facing huge problems regarding PPE. She said that it would be beneficial if Council could support these providers sourcing or purchasing PPE on their behalf.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation said that she would take the suggestion on board.

In response to Councillor Black's query regarding reopening of public toilets, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that to date no public toilets had reopened and that the Council were taking their guidance from DAERA and would be kept under review.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that when shops reopen on Friday, issues could arise regarding public toilets being closed.

Councillor Burton raised concern about people receiving shielding letters from GPs and said that some patients were not aware that they were classed as 'at risk'. She stated that a lady from Fivemiletown rang the Advice line and was referred to Fermanagh & Omagh District area and by the time it was her turn all the food boxes were already allocated. She commended the Vineyard and the people who supply them for supplying food to vulnerable people and families. She felt that these kind of issues needed addressing as this has arisen through no fault of their own and should get what they were entitled to.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation said there was a lack of clarity at this stage but once the end of June emerges, it may become a lot clearer. She said that she could not provide a definitive answer at this stage as it was the Department for Communities which ran the scheme and the Council carry out their instructions.

Councillor Burton said it was important that this committee realises that these people didn't do anything wrong, but fell through the loop and that the responsibility lays with the Department.

Proposed by Councillor Burton

That going forward it would be paramount that this committee agrees that a robust measure is in place as to protect our vulnerable citizens and receive all the support they are entitled to.

Councillor Monteith concurred with member's comments and said that while we accept that this scheme was worthwhile at the beginning of the Corona Virus pandemic, there were flaws in the system and not acceptable going forward.

He said it was like a postcode lottery as some GPs did not issue shielding letters, some only issued texts and some did nothing at all and once people started to question this, all the food boxes were allocated elsewhere. He said this time around no flaws would be accepted as we are 10 weeks in and 2 weeks from the end and we still are not aware of the situation going forward and clarity was needed. He stressed that there was an onus on elected members to make sure there were no loopholes for vulnerable people who were eligible for support going forward.

He said that it was unacceptable that this system allowed for people to go hungry and if a person can't get a food box there were entitled to, there was a need for Council to

financially bolster groups like the Vineyard to generate the support where it was needed most.

Councillor Monteith said that he would second Councillor Burton's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that going forward it would be paramount that this committee agrees that a robust measure is in place to protect our vulnerable citizens and receive all the support they are entitled to.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in this item as he was a member responsible for the delivery of food boxes.

Councillor Wilson concurred with previous comments and said that he was also aware of vulnerable people with shielding letters not receiving food boxes. He said that the Department for Communities done very well getting the food distributed but felt that more could have been done so that all eligible people received what they were entitled to.

He commended all the volunteers and the staff at MUSA on their hard work to date in making sure all the food boxes were prepared delivered.

Councillor Molloy agreed with previous comments and felt that those which have children were most hard done by. He said that the Department of Education have stated that they would not be responsible for the payment of school meals over the summer and that he was aware of local food banks supplying young families with food and felt that there was a real fear that there would be a huge increase in similar circumstances.

Councillor Kerr agreed with previous comments made and said that this Council needed to grab this by the bullhorns and really the real people who needed it most.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said that there was a need to put pressure on the Department to make sure the vulnerable were supported this time around.

In response to Councillor Molloy's proposal it was

Resolved That it be recommended to Council the importance of a cross over between GPs and the Department so the message gets across and that people were made aware of what they were entitled to.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Molloy 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 D083/20 to D084/20.

Matters for Decision

D083/20 Tender Report for the Appointment of a Contractor to deliver the Mid Ulster Gearing for Growth Programme

Matters for Information

D084/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 March 2020

D085/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.

Report on	<p>1. Proposal Submitted to DAERA for a COVID 19 Support Programme for Rural Businesses in Mid Ulster</p> <p>2. Response from Department for the Economy re Project Stratum</p>
Date of Meeting	9 July 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>Proposal Submitted to DAERA for a COVID 19 Support Programme for Rural Businesses in Mid Ulster To update Members of Mid Ulster Council's proposal to Minister Poots, DAERA for a COVID 19 support scheme for rural businesses in Mid Ulster.</p>
1.2	<p>Response from Department for the Economy re Project Stratum To update Members of response received from Department for the Economy regarding Project Stratum, dated 22 June 2020.</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Proposal Submitted to DAERA for a COVID 19 Support Programme for Rural Businesses in Mid Ulster Further to a request at the June 2020 Development Committee, Members are asked to note at Appendix 1, a letter issued by Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council to Minister Poots, DAERA, seeking financial assistance to deliver a COVID 19 support programme to assist rural businesses in Mid Ulster. This letter complements Council's proposal to DfC seeking assistance for urban businesses in Mid Ulster's 5 large towns.</p>
2.2	<p>Response from Department for the Economy re Project Stratum Members will be aware the Chair of Council's Broadband Working Group, Cllr Clarke, issued a letter to Ms Geraldine Fee, Director Tourism, Telecoms, Minerals and Petroleum Division, Department for the Economy (DfE), on 8 June 2020, seeking an urgent meeting with senior officials from the DfE to update Mid Ulster Council's Broadband Working Group on progress as regards the rollout of Project Stratum.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Proposal Submitted to DAERA for a COVID 19 Support Programme for Rural Businesses in Mid Ulster</p> <p>COVID 19 has hit Mid Ulster particularly hard. Our district is the area most impacted by COVID 19 in Northern Ireland and within the top 10 regions worse impacted in the whole of the UK. In a letter to Minister Poots (Appendix 1), Council seeks urgent financial support from DAERA to fund a COVID 19 rural business support programme in Mid Ulster, to enable rural economy businesses implement a range of interventions to aid their recovery.</p>
3.2	<p>Response from Department for the Economy re Project Stratum</p> <p>The Chair of Council's Broadband Working Group, Cllr Clarke, issued a request to Ms Geraldine Fee, Department for the Economy (DfE) on 8 June 2020, seeking an urgent meeting with Departmental officials to brief Council's Broadband Working Group on progress related to Project Stratum.</p> <p>A response was received from Ms Fee, dated 22 June 2020, advising that as the procurement process has not concluded, it would not be appropriate for the Department to discuss the project at this sensitive time, nor until they are in a position to fully discuss the outcome of this highly competitive procurement process. Ms Fee, therefore, declined to meet Council's Broadband Working Group at this juncture, but added the Department would be willing to meet at the point of contract award.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Officer Time
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members: -</p> <p>Proposal Submitted to DAERA for a COVID 19 Support Programme for Rural Businesses in Mid Ulster</p> <p>Note letter issued by the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council to Minister Poots, dated 15 June 2020, seeking urgent financial assistance from DAERA to fund a COVID 19 rural business support programme in Mid Ulster.</p>

5.2	<p>Response from Department for the Economy re Project Stratum</p> <p>Note response from Ms Geraldine Fee, Director Tourism, Telecoms, Minerals and Petroleum Division, Department for the Economy, dated 22 June 2020, regarding Project Stratum.</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Letter to Minister Poots, DAERA (dated 15 June 2020)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Response from Department for the Economy, re Project Stratum (dated 22 June 2020)</p>



15 June 2020

Mr Edwin Poots MLA
Minister of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscraw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Dear Minister Poots

Mid Ulster District Council – proposal for COVID-19 Rural Business Support Programme

I write to you at a time of crisis within the rural economy, both here in Mid Ulster and across the province. The impact of COVID-19 has been immediate and particularly devastating for our rural businesses here in Mid Ulster. We are the area most impacted by COVID in Northern Ireland and within the top 10 regions worse impacted in the whole of the UK. The stark reality is that many businesses who were forced to close during lockdown simply won't open again. We are talking here about family businesses build up over generations that have held the fabric of our rural areas together, providing jobs and wages to support families and hold communities together.

As a rural Council we have always strived to support our businesses to grow and flourish – your Department has not to be found wanting in helping us do so. Now it is time to help these same businesses survive this crisis. Let me stress this cannot be done by this Council acting alone. For this reason are asking for support from DAERA to deliver an immediate intervention focused on business recovery within the rural economy of Mid Ulster.

Since the beginning of lockdown measures we have been talking and listening intently to our businesses to keep abreast of their emerging concerns and needs. Initially these focused on accessing emergency funds and furloughing staff. Our businesses are now preparing for re-opening - but within a very different business environment to before. We have developed a COVID-19 Business Recovery Plan informed by our business owners which clearly identifies the need to support business navigate into a "new normal".

You will be aware we are currently working with DfC on a support package for businesses within our main towns and we want to replicate this for rural businesses outside of these areas with funding support from DAERA. The number of businesses in Mid Ulster located outside of our main towns is stark. In total we have more than 9,000 VAT registered businesses – over 7,000 are in areas classified as rural. This highlights the scale of the task at hand and all the more reason why immediate action is needed.

We are proposing a COVID-19 capital funding programme specifically targeting all rural based business across the District. The focus of this initiative is on business recovery where funding support of up to £5,000 per business will be made available to business owners for internal and/or external alterations needed to make their premises COVID-19 compliant as per Government Regulations. It would also support businesses with equipment/machinery needed to introduce new business practices that have come to light as a result of lockdown restrictions. Indicatively these works would include:

- Modifying the internal layout of business premises to ensure compliance with Covid19 social distancing protocols (eg, flexi-panels in work areas, building / remodelling works, etc).
- Internal/external Covid-19 signage to promote awareness of social distancing measures in place.
- ICT equipment to facilitate staff working remotely.
- Purchase of Covid-19 items of equipment to allow the business to operate safely and provide reassurance to customers, eg, PPE (hand sanitisers, masks, gloves, visors, high-visibility vests for staff, etc), free-standing hand sanitiser stations, elbow operated taps etc.
- External modifications such as awnings etc, to protect customers who may have to queue to enter business premises.
- Internal/external collection/ delivery points to avoid customers or suppliers having to fully enter the business premises.
- Professional expertise for the business eg, health & safety audits/assessments, drawings/plans required to modify the business to ensure Covid-19 compliance etc.

This list is not exhaustive but captures the requirements across all of our business sectors at this time. We are seeking funding of £1.5m for this programme to support Mid Ulster's rural businesses.

There are three fundamental requirements that need to be reflected within this programme.

- Firstly it needs to offer 100% funding with no match fund requirement from applicants. Cash flows are already depleted within businesses so to have full effect this programme should offer full cost recovery.
- Secondly, the application process needs to be simple and non-bureaucratic. This does not imply that probity and good governance be set aside but a balance must be struck in order for quick delivery.
- Thirdly and most importantly is timing. Making this support available as soon as possible will make the difference between businesses deciding to close permanently or begin to rebuild.

These are extraordinary times which need an innovative and immediate response. We call on DAERA to help us pull together the support programme outlined above which will make a significant positive impact on the long-term recovery of the rural economy here in Mid Ulster.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Chair

CC: Mr Paul Donnelly – Director for Rural Affairs, DAERA.

APPENDIX 2



Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 9052 9577
email: geraldine.fee@economy-ni.gov.uk

Councillor Sean Clarke
Chairperson
Mid-Ulster District Council Broadband Working Group
Circular Road
DUNGANNON
BT71 6DT

22 June 2020

Dear Sean

MEETING WITH MID-ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL IN RELATION TO PROJECT STRATUM

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2020 seeking a meeting to update the Broadband Working Group on the progress of Project Stratum.

You will be aware that the evaluation for Project Stratum is well underway and due to conclude in the next few weeks. The procurement will then enter its final phase of corporate governance, and the project team continues to work to an ambitious timeline that anticipates contract award in late September 2020.

In these circumstances, it would not be appropriate for the Department to discuss the project at this sensitive time, and not until such time that we are in a position to fully discuss the outcome of this highly competitive procurement process. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to meet with the Broadband Working Group, at this juncture.

Telecoms officials have engaged with all councils at key milestones in the project. We fully intend to do so again at the point of contract award. I would be very happy to meet with the Broadband Working Group at that time.

Finally, can I ask you to note that, when corresponding with government departments at this time, it is recommended that email be utilised, as government offices are largely closed. This will ensure that your correspondence arrives with the intended recipient as speedily as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Geraldine Fee'.

GERALDINE FEE

Director
Tourism, Telecoms, Minerals & Petroleum Division

Report on	EBA 2020 Strand 4 Small Grants Programme
Date of Meeting	9th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore, Leisure Development Manager (Acting)

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	<p>To provide information on the 19/20 EBA 2020 Strand 4 Small Grants Programme, in the form of an End of Year Report required by Sport NI so as to authorise the final payment to MUDC.</p> <p>Funding received from Sport NI 19/20 - £32k.</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	Every Body Active 2020 - A four year lottery funded programme aimed at getting people more active more often through sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland. Stand 4 provides funding for Small Grants to sporting clubs.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Sport Northern Irelands investment is amalgamated with MUDC Small Sports Grant to bring a total funding pot of £65K+</p> <p>Sports clubs can apply for funding to target participation among traditionally underrepresented groups which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and girls (specifically aged 14-25) • People with a disability • Those living in areas of greatest social need.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Funding received from Sport NI 19/20 - £32k. Sport Northern Irelands investment is amalgamated with MUDC Small Sports Grant to bring a total funding pot of £65K+
	Human: N/A

	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report and the EBA 2020 Strand 4 Small Grants Programme end of year report for 2019/20
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A - EBA 2020 Strand 4 Small Grants Programme end of year report for 2019/20



EVERY BODY ACTIVE 2020: STRAND FOUR-SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME END OF YEAR REPORT 2019-20

Sport Northern Ireland's '**Every Body Active 2020-Small Grants Programme**' has reached the end of the funding year. Sport Northern Ireland Requires your organisation to complete an End of Year Report to note the programme outputs and to learn from challenges and lessons encountered.

Please complete this End of Year Report 2019-20 and return to Sport NI by **Friday 29 May 2020**.

Sport Northern Ireland have provided you with the targets as per your agreed Letter of Offer but should you require any assistance please do not hesitate to contact your Sport NI Development Officer.

Examples of analytics from social media, project level evaluation(s), research, newspaper, web and multi-media can also be submitted as part of this report to help demonstrate the impact of your work.

Your completed End of Year report should be signed by 2 authorised individuals.

Name of organisation:	Mid Ulster District Council
Contact Name:	Leigh Gilmore
Contact e-mail:	leigh.gilmore@midulstercouncil.org
Contact number:	028 8676 7135

EBA 2020-Strand 4-Small Grants Programme for Mid Ulster District Council 2019-20

Target Figures

Please see below the KPIs for the programme as detailed in your agreed Letter of Offer.

Council Area	Original LOO	Additional funding amount (in-year uplifts)	Revised LOO amount	Total Number of Participants	Total Number of Women and Girls	Total Number of people living in Areas of Social Need	Total number of participants with a disability / Long term illness.
Mid Ulster District Council	£31,701.85	N/A	N/A	1,218	609	365	183
Actual	65335.00	0.00	N/A	7108	2513	1551	399
RAG	Green			Green	Green	Green	Green

Programme Overview

Please complete the table below to give an overview of how Sport NI funding was used. This should match your final claim

<i>No. of applications received</i>	78
<i>No. of eligible applications received</i>	69
<i>No. of applications scoring above quality threshold (Funded)</i>	69
<i>No. of applications scoring above quality threshold (Not funded)</i>	69
<i>No. of applications below quality threshold</i>	9
<i>Applications received by sport (i.e. Rugby x6, Hockey x3 etc.)</i>	Hurling / Camogie x7 Sailing / Rowing x1 GAA x27 Athletics x1 Football x14 Bowling x4 Rugby x2 Boxing x3 Tug of War x 2 Cycling x3 Golf x1 Shooting x4 Tennis x1 Equestrian x1

	Handball x1 Martial Arts x1 Table Tennis x1 Triathlon x1 Community Group x2
<i>Applications that were funded by sport (i.e. Rugby x6, Hockey x3 etc.)</i>	Hurling / Camogie x6 Sailing / Rowing x1 GAA x21 Athletics x1 Football x14 Bowling x4 Rugby x2 Boxing x3 Tug of War x 2 Cycling x2 Golf x1 Shooting x4 Tennis x1 Equestrian x1 Handball x1 Martial Arts x1 Table Tennis x1 Triathlon x1

<i>Expenditure</i>	£65335.00
<i>Grants</i>	£65335.00
<i>Management Costs</i>	£0.00
<i>Total</i>	£65335.00

Breakdown by successful applicant

Please populate the table below to evidence the information/KPIs from the projects that were funded.

Name of Club/Organisation	Amount Funded	Project Title	Total Participants	Project Summary	Total Number of Participants	Number of Females	Number of People with a Disability	Number of People living in areas of Greatest Social Need
Ballinascreen Camogie Association	£1,500	Girls Physical Literacy Programme	700	0	650	350	35	0
Ballyronan Boat Club	£600	Family sailing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bc Wolves	£900	Expanding Basketball	200	0	200	30	8	0

Brocagh Emmetts GFC	£1,350	Bring Community Together	81	0	81	29	0	0
Church Island Runners	£725	Church Island Run and couch to 5k	0	0	0	0	3	0
Clogher Eire Og GAC	£960	Health/ Fitness and volunteers	210	0	150	75	0	0
Cookstown Fr Rocks GFC	£1,500	Superheros Physical Literacy Programme	800	0	800	400	100	235
Cookstown Youth FC	£1,500	A celebration event on the last night of our Football Development Centre in May	300	0	250	50	30	170
County Tyrone Super Cup NI	£1,050	football for Tyrone for youth inclusion 2019	0	0	150	0	0	0
Desertmartin Football Club	£900	Looking Ahead	0	0	70	12	6	0
Desertmartin Parish Church Bowling Club	£1,050	Bowling to a higher level	70	0	70	30	10	0
Dungannon Bowling Club	£735	Diamond Jubilee of the Bowling Green	35	0	35	0	11	11
Dungannon Football Club trading as Dungannon Rugby Football Club	£1,200	Developing Players for the future	385	0	80	20	20	0
Dungannon Swifts FC	£1,200	Swifts Active Sporting Chances	50	0	50	25	5	20
Dungannon Thomas Clarkes GFC	£1,160	Strength & Conditioning	114	0	100	0	0	100

Dungannon United Youth CIC	£1,200	DUY Coach Development	350	0	350	50	10	150
Edendork GAC	£1,200	Mini Mals	150	0	150	65	10	80
Emmets GAC Slaughtneil	£1,200	Sports Participation Running Costs for Teams	550	0	0	0	0	0
Erins Own Lavey GAC ("Lavey GAC")	£1,350	Lavey GAC - Summer Scheme	120	0	120	55	0	0
GAA/Sports For All	£750	Sports For All Days Out & Equipment	20	0	20	0	20	20
Galbally ABC	£600	All Inclusive Sports in Galbally	25	0	25	25	0	0
Galbally Pearses GAA	£900	Pearses Easter Camp	80	0	80	0	0	0
Greenhill tug of war club	£600	Pollytunnel and lights	0	0	0	0	0	0
Island Wheelers Cycling Club	£1,050	Island Wheeler Development	100	0	100	0	0	0
Killymoon Golf Club Juniors	£750	Junior Golf Development	60	0	60	10	0	0
Killymoon Rangers FC	£750	Football for youth Inclusion 2019	20	0	20	0	0	0
Killymuck Clay Pigeon Association	£750	Community at Heart	60	0	60	6	2	10
Leo`s boys and girls tug of war club	£750	re-locating our training facilities	30	0	30	0	0	0
Logues Hill CPC	£600	Promoting participation of young	24	0	24	12	0	0

		shooters, female shooters and persons with a disability.						
Maghera Strollers FC	£600	Match Day Activities (Football Pitch Hire & Referee costs)	30	0	30	0	3	20
Magherafelt Ladies Outdoor Bowling Club	£590	Promote Ladies Bowling Within MUDC	111	0	11	11	2	0
Magherafelt Reds FC	£400	Training equipment, pitch cover and match kit	25	0	25	0	0	0
Magherafelt Sky Blues	£1,050	Car parking - pick up and drop off facilities	310	0	310	23	0	0
Magherafelt tennis club	£750	parent and child event	43	0	43	23	0	0
Mark Heagney ABC	£600	The Next level for ALL !	20	0	20	20	0	0
Michael Davitt GAC	£1,200	U14 Boys Development	25	0	25	0	0	0
Mid-Ulster Showjumpers	£600	Mum's Turn	50	0	50	50	5	5
Moneymore Clay Pigeon Club	£750	Forward to the next level	30	0	30	10	8	15
Moneymore GAC	£1,350	Moneymore Health and Well-being Challenge Event 2019	600	0	600	300	35	0

Moortown St Malachys GAC	£1,350	Ladies Involvement Project	150	0	150	0	12	150
Moy Tir na Og	£600	Moy Indoor Bowling Club	14	0	14	5	0	0
Moyola Clay Target Club	£750	Foward to success	41	0	41	8	8	10
Moyola Park AFC	£1,200	Fitness and Football Equipment Grant	110	0	30	11	0	0
Naomh Colm Baile na Scrine GLC	£1,350	Come Try It Summer Camp & Coach Development	250	0	150	0	0	0
Naomh Treasa Camogie Club Dungannon	£1,170	Indoor and Outdoor Coaching Programme 2019	100	0	100	0	0	35
Newmills Football Club	£1,050	Club Running Costs for Season 2019/20	50	0	50	0	0	0
O'Donovan Rossa GAC (Camogie)	£900	Rossa Camogie Youth - Camogie Games & Summer Camp	82	0	82	82	0	0
Pomeroy Plunketts GAC	£1,200	Gaelic Games FUNdamentals	100	0	100	50	6	100
Pomeroy Plunketts Handball	£750	Introduction to Handball	100	0	100	50	6	100
Pomeroy Plunketts Ladies GFC	£900	Gaelic for Mothers and Others	100	0	100	50	6	100
Rainey Old Boys RFC	£1,200	Rainey Rugby Academy	350	0	125	40	0	0

Ren Bu Kan Judo Club	£1,350	Judo - Beginners to Mat	105	0	105	35	0	0
Rossa Ladies Football Magherafelt	£1,050	Ladies Gaelic Football	80	0	80	80	0	0
Royal British Legion Football Club	£1,050	Train and play	80	0	80	0	0	0
St Annes Table Tennis Club	£600	St Anne's Table Tennis Coaching Camp 2019	50	0	50	25	5	45
St Finbarrs Hurling Club	£900	St Finbarr Hurling	90	0	90	30	5	30
St Johns ABC	£1,050	Administrative and running costs - St Johns ABC	60	0	60	20	4	0
St Malachy's GAC Castledawson	£1,050	Youth Games provision	212	0	212	102	10	0
St Mary's Bowling Club Killeeshil	£165	St Mary's Bowling Club Killeeshil 2019 Activities	0	0	0	2	0	0
St Patricks Camogie Club	£1,050	Purchase of New Training Equipment and to provide indoor training at local facility	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Patricks GAC Loup Co Derry	£1,050	Loup Couch to 5k Running Event / 5 Mile Run commencing in April	50	0	50	20	5	0

		2019 for 8 weeks and ending with 5K Fun Run / 5 Mile Event on 22nd June 2019						
St. Brigids (Naomh Brid) Camogie Club Brocagh	£1,200	2019 Season Club Participation and Development Initiative	123	0	80	80	0	0
ST. MICHAELS GAC LISSAN	£1,200	FITNESS & WELLBEING COURSE	70	0	70	35	0	0
St Martin's GAC, Desertmartin	£360	Health and Sports Development	0	0	0	0	0	0
Termoneeny Cycling Club (TCC)	£750	TCC Summer Cycle/Spin 2019	15	0	15	0	0	0
Tobermore Youth Football Accademy	£900	Youth Community Development	50	0	50	10	8	0
Tri Limits	£720	Tri A Bit More	35	0	35	25	1	25
Tulach Og Hurling and Camogie Club	£1,050	Hurling and Camogie Coaching programme	144	0	120	72	0	120
Upperlands Cross Community Football Club	£750	Football Funding day	400	0	100	0	0	0
TOTALS	£65335.00		8789	0	7108	2513	399	1551

Please highlight at least three participant case studies, which will help illustrate the impact of your projects in contributing to the Outcomes of Every Body Active 2020-Small Grants Programme.

To provide us with the best picture of your projects, Sport NI will use OBA (Outcome Based Accountability) to represent the successes and the outputs. Please structure your response using the following headings:-

Background

- *Provide some context to the gap the programme fills, identify any target groups to be engaged through the programme*

How much did we do?

- *How many workshops/sessions/events were carried out? What did it involve?*

How well did we do it?

- *What in particular stood out as a success in the programme? Any recommendations for the future of this programme?*

Is anyone better off?

- *Quotes from participants? Any improvements in physical health, confidence etc.? Social benefits to physical activity?*

What next?

- *What will the future of this programme look like? What will change? When will it next run?*

Case study 1 – Ballinascreen Camogie Association

Background

- *We will work with the coaches within our club and the teachers in our 4 feeder Primary Schools to focus on developing the physical literacy skills of the young girls (Primary 1 - Primary 7) in our Parish. The club will train up the coaches and teachers in the Physical Literacy Programmes, who will then deliver it continuously throughout the year. The programme has been designed as an easy to use resource for kids, teachers and coaches to develop physical literacy. It is a progressive journey through basic fundamental movement. The programme can be used as a standalone PE class or coaching session. The girls progress will be monitored at both the school and at the club.*

How much did we do?

- *Beneficiaries - 350 female pupils - 35 with a disability. Following the training, they will then begin to roll out the programme on a daily basis to Primary 1 - Primary 7's, both during and after curriculum time and in the evenings at our club. All the pupils will have their progress tracked by both teachers and coaches. Parents will also be encouraged to carry out some of the movement skills at home. Once a child has successfully achieved one module, they will then receive guidance and instruction from their teachers/coaches to move to the next level.*

How well did we do it?

- *The 350 female pupils, of whom an estimated 10% have a disability, directly benefit from being part of this inclusive programme, as well as the 300 male pupils. The females benefited the most as it is their coaches (ie Ladies Camogie & Football) also underwent the training so they can develop the girls further at the club.*

Is anyone better off?

- *Ballinascreen Camogie Association are working with all the children and their parents from all four Primary Schools in the Parish, actively engaging with the whole community, both young and old.*

What next?

- *The plan for the programme is to continue roll the programme out to the next age group.*

Case study 2 – Moneymore GAC**Background**

- *A Health and Well-being focused challenge for the whole community of Moneymore and the surrounding areas of Desertmartin, Lissan, The Loup, Magherafelt, Drumullan and Coagh .*

How much did we do?

- *The Health and wellbeing programme involved – Step Challenge, Biggest Loser, Fittest Family, Kids 2K, Adult 5K, Health and Well Being sessions including cookery demonstrations, nutritional advice, benefits of exercising, smoking cessation, drugs and alcohol advice services and mental health advice, bereavement services,*

How well did we do it?

- *The project engaged the community into taking part in exercise in a fun way through challenges geared to invite all including families. The information sessions inform people across the community of a number of ways they can improve their health and wellbeing, as well as informing them of mental health and other health and well being services available locally.*

Is anyone better off?

- *Young people experienced a sense of belonging. Older people felt less isolated through participation and volunteering.*

What next?

- *This project provide opportunities for help both young and old people to stay involved through participation and volunteering. to organise, plan and deliver the project. The project gives them that opportunity to meet with others make friends through participation.*

Case study 3 - Moortown St Malachys GAC

Background

- *The project involves getting more women and girls involved in playing gaelic football and improving their health and wellbeing through an enhanced training programme.*

Moortown GAC have had youth team for a number of years but until recently did not have an adult ladies team. This meant that there was a complete cessation of activities for girls when they reached 16 or 17.

How much did we do?

- *The entire project consists of season long programme for girls and women aged 12 years upwards throughout 2019/20. It involved health and wellbeing activities including couch to 5K, pilates sessions preseason training and challenge matches.*

How well did we do it?

- *Overall numbers exceed 150 all from the Ardboe Ward, which experiences high social need and social isolation in the Mid Ulster Council area. In addition to involvement participants were cardiac screened.*
- *It encouraged women and girls to engage in gaelic football, to participate in training and fitness programmes and to socialise.*

Is anyone better off?

- *Women and girls aged 16+ now have a range of locally based physical activities to participate in.*

What next?

- *Moortown St Malachys is in the process of finishing a new £400,000 Community Hub. This is for the use of the whole community and includes health and wellbeing, educational, social and advice programmes as well as physical activities. This enables the community to engage in more activities. Participation has increased greatly with the decision to have an adult ladies team and the new community hub will further increase participation.*

Were there any of the KPI's that you found difficult to deliver on? Please provide a brief explanation. Include any relevant details / reasons why delivery was challenging e.g. Covid 19

No

Please tell us, in your opinion, what worked well during the programme.

MUDC Grants programme is now well established within our local sporting associations and applications numbers continue to grow. The additional funding provided under EBA2020 Strand 4 is a welcome addition to the overall fund.

Please tell us about any issues or challenges that you faced during the programme e.g. Covid 19

N/A

Have you learned any lessons from the programme, and if so, will this change how you work in the future?

N/A

I confirm that the information in this document and any material provided in support of it is true and correct. I confirm that I am duly authorised and empowered to sign this document.

Name: Kieran Gordon

Signature: Kieran Gordon

Date: 1/06/20

Position / Job Title: Head of Service Leisure

I confirm that the information in this document and any material provided in support of it is true and correct. I confirm that I am duly authorised and empowered to sign this document.

Name: Leigh Gilmore

Signature: Leigh Gilmore

Date: 1/06/20

Position / Job Title: Leisure Development Manager (Acting)

Report on	Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2020/21
Date of Meeting	9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Member approval for the Leisure Service Improvement Plan for 2020-21.
2.0	Background
2.1	The social and economic disruption caused by Covid 19 had had a significant impact on our District, our citizens, our services and the way we provide them. Effectively planning ahead will determine how well the Leisure Service adapts to the challenges and opportunities within the current and post Covid 19 environments, as lockdown restrictions are anticipated to ease, social distancing measures are relaxed and service provision gradually recovers, transitions and adjusts to the “new” normal.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The 2020/21 Leisure Services Improvement Plan is anticipated to be dynamic, flexible and responsive to the turbulence and volatility of the internal and external environments arising out of the Covid 19 pandemic. As such, this plan will be a living document which represents the current and planned activity but may need reviewed and/or adjusted in response to any legislative changes arising from any future NI Executive and/or Public Health measures.</p> <p>The 2020-21 budget for all departments has been agreed. However, responding to the impact of COVID-19 may have an impact on planned expenditure during this financial year, with some areas within leisure anticipating an overspend and/or underspend. In relation to income, as a minimum, little or no income is anticipated to be received within leisure during the first 4-6 months of the financial year as a result of Covid-19 and facilities being shut. It is not yet known what the true impact will be until centres start to re-open but may be under restricted measures as a result of social distancing.</p>

	<p>Leisure will aim to provide quality Sport and Leisure facilities offering recreational and sporting opportunities both indoor and outdoor. It will aim to provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to improve their health and wellbeing through physical and recreational activities.</p> <p>By listening to stakeholders, Leisure Services will aim to provide innovative services in safe, quality environments in the most efficient and effective ways using highly trained, engaged staff.</p> <p>Leisure Services is part of the Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Department and is made up of the following service areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Centres including facilities, classes, courses and activities. • Sports Development including disability hub, programmes and grants • Sport including facilities including outdoor facilities, bowling greens and golf centre <p>This plan helps ensure that Leisure Services within Mid Ulster District Council are accountable, planned and that performance and improvement are a key element of service delivery. It will also help deliver the Council's mission and strategic outcomes set out in Council's Corporate and Community Plans. The plan also identifies challenges, opportunities, customers' needs and risk management implications.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Service improvement plans projected delivery within allocated budgets, or subject to available alternative funding streams. Budgets subject to variations/amendments due to Covid-19 budget reallocations.</p>
	<p>Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Service Improvement Plan outcomes</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Noted with in the Service Improvement Plan Section 3.3.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>In conjunction with Council Policy and procedures.</p>

	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>In conjunction with Council Policy and procedures.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to approve the Leisure Services - Service Improvement Plan for 2020/21.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A - Leisure Service Improvement Plan for 2020-21.</p>



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Leisure Service of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation

SERVICE PLAN - 2021 / 22

Date

Consulted within staff team

16/06/2020

Discussed & signed off by Director

24/06/2020

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2.3	Service Work Plan – 2020/ 21	
3.0	OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS: RURAL NEEDS AND RISK	
3.1	Equality Duty	
3.2	Rural Needs Duty	
3.3	Risk	

1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Service

Leisure will provide quality Sport and Leisure facilities offering recreational and sporting opportunities both indoor and outdoor. It will provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to improve their health and wellbeing through physical and recreational activities.

By listening to our stakeholders we will provide innovative services in safe, quality environments in the most efficient and effective ways using highly trained, engaged staff.

The following leisure facilities provide indoor and outdoor leisure services as above:

- Cookstown Leisure Centre
- Mid Ulster Sports Arena
- Fairhill Bowling Green and Tennis Courts
- Football Pitches and Pavilions

- Dungannon Leisure Centre
- Drumcoo Playing Fields including Bowling Green
- Gortgonis Centre and Playing Fields
- Football Pitches and Pavilions

- Greenvale Leisure Centre
- Meadowbank Sports Arena
- Maghera Leisure Centre
- Tobermore Golf Centre
- Moneymore RC
- Football Pitches and Pavilions

In addition, the service is responsible for Sports Development, Everybody Active 2020 (Sport NI funded Sports Development Programme) Macmillan Move More (funded programme) Physical Activity Referral (Public Health Agency funded programme) and general business development across the leisure service.

1.2 Responsibilities

Leisure and Sport contributes to a range of wider social, economic and cultural needs by improving community health and well-being through interaction with the Development Committee of the Council. The service can contribute to reducing inequalities in child poverty and social deprivation as well as ensuring equality of opportunity. With that in mind, Leisure provides quality facilities, programmes and services to our citizens and visitors.

The section is specifically responsible for the following functions:

- Leisure Centres including facilities, classes, courses and activities.
- Sports Development including disability hub, programmes and grants
- Sport including facilities including outdoor facilities, bowling greens and golf centre

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
• Internal: Elected Members
• Internal: Staff
• Internal: Other Council functions such as Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Property Services, Technical Services, Community Services, Human Resources, Finance, Legal Services, ICT, Marketing and Communication
• External: Customers, visitors/tourists
• External: Partners in Projects and Service Delivery
• External: Community/Voluntary Organisations such as Sports Clubs, Youth Groups etc
• External: Public Health Agency
• External: Sport NI
• External: SELB
• External: Macmillan Move More
• External: Local Schools/Education Authority
• External: Health Trusts

1.4 Performance Overview in 2019/20

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2019-2020). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

2019/20 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
User satisfaction and mystery visits survey.	Completed
Leisure capital projects – Dungannon LC repairs/ refurbishment	Project is complete and facility was operational prior to year-end and Covid 19 pandemic
Swim Programme implemented.	Implemented with ongoing monitoring
Funding for Move More co-ordinator from McMillan Cancer.	Recruitment completed and post holder now in place
Consolidate Management and TUS working group with regional trade union representatives.	Established and meetings held on a regular basis

Implement proposals for future leisure delivery model	Leisure review completed. Commenced delivery of agreed model including review and implementation of new opening hours within leisure facilities
To address all anomalies and align all job descriptions and terms and conditions within Leisure Services.	Terms and conditions and job descriptions completed for all staff up to leisure facility management level with 4 posts remaining
Implement App for Leisure facilities.	Completed but launch paused due to Covid 19
Membership options aligned	Completed but launch paused due to Covid 19
Implement investment programme for leisure equipment	Year 1 completed (Maghera LC fitness equipment and Greenvale LC spin bikes) but launch paused due to Covid 19
Implement appropriate Leisure Marketing Strategy and action plans for facilities, programmes and events	Social media evaluation completed but launch paused due to Covid 19

2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2020/21

The 2020-21 budget for all departments has been agreed. However, responding to the impact of COVID-19 may have an impact on planned expenditure during this financial year, with some areas anticipating an overspend and/or underspend. In relation to income, as a minimum, little or no income is anticipated to be received during the first 4-6 months of the financial year as a result of Covid-19 and facilities being shut. It is not yet known what the true impact will be until centres start to re-open but may be under restricted measures as a result of social distancing.

The working arrangements for the entire workforce have also been affected by COVID-19.

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

2.1 Budget 2020/21*

Service Budget Headings	£
Cookstown Leisure Centre Total	£870,857
Dungannon Leisure Centre Total	£958,078
EBA 2020 Total	£492
Gortgonis Citizen Centre Indoor Total	(£11,179)
Gortgonis Playing Field Total	£58,376
Greenvale Leisure Centre Total	£1,016,729
Maghera Leisure Centre Total	£581,343
Meadowbank Sports Arena Total	£243,506
Mid Ulster Sports Arena Total	£177,292
Moneymore Recreation Centre Total	£56,451
Outdoor Sport Cookstown Total	£19,362
Outdoor Sport Dungannon Total	£122,121
Outdoor Sport Magherafelt Total	£23,126
Sports Development Total	£190,226
Sports Grants - Capital Total	£165,000
Strategic Sports Grants Total	£88,000
TGDR - Tobermore Golf Driving Range Total	£27,173
Gross Budget	£7,973,834
Income	(£3,386,881)
Net Budget for 2020-21	£4,586,953

* Budget is subject to review and in year service savings that may be required to reflect the financial pressures identified above.

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2020/21

Organisational Chart detailed within Appendix.

Staffing	No. of Staff
Head of Service	1 FT
Managers	2 FT
Centre Managers	5 FT
Duty Managers	12 FT
Remaining Team	74 FT 142 PT
Casuals	89
Total	94 FT 142 PT 89 Casuals

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2020/21

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form the Service Work Plan for 2020-21. This is a high-level capture of the Service activities as well as some improvement undertakings which the service will focus on throughout 2020-21. The Plan links to the Council's new 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes:

The Leisure Service Work Plan for 2020/21 consists of three main areas of action:

- Normal Operations
- Implementation of the leisure service review objectives and delivery
- Capital projects for Gortgonis, Maghera LC and Mid Ulster Sports Arena

It is anticipated that this year will bring additional issues but also opportunities to consider and progress as part of the Council's response to COVID-19, which can be summarised below:

Challenges

Legislation

- Social distancing will have an impact on the way all services can be delivered effectively in the future, and new models of service provision and engagement should be explored.

Community

- The closure of leisure facilities may have a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of citizens and customers and may lead to increased levels of social isolation, anti-social behaviour and mental health issues.

Resources

- Loss of income and higher net costs across all leisure facilities.
- The anticipated economic downturn in the post COVID-19 environment may have a negative impact on leisure centre memberships.
- It is not possible for all employees to work remotely, due to the nature of their jobs.

Service Provision

- The service may not be in a position to meet the current corporate objectives and community planning outcomes around health and wellbeing until full services resume.
- Capital projects have been delayed.

- The Council may not meet the targets agreed in the Letters of Offer received by various funders, such as the Public Health Agency, Macmillan and Sport NI.

Opportunities

Community

- There may be a renewed emphasis on health, wellbeing, community cohesion and social capital in the post COVID-19 environment.

Resources

- Some employees can work remotely which provides opportunities for future flexible working arrangements.
- Some employees have been re-deployed successfully which may present opportunities for upskilling and multi-skilling in the future.

Service Provision

- The provision of virtual physical activity programmes provides new, alternative mechanisms to engage customers in sport and leisure and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Hosting virtual meetings in the future may provide an alternative way to meet and conduct business.

Customer / Stakeholder Needs and Expectations

- The expectations of citizens and customers is likely to change, in relation to physical and psychological social distancing, hygiene standards and a willingness to engage and participate in Council activity and services.
- The expectations of key stakeholders, including community groups and sports clubs are likely to change, and they may require more support and leadership from the Council and community planning partners in the future to sustain their activities.

Contingency Planning / Risk Management

- A prolonged pandemic or a potential second wave will have an impact on whether the service can recover from COVID-19 during the 2020-21 financial year.

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2020/21

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	e.g. Write service objective here			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 4.2 Health & Wellbeing - We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.</i>	<i>Service Delivery: 2.1 We will improve services for our citizens through the development and delivery of an innovation agenda</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Provide Indoor & Outdoor leisure services taking in account impact of Covid 19 pandemic. Due to the current position where a re-opening date is not yet defined, it is anticipated the below actions will take into consideration activity during Oct 20-March 21 and also taking into account potential for restriction of activity numbers due to social distancing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver leisure recovery plan as we move through the NI Executive Roadmap to Recovery • Deliver Health and wellbeing programmes. • Deliver facility activity programmes and promotions. • Maintain quality service provision. • Develop the role of leisure in the health agenda through enhanced partnerships with PHA/Health Trusts/Charities 	From April 2020 to March 2021	Head of Leisure and Leisure Management Team	Better access to indoor recreational facilities and improved health and wellbeing for children and adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 800,000 users* • Mystery visitor average ratings over 85% • 80 programmes* <p><i>*Figures reduced as a result of Covid 19 Pandemic</i></p>

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Provide Indoor & Outdoor leisure services taking in account impact of Covid 19 pandemic. Due to the current position where a re-opening date is not yet defined, it is anticipated the below actions will take into consideration activity during Oct 20-March 21 and also taking	From April 2020 to March 2021	Head of Leisure and Leisure Management Team	Better access to indoor recreational facilities and improved health and wellbeing for children and adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of social media interactions. • Number of online enquiries and engagement with online platforms.

into account potential for restriction of activity numbers due to social distancing.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new member signs ups versus cancellation (positive net member gain).
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	e.g. write service objective here			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 4.2 Health & Wellbeing - We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.</i>	<i>Service Delivery: 2.3 We will enhance our financial performance & strength, identifying opportunities to increase income & reduce deficits, as well as to leverage external funding</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Progress with implementation of the Leisure Review and seek to complete the recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address all anomalies and align all job descriptions and terms and conditions within Leisure Services. Support and facilitate a working group comprising Management and trade union sides 	From April 2020 to March 2021	Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation and Director of Organisational Development Head of Leisure and Head of Leisure	Modernise Leisure Services to be able to embrace new opportunities and be the best Council provider of Leisure Services that it can be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All job descriptions at all tiers addressed, in place and initial recruitment completed. Operating recovery rate – over 40%.

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Progress with implementation of the Leisure Review and seek to complete the recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a common aligned approach to the delivery of Leisure across Mid Ulster; 	From April 2020 to March 2021	Head of Leisure and Leisure Management Team	Modernise Leisure Services to be able to embrace new opportunities and be the best Council provider of Leisure Services that it can be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a leisure service integrated management system with common approach to procedures, work

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure Health and Safety requirements and obligations are fully discharged; To deliver Leisure Services in the most efficient and effective manner; Membership options aligned 				instructions and customer accessibility and experience.
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Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	e.g. write service objective here			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 4.2 Health & Wellbeing - We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.</i>	<i>Economy: 3.5 We will have a prioritised, sustainably resourced programme of capital investment supporting the enhancement of facilities for local people & contributing to the regeneration of the district.</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Progress implementation of proposals for key capital projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy and construction teams appointed Design programmes of work established and agreed Source and agree funding 	From April 2020 to March 2021	Head of Leisure Service Head of Technical Services Leisure and Business Development Manager	Production of high quality, responsive indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding sources agreed and in place. Implementation of programme of work at relevant construction stages by March 2021.

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Progress implementation of proposals for key capital projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gortgonis (currently at ICT design stage) Mid Ulster Sports Arena (application drafted for funding from Sport NI) Maghera LC 3G (currently at ICT design stage) 	From April 2020 to March 2021	Head of Leisure Service Head of Technical Services	Production of high quality, responsive indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.	Gortgonis, Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Maghera LC 3G - Implementation of programme of work at relevant construction stages by March 2021.

		Leisure and Business Development Manager		
--	--	--	--	--

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	e.g. write service objective here			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 4.2 Health & Wellbeing - We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.</i>	<i>Leadership: 1.3 We will work collectively to meet the identified needs and priorities of our citizens & connect the people of Mid Ulster</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Implement investment programme for leisure equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council approval and 7-year work plan agreed Procurement and delivery of contract year 1 & 2 to include Greenvale LC fitness suite for 20/21 Consult staff on customer service requirements to refine designs. 	From April 2020 to March 2021	Head of Leisure Service Head of Technical Services Leisure and Business Development Manager	Production of high quality, responsive indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.	Equipment procured, delivered and operational at designated sites.

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Implement investment programme for leisure equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benchmark leisure facilities in N Ireland. Site visits and competitor analysis at private facilities. Establish trends and develop initial designs for each facility. Establish priority areas and undertake investment implementation on a needs basis. 	From April 2020 to March 2021	Head of Leisure Service Leisure and Business Development Manager	Production of high quality, responsive indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.	Equipment procured, delivered and operational at designated sites.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for provision of equipment Completion of delivery and implementation at designated sites on a cyclical basis. 				
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Performance Measures: <i>Should include any measures as outlined in work above and relevant measures from Community, Corporate, Performance Improvement Plan, Statutory, Corporate Health Indicators etc.</i>	Is the Measure, Statutory, Corporate, Existing, or New?	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Target/Standard
Sport NI Everybody Active Programme (EBA)	Existing	5523	5523	5523	4624
PHA Physical Activity Referral Everybody Active Programme (PARS)	Existing	165	200	318	TBC due to Covid 19
Macmillan Move More Programme	Existing	N/A	N/A	100	175

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

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

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

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

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

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

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

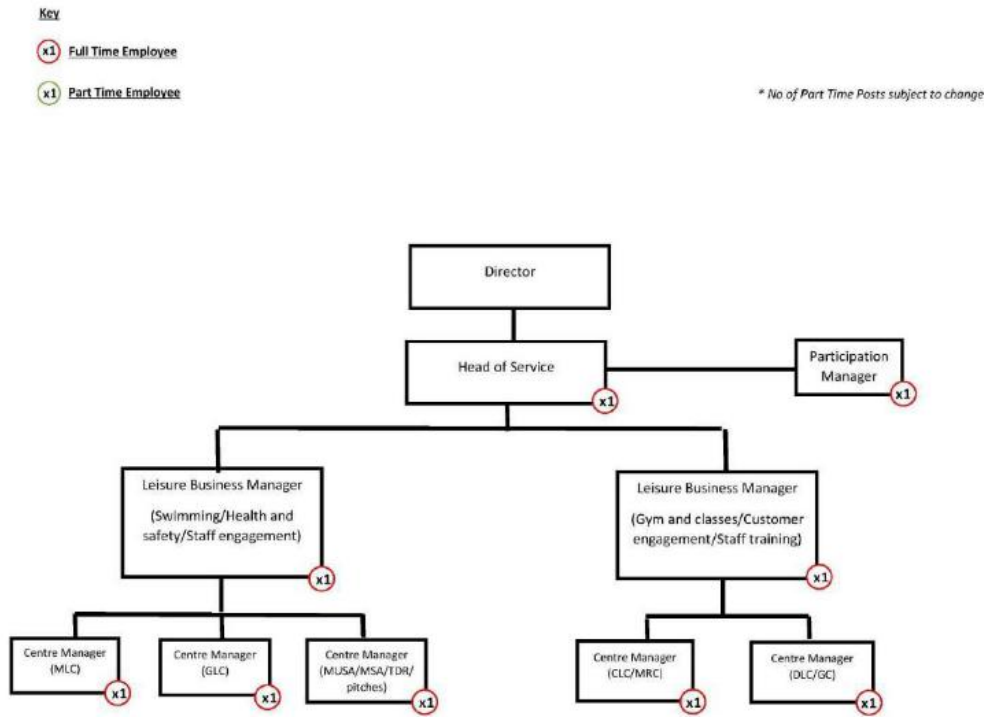
- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level
- Assist with the decision making process
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and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

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2019-20.

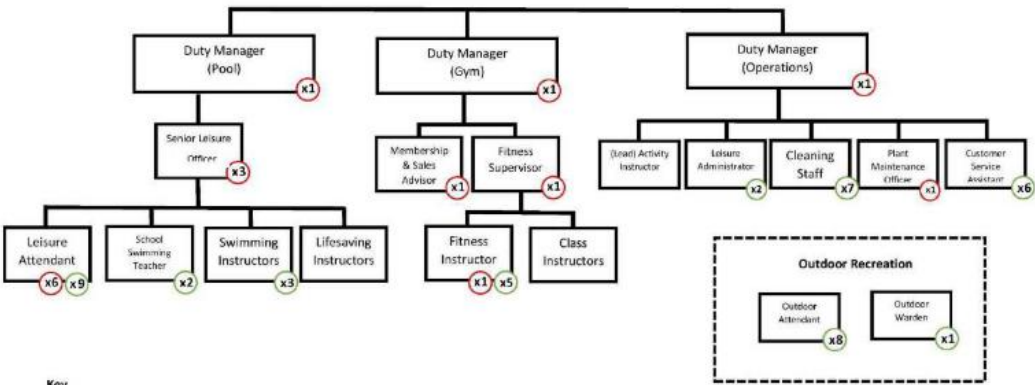
Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	Different Rates of Pay, Ts & Cs and Policies across the service:	9	Review of staffing structure incorporated within Leisure Service Review with Strategic Leisure Partner. To be completed in approximately 6-9 months.
2.	Increased competition from private sector:	9	Review of programmes, income avenues and expenditure efficiencies incorporated within Leisure Service Review with Strategic Leisure Partner. To be completed in approximately 6-9 months.
3.	Loss of Funding from Grant awarding bodies:	8	Each capital project for funding applications and when available an application is submitted.
4.	SLA/Partnership/Management Agreements break down:	9	SLA's developed if applicable, reviewed and submitted to Committee for decision on a yearly basis.
5.	Loss of income and users as a result of Covid 19 Pandemic	15	Review of programmes, income avenues and expenditure efficiencies when leisure centres re-open and measures to deal with recued capacities as a result of social distancing.

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

Appendix – Organisational Chart

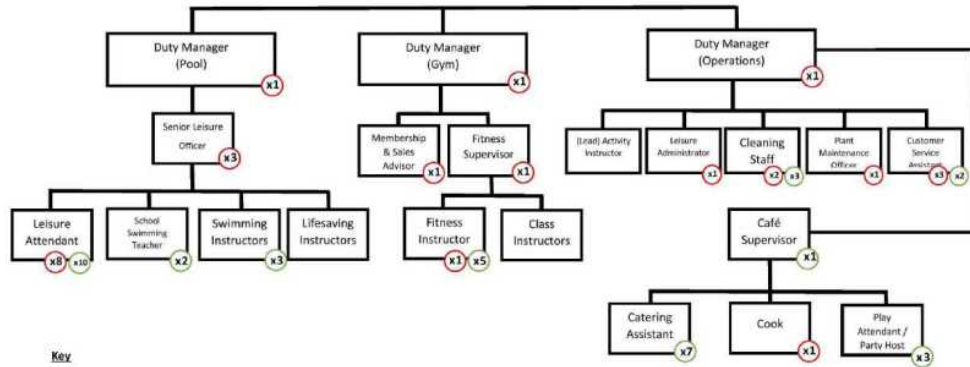


Dungannon Leisure Centre

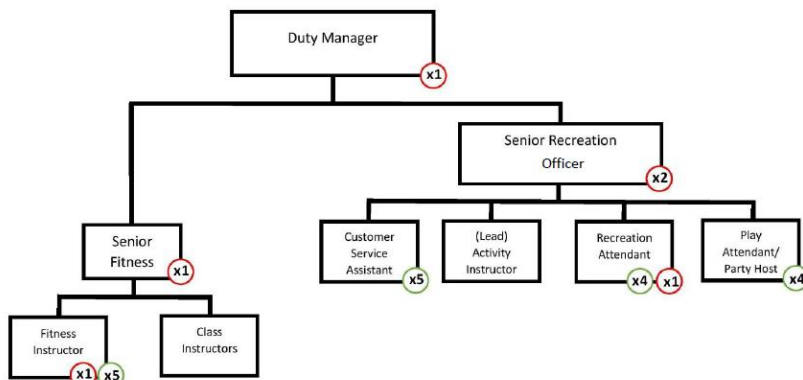


Key

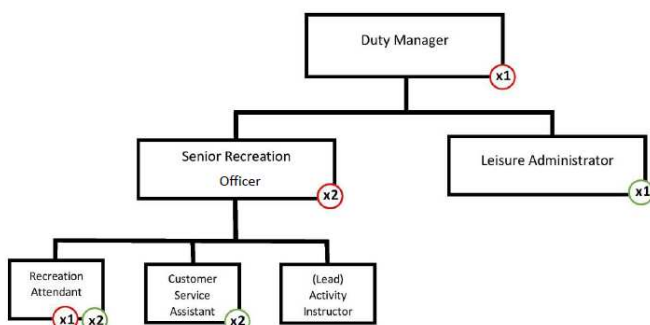
Greenvale Leisure Centre



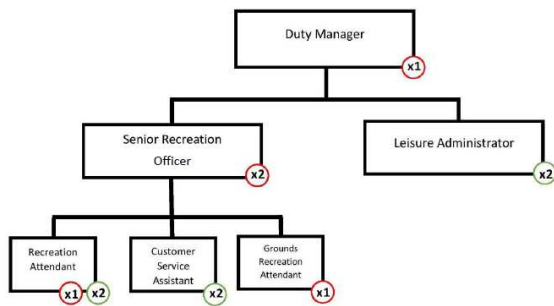
Maghera Leisure Centre



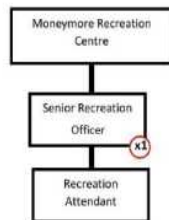
Meadowbank Sports Arena



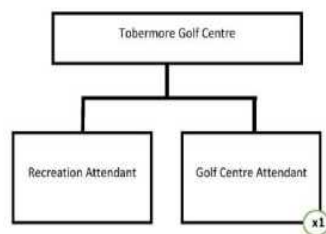
Mid Ulster Sports Arena



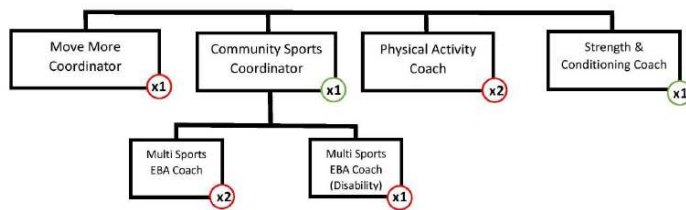
Money more Recreation Centre



Tobermore Golf Centre



Sports Development



Report on	Sport NI Sports Club Survey
Date of Meeting	9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide information on the Sport NI Sports Club Survey 2019 – Mid Ulster District Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>During 2019, Sport NI commissioned a survey of Northern Ireland's sports club making it the largest survey of this kind undertaken with responses from 837 clubs representing 60 governing bodies.</p> <p>The purpose of the survey was to provide a comprehensive picture of the 'health' of grassroots sports clubs, helping to inform how best to support clubs in the coming years.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>This report relates to sport clubs located in the Mid Ulster District Council area which responded to the survey and/or attended a focus group.</p> <p>From across the Mid Ulster District Council area, 88 clubs are represented in this report which spanned across 26 different sporting areas. The sporting areas are summarised within the introduction section of the report contained within appendix A and a full list of the clubs is contained within section 12 of the appendix.</p> <p>Alongside the survey, clubs were invited to attend a focus group. The series of 12 focus groups were attended by 114 clubs across 41 sports. Headline comments from the focus groups are included with the report in appendix A.</p> <p>The breadth of information provided will provide Sport NI with first-hand knowledge to greater understand the club landscape and the challenges facing sports clubs in NI enabling Sport NI to shape the future for sporting investment and policy.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report and the Sport NI Sports Club Survey 2019 for Mid Ulster District Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A - Sport NI Sports Club Survey 2019 – Mid Ulster District Council.

Sports Club Survey 2019



A Headline Report for Mid Ulster District Council

PAGE

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1	Introduction
2	1. Club Overview
3	2. Finances
4	3. Membership
6	4. Volunteers
8	5. Coaches
9	6. Governance
12	7. Facilities
13	8. Challenges
14	9. Support/Resources
15	10. Survey Comments
18	11. Focus Groups
19	12. List of Clubs

Introduction

This is a headline report drawn from the Sports Club Survey 2019. Commissioned by Sport NI it is the largest survey ever undertaken of Northern Ireland’s sports clubs, with responses from 837 clubs representing 60 governing bodies. The purpose of the survey is to provide a comprehensive picture of the ‘health’ of grassroots sports clubs, helping to inform how best to support clubs in the coming years.

Alongside the survey clubs were invited to attend a focus group. The series of 12 focus groups was attended by 114 clubs across 41 sports. Headline comments from the focus groups are included in this report.

This report relates to sport clubs located in the Mid Ulster District Council area which responded to the survey and/or attended a focus group. Eighty eight clubs are represented in this report - a full list of the clubs is contained in section 12. In summary, the responding clubs are categorised by sport as below.

Sport	No. of Clubs	%	Sport	No. of Clubs	%
Gaelic Games	35	40%	Basketball/Badminton	1	1%
Cycling	8	9%	Angling	1	1%
Association Football	7	8%	Archery	1	1%
Motorsport	4	5%	Bowling	1	1%
Athletics	3	3%	Equestrian	1	1%
Rugby Football	3	3%	Boxing	1	1%
Hockey	3	3%	Kickboxing	1	1%
Golf	2	2%	Motorcycle	1	1%
Netball	2	2%	Table Tennis	1	1%
Ju Jitsu	2	2%	Taekwon-Do	1	1%
Special Olympics	2	2%	Tennis	1	1%
Swimming	2	2%	Triathlon	1	1%
Shooting	2	2%	Rambling	1	1%

Note

These headline results are displayed primarily as the **percentage** of clubs which answered the survey question; where appropriate the results are also presented as the **number** of clubs which answered the question. Where percentages are used, the number of clubs is noted as (*Num Respd= X*).

1. Club Overview

Facility ownership



Over half of the clubs own or lease facilities for their activities:

44% of clubs own their facilities

16% of clubs lease their facility

41% of clubs hire facilities

Num Respd=80

**clubs could answer more than one option in this question*

How clubs are organised



89% of clubs are non-profit run by members with a constitution and committee

21% of clubs are registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)

5% of clubs are registered as a Charity

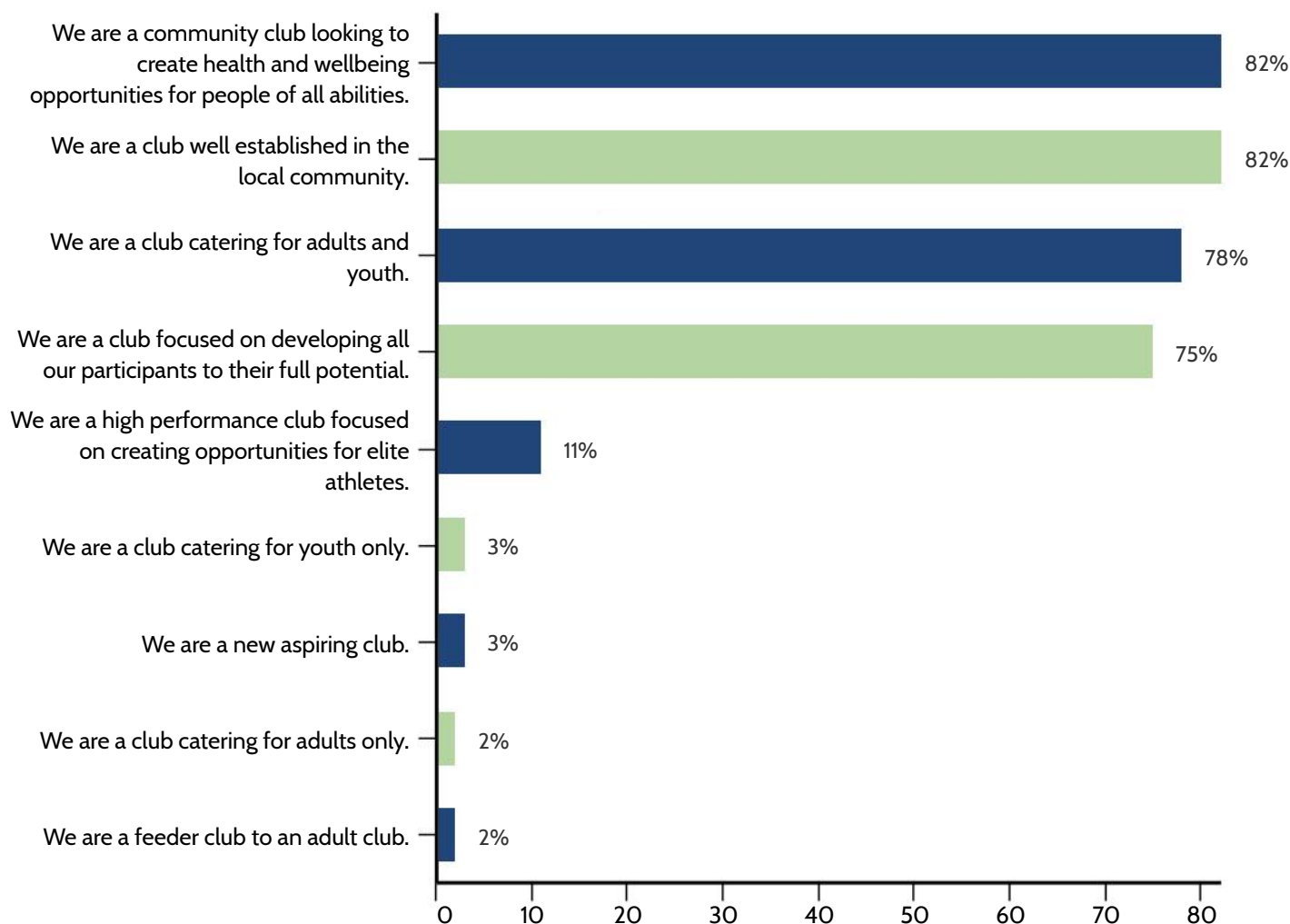
Num Respd=87

**clubs could answer more than one option in this question*

Club View



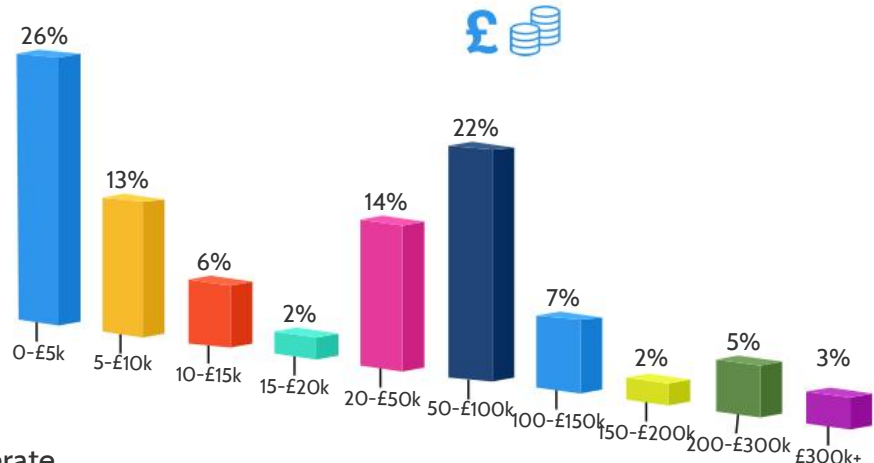
Clubs are asked to consider and choose which statements (see below) best describe and sum up what they 'are about'. Sports clubs clearly see their focus is to create health and wellbeing opportunities for people of all abilities and are also well established in the local community. (*Num Respd=88*).



2. Finances

Total annual running cost

Annual running cost is the total needed to be raised each year to cover all expenses e.g. facility hire, competition fees, training equipment etc. (Num Respd=87)



Income - breakdown

We asked clubs to indicate how they generate income (Num Respd=88):

1. Membership fees	91%
2. Fundraising events	74%
3. Grants	63%
4. Business sponsorship	44%
5. Donations	42%
6. Training fees	26%
7. Club lottery	26%
8. Hire of club facilities	14%
9. Planned Giving/Friends of	13%
10. Social club/bar	10%

Expenditure - breakdown

We asked clubs to select their largest annual expenditures (Num Respd=88):

1. Participant insurance	55%
2. Competition fees	44%
3. Facility hire	43%
4. Facility maintenance	35%
5. Public liability insurance	34%
6. Training equipment	26%
7. Transport and accomodation	19%
8. Utilities - water, electricity, gas etc	19%
9. Playing kit	9%

+ Membership fees and fundraising events are the top two income generators.

- Participant insurance and competition fees are the top two expenses.

How Clubs describe their Financial Health (Now)

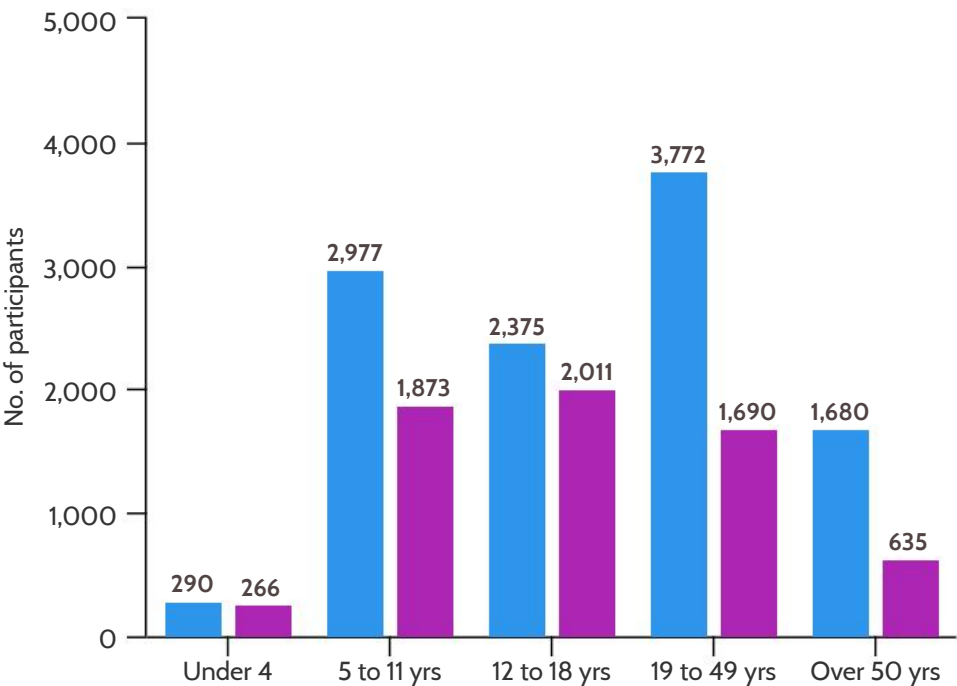


How Clubs describe their Financial Health (Future)



3. Membership

Total Membership Profile



Num Respd=87

“ The ratio of male to female participants is just under to 2:1

♀ Total number of female participants is 6,475

♂ Total number of male participants is 11,094

Membership Change in the LAST 5 Years

♂ **17%**
average increase
in male participants

♀ **18%**
average increase
in female participants

Num Respd=74

Membership Change in the NEXT 5 Years

♂ **18%**
average increase
in male participants

♀ **20%**
average increase
in female participants

Num Respd=62

3. Membership

Reasons for joining

The **top two** reasons clubs reckon new members join are :-

1. 'We are a welcoming, well run and recognised club'



2. 'Enjoy the sport'



The full list of reasons for people joining is:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • We are a welcoming, well run and recognised club | 85% |
| • Enjoy the sport | 64% |
| • Want to be more active | 44% |
| • Want to train and take part in competitive opportunities | 38% |
| • Want to be part of a community | 37% |
| • It's good for mental health and wellbeing | 35% |
| • A friend is a participant | 33% |
| • The sport/activity is popular at the moment | 29% |
| • Want to make new friends | 28% |
| • Want to try a new activity or something different | 24% |

Num Respd=78

61%
of clubs

ask members why they leave

Reasons for leaving

A 'change to personal circumstances' and 'other family commitments' are the two main reasons clubs reckon members leave:

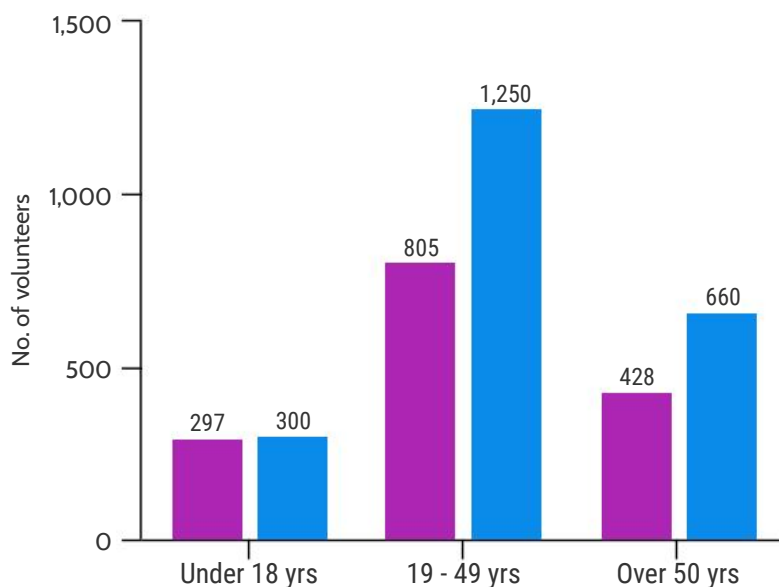
- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Change to personal circumstances (e.g move house or job) | 73% |
| • Other family commitments | 57% |
| • Work commitments | 55% |
| • Too busy | 36% |
| • Cost of participating (gear, fees, transport etc) | 20% |
| • Training times and matches don't suit | 17% |
| • Poor club facilities e.g no indoor winter facilities closeby | 17% |
| • Sport just didn't suit | 16% |
| • Didn't have enough members in a category to field a team | 11% |
| • Disagreement with the team/coach/club | 7% |
| • Went to another club with better facilities | 7% |
| • Not enough coaches and/or equipment to keep participants | 6% |
| • Went to a club with better coaches and competitive opportunities | 5% |
| • Club environment too competitive | 1% |



Num Respd=83

4. Volunteers

Volunteer profile



Num Respd=74

1,530
female volunteers
in total

2,210
male volunteers
in total

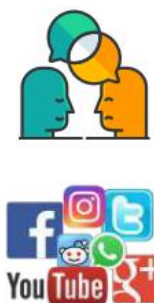
51
average number of
volunteers per club

How do clubs recruit volunteers?

Clubs use a number of methods to recruit volunteers; 'personally ask face to face' and 'social media platforms' are the **top two** methods. The full list of methods used is :

- Personally ask people face to face **95%**
- Social media platforms both club and community **80%**
- Noticeboards in own facility **29%**
- Noticeboards in shops, schools, community **24%**
- Hand out leaflets **23%**
- Use organisations such as Volunteer Now **4%**

Num Respd=75



4. Volunteers

What motivates volunteers?

- Love the sport 71%
- Have a child involved in the club 68%
- Want to give something back 62%
- Stopped playing for the club and want to remain involved 36%
- Have family or friends already volunteering in the club 30%
- It's a good social opportunity 24%
- Feel valued and appreciated 14%
- Want to stay involved in something in retirement 13%
- Good for an individual's CV 12%
- Valuable experience for people not in employment 4%

Num Respd=76

The top two reasons for volunteering are - 'Love the sport' AND 'Have a child involved in the club'.



Just over half (57%) of clubs said they ask why volunteers no longer help.

Why do volunteers no longer help ?

- No longer has the time due to personal circumstances 96%
- Child or family member no longer participating 64%
- Felt they had too much to do 29%
- Role did not suit their skill level 8%
- Didn't get on with the other volunteers 8%
- Role not clearly defined and therefore not sure what they were to do 7%
- Did not feel needed and valued by the club 7%
- Felt the club didn't need them 5%

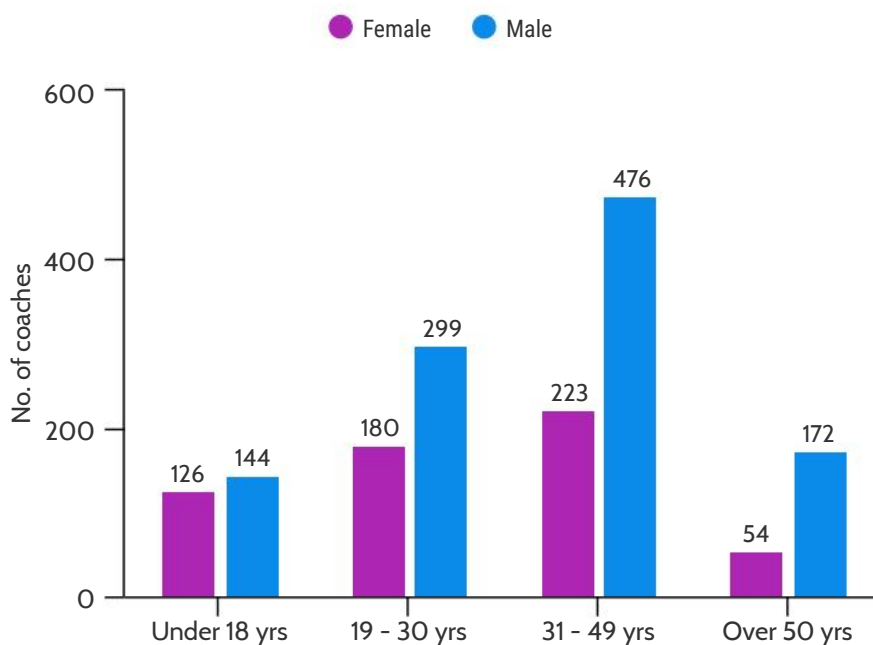
Num Respd=76

The top two reasons volunteers stop - 'no longer have time' AND 'child/family member no longer participating'.



5. Coaches

Profile of coaches across the clubs



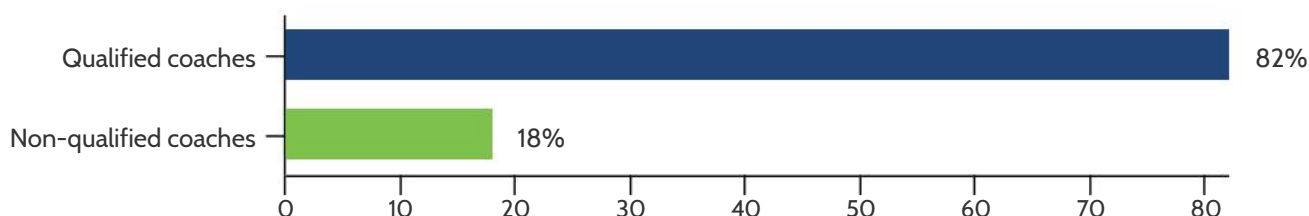
583
female coaches
in total

1,091
male coaches
in total

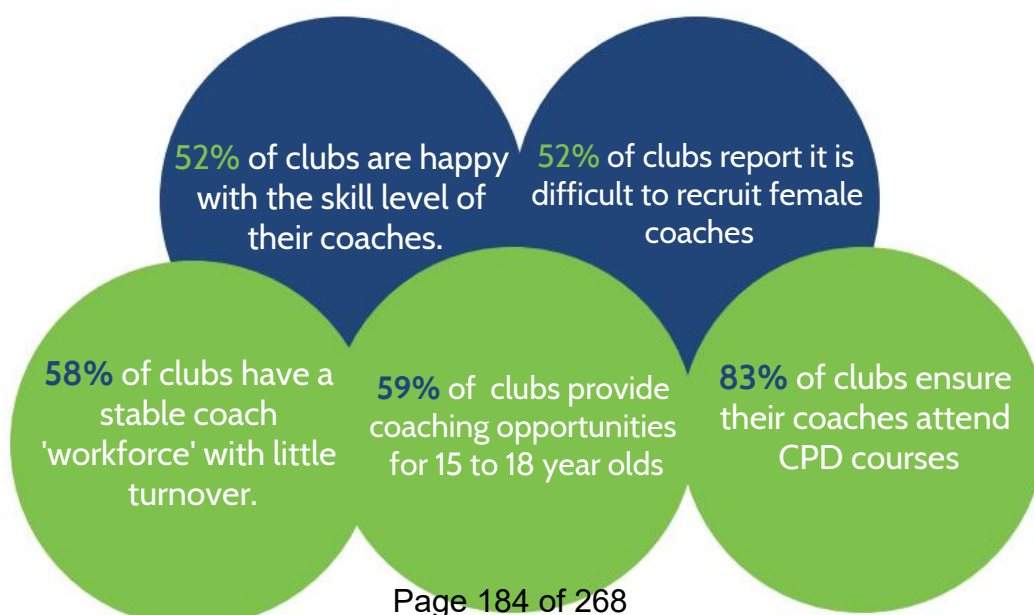
1,674
coaches in total

Num Respd=62

Comparison of qualified to non-qualified coaches



Coach related observations



Num Respd=62

6. Governance

Policies



Remarks on policies

- Not all clubs appear to have insurance
- 94% of clubs have a safeguarding policy
- Almost two thirds of the clubs have a volunteer policy
- Just over half of clubs have a health & wellbeing policy

Sports Development Plan

“ 22% of clubs have a Sports Development Plan (SDP), 26% of clubs say they are in the process of developing one (Num Respd=73). ”

69% Agree they find the process of developing a SDP very useful.

69% Agree their SDP allows the club to focus on key areas to improve.

41% Agree their SDP allows the club to come together and be more effective.

57% Agree their SDP helps the club to 'keep on track.'

6. Governance

Clubmark accreditation award

24% of clubs have a Clubmark accreditation award and a further **15%** are working towards an award. (Num Respd=67)

Reasons why clubs do not have Clubmark are:

- Don't know what it is **40%**
- We don't have anyone in the club who will coordinate it **23%**
- We don't have the time to do it **12%**
- We've heard it is difficult to achieve **9%**
- It seems too complicated to do **7%**

Num Respd=43

Who do clubs turn to for assistance?



Clubs are asked to rank, their Governing Body (GB), their local Council, and Sport NI in terms of who they turn to **FIRST** when looking for assistance (Num Respd=69).

- **69%** of clubs turn to their GB **FIRST** for assistance.
- **24%** of clubs turn to MUDC **FIRST** for assistance.
- **7%** of clubs turn to Sport NI **FIRST** for assistance.

Partnerships

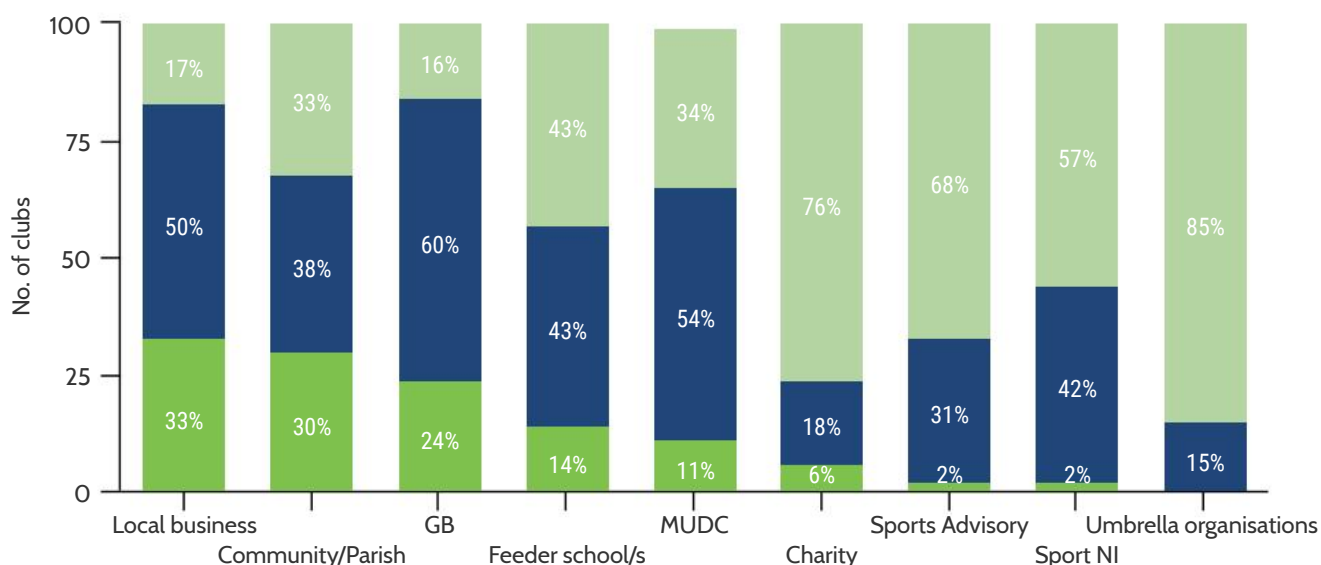


Increasingly, sports clubs create links and partnerships to support and assist with delivery of club activities; examples reported as part of this survey are:

- Thirty two clubs have links with primary schools and twenty clubs with post primary schools. Links include coaching and use of facilities.
- Clubs have links with Churches, youth and community groups such as Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce, Moneymore Womens Group and Milltown Community Group..
- Fundraise for a range of charities.

How much support?

An analysis of how much support (*a lot, some, not much*) clubs receive from a range of organisations, demonstrates most support from local business, Community/Parish and GB's as presented below:



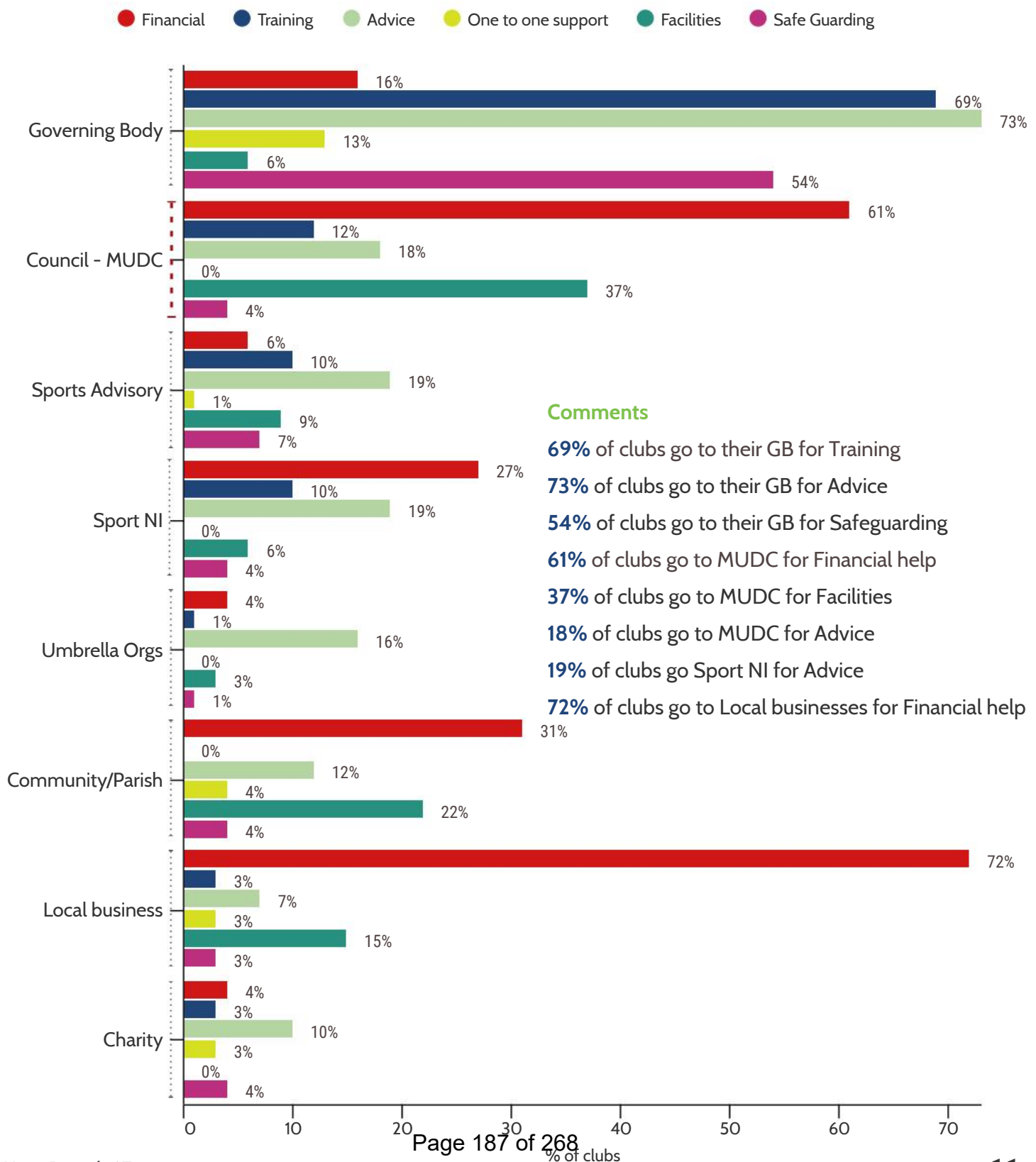
Num Respd=70

● A lot ● Some ● Not much

6. Governance

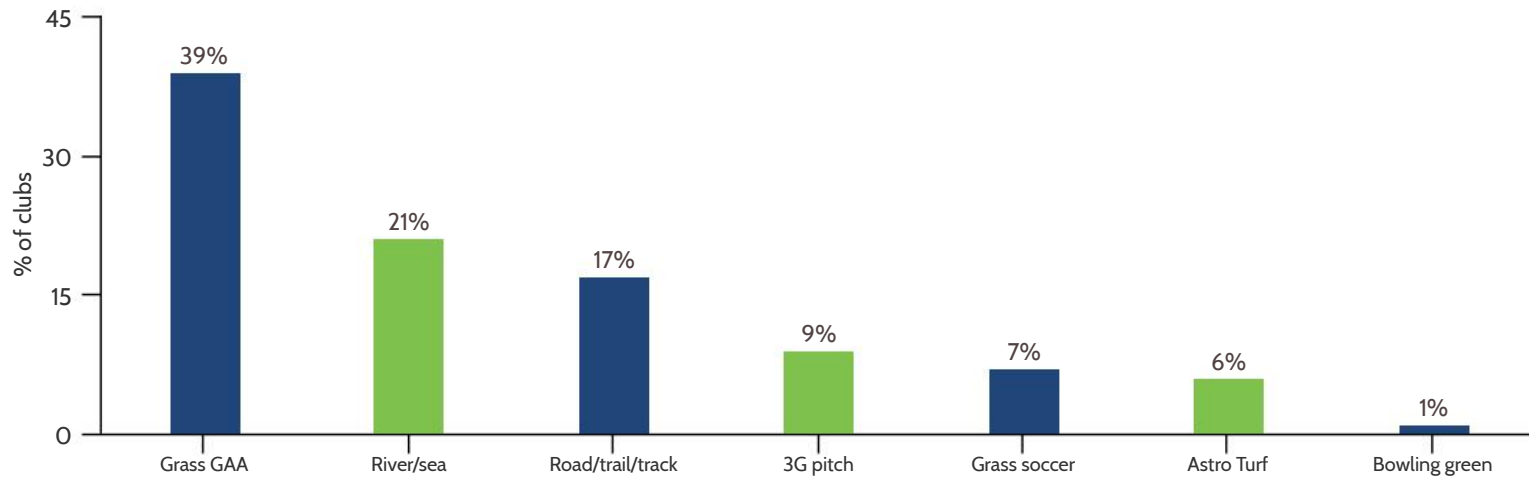
What type of support?

Clubs are asked to indicate the nature of support they may receive from a range of organisations as presented below -

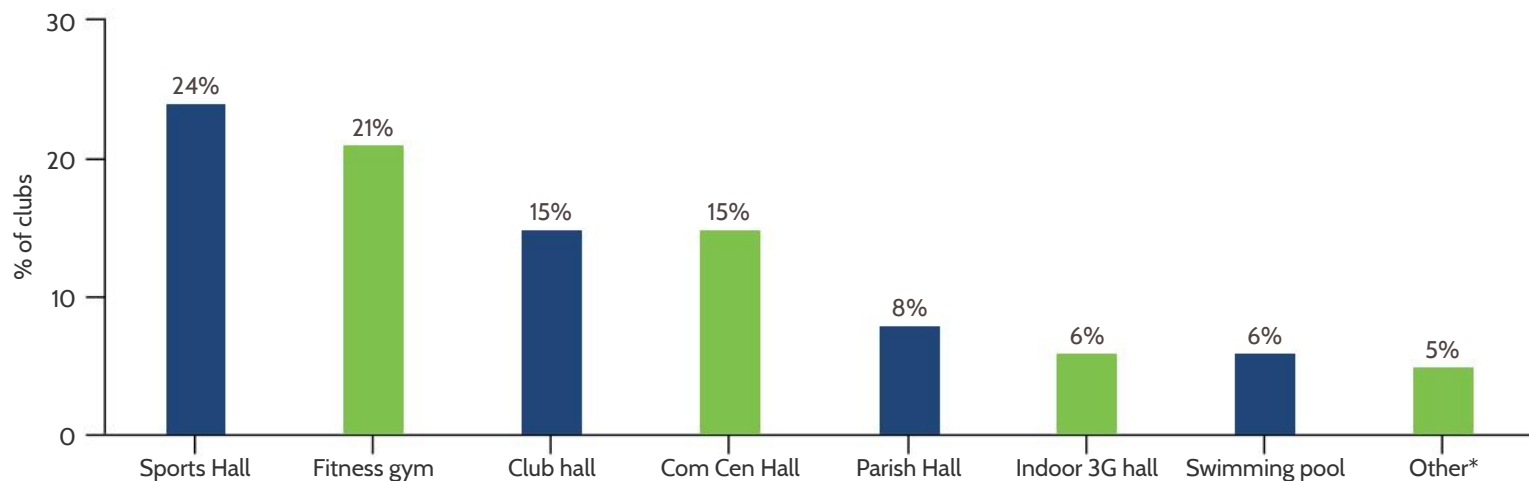


7. Facilities

Facility Type Outdoor (as percentage of the total number of facilities cited)

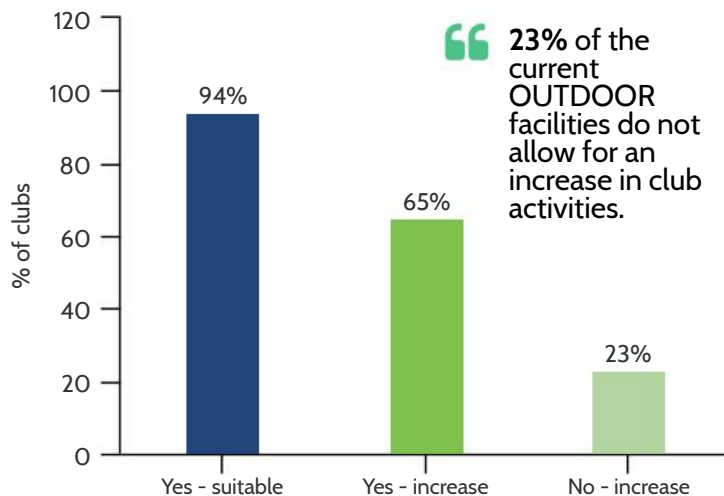


Facility Type Indoor (as percentage of the total number of facilities cited)

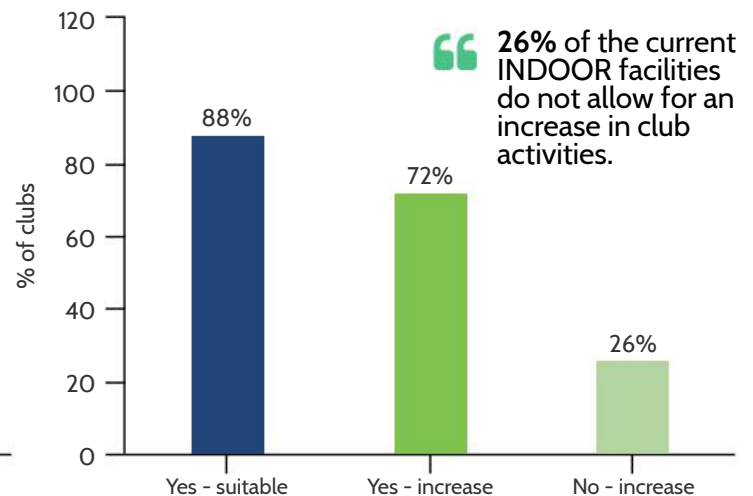


*Other - dance/aerobic studio, indoor handball alley

Facility Suitable/Increase Activities (Outdoor)



Facility Suitable/Increase Activities (Indoor)



8. Challenges

Barriers to indoor facilities

- Hire cost - too expensive for club **57%**
- Finding venues of suitable size **43%**
- Can't get suitable booking slot **43%**
- Finding venues with suitable training surface **33%**
- Location - too distant from club base **19%**
- Access not suitable for people with a disability **7%**

Num Respd=42



Barriers to outdoor facilities

- Finding venues with suitable training surface **59%**
- Availability of floodlit venues **56%**
- Hire cost - too expensive for club **50%**
- Can't get suitable booking slot **47%**
- Location - too distant from club base **26%**
- Access not suitable for people with a disability **6%**

Num Respd=34



Challenges



Clubs reported the following challenges:

- Lack of external funding (parish, Council, governing bodies etc). **64%**
- Issues with cash flow (e.g. inability to raise sufficient cash from subs/ fund-raising etc). **48%**
- Lack of volunteers (i.e. committee members/ coaches etc) **44%**
- Lack of appropriate local facilities. **41%**
- Lack of suitable/available time slots at facility. **36%**
- Lack of capacity of the volunteers to carry out jobs/roles **31%**
- Membership recruitment/ retention **28%**
- Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport etc). **19%**
- Lack of Sports Development Plan **16%**
- Priority of facilities given to recreational activities over sports clubs e.g. 5-a-side. **13%**
- Lack of information about local facilities/ services. **8%**
- Poor/ No relationship with local clubs (facility usage/ support of events / workshops) **2%**

Num Respd=64

9. Support/Resources

Support/Resources



Funding



Sports equipment

The top two support/resources clubs need are:

1. Help to draw down funding
2. Sports equipment



Clubs were asked to consider support and resources needed to help them continue what they are doing and further develop. The following were graded either as **CRITICAL** or **HIGH** level of need:

- Help to draw down funding **78%**
- Equipment for your sport **62%**
- Better links with the Council's Sports Development Team **58%**
- Recruitment and retention of volunteers **58%**
- Additional indoor facilities for training **54%**
- Better clubhouse facilities **53%**
- More support from your Governing Body **49%**
- Additional outdoor facilities for training **46%**
- Workshops for club volunteer development **45%**
- Help creating a club sports development plan **42%**
- Additional outdoor facilities for competitions **42%**
- Online courses for club volunteers **34%**
- Online coaching resources for your sport **28%**
- Additional indoor facilities for competitions **26%**
- Online toolkit for club development **26%**
- More paid staff to help develop the club **26%**

Num Respd=66

10. Survey Comments

The following comments (unaltered) are made by clubs in the Mid Ulster District Council area in relation to **need/demand** for additional facilities

- Bigger Size Changing rooms Additional Car Parking Additional Storage rooms Committee room
- Further training pitch Ladies changing facilities Hall for indoor activities and fundraising
- New changing facilities
- Our club has a need for the provision of an indoor facility in the locality, an indoor 3G pitch would be very beneficial for use for training for both our senior and junior members. We also require improvements to be made to our current leased facility which is due to the wetter winters is getting less and less use. A sand based pitch installation would allow users to meet the demand required for facilities without having to have the large cost of hiring premises from external organisations.
- Clubhouse
- We only have changing rooms, we need a Clubhouse which we would run as a community hub.
- Additional changing rooms Spectator stand Floodlights
- Need second full size grass pitch
- Improved toilet facilities, Improved parking area, fencing and posts for the track , paddock and events, additional and replacements huts, updated PA System, new machines. New radio set up. Could look at improving Medical hut and facilities for our marshalls
- Improvement of existing facilities - stand for Paddy Cullen Park
- Indoor facility Spectator area -covered
- 50m pool
- Indoor hall at MUSA is always booked and can never get a slot. So more indoor halls
- Better female changing facilities, wall ball alley and access to a second pitch
- Another pitch- either grass or 4G spec. Training area. Fitness trail outdoor
- Floodlit courts. There are 2 at Mid Ulster Sports Arena but the hire costs are laughably high so they sit unused.
- Our Sports hall is now 40 years old and would need a major revamp to bring it up to the standard required today. improved heating and insulation, the addition of ancillary facilities, toilets, and stores.
- Currently, we are a Fermanagh Club but have to travel outside of our county to access training and playing facilities. negotiations are ongoing with the local council on the development of a new surface however this is in conjunction with the Education Authority and is not sure if it will be viable. The need for a pitch in our county is imperative to the future of our club!!!!
- We would like to add fitness and well being centre with suitable indoor training space available all year round as well as upgrading some of our existing facilities.
- Urgent need for changing facilities and new gym
- Somewhere suitable to engage younger members into the sport
- We need a new building - which we're putting Page 101 of 208 of civic society's total failure to do anything for our community.

10. Survey Comments

The following comments (unaltered) are made by clubs in the Mid Ulster District Council area in relation to **need/demand** for additional facilities

- Access to the Davagh Forest complex for motorsport events
- increasing team numbers so greater demand for training / match pitches
- Additional netball court. It is difficult to access a suitable sized netball court outside our training times for matches, therefore if we start a 2nd team we would have difficulty securing court time locally for matches.
- We need a health suite, an indoor multi sports training area and function room additional grass training pitch and walking/running track
- Changing rooms for both male and female (4 No in total) Gym Ball wall (currently being developed)
- Electronic targets to meet international standards
- Ball wall, additional changing rooms for ladies, upgrade current first aid room, meeting room, improvements to pitches including goalmouths, match and training refreshment area
- The club shall be starting new changing facilities next year due to an increase in membership. We also require a non training field floodlit due to our numbers and participation.
- With the introduction of female sport - changing rooms, pitch space, ref room
- We are now in a situation (and its growing year on year with numbers) where 1/2 the youth train at the small MUGA based in Benburb and the others including our Firsts use Full Size 3G in Dungannon. We are now in need of developing our own larger 3G facility full size facility with lights to ensure all our youth teams and firsts team train together and this would meet our demands plus other local sports clubs who also have to travel to their nearest town ie Dungannon, Armagh to train plus we could better usage of the facility as a club and offer more sessions per team. At present we can only afford one session per week per team (training).
- Area, such as a forest or unused council land that can be developed for off-road cycling.
- We are restricted to one club session a week and occasional usage for events. This limits training opportunities and progression
- Floodlights
- Floodlit walking/ running trail
- Indoor / winter facilities with floodlights
- Suitable outdoor areas
- we would like to create a track at the local Termoneeny Centre that is floodlit and safe for our members to train on during the winter.
- There currently is no running track available across Cookstown/Dungannon.
- We are expanding the number of our new clubs at the rate of approximately three each year (New clubs include separate classes for Little Tiger Cubs, Active Tigers and Adult Taekwon-Do)

10. Survey Comments

The following comments (unaltered) are made by clubs in the Mid Ulster District Council area in relation to any **final comments**.

- Due to the massive influx of female players in last couple of years, we have a critical need for an additional full size grass pitch for training.
- Please note there is sections of this survey not answered as we are a club within a governing body and they would have the details of overall membership to our sport. Training is very important in our sport and recently we along with others have been meet with a brick wall in getting our young riders trained. Our governing body need to be working on this instead we seem to have people working against each other, some for their own gain or out of spite. Too much bickering among the clubs within the governing bodies and not enough people working for the good of the sport and the competitors. Training should be throughout the various disciplines and at various venues
- We are putting together a sport and facility development plan this year. Our development will be tied in closely with the development and rebuild of Holy Trinity College. We have the opportunity to improve our own facilities but also help financially towards the school development so that we may use the sports facilities of the new school. However, the funds have to be there to do that. It's ok for rural clubs that get big grants for rural development, not so easy for us town clubs.
- In question 53 about volunteers and time spent i have listed each individuals time and not total time spent
- We will be seeking funding in the near future to upgrade our facilities as club facilities have not been upgraded from 1970s but we have good governance in place now and hope to apply for funding to meet the growing population of Moneymore and help address the crime and disorder and mental health issues in the community.
- This represents my views and may not reflect all those of committee members
- We really need the local council to relay a better surface in the indoor sports hall - this is an ongoing issue but council staff are aware
- We share our facilities with the ladies football club. that is a separate club. We do not charge them for use of club rooms or pitches.
- The Pony Club is difficult to fit into survey questions. We are very active in Northern Ireland and are not supported or helped in any way by Sport NI Surely with so many active members in such wide ranging activities for young people in Northern Ireland we should be. Many members get selected to represent N.I. in Scotland, England, Wales and Internationally too.
- All plans to be sustainable must live in their communities with committed and interested bodies I have seen too much money wasted over short term projects with no community link or sustainability plans must be linked to local clubs I am involved in basketball badminton both of which originated) hockey athletics girls football cricket they must be linked to schools too and their sports but there is a real opportunity for developing volunteers through schools with joint on thinking and collaborative projects competition should also be local and developed within councils to ease transport costs for kids and parents with cross-community teams developed and opportunities to do so.
- Triathlon is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world at the moment and there is little to no support for clubs in Northern Ireland, no joint up thinking across disciplines, and real lack of facilities in the Mid Ulster area. No running track in Cookstown/Dungannon is a huge barrier to developing our club.

11. Focus Groups

Focus Group Insight

Complementing the survey, focus group discussion confirms a range of challenges and concerns, ideas and aspirations across all sports and all Council areas.

Membership: Clubs recognise that healthy membership is an outcome of getting everything else right. They also recognise that people are more likely to join a club where they will be supported and encouraged by enthusiastic volunteers and qualified coaches, where they feel safe and where they will be happy and have fun.

Coaches: Clubs have concerns around coaches taking on too much which may point to the need for more skilled coaches. It also points to the need for a coaches management policy in the same way as there is a need for a volunteers management policy.

Volunteers: Sports club volunteers are often in short supply so it's essential their role and the extent of their commitment is realistic, reflecting their personal circumstances and skill set. The focus groups highlighted the need for support in all aspects of volunteering including recruitment, training, recognising achievement and succession planning.

Development & Support: The views on Clubmark and on Sports Development Plans expressed by those clubs that have them in place evidence a high degree of positivity both towards the process of creating them and the benefits of using them as management tools. Clubs speak of the need for support around funding, including preparing applications, .

Governance: The challenge presented by governance and administration in sports clubs is a significant issue. Some clubs view governance and administration as a bureaucratic imposition that gets in the way of the sporting activity. Clubs realise that better management will help remove the stress of governance and administration.

Finances: Despite a picture of general confidence for financial health clubs are finding it more difficult to bring money in and they see this as a continuing challenge. Some clubs feel grant-giving organisations have to better understand the needs of sports clubs - 'minority' sports sometimes find it difficult to access funding programmes.

Facilities: Clubs operating their own facilities are often constrained by the scale/scope of their resources whilst clubs hiring or renting facilities can also be challenged by pricing and limited availability at peak times. Sports clubs want their contribution to local communities to be recognised in the strategic development of sports facilities.

12. List of Clubs

Acorns AC	Cookstown Fr Rock's GAC	Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon	Moneymore GAC	St Anne's Table Tennis Club, Dungannon
An Clochar Éire Óg's	Cookstown Hockey Club	Erins Own Lavey	Moortown St Malachys GAC	St Macartan's GFC
An Mhaigh Tir na nOg GAC	Cookstown Motor Club	Fivemiletown United	Moy Tir na nOg GAC	St Malachy's Edendork, Camogie
Aodh Ruadh DunGeanainn	Cookstown Mugendo Karate Kickboxing Club	Galbally Pearses GAA club	Moyola Park Golf Club	St Patrick's Camogie Club Loup
Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa GFC	Cookstown Swimming Club	Harps Cycling Club	Northern Ireland Motor Club	St Trea's Ballymaguigan
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	Cookstown Youth Football Club	Island Wheelers Cycling Club	Northern Ireland Regional Shooting Club	St MaCartan's Ladies
Caledon Rovers Football Club	Doiretreasc Calini an Chnoic	Kildress Wolfe Tones GAA	O'Donovan Rossa GAC, Magherafelt	St Michael's GAC Lissan
Carn Wheelers	Donaghmore Ladies GFC	Killeeshil St Mary's (Cill íseal)	Pomeroy Plunketts GAC	Stewartstown GAC
Castlecaulfield Youth FC	Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club	Killyman St Mary's GAC	Rainey OB RFC	Take A Bow Cookstown Archery Club
Castledawson GAC	Dungannon Motor Club	Logue's Hill CPC	Riverdale Football Club	Termoneeny Running Club
Castledawson Cycle Club	Dungannon Rugby Football Club	Loup Boxing Club	Sean O'Leary's GAC Newbridge	The Killymoon Golf Club
Clogher Valley RFC	Dungannon Special Olympics Swim Club	Lower Bann Coarse Angling Association	Sean O'Leary's Camogie Club Newbridge	The Pony Club Area 17
Clogher Valley Wheelers	Dungannon Swimming Club	Maghera Jiu-Jitsu	Sperrin Harriers	Titans Basketball & Kestrels Badminton
Clonoe O'Rahillys	Dungannon Tennis Club	Magherafelt and District Motor Club Limited	Sperrins Hillwalking Club	Torrent Cycling Club
Coagh United Football Club	Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC	Magherafelt Marvels Special Olympics Club	Spires CC	Tri Limits Triathlon Club
Coalisland Na Fianna GFC	Eglis Camogie Club	Mid Ulster Ladies Football Club	Spires Netball Club	United Kingdom Taekwon-Do Council (NI)
Cookstown & District Motocycle Club	Eglis GAC	Mid Ulster Netball Club	Square Wheels CC	Wolfe Tones Bellaghy Camogie Club

Report on	Parks Service Improvement Plan 2020 - 21
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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 seek Member approval for the Parks Service Improvement Plan for 2020-21.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Parks Services Improvement Plan sets out a clear path of delivery in relation to services ensuring that we are accountable and that performance and improvement are key elements of service delivery in conjunction with Council's mission and strategic outcomes set out in Council's Corporate Plan.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The Parks Service will continue to develop and deliver quality experiences to local communities and visitors to the district through commitment to seeking achievable improvements that generate exceptional experiences to our end customer and promoting health and wellbeing through physical and recreational activities.</p> <p>Park Service users provide continuous feedback that permits us adopt and shape our services to meet customer expectations where possible and to deliver services to an optimum level within budget and staff resource capacities.</p> <p>The Parks Service delivers across the listed functions, is part of the Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Department and is made up of the following service areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Play • Davagh Dark Skies Park • Forest Recreation • Water Recreation and Angling • Access to the Countryside • Camping & caravanning

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Service improvement plans projected delivery within allocated budgets, or subject to available alternative funding streams. Budgets subject to variations/amendments due to Covid-19 budget reallocations.</p>
	<p>Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Service Improvement Plan outcomes</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Noted with in the Service Improvement Plan Section 3.3.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council Policy and procedures</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council Policy and procedures</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to approve the Parks Service Improvement Plan for 2020-21.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A - Parks Service Improvement Plan for 2020-21.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Parks Service Leisure & Outdoor Recreation

SERVICE PLAN - 2020 / 21

Date

Consulted within staff team

23/ 06/2020

Discussed & signed off by Director

24/06/2020

CONTENT

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1.3	Customers & Stakeholders	5
1.4	Performance Overview in 2019/20	6
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1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Service

The scope, diversity and potential developmental capacity accessible to Mid Ulster District Council Parks Service is both tremendously exciting and challenging. The greatest importance is sustaining a welcoming, safe environment and raising quality standards for parks and open spaces, together with the provision of facilities that are sufficient to meet the varied recreational demands of a growing residential population. This needs to be achieved in the context of increasing pressure on public expenditure, alongside encouraging greater community ownership and involvement.

The Parks Service is committed to the achievement of quality standards across parks and open spaces in line with the Green Flag status through the attainment of additional Green Flag Awards for suitable sites. The Parks Service will support achievement of sustainable development in line with approved management and maintenance plans delivering on the protection and enhancement of the natural qualities of parks and open spaces, embracing positive biodiversity for the benefit of future generations.

The Parks Service will endeavour to actively support volunteering opportunities within parks and open spaces and encourage greater community involvement and additional partnership working between agencies, groups and organisations, exploring opportunities (where compatible with corporate priorities) to provide high quality parks and open spaces that are enjoyed by all who visit or live within our shared community.

The Parks Service is part of the Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Directorate, and is made up of the following service areas:

1. Public Parks and Open Spaces
2. Davagh Dark Skies Park
3. Play Areas
4. Countryside Access
5. Forest Recreation
6. Water Recreation
7. Camping & Caravanning

1.2 Responsibilities

PUBLIC PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Mid Ulster District Council manage sixteen public parks of varying sizes and facilities the largest of which are Dungannon Park and Ballyronan Marina. Some one hundred and twelve play park/playground amenities are provided and maintained across the towns, villages and hamlets of the district.

- Public parks provide our local communities with the opportunity to be physically active
 - Parks with the capacity to attract day visits have true economic benefit to surrounding towns and villages
 - Parks provide vital green space in urban landscapes
 - Parks preserve wildlife habitat
 - Parks and recreation facilitate social interactions
 - Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress and enhance a sense of wellness
 - Playing outside helps children to develop their learning abilities.
- Outdoor play encourages children's creativity and provides numerous health benefits as opposed to indoor environments.

DAVAGH DARK SKIES PARK

Davagh has one of the 'darkest skies' in Ireland, which means there is so little light pollution that there are crystal clear views of star constellations.

The new centre will give visitors a unique opportunity to experience the night sky as it is rarely viewed – and as it would have been seen centuries ago by our ancestors. Combining the latest tech, from holographic installations to virtual reality headsets with colourful, accessible interpretation panels and hands-on activities, visitors to the centre will be able to explore our solar system from our sun and moon to our stars and the planets.

The centre piece of the space will be a star-gazing telescope, opening up the opportunities to view the night sky without light pollution and establishing Davagh as the only official 'dark sky' reserve here and establishing Davagh as the only official 'dark sky' reserve in Northern Ireland.

FOREST RECREATION

Mid Ulster District Council are engaged with Forest Service Northern Ireland through the development of Licence Agreements to increase quality recreational access to forest lands in the district. The council currently hold five licence agreements with Forest Service for recreational use. The contribution of forest recreation province wide was measured in a recent survey completed by Forest Service in 2014. Some 65,000 visits were estimated to have taken place at Drum Manor Forest Park, one Mid Ulster Forest site to be included in the survey.

- An estimated 4.7 million visits were taken to Northern Ireland forests on the Forest Service Forest Estate in 2014.
- An average of £20 (including accommodation) was spent during visits taken to the surveyed forests, of this total an average of around £3 was spent within the forest.
- 80% of visitors are adults (aged 16 or older)
- The estimated total annual spend during trips that involve visiting a publicly accessible Forest Service location (including any amounts spent on accommodation) is £76.1 million.
- The most popular activities on visits to the surveyed forests were walking (75% of visits) and dog walking (34% of visits).

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND WATER RECREATION

Mid Ulster District Council manages one significant water recreation facility at Ballyronan Marina, almost 150 kilometres of cycle and walking trails along with 22 kilometres of designated canoe trail and nine angling facilities (two game and seven coarse) across the district. These include amenities such as the Coalisland Canal Trail, Clogher Valley/Carleton Trail, riverside walks at Dunamore, Augher and Cots Lane and Ardtrea. Angling facilities at coarse waters Creeve, Enagh and Carrick Lough and Game fishing at Dungannon Park and Bradley lake and mountain bike activity centres at Davagh Forest and Blessingbourne Estate offering over 41 kilometers of trails for riding and walking enthusiasts.

In addition to this the Council has a statutory responsibility to manage Access to the Countryside under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983, district councils have a duty “to assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment, any public right of way....”. They are also given discretionary powers to repair and maintain rights of way, to create, divert or close public paths and to make access agreements or orders to open land.

The socio-economic and wider health benefits attached to access to outdoor activities and recreation is widely known that sport helps to reduce incidents of heart disease and obesity. According to ‘Sport Matters: The Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation in Northern Ireland, 2009-19’, sport and recreation is one of the best investments that can be made in preventive medicine. Significantly the strategy adds: “Outdoor recreation is widely recognised as a positive force. It can build lasting relationships between people and often people from different social and religious backgrounds.” There are many UK studies that highlight that outdoor recreation has a positive impact on:

- Health and fitness;
- Quality of life;
- Work ethic and productivity;
- Inward investment; and
- Reduction in crime.

CAMPING AND CARAVANNING

Visitors to Mid Ulster can choose from three council managed campsite facilities, Dungannon Park, Ballyronan Marina and Round Lake, Fivemiletown.

Forty-eight serviced caravan pitches are available for hire throughout the thirty week season. Larger groups can be accommodated such as caravan clubs at Dungannon Park with capacity to welcome in excess of eighty units. Dungannon Park, Ballyronan Marina and Round Lake welcomed 1638 caravanning units for the 2018/19 season an increase of 544 on 2017-18. Mid Ulster District Council sites recorded 386 tenting units for the 2018-19 season an increase of 276 on 2017-18 season. The potential to increase visitor footfall through campsite development is an option being considered with Forest Service

The following list of contacts illustrates the nature and range of stakeholder relationships that exist between the Parks Service and other Council functions, public and private sector organisations, the community and voluntary sectors and is not inexhaustible given that new situations and opportunities arise throughout the

The section is specifically responsible for the following functions:

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
• CHIEF EXECUTIVE
• ELECTED MEMBERS
• STAFF
• ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY SERVICES
• ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
• TOURISM & EVENTS
• FINANCE
• TECHNICAL SERVICES
• COMMUNITY SERVICES
• HUMAN RESOURCES
• LEISURE SERVICES
• ARTS & CULTURE
• LEGAL SERVICES
• PLANNING SERVICES
• ICT
• HEALTH & SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT
• POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
• MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
• VISITORS/TOURISTS
• GENERAL PUBLIC
• FOREST SERVICE NI
• OUTDOOR RECREATION NI
• PSNI
• COMMUNITY GROUPS
• DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
• SPORTS CLUBS/ANGLING, CYCLING, RUNNER AND WALKERS
• TOURISM NI
• SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES (NI) INTER-AGENCY FORUM
• DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS
• WATERWAYS IRELAND

1.4 Performance Overview in 2019/20

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2019-2020). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2019-20120). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

2019/20 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Five Year Parks and Play Strategy 2020 – 2025 which was an objective on the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Council approved Five Year Strategic Plan in December 2019</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Five Year Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020 – 2025 which was an objective on Council's Corporate Improvement Plan 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Council approved Five Year Strategic Plan in March 2019</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an extension of Licence Agreements with Forest Service NI 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Licence Agreements with FSNI and completed capital development projects at Knockmany, Glenone and Brantry Forest</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the Countryside development via long distance trails 	<p>Commenced</p> <p>Landowner and stakeholder negotiations for walking and cycle link from Portglenone town to Newferry as part of Blueway trail developments</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver event and activity programmes at the core MUDC venues Deliver Parks Marketing Plan in conjunction with MUDC Marketing & Communications 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Delivery of 192 Council Events as part of Parks Service calendar</p> <p>Establish Parks identity and increased Parks Service profile with seasonal event campaigns</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project 	<p>Commenced Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project. Currently a Live project on schedule for operational opening to public for April 2020 <i>Due to Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions Official Opening was postponed.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenway proposals 	No further development, subject to funding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservoirs Management 	Commenced Conformity to The Reservoir Act (NI) 2015 Water Regulations requirements commenced, ongoing programme of works.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Parks Improvements Programme 	Completed Twelve play park enhancements in conjunction with Village renewal RDP Programme.

2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2020/21

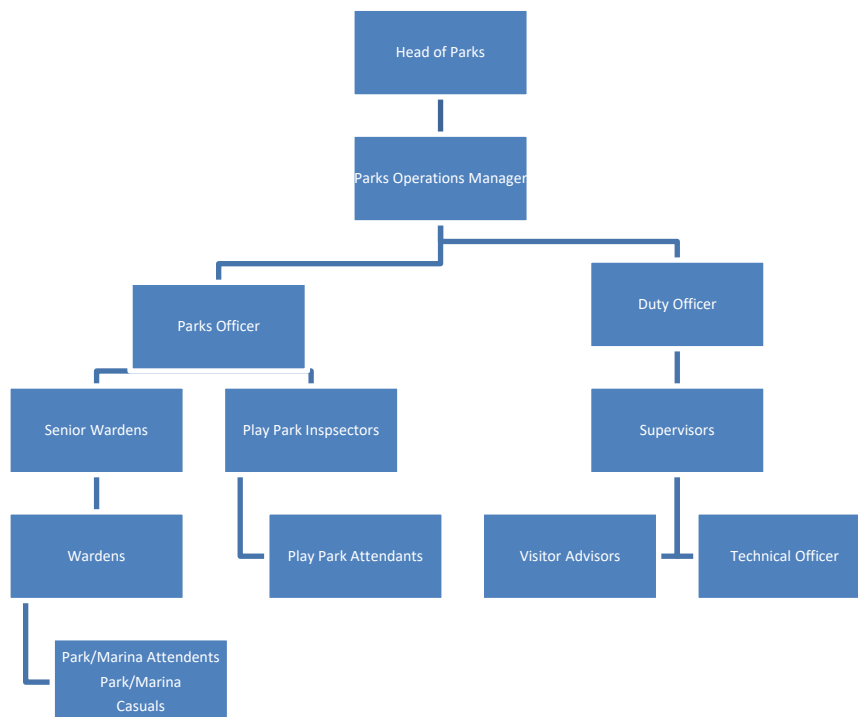
The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2020-21 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2020/21*

Service Budget Headings	£
Salaries and Wages	904,418.00
Parks Service Operational Budget	292,670.00
Gross Budget	1,197,088.00
Income	(165,650.00)
Net Budget for 2020-21	1,031,438.00

- **Budget as of 1st April 2020, subject to variation/amendment due to Covid-19**

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2020/21



Staffing	No. of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	1
Officers	2
Receptionists 2PT/2Casual	4
Senior Wardens	2
Supervisor	2
Play Park Inspectors	3
Technical Officer	1
Park Wardens	2
Visitor Advisor	4
Park/Marina Attendants	11
Play Park Attendants	14
Park Attendants (Casual)	7
Total	54

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2020/21

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form your Service Work Plan for 2020-21. This is a high-level capture of the Service activities as well as some improvement undertakings which the Parks Service will focus on throughout 2020-21, mindful of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Plan links to the Council's new 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes:

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2020/21

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	e.g. Write service objective here			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
CMP 4.1 Health & Wellbeing - We are better enabled to live longer healthier & more active lives	Communities: 5.2 We will continue to support the sustainable development of our parks, forests & green spaces, together with access to outdoor assets, including walking cycling trails & water recreation.			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Delivery of year one objectives of Council’s 5 Year Parks and Play Strategic Plans	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid	Creation of new and inclusive play opportunities for children across the council district. Improvement to parks and open spaces environments Improved Quality Standards for Council managed Parks and Open Spaces	Upgrade four existing play locations Enhancements programme on seven play locations Capital Parks development programme at three identified public park locations

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Parks and Play Improvements Programme	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid	Complete upgrades and refurbishment of children's play parks as part of an annual MUDC rolling works programme Increasing inclusive play equipment provision across MUDC	Upgrade 4 existing play locations Enhance 7 low scoring children's play parks Tender/procurement of schemes within budget allocation Installation of items of new inclusive play equipment to achieve an increase of 5%
Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project	Completed by October 2020	P Bailie A Reid K Gordon	Creation of a Visitor Centre and Dark Sky Observatory including a range of interpretation linking the heritage of the area with the night sky. Development of the visitor hub/trail head area i.e. ancillary facilities/services and car parking.	Contribute to long-term economic growth through the development of the economy of the Council area, offering a distinct and complementary sustainable outdoor recreation product to that already being offered within the Council area. EA Targets Income £30,000 Visitor Footfall 30,000 – likely to be lower as opening delayed due to COVID-19
Reservoirs Management	Completed by October 2020	P Bailie A Reid	Conformity to The Reservoir Act (NI) 2015 Water Regulations	Appointment of Panel Engineers and completion of Dungannon Park Lake and Ballysaggart Lough condition Survey reports Introduce monitoring system for MUDC Reservoirs Submission of action plan reports to DfI Rivers.

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	e.g. write service objective here			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 2.2 Infrastructure - We increasingly value our environment & enhance it for our children</i>	<i>Communities: 5.2 We will continue to support the sustainable development of our parks, forests & green spaces, together with access to outdoor assets, including walking cycling trails & water recreation.</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Delivery of year one objectives of Council's 5 Year Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid	<p>Creation of new and improved access to the Countryside opportunities for multi discipline users groups across the council district.</p> <p>Improvements to visitor facilities in council managed Forest Parks</p> <p>Improved access to water recreation for paddle craft, angling and sailing activities</p>	<p>Undertake Master Planning and Feasibility Studies for selected Regional and Local recreation</p> <p>Establish two additional Forest partnership Agreements with FSNI</p> <p>Capital development programme for two Forest Recreation projects</p>

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Establish an extension of Licence Agreements with Forest Service NI	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid	Projects in partnership with local community groups with a proposal of two new agreements at Altmore and Drumcairne Forests	Significant increase for public access to quality outdoor recreation opportunities and the countryside (%)
Undertake Master Planning and feasibility studies for selected MUDC Regional and Local Multi-Activity Hubs	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid	Significant increase for public access to quality play, outdoor recreation opportunities and the access to the countryside	Completion of Master Plan for Traad Point
Access to the Countryside development via long distance trails	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid	Creation of a Blueway Trail on the Lower Bann from Portglenone to Newferry in partnership with Waterways Ireland (WI), Forest Service (NI) and community stakeholders	Creation of seven kilometres of off-road public path. Provision and refurbishment of 180 angling stands.
Progress Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenway proposals	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid	Contribution to making our communities more liveable improving the economy through tourism and civic improvement preservation and restoration of open space and provision of opportunity for physical activities to improve fitness and mental wellbeing across our communities	Stage three design and cost options appraisal for both projects Projects to progress on the basis of Council approval and subject to sourcing available funding

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		e.g. write service objective here		
Link to Community Plan Theme:		Align to Corporate Plan Theme		
CMP 4.1 Health & Wellbeing - We are better enabled to live longer healthier & more active lives		Communities: 5.2 We will continue to support the sustainable development of our parks, forests & green spaces, together with access to outdoor assets, including walking cycling trails & water recreation.		
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Audit of planned outdoor recreation events and programmes	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid K Gordon AMcGuckin	<p>Inclusion of Davagh OM Dark Skies Park in to visitor and event programming</p> <p>Develop and deliver health and wellbeing programmes at specific locations</p> <p>Develop facility activity programme and promotions at specific locations</p> <p>Implement an online customer survey for users of parks and outdoor recreation facilities</p> <p>Increase 'Green Flag' status Standard across Parks</p>	<p>Monitor data of facility visitor numbers/ footfall Increase footfall by 5% to 804,319</p> <p>Develop role of Parks in the health agenda through enhanced partnership with the Health Trusts</p> <p>Number of programmes delivered. Increase internal events programme by 2 to 85</p> <p>Visitor satisfaction percentage (%) Mystery visit indicator feedback (%) Increase by 3% to 85%</p> <p>Achieve 'Green Flag' status at one additional site</p>

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
<p>Deliver event and activity programmes at the core MUDC venues</p> <p>Support event and activity programmes in Forest & Countryside venues managed by Mid Ulster District Council</p>	Completed by March 2021	P Bailie A Reid K Gordon AMcGuckin	Programme of varied events and activities across Parks Service / MUDC venues throughout the spring/summer/autumn period seeking to engage a broad spectrum of participant and spectator audience	<p>Facilitate of 190 Council/Public Events as part of Parks Service calendar</p> <p>Establish Parks identity and increased Parks Service profile through seasonal specific event campaigns</p>

Performance Measures: <i>Should include any measures as outlined in work above and relevant measures from Community, Corporate, Performance Improvement Plan, Statutory, Corporate Health Indicators etc.</i>	Is the Measure, Statutory, Corporate, Existing, or New?	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Target/Standard
CIP4/A002 (b) Audit of Planned Outdoor Recreation Events and Programmes Visitor footfall across MUDC Parks and Outdoor Recreation facilities	Existing Measure	Baseline Year	576,660	766,019	804,319* Recovery planning due to Covid 19
CIP4/A002 (b) Audit of Planned Outdoor Recreation Events and Programmes Annual Mystery Visitor Survey	Existing Measure	Baseline Year	77%	82%	85%* Recovery planning due to Covid 19
CIP4/A002 (b) Audit of Planned Outdoor Recreation Events and Programmes Internal Programmes and Events	Existing Measure	Baseline Year	26	83	85* Recovery planning due to Covid 19
CIP4/A002 (b) Audit of Planned Outdoor Recreation Events and Programmes Green Flag/Blue Flag Standard Accredited Awards	Existing Measure	Baseline Year	3	4	5* Recovery planning due to Covid 19

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

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

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

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

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

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

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

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

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2019-20.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	A lack of, or untimely, maintenance of Parks and Open spaces with the possibility of creating an unsafe environment for public users with potential for injury claims.	6 (3x2)	Currently managed through Property Services. This function of the Council has an extensive remit, responsible for the maintenance of all council lands and property.
2.	Accident occurs on play area	8 (4x2)	Majority of playgrounds are inspected weekly by council staff. Independent annual inspections by ROSPA or RPII Inspectorate. Significant number playgrounds have been replaced or upgraded in recent years and evidence of current good and safe practices reflect in low claim levels. Comprehensive Audit has been completed Play Strategy being developed by Parks Service. Council approval pending
3.	Parks budget under pressure	6 (3x2)	Monthly Budget Management Reports. Networking with potential partner organisations to advise on funding environment. Selection based on greatest need or H&S assessment and annual resource availability. Continue to manage and monitor monthly reports throughout financial year.
4.	Play area equipment etc. is inadequate/outdated	6 (3x2)	A designated officer is responsible for ensuring and monitoring the use and condition of safety materials, particularly around play equipment. Parks service has developed a detailed strategy to ensure that adequate leisure facilities are provided. Programmed internal and external inspections of parks and open spaces are carried out to ensure that standards of maintenance are maintained and the facilities available are up to the required standards. There are documented consultation procedures to ensure that public expectations are identified. There is a planned maintenance programme that is documented and

			communicated to maintenance staff. There is compliance with industry health and safety standards to ensure the latest materials are used/introduced on a timely basis.
5.	Fraud, theft or bribery occurring within Parks service.	6 (2x3)	<p>All Ballyronan financial transactions managed by Council staff. Approx 70% of bookings - Marina and Caravan Park dealt with as online bookings by World Pay. Cash & Cheque Handling @ Dungannon Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation of duties takes place. • Financial procedures followed • Checks and audits take place at random intervals <p>IT solution that centralises bookings introduced. Review of Service Level agreement at Ballyronan Marina allowed the transfer of all cashier duties from community group to council staff.</p>
6.	Water Safety general. Risk to general public/visitors and council employees in relation to water recreation facilities owned and managed by MUDC	8 (4x2)	<p>MUDC Water Safety Policy in place. Water Safety Equipment deployed on designed sites. Programmed Site Inspections. Audited Inspection software records. Damaged or Missing safety Equipment replaced Immediately from stock.</p>

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

A

Report on	Service Improvement Plan, Culture & Arts Services
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
Contact Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members with regard to the Culture and Arts Services - Service Improvement Plan for 2020/21.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Service Improvement plan (See appendix 1) ensures that Culture and Arts services are accountable, planned and clear, and that performance and improvement are a key element of service delivery. The Plan also assists in delivering the Council's mission and strategic outcomes set out in Council's Corporate Plan and has been prepared with cognisance of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Culture and Arts Service has facility management, venue operations and associated programming responsibility for the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown, Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon and Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy.
3.2	In addition, Culture and Arts Services also has responsibility for the delivery of Council's district wide Arts and Cultural development programme and the delivery of the Council's Regional and Minority Language Development programme.
3.3	The Service delivers a diverse range of culture and arts activity across a wide range of art & cultural forms. The purpose of the Service is to encourage greater community and audience participation in Culture and Arts activity delivered by Mid Ulster District Council, both for the inhabitants of the District and for visitors to our District.

3.4	<p>Culture & Arts Services is part of the Business and Communities Directorate, and is made up of the following key service areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts & Cultural Venues 2. Arts & Cultural Development 3. Regional & Minority Language Development
3.5	<p>The social and economic disruption of COVID-19 has had and will continue to have a significant impact on the service we provide and the way we provide them and the citizens that we provide our service to. As lockdown restrictions ease, social distancing measures are enacted in the workplace and service provision gradually recovers, transitions and adapts to a 'new normal', we must be mindful of the impact of COVID-19 on the plans which are currently being developed at all levels of the Service Planning and Performance Management. How we plan now will determine how well we adapt to the challenges and opportunities within a post COVID-19 environment, not just within Culture & Arts Services of MUDC, but also within the wider Culture & Arts sector within Mid Ulster.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: As per budgets approved by Council</p>
	<p>Human: As delivered within Staffing resources approved by Council</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Risks identified are detailed in the attached Service Improvement Plan</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Culture & Arts Service provision is delivered by the officer team to be fully inclusive, and is designed to encourage wide participation from all sections of the community and which promotes and supports good relations between all sections of the community within Mid Ulster</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Rural Needs have been considered in the formulation, development and implementation of the Service Improvement Plan for Culture & Arts Services 2020/21</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the Culture and Arts Services – Service Improvement Plan for 2020/21.</p>

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Culture & Arts Service Improvement Plan 2020/21



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Culture & Arts

Business and Communities

SERVICE PLAN - 2020 / 21

Date

Consulted within staff team

18/06/2020

Discussed & signed off by Director

19/06/2020

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1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Service

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

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

1.2 Responsibilities

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

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

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

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

1.4 Performance Overview in 2019/20

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2019-2020). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

The Culture & Arts Service Improvement Plan for 2019/20 has contributed to the following objective set within the Corporate Improvement Plan.

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

2019/20 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
Continued successful roll out of Culture and arts small grants scheme on annual basis with increased numbers of applicants being supported during 2019/20.	Award of small grants completed and allocated. Increase in number of groups supported and level of grant aid allocated across Mid Ulster identified
Continued support provided to six Strategic Arts Partner organisations identified, ensuring that the Arts Infrastructure within mid ulster region continues to be supported, maintained and developed for the benefit of the inhabitants of the District and visitors to the District	<p>As with many organisations within the Arts & Cultural sector funding to Arts organisations from external funding sources continues to be a significant barrier to ongoing development of the Arts infrastructure within Mid Ulster and beyond. The Culture & Arts Service team has worked with key partners throughout 2019/20 in the identification of other support mechanisms available and indeed have worked closely with Strategic partners at the end of Quarter 4 of 2019/20 with the devastating impact of the Covid 19 pandemic in communities across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>As a result of the impact of Covid 19, MUDC has approved that the funding for Strategic Partner organisations allocated in 2020/21, would be allocated in advance to partner organisations in order to assist in alleviating the financial and operational pressures that they will face during 2020/21 and beyond.</p>
Up until the closure of Arts facilities as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, all Culture & Arts facilities had been utilised to their full potential and facility activities and community based programmes were being delivered, tailored to meet the needs of the various	Increase in levels of engagement across all three Culture & Arts facilities identified.

target audiences, participants and groups that are actively engaged throughout Mid Ulster, both directly through our venues and also through outreach activity delivered.	
Delivery of Mid Ulster District Council's Regional and Minority Language Programme and Action Plan has resulted in an increase in demand for Language activity which will be further developed in 2020/21. The impact of Covid-19 has necessitated a review programme delivery. Significant impact on Language bursary scheme which has resulted in all Language schools in Summer 2020 being cancelled.	Increase in Language activity identified a new ulster scots language programme being delivered and will be further developed during 2020/21. Officer team liaising with successful bursary award recipients to determine levels of interest for summer schools in 2021/22, given cancellation of Summer schools in 2020/21 as a result of Covid-19
Significant progress made on Seamus Heaney Trail (Open Ground) project throughout 2019/20.	Project scheduled for completion in Autumn 2020, as per agreements with funder, although it should be noted that this could be impacted by ongoing Covid 19 related issues. Discussions with Funder are ongoing.

2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2020/21

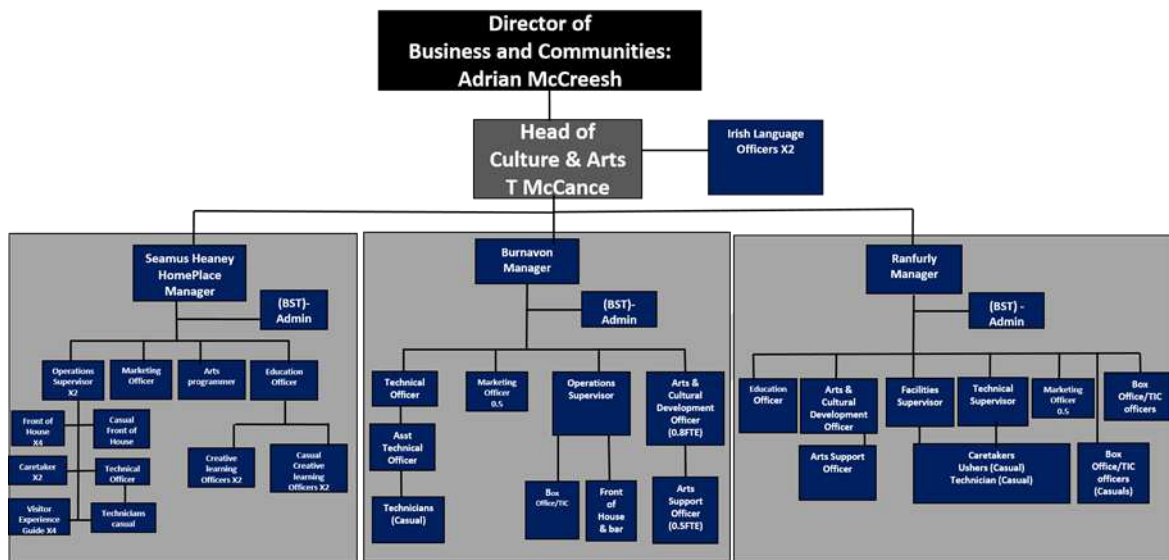
The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2020-21 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2020/21*

Service Budget Headings	£
Arts & Cultural Development	450,434
Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre	530,767
Seamus Heaney HomePlace	811,043
Ranfurly and Hill of the O Neill	595,656
Regional and Minority Languages	261,100
Tullaghoge Fort	9,750
Gross Budget	2,658,750
Income	498,300
Net Budget for 2020-21	2,160,450

*Budget as agreed through Council prior to Covid-19 pandemic

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2020/21



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

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2020/21

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form the Culture & Arts Service Work Plan for 2020-21. This plan captures the activities and improvement undertakings which Culture & Arts Service propose to focus on throughout 2020-21, mindful of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Plan links to the Council's new 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes.

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2020/21

Service Objective :	To deliver an Arts and Cultural Programme of events and venue programme of activity, for the inhabitants of and visitors to the Mid Ulster Region			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 5.2 Vibrant & Safe Communities - We have a greater value and respect for diversity</i>	<i>Communities 5.5 We will promote and protect regional minority languages and culture</i>			
Key Actions	By When	Lead Officers(s)	Outcomes/outputs	Measures
To maintain the delivery and promotion of a diverse programme of performances and events/arts & cultural, educational and heritage activity across the three MUDC Arts & Cultural venues and through our key heritage site locations across Mid Ulster.	31/03/2021	B McCormick C Sheehy J Robinson P Lant R Convery C Brown L Porter C McGowan M Quinn M McCann Russell P Corrigan	Inspiring, informing and engaging inhabitants and visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in the rich and diverse arts, culture and heritage offering of Mid Ulster. Active participation in arts and Culture related activity will contribute to the Health and wellbeing of our residents. The arts within Mid Ulster will be further developed, promoted and sustained	Number of Programmes developed Visitor numbers/audience numbers to Arts facilities participatory levels in Arts and Cultural activity External funding identified/secured Facility income levels Workshop and class attendance levels visitor numbers to heritage assets and strategic visitor sites

			Increased protection of, access to and ongoing development of our heritage assets, both man-made and natural, including our strategic visitor sites	
To maintain support provided to Strategic Partners and their associated project/creative learning programme delivery, particularly in light of Covid 19 pandemic, which will have a lasting impact on strategic partner ability to maintain support that they provide within their respective communities.	31/03/2021	T McCance L Porter J Scullion	The arts within Mid Ulster will be further developed, promoted and sustained Rural communities continue to have access to culture and arts related activities and programmes	Number of KIT meetings undertaken Number of wider strategic group meetings undertaken Strategic partners arts and cultural offering is maintained. Local/rural communities continue to have access to local/rural arts and cultural activity.
To obtain the required grading for venues and visitor attractions as identified through Tourism NI grading programme for Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Ranfurly and Hill of the O'Neill and The Burnavon	31/03/2021	T McCance J Robinson B McCormick C Sheehy	Tourism NI recognition and visitor recognition of the high quality of Arts, Culture and Heritage programmes and activities delivered within Mid Ulster	Tourism NI Grading obtained for all three MUDC culture and Arts venues
Development of a Regional and Minority Language Action Plan designed to meet the needs of the relevant stakeholder groups and organisations within the Mid Ulster Region	30/12/2021	T McCance D O Doibhlinn U Ni Dhonnaile	Will ensure that the Action plan in place is fit for purpose and meets the needs of its relevant stakeholder groups and organisations	Proposed Action plan developed Action plan meets the needs of relevant stakeholders groups
To maintain engagement with schools, colleges and universities through the delivery of innovative and targeted programmes to ensure that the educational activity undertaken across Culture & Arts Services continues to be beneficial to pupils, students, teachers and educators	31/03/2021	T McCance J Robinson B McCormick C Sheehy D O Doibhlinn U Ni Dhonnaile	Arts, Culture and Heritage offering within Mid Ulster will be further developed, promoted and sustained Communities continue to have access to culture, arts and heritage related activities and programmes delivered by MUDC	Number of students, Schools, colleges, Universities actively engaged and participating in educational programmes delivered through Culture & Arts Service Team

Service Development/Improvement 2020/21	By When	Lead Officer(s)	Outcomes/outputs	Measures
To deliver enhanced development works at Tullaghoge Fort, in conjunction with colleagues in Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division (subject to confirmation of funding from DfC/HED).	31/03/2021	T McCance C Sheehy	Increased protection of, access to and ongoing development of our heritage assets, including our strategic visitor sites	% Project completed No. of Increased visitor numbers recorded Feedback from Users Numbers of schools engaged in Educational activity delivered
To deliver the Seamus Heaney <i>Open Ground</i> Trails Experience Project (including completion of capital works, interpretative works and Sculptural installation)	31/03/2021	T McCance B McCormick	Increased protection of, access to and ongoing development of our heritage assets, both man-made and natural, including our strategic visitor sites	% Project completed Baseline Visitor numbers being recorded.
To carry out a refit of Library space at Seamus Heaney HomePlace to facilitate greater numbers of visitors utilising the space and to afford opportunity for visitors to access the Seamus Heaney BBC archive material both television and radio (Project subject to confirmation of funding)	31/03/2021	T McCance B McCormick	Arts, Culture offering within Mid Ulster will be further developed, enhanced, promoted and sustained.	% project completed Increased visitor numbers recorded Feedback from visitors
To carry out a refurbishment of the Burnavon box office area, ground floor foyer area and replacement of seating in Burnavon Auditorium (project subject to confirmation of funding)	31/03/2021	T McCance C Sheehy	Arts, Culture offering within Mid Ulster will be further developed, enhanced, promoted and sustained.	% Project completed Increased visitor numbers recorded Feedback from visitors
To develop a new website for Ranfurly and Hill of the O'Neill	31/03/2021	T McCance J Robinson	Arts, Culture offering within Mid Ulster will be further developed, enhanced, promoted and sustained.	Increase in visitor numbers using website Increase in attendance at events at venue into 2021/22 Increase in visitor numbers to location as a heritage site in 2021 2022

Performance Measures: <i>Should include any measures as outlined in work above and relevant measures from Community, Corporate, Performance Improvement Plan, Statutory, Corporate Health Indicators etc.</i>	Is the Measure, Statutory, Corporate, Existing, or New	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Target/Standard
3.1 Visitors to Arts/Cultural Venues The numbers of people that use facilities and engage in Arts and cultural activity delivered by MUDC (Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Ranfurly and Hill of the O'Neill, Burnavon and Bridewell)	Existing Measure	Baseline year	120,247	135,939	Recovery planning due to Covid 19
4.4 Number of Online Transactions Includes ticket sales and online transactions through Arts & Culture venues and Leisure Service systems	Existing Measure	Baseline year	16,655	17,022	Recovery planning due to Covid 19

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

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

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

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

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

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

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

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

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver Culture & Arts Service business in 2020-21.

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

			Authorisation process is in place for approval for removal/disposal/loss of stock.
4.	Fraud, theft or bribery occurring within Culture & Arts Centres	6	All Staff have attend procurement training All Staff adhere to policy guidance, staff signing invoices up to £1k, Head of Service up to £5k & Director £5k-£10k. Cash handling processes in place across all venues, which include segregation of duties

As part of the recovery of the 1st wave of the Covid -19 pandemic, should a second or further waves occur we will switch to our emergency plans.

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

Report on	Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2020-21
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Michael Browne

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To information and for Members to note the Tourism Department - Service Improvement Plan for 2020/21.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Service Improvement plan ensures that Tourism services are accountable, planned and clear, and that performance and improvement are a key element of service delivery. The Plan also assists in delivering the Council's mission and strategic outcomes set out in Council's Corporate Plan.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Tourism Department is responsible for the successful leadership and management of Tourism Service in Mid Ulster District Council. It plays a lead role in the delivery of the Mid Ulster District Council's vision and values and promotes the achievement of high standards of performance against Corporate and Service specific performance indicators.
3.2	The Tourism Department is responsible for the development and implementation of Mid Ulster District Councils Tourism Strategy. Manage and deliver Visitor Information Services for Mid Ulster through the Visitor Information Centres in Bellaghy, Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.
3.3	It is also responsible for the Culture change of Tourism delivery by becoming more commercially and customer focussed by maintaining and increasing domestic and international visitors and building and developing relationships with a wide range of stakeholders through business engagement.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: As per budgets approved by Council
	Human: As delivered within Staffing resources approved by Council
	Risk Management: Risks identified are detailed in the attached Service Improvement Plan
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Tourism provision is delivered by the officer team to be fully inclusive, and is designed to encourage wide participation from all sections of the community and which promotes and supports good relations between all sections of the community within Mid Ulster
	Rural Needs Implications: Rural Needs have been considered in the formulation, development and implementation of the Service Improvement Plan for Tourism Services 2020/21
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	For information and for Members to note the Tourism Department Service Improvement Plan for 2020/21.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2020-21



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Tourism

Business and Communities

SERVICE PLAN - 2020 / 21

Date

Consulted within staff team

18/06/2020

Discussed & signed off by Director

19/06/2020

CONTENT

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1.2	Responsibilities	2
1.3	Customers & Stakeholders	2
1.4	Performance Overview in 2019/20	2-4
2.0	IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2020/21	
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1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Service

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

Key Functional Responsibilities:-

- Tourism – District Wide
- Visitor Servicing – Located in Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Burnavon, Bridewell and Ranfurly House
- Corporate Events – District Wide
- Tourism Business Engagement

1.2 Responsibilities

The Tourism department is responsible for the following functions:

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

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

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
• Tourism Northern Ireland
• Tourism Ireland
• National Trust
• DAERA
• Department for Infrastructure
• Sport NI
• Department for the Economy
• Sperrins Future Search
• Lough Neagh Partnership
• Tourism Trade
• Councillors
• Funding Departments
• Event Organisers
• Schools

1.4 Performance Overview in 2019/2020

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2019-2020). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

The Tourism Department Improvement Plan for 2019/20 has contributed to the following objective set within the Corporate Improvement Plan.

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

2019/20 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
Tourism deliver and support a comprehensive strategic events programme across Mid Ulster Council	All events delivered on budget and on time with targeted numbers achieved.
To deliver Mid Ulster's 5 year tourism strategy.	As a result of the impact of COVID-19, the MUDC Tourism strategy, mid-term review was put on hold, with reviewing and remodelling required to take into consideration COVID-19.
Introduce a performance management approach for the tourism department.	Increase in levels of engagement across all three Culture & Arts facilities identified.
Increase the tourism potential of the Seamus Heaney project by working with the tourism industry and developing programmes and projects that will attract increased visitors to the Mid Ulster area.	During 2019/20 greater effort took place to secure new bookings at Seamus Heaney HomePlace with quality tour operators. New bookings were secured, however as a result of the impact of COVID-19 this has been put on hold.
To establish and develop a tourism industry forum that will engage and that work with the Council in the delivery of its 5 year tourism strategy. This forum will also support and advise the Mid Ulster Council private sector	The Mid Ulster Tourism Forum and the sub thematic clusters have been instrumental to the on-going positive working relationships with the private sector.

and help realise the tourism potential. To offer an integrated multi-channel communications platforms that will improve and enhance B2B & business to customer communications across the Mid Ulster tourism industry.	
Significant progress made on OM Davagh Dark Skies Project throughout 2019/20.	Project scheduled to open to the public April 2020, as per agreements with funder, although it should be noted that this didn't go ahead due to ongoing Covid 19 related issues. The official opening will be rescheduled to a later date in the year.

2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2020/21

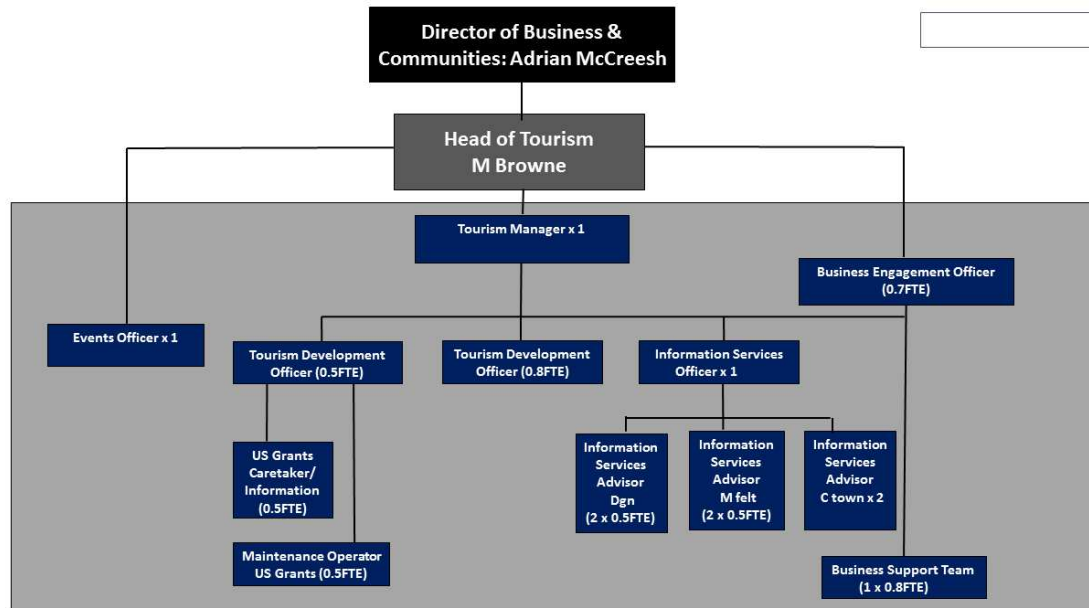
The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2020-21 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2020/21*

Service Budget Headings	£
Bridewell	£65,689
Events	£133,000
Tourism General	£449,544
US Grants	£7,365
Gross Budget	£655,598
Income	£86,276
Net Budget for 2020-21	£569,322

*Budget as agreed through Council prior to Covid-19 pandemic

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2020/21



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

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2020/21

This plan confirms the core activities and actions which will form your Service Work Plan for 2020-21. This should be a high level capture of the Service activities and work which it will focus on throughout 2020-21. The Plan links to the Council's 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes.

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2020/21

Service Objective :	To deliver			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.2 Economic Growth - We have more people working in a diverse economy</i>	<i>Economy: 3.6 We will work to deliver tourism investment and employment concentrating on Mid Ulster's three identified tourism strands</i>			
Key Actions	By When	Lead Officers(s)	Outcomes/outputs	Measures
In light of COVID-19 to review and develop a programme of corporate events for the town centres and across the district that consider social distancing with appropriate themes and delivery. .	31/03/2021	S Arbuthnot Town Centre Managers M McKeown	To deliver inspiring, engaging events to enhance Mid Ulster Council's town centres and other event spaces. To be accessible to all visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities all taking into consideration COVID-19 guidelines. Maximise participation of our residents. To further develop, promoted and deliver high quality events.	Number of Programmes developed Visitor numbers/audience numbers to corporate events Levels of participant satisfaction surveys.

To maintain support provided to the hospitality sector, particularly in light of COVID-19 pandemic, which will have a lasting impact on this sector.	31/03/2021	M Browne M McGee M McKeown	The Tourism Department within Mid Ulster Council will be working closer with the private sector to ensure all opportunities are maximised.	Number of business programmes delivered. Total Investment secured.
To obtain the required grading for venues and visitor attractions as identified through Tourism NI grading programme for OM Davagh Dark Skies, Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Ranfurly, US Grant, Hill of the O'Neill.	31/03/2021	T McCance M Browne M McKeown BMcCormack J Robinson C Sheehy	Tourism NI recognition and visitor recognition of the high quality of Arts, Culture and Heritage programmes and activities delivered within Mid Ulster	Tourism NI Grading obtained for all MUDC culture and attractions.
As part of the experiential brand, Tourism NI have included 22 Embrace the Giant Spirit must do experiences as a focus for its marketing activities. Mid Ulster Council has been successful in securing three local experiences within the twenty-two attractions and activities, Seamus Heaney, Stars and Stones and Sheepdogs at Work. With Mid Ulster's richness in Heritage, further developments in the this area will be explored to develop sustainable products under the brand of 'Embrace the Giant Spirt' and in addition to this area Lough Neagh also presents collective cross Council potential for the development of visitor experiences under 'Embrace the Giant Spirt'.	31/03/2021	M Browne M McKeown M McGee	To development with the Tourism Development Group clusters and Lough Neagh Partnership at least two new visitor experiences under the 'Embrace the Giant Spirt' for both Mid Ulster Heritage and Lough Neagh	The development of at least two new experiences under the 'Embrace the Giant Spirt' brand.

Service Development/Improvement 2020/21	By When	Lead Officer(s)	Outcomes/outputs	Measures
Increased Mid Ulster visitor digital presence. Website presences on Tourism NI 'Embrace a Giant Sprit' website and increase visitor interactive immersive experiences.	31/03/2021	M Browne M McKeown G Major	Increased strategic web presences for all attractions and accommodation.	% Project completed No. of Increased visitor numbers recorded Feedback from Users No. of Increased digital platforms and experiences.
To develop at least two new visitor experiences under the Tourism NI 'Embrace a Giant Sprit' brand with a specific focus under the development heritage pillar and utilising what Lough Neagh has to offer.	31/03/2021	M Browne M McKeown M McKee C Bell G Bell	Increased visitors to the district to access and appreciate Mid Ulster heritage assets, both man-made and natural, including our strategic visitor sites	% Project completed Baseline Visitor numbers being recorded.
Increase commercial tour operator's bookings to Council's attractions: (a).Seamus Heaney HomePlace, (b) The Hill of the O'Neill, (c) U.S Grants (d) OM Davagh Dark Skies	31/03/2021	M Browne M McGee M McKeown T McCance	The tourism offering within Mid Ulster will be further developed, enhanced, promoted and sustained.	% project completed Increased visitor numbers recorded Feedback from visitors
Broaden the visitor appeal of the Council's visitor attractions by increasing the visitor physical and augmented experience at OM Davagh Dark Skies and Ballyronan Marina.	31/03/2021	M Browne M McKeown C Bell G Bell	Tourism offering within Mid Ulster will be further developed, enhanced, promoted and sustained.	% Project completed Increased visitor numbers recorded Monitor usage of digital experience Feedback from visitors
To enhance the visitor experience at US Grants Homestead with new signage and improved visitor flow around the site. Upgrade the welfare facilities at Bridewell Visitor Information Centre in Magherafelt to include disabled toilet and access on the main floor.	31/12/2020	M Browne M McKeown G Bell C Bell	To enhance the visitor experience at U S Grants and The Bridewell TIC.	% Project completed Visitor feedback Increased visitor numbers recorded.

Performance Measures: <i>Should include any measures as outlined in work above and relevant measures from Community, Corporate, Performance Improvement Plan, Statutory, Corporate Health Indicators etc.</i>	Is the Measure, Statutory, Corporate, Existing, or New	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Target/Standard
3.1 Visitors to Arts/Cultural Venues/Attractions The numbers of people that use facilities and engage in Arts and cultural activity delivered by MUDC (Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Ranfurly and Hill of the O'Neill, Burnavon and Bridewell)	Existing Measure	Baseline year	120,247	135,939	Recovery planning due to Covid 19

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

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

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

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

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

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Report on	Community Development Service Plan 2020-21
Date of Meeting	9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head Community Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory PCSP Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Community Service Plan for Community Development 2020 – 2021.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council annually develops community services plans for its individual sections.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	A Council Service Plan have been developed for 2020 – 2021 for Community Development is attached for approval in Appendix. 1.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> None <u>Professional Support</u> None
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note Council Service Plan - Community Development 2020 – 2021.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Council Service Plan - Community Development 2020 – 2021



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Community Development Business & Communities

SERVICE PLAN - 2020 / 21

Date

Consulted within staff team

10 /03 /2020

Discussed & signed off by Director

12/03 /2020

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1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Service

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

The section is specifically responsible for the following functions:

Community Development Support

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

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

Good Relations

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

Peace IV

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

Neighbourhood Renewal

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

Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

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

1.2 Responsibilities

The section is specifically responsible for the following functions:

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

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

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

1.4 Performance Overview in 2019/20

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2019-2020). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

2019/20 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
• Connecting Pomeroy project commenced	Activity programme commenced Stage 2 design complete all facilities
• Community Grants delivered under 14 themes	Over 800 groups supported Over £1million distributed to groups New discretionary grant rolled out
• Delivery of PCSP across	PCSP plan delivered through partnership

• Delivery of Good Relations	Good Relations Plan delivered - over 12 programmes with a number of projects in each area, alongside grants
• Peace IV delivery	10 programmes currently in delivery Peace grants x 3 phases delivered 6 capital shared space designs complete and tendered Total spend allocated £3mn budget £3.36mn
• General Advice Services	General advice delivery across Mid Ulster
• Neighbourhood Renewal facilitated through a partnership approach	Over 10 projects managed DUY capital new build complete £3/4mn
• Community buildings	Management of community buildings Clogher leased to Play Group & Rural Centre Garners Hall partner adult learning and community booking
• Community Planning Poverty Initiative	Management of the community planning process for Mid Ulster Draft poverty plan in place – 2 consultations with community planning partners

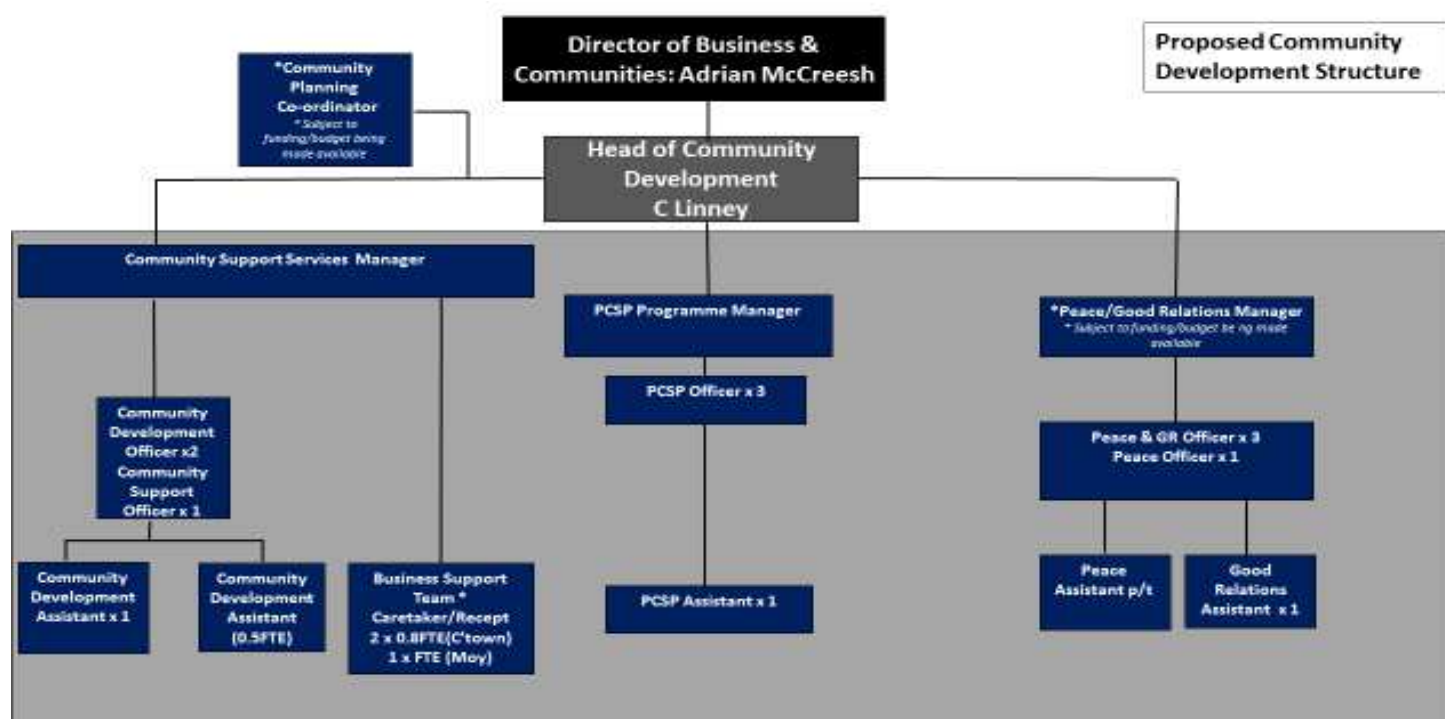
2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2020/21

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

2.1 Budget 2020/21

Service Budget Headings	£
Community Grants, Incl sports and arts and culture spend	£1mn
Community Development General	£180,000
Community Centres (incl GLH)	40,000
Advice	226,000
Good Relations	415,000
PCSP	302,000
Neighbourhood Renewal- core (programme costs Dept Communities) Incl salaries	43,500
CCTV	30,000
Peace IV (2017 – 2020) £3,360,000	£1,500,000
Gross Budget	£3,906,500
Income Grants	£2,340,000
Transfers and spend re other Divisions	£475,000
Net Budget for 2019-20	£835,000
Peace IV Shared Space Project	£5.1 million

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2020/21



Staffing	No. of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	3
Officers	12 people (11 accounting reduced hours)
Assistants	4
Administration	1.5
Supervisors Com Centres	1 Part time
Total	22

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2020/21

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form your Service Work Plan for 2020-21. This is a high-level capture of the Service activities as well as some improvement undertakings which the service will focus on throughout 2020-21. The Plan links to the Council's new 2020-2024 Corporate Plan priorities, Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes:

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2020/21

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		To oversee the development and partnership delivery of a poverty plan for Mid Ulster		
Link to Community Plan Theme:		Align to Corporate Plan Theme		
<i>CMP 5.3 Vibrant & Safe Communities - We have fewer people living in poverty and fewer areas of disadvantage.</i>		<i>Communities: 5.3 We will, along with our community planning partners, work to address poverty & deprivation across Mid Ulster Region.</i>		
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Develop a poverty plan for Mid Ulster	June 2020	Claire Linney/ Martina Totten	Agreed Poverty Plan Initiatives short – medium term	Number of new programmes/ initiatives through partnership
Facilitate the delivery through partnership of poverty initiatives for Mid Ulster	March 2021	Claire Linney / Good Relations Team	Number of people receiving support to address poverty Reduce impact of poverty on people and lives	Poverty Level response Poverty issues compared to other areas
What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)

Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	To delivery community development and social engagement through grants			
Link to Community Plan Theme:	Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 5.1 Vibrant & safe Communities - We are a safer Community</i>	<i>Communities: 5.1 We will open up & sustain accessible pathways to participation in leisure & outdoor rec activities which enhance health & well-being by providing hi quality, accessible facilities in local communities & thru programmes tailored 4 community</i>			
What are the key 'Business as Usual' activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Deliver on community grants under 14 themes for community engagement	March 21	Claire Linney/ Community Development team	Groups supporting local communities Sustaining groups	Level of support Number of groups in place
Support communities maximise funding to their area for community engagement activity	March 21	Claire Linney/ Community Development Team	Number of groups supported	Number of groups supporting communities

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
3 year funding for strategic grants, with annual review	March 21	Claire Linney/ Philip Clarke	Greater sustainability for Groups	Group feedback end 2020

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

Deliver on the Good Relations Plan in partnership with the Executive Office (TBUC)	March 2021	Claire Linney/ Oliver Morgan	Increase in the level of understanding of diverse communities and traditions	% of plan completed Number of people participating in Good Relations programmes
Deliver Peace IV	March 2021	Claire Linney/ Oliver Morgan	Increase in the level of understanding of diverse communities and traditions	Grant £XX spend pa. Number of people participating in programmes and activities

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

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

What Service Development/Improvement will we undertake in 2020/21? (actions):	By When (Date?)	Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes/outputs)	How Will we Know? (Measures)
Expansion of CCTV to park and ride facilities	March 21	Claire Linney/ Michael McCrory	Reduction in crime at P&R	Reduction in crime reports

Performance Measures: <i>Should include any measures as outlined in work above and relevant measures from Community, Corporate, Performance Improvement Plan, Statutory, Corporate Health Indicators etc.</i>	Is the Measure, Statutory, Corporate, Existing, or New?	2020/21 Target/Standard
Level of Poverty Mid Ulster	Community Plan Corporate Plan	To reduce deprivation and poverty
Level of community engagement activity & volunteering	Community Plan Corporate Plan	To support our community groups and community engagement
Level of promotion of respect for diversity and hate crime incidents	Community Plan Corporate Plan	To promote respect for diversity
Level of fear of crime and instances of ASB	Community Plan	

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

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

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

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

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

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

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

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

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2019-20.

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

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