

Report on	Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme 2020
Date of Meeting	10 th November 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements

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 on the Mid Ulster District Council Live Here Love Here programme by highlighting the outputs and outcomes of the programme and in particular the successful applications for the Small Grants Scheme which have been awarded funding for 2020, and to request Members approval for funding to continue for 2021/22.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Live Here Love Here information attached at Appendix 1 includes a covering letter requesting councils to continue with their funding to the current level for the next financial year, 2021/22. It should be noted that 50 % of this funding is returned in the small grants programme. Appendix 1 also shows the financial break down of expenditure and income for the programme for 2020/21.
2.2	The Live Here Love Here impact report at Appendix 2 shows the outputs and outcomes of the programme, focussing on "Adopt a spot", the media campaign and the small grants programme.
2.3	<p>Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and other organisations launched the 2020 Small Grants Scheme on 6th April 2020. The scheme forms part of a wider programme aimed at promoting civic pride within communities and improving environmental quality. It aims to enable and support volunteers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of their local environment through effective and innovative ways to reduce littering and dog fouling; • Enhance the environmental management of a local area; • Contribute to the development of civic pride within a community with the focus on environmental improvement; • Improve the health and wellbeing of communities whilst helping to improve and/or maintain public spaces; • Encourage actions and projects that enable Pollution Solutions, Biodiversity Recovery and Climate Action.

2.4	In light of COVID-19, the Live Here Love Here, Small Grants Scheme made funding available to community groups enabling them to respond according to local need for people impacted through reduced contact with society.
2.5	Community groups understand the support needs of their communities best and with the challenges COVID-19 would present this was recognised. The scope of the scheme was broadened to take account of this, particularly at a time when resilience more than ever at a local level is needed, whilst inspiring community efforts – this also fits in with the ethos of the Live Here Love Here Programme.
2.6	An additional criterion was therefore added to the Live Here Love Here, Small Grants Scheme this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support actions that help care for those in need as a result of COVID-19.
2.7	Grants are available from £500 to £5000 and are open to volunteer and community groups to include newly formed community groups tackling issues relating to COVID-19, all school and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports groups in the Council area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The primary focus of the Small Grants Scheme is to equip and support volunteers and community groups to deliver practical environmental action in their locality.
3.2	Within the Mid Ulster District Council area, 70 applications were submitted and assessed. The proposed projects were considered in terms of showing engagement with volunteers and community groups and assessed in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental outcomes; • Project goals; • Project need; • Volunteer involvement; • Partnership working; • Long term impact; • Value for money; • Support actions to care for those in need as a result of COVID-19.
3.3	Funding was awarded to 13 projects within the Mid Ulster area that met the scheme criteria. The total grant amount allocated to the successful projects within Mid Ulster was £12,900. Council made a funding contribution to the scheme of £12,300. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive made a funding contribution which was allocated to one other Mid Ulster successful project.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Covered within the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Membership.
	Human: None
	Risk Management: None
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the Live Here Love Here impact report and associated financial information.
5.2	Members are requested to note the successful Mid Ulster District Council projects awarded grant for the 2020 Small Grants Scheme attached at Appendix 3.
5.3	It is requested that Members approve a continued contribution to funding the Live Here Love Here work at a cost of £21,000 p.a. with 50% returned to MUDC through the small grants programme.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Live Here Love Here Financial report and covering letter.
6.2	Appendix 2 – Live Here Love Here Impact report.
6.3	Appendix 3 – Mid Ulster District Council awarded projects 2020.