

Report on	Consultation on draft Improvement Objectives 2021-23: Findings
Date of Meeting	Thursday 6 th May 2021.
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	L Jenkins, Performance & Quality 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	To update the committee on the findings and outcome of the consultation undertaken on the proposed improvement objectives 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Communities to Councils on taking forward the general duty on to improve, in deciding how to discharge its duty under section 84 and 85, requires that the council consult on a yearly basis on their improvement objectives. This requirement on consultation falls from section 87 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.
2.2.	There is no statutory duty to consult on the improvement plan, but rather the improvement objectives. Four new improvement objectives have been proposed for a two year period from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023. Each improvement objective and their assigned Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), will develop Improvement projects and these will form part of Council's Performance Improvement Plan. The SRO's will also conduct a review at the end of 2022 to ensure that the improvement objectives and associated milestones and activities are still relevant.
2.3	<p>The Committee at its March 2021 meeting considered and approved the proposed 4 new Draft Corporate Improvement Objectives for 2021-22 to 2022-23, rationale and associated links to the community and corporate plan. The committee agreed the council's Improvement Objectives as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action. 2. We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them. 3. To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the environment. 4. We will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people

	Further detail on the rationale on why Council has chosen these objectives is contained within Appendix A, (pages: 4, 12, 17 & 22).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Results from the Improvement Objectives Consultation Report April 2021</u></p> <p>This year the consultation exercise ran from Thursday the 11th of March to Thursday the 22nd of April 2021. Under each improvement objective, the Council asked whether respondents agreed with the objective or disagreed with the objective. Respondents were also asked to provide any related commentary they had regarding the proposed improvement objectives. The consultation survey also asked respondents to outline any improvements the council should consider in the future. The final question asked respondents to provide any further comments relating to the draft Improvement objectives.</p>
3.2	The consultation involved a survey made available for completion and submission online and or by post to the council. To ensure maximum engagement the process was promoted through a variety of communication channels including social media outlets, the council's website, press releases, e-mails, staff intranet and internal staff meetings. In total 55 consultees responded to the consultation. This is up slightly from last year's improvement objectives consultation where 50 consultees responded to the 2020-2021 improvement objectives consultation exercise.
3.3	<p>A report on the outcome of the consultation is appended in Appendix A. In summary;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% of respondents agreed with objective one: - <i>Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action.</i> • 82% of respondents agreed with objective two: - <i>We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them.</i> • 94% of respondents agreed with objective three:- <i>To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the environment.</i> • 89 % of respondents agreed with objective four: - <i>We will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people</i>
3.4	With such significant endorsement of the four proposed improvement objectives, together with additional commentary provided, the council will be able to develop its Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) around them. When reviewed, the respondent's commentary did not warrant the removal, amendment to or addition to the objectives proposed.
3.5	The additional commentary and views provided, will inform our wider improvement activity across the services.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

	Financial: NA
	Human: NA
	Risk Management: N/A.
4.2	<u>Screening & Impact Statements</u>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the Committee consider the findings of the Corporate Improvement Objectives Consultation 2021 to 2022 and provide any commentary as necessary on the progression of same.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Outworking's from Consultation on Performance Improvement Objectives